

**Company Number. 08002099 (England and Wales)**

**Registered Charity Number. 1156917**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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<b>Full name:</b>	<b>Romero Communities</b>
<b>Registered company number:</b>	08002099
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	1156917
<b>Registered office &amp; principal address:</b>	Priory Campus Pontefract Road Lundwood Barnsley S71 5PN
<b>Trustees &amp; Directors:</b>	K Moore L Ocallaghan - <i>appointed 13/10/2020</i> T Scolah L Shepherd
<b>Chairperson:</b>	T Scolah
<b>Company Secretary:</b>	M Phillips
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Angela Hayes Community Accountant BCVS Services Limited Priory Campus Pontefract Road Lundwood Barnsley S71 5PN
<b>Bankers:</b>	HSBC 5 Market Hill Barnsley S70 2PY

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

**Structure, governance and management**

Romero Communities is a registered charity with the Charity Commission and a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated March 2012, most recently amended February 2014. The company has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1. The affairs of the charity are managed on a day to day basis by the trustees who have control of the charity and its property and funds.

**Appointment of trustees**

The Trustees are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law. The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Every Trustee must sign a declaration of willingness to act as a charity trustee before being eligible to vote at the meetings.

The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 3 of this report.

**Charitable aims and objectives**

The objectives of the charity are:

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

**Risk Management**

The trustees have ultimate responsibility for identifying and managing risk. The main risk to the organisation is the loss of funding to continue the essential services. The financial position and level of reserves is reviewed at each trustee meeting, the trustees work with an external consultant and funding applications are ongoing. For other areas, the charity has risk management policies and procedures in place which are reviewed regularly by the trustees.

**Public Benefit Statement**

In shaping the objectives for the year the trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**Report of the Trustees on activities undertaken and achievements during the period.**

The Trustees on behalf of the Romero Communities Charity would like to thank our current funders for their considered understanding, guidance and support.

This Annual Report gives an overview of the activities and events that have taken place within the Charity over the past working year. The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their efforts and continued support.

**FOREWORD**

This year has been extremely challenging as we faced the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Alongside our customers, trustees, partners and funders we have changed our methods of delivery to ensure we provided a service throughout the year.

Our Annual Report 2020-2021 delivers for the Charity a more optimistic outlook for the foreseeable future, and a year of constructive consultation and understanding of Trustee responsibility. Secured funding has enabled us to move forward in our overall aim:

*'to support and empower people to take control of their individual life challenges'.*

**WHO IS INVOLVED IN DELIVERING OUR WORK**

We are led by our Board of Trustees. We currently have 4 trustees and Maria who is Company Secretary and volunteer for the support and guidance service. Our trustees are Trevor the Charity Chairperson, Keith who is Treasurer and Finance Director, Lynn and Lorraine who both lived locally for over 20 years and are able to contribute a great deal to ensure our service delivery is in line with local need. Our Board of Trustees have been involved in the charity both as 'service users' and partners or by answering our publicity aimed at recruiting new members. However currently half have accessed the support and guidance themselves. We are keen to encourage and recruit more local people onto our Board. This was planned to take place during the final quarter of 2020 but was postponed due to the Pandemic.

Our thanks and appreciation to our volunteer Company Secretary Maria, for all that she does for Romero Communities Charity. Her work is invaluable to the smooth running of the Charity and administration of our Support and Guidance work. Maria has been the first point of contact for all enquiries by email/telephone on our dedicated system during the pandemic.

Thanks to Lorraine who also carries out a volunteer role. This involves calls to customers. The calls gather feedback from those visiting Romero for support. This information provides valuable information to support our applications for funding and for reports required by them. These are reported by our customers as a lifeline during the pandemic. Lorraine also carries out calls to customers to gather their experiences during the pandemic, our aim is to share any outcomes which may indicate a need to adjust our work to better meet need. We aim to share with partner organisations any recurring issues which they may consider and adjust to meet the needs of their customers.

We have a new volunteer Dick who has a wide knowledge and great experience working for Citizens Advice, mainly as a housing specialist.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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We have 3 sessional paid workers Paula, Geoff and Caroline. Their hours of work in total provide one full time equivalent worker (38 hours).

Our thanks to our sessional Co-Support Workers; - Paula and Geoff who deliver our 3-day a week, face to face, drop-in, Support and Guidance sessions very successfully. They are a great 'team' and deliver our sessions with great humility, kindness and efficiency, supported by their extensive knowledge and skills. This has been maintained as we are all (volunteers, trustees and workers) working from home.

We also welcomed 2 sessional workers, Gemma and Pete to support additional work during the COVID-19 period. This additional capacity was made possible by the Lottery 'uplift' grant.

In the past we have held forums inviting both local people and external partners to help identify need and design the way we work. We intended to develop this approach further in the coming year. The COVID-19 restrictions have prevented us from developing this further. We aim to seek new ways of engaging with potential applicants, for example accessing Barnsley CVS systems as appropriate and our social media platforms and website. We will look at new ways of engaging with customers to inform our future developments.

## OUR ACTIVITIES

### **Romero Support and Guidance - overview**

Romero Support and Guidance continued to deliver a 3-day a week face to face drop-in service until the Covid 19 Pandemic required us to 'work from home' from March 2020.

We re-opened on 8<sup>th</sup> September and then closed again on 4<sup>th</sup> November intending to return for 2<sup>nd</sup> December. However, following a risk assessment, we have remained closed to date. We added face-to-face appointments at the Romero Centre 1 day per week starting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to date.

In order to re-open in September 2020, we carried out in depth cleaning and decorating of our workplace and purchased vital PPE equipment. We purchased individually designed and built screens. These screens were made possible with a donation from a local business and a friend of Romero who designed and built them free of charge. We were confident following our risk assessment that the Centre was safe to open for face-to-face appointments.

In the event of forced closure, we set about making our service available to potential and existing customers by:

- Planning how our team could work from home. This meant applying for small pots of funding to provide any equipment the workers would need.
- Securing funding to design and distribute comprehensive 'Help Packs' to 450 local families. The covering letter enclosed in the pack asked people to share the information as widely as possible in order to reach as many people as possible. We were very aware that any digital information may not be accessible to everyone. We were awarded funds from The Tudor Trust to make this possible.
- We maintain communication via landline and mobile telephone, E mail, Facebook, Twitter, and our Website.
- We have developed a digital system of recording all our contacts while working from home
- We place articles in the local press and place posters on our doors that give information re contacting us etc.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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The Team maintain contact via e mail and telephone with each other and partner organisations. We hold virtual 'team' meetings to update and monitor our work. We also provide each other with support and encouragement.

In addition to our core Support and Guidance work we have developed and delivered additional support for those people who were experiencing the 'Furlough' Scheme, loss of work and or income and the personal and health impacts of the Pandemic.

This has been made possible by the 'uplift' grant we have been awarded by The Lottery. This enabled us to appoint a temporary sessional worker (12 weeks) to cover for one of our existing workers to focus support on these customers. We started this work to coincide with the planned ending of the 'Furlough' Scheme at the beginning of October. As the scheme was extended, we did not see as many customers as predicted who were affected by the end of the scheme. However, our workload has increased substantially by requests for help with benefit claims. Many requests are from individuals who are unfamiliar with the benefit system and consequently may need intense support.

We are extremely concerned that we will face a capacity issue when the scheme does finally end. We intend to seek additional funding so we can extend the work.

Our uplift grant gave us the opportunity to plan and explore ideas with local schools of how we can support parents better. We aim to do this in partnership with interested schools. The uplift grant has allowed us to increase our worker capacity for a short time in order to prepare to launch a pilot in one of the local schools. We are planning to start this before March. This date will of course be dependent on the current restrictions of COVID-19. Below is the development work we carried out prior to our closure.

We contacted 4 local schools to put a programme of preventive measures together that will be beneficial to families who struggle at times with money, confidence, mental health and day to day activities. Through our desire to try and improve the health and wellbeing of people in the local area and to be pro- active in our delivery we hope to work closely with these primary schools in the next 12 months. We aim to look at ways in which together we can support families to start to take control of their lives and give them aspirations for themselves and their children.

Throughout the year we have adapted our recording methods, so we are able to accurately report our work. We have found this to be a pre-cursor to the launch of our new database. This has been held back during the Pandemic, hopefully it will be integrated into our work early in 2021.

We have experienced a reduction of new customers which we know is due to the lack of our usual face-to-face service. However, we have measured these numbers against our predictions and the outcome sees a 50% increase in total number of contacts.

Our approach is based on supporting people in a holistic way. From our recording, the type of issues people seek are varied and often individuals ask for help with more than one issue. Our recording is demonstrating a gender split of 48% male and 52% female customers and we have worked hard to ensure equality for recipients of our work.

Referrals from Romero and to Romero have increased and our partner base has increased. We believe this is because some other organisations are experiencing a reduced capacity to deliver their services or the demand for support is vastly oversubscribed.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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Our referrals to Food Banks have increased substantially as have our referrals to the Charity ACTS 435. Many of our ACTS referrals are as a result of a joined -up working relationship with Barnsley Citizens Advice debt team, tenant and school support workers or our on-going support helping customers with complex issues. Referrals to ACTS in 95% of cases result in a monetary 'gift' which enables the applicants to pay the required cost of £90 for a Debt Relief Order. The result of this order can change a family's financial situation beyond belief. It reduces high levels of stress and helps the individual to take control. Alternatively, customers can purchase goods such as washing machines or cover transport costs to work for example, which in turn also reduces levels of worry and stress.

An analysis of our contacts evidences the prevalence of help needed in the following areas.

Benefit applications and help to appeal decisions which are contrary to the outcome anticipated by the customer. This work is intense and requires a great deal of knowledge and skill by our workers. It has been particularly difficult and time consuming as 90% of our contact is by telephone or via e mail. We support many who do not have access to the internet, this can also be difficult when customers have additional needs such as learning difficulties, complex physical and mental health needs, unstable lifestyles which can result in a breakdown of family relationships and even result in homelessness. Employment and unemployment issues, debt, legal, social care needs, housing, and relationship/poor mental health are recorded in our more copious recording.

We collect many comments from our customers, often relating to the importance of 1 to 1 and face-to-face delivery.

*'I feel very supported and like to speak to someone face to face, I feel more comfortable talking about my problem'.*

This example reflects the views of 90% of our customers giving feedback about their experience of the service during the Pandemic.

### **'Joined up Support'**

Our work is based on positive relationships with partner services and organisations to deliver a holistic service for our customers. We have continued to work in partnership to deliver our service throughout the Pandemic. Unfortunately, this has been impacted due to forced changes to systems, resources and face-to-face services which are often vital for many of our customers. We continue to link with other services to deliver holistic support.

### **Planning for our Future**

Planning for our future was for a very exciting, and productive year. Some of our planning has been placed on hold but will be a focus for the next financial year. Our future is based on meeting the needs of local people along with addressing local and national trends which impact on the day-to-day life of those who we work with. We track need using our current recording system. This will be enhanced in the coming year as we begin to use our new database. This was scheduled for completion in March 2020, but this was delayed as the author and designer was furloughed for most of the year. We are now looking forward to its completion.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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### **Our Challenges**

The work of Romero Communities is a 'team' effort. We have ambitions for the future to secure long-term funding. We aim to develop ways of 'earning' income, so we do not rely fully on external funds. We realise this will be difficult and will be a long-term goal. We hope to engage people from the community to help us to achieve this. The first step will be to establish a Fundraising Sub-Group bringing together service users, trustees, volunteers, partner organisations and workers. We will continue to work closely with Barnsley CVS to ensure we work in line with Voluntary Sector organisations both local and national. Romero Communities is built on partnerships with other voluntary and statutory organisations.

By working in this way, we hope to bring the best and most appropriate advice together to help our customers resolve their problems. The empowerment of individuals is at the forefront of our work, sharing knowledge, encouraging self-help, confidence, self-esteem, and skills which will put people back in control of their own lives.

We try to approach our challenges as opportunities to provide an improved service. We are also very honest and face our challenges realistically. The link between demand, capacity and restrictions placed on us by space can be frustrating at times. We do not want to increase demand to our drop-ins to a point where we have to turn people away, however we are keen to look at ways of managing our sessions to maximise the time available. We resist having to restrict the time we spend with people in order to help them reach a solution rather than spending less time and resorting to a 'sticking plaster' approach. We are keen to increase the times of opening in the future.

We need to have designated time to networking and liaising/co-working with partner organisations when supporting clients with complex problems. Follow up work with partners takes up approximately 50% of our time.

Our biggest challenge as a small charity is the financial sustainability of this type of work. This is at the forefront of our planning for 2021 onwards.

We will continue to adapt alongside COVID-19 restrictions placed on us during 2021.

### **Related parties**

The trustees consider that there are no related parties to the charity.

### **The charity's policy on reserves**

As a small charity, reliant on public and charitable funding and susceptible to factors beyond the control of the organisation, the trustees recognise the need to keep reserves at a level that will give the organisation stability to enable it to continue to operate in the future and meet all statutory and service delivery obligations. The trustees aim to accumulate reserves equivalent to 3 months' annual expenditure, which equates to a sum of £16,000 in the current financial year. At the year-end, the unrestricted reserve stands at £6,021. (2020: £5,975). The trustees are aware of the need to generate further unrestricted funds to bring reserves to the desired level and this is being addressed in the implementation of the business plans.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to: select suitable accounting policies and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

**Financial Position**

The financial statements are set out in pages 12 to 17. The Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus for the year of £7,516 (2020: £4,192).

The total funds at the year-end stand at £42,234 (2020: £34,718). Total funds include balances remaining on restricted grants of £36,213 and the general reserve of £6,021.

**Small company provisions:**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Exemptions**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemptions available to small companies, including the audit exemption.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.  
Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Signed K G Moore Date: 17 November 2021

**K Moore, Trustee/ Director**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 12 to 17.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed Angela Hayes

Date: 17 November 2021

Angela Hayes, FMAAT  
Community Accountant  
BCVS Services Limited  
Priory Campus, Pontefract Road, Lundwood, Barnsley, S71 5PN

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
<b>Incoming resources</b>							
Gifts & donations		245	-	245	2,300	-	2,300
Grants received	2	-	69,962	69,962	-	65,820	65,820
Other income		-	-	-	180	-	180
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>245</b>	<b>69,962</b>	<b>70,207</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>65,820</b>	<b>68,300</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>							
Sessional workers		-	47,233	47,233	-	42,958	42,958
Rent & office costs		-	3,162	3,162	833	2,762	3,595
Insurance		-	140	140	-	140	140
Printing, stationery & office expenses		-	1,938	1,938	-	893	893
Telephone, computer & internet costs		-	2,581	2,581	-	3,807	3,807
Training		-	-	-	-	45	45
Help packs	10	-	5,416	5,426	-	-	-
Covid response & PPE		189	700	889	-	-	-
Volunteer expenses		-	662	662	-	504	504
Accountancy		-	625	625	-	600	600
Project support & consultancy		-	-	-	642	10,658	11,300
Other expenditure		-	35	35	231	35	266
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>199</b>	<b>62,492</b>	<b>62,691</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>62,402</b>	<b>64,108</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>7,470</b>	<b>7,516</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>4,192</b>
Transfers between funds	10	-	-	-	2,401	(2,401)	-
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>5,975</b>	<b>28,743</b>	<b>34,718</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>27,726</b>	<b>30,526</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	9	<b>6,021</b>	<b>36,213</b>	<b>42,234</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>28,743</b>	<b>34,718</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All the activities of the charitable company are classed as continuing.

ROMERO COMMUNITIES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets		-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets			-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors & prepayments	3	-	-	833	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,442		35,745	
Total current assets		43,442		36,578	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors & accruals amounts falling due within one year	4	(1,208)		(1,860)	
Net current assets			42,234		34,718
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>42,234</u>		<u>34,718</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>	9				
Unrestricted funds			6,021		5,975
Restricted funds			36,213		28,743
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>42,234</u>		<u>34,718</u>

**Exemption from audit**

For the period ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

*Directors' responsibilities:*

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed K S Moore

Dated: 17 November 2021

**K Moore, Trustee/Director**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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## **1. Accounting policies**

### **Basis of the preparation of the accounts**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Income and expenditure has been analysed in the accounts using natural classification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.6, SORP 2019 (smaller charities). The charity also meets the requirements for exemption for preparing a statement of cash flows.

### **Going concern note**

After reviewing the charity's forecasts and projections and its reserves, the trustees have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Funding is secured to run the Support & Guidance service until 2024, with a 5-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. Grant funding has continued during the Coronavirus pandemic and the charity has seen no significant reduction in income as a result of the crisis. The Lottery also granted uplift funding to provide help-packs and additional worker hours to support those who are facing difficulties due to the pandemic.

### **Incoming resources**

All material incoming resources have been included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, when any performance conditions attached are met, when it is probable that the income will be received and when the amount can be measured reliably.

### **Resources expended**

Resources expended have been analysed using natural classification.

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised as a liability is incurred. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly resources expended are shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

### **Donated goods and services**

Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts at the amount the charity would pay in the open market for a service equivalent to that being donated, when the charity would otherwise have purchased them and the value can be measured reliably.

Donated goods for the charity's own use are recognised as income, at their fair value.

The contribution of general volunteers is not recognised as income in the charity accounts

# ROMERO COMMUNITIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets, with an individual cost exceeding £1000, over their expected useful lives.

There were no individual assets with a value exceeding £1,000 in the current year.

### Funds Structure

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and may only be spent for the purposes for which they were given. Any balance remaining outstanding on a restricted fund at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on the fund, unless permission has been given by the funder to remove the restriction on the balance outstanding.

### 2. Restricted grants received

	2021	2020
	£	£
The National Lottery Community Fund	43,800	45,820
The National Lottery Uplift Fund (Covid-19)	21,494	-
The Tudor Trust	3,968	-
South Yorkshire Community Foundation	700	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	15,000
The Edward Gostling Foundation	-	5,000
	<u>69,962</u>	<u>65,820</u>

### 3. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Rent prepaid	-	833
	<u>-</u>	<u>833</u>

### 4. Creditors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accountancy fee	625	600
Room rent	583	-
Sessional fees	-	1,260
	<u>1,208</u>	<u>1,860</u>

ROMERO COMMUNITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**5. Independent examination and accountancy services**

During the period, the cost of the independent examination and accountancy service was £625 (2020: £600).

**6. Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses**

Other than reimbursement of items purchased on behalf of the charity, there were no payments, remuneration or benefits made to trustees in the accounting period.

**7. Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions.

**8. Funds held on behalf of third party groups**

During the year, the charity received funds from the ACTS 435 charity, to pay over to named individuals. The income was held on behalf of ACTS 435 and is therefore not recognised in the accounts of Romero Communities. A sum of £150 remained in the bank account of Romero at the year end.

In addition, a balance of £280 was due to the Next Steps Project, remaining from a grant received in 2019-20, held on their behalf.

**9. Movement in funds**

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	(Resources expended) £	Fund Transfers £	Closing balance £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Fund	5,975	245	(199)	-	6,021
	<u>5,975</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,021</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
The National Lottery Community Fund	8,743	43,800	(37,373)	-	15,170
The National Lottery Covid Uplift	-	21,494	(21,494)	-	-
The Tudor Trust	-	3,968	-	-	3,968
S Yorkshire Community Foundation	-	700	(700)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000	-	(2,194)	-	12,806
The Edward Gostling Foundation	5,000	-	(731)	-	4,269
	<u>28,743</u>	<u>69,962</u>	<u>(62,492)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,213</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>34,718</u>	<u>70,207</u>	<u>(62,691)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,234</u>

## 10. Restricted Funds

- The National Lottery Community Fund– a five-year Community Fund grant (2019 to 2024) to fund the Support & Guidance service.
- The National Lottery Covid-19 Uplift Fund – a grant to enable to continuation of services and support during the pandemic and to provide help packs for local families.
- The Tudor Trust – A grant to support staff and volunteer wellbeing in recognition of the challenges face during the pandemic.
- South Yorkshire Community Foundation – a grant of £700 awarded from the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund, to help the charity resume its face-to-face service.
- Garfield Weston Foundation – a grant of £15,000, received in the previous financial year, towards the Support & Guidance service.
- The Edward Gostling Foundation - Contribution towards the salary cost of a support and guidance worker.



**Company Number. 08002099 (England and Wales)**

**Registered Charity Number. 1156917**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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<b>Full name:</b>	<b>Romero Communities</b>
<b>Registered company number:</b>	08002099
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	1156917
<b>Registered office &amp; principal address:</b>	Priory Campus Pontefract Road Lundwood Barnsley S71 5PN
<b>Trustees &amp; Directors:</b>	K Moore L Ocallaghan - <i>appointed 13/10/2020</i> T Scolah L Shepherd
<b>Chairperson:</b>	T Scolah
<b>Company Secretary:</b>	M Phillips
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Angela Hayes Community Accountant BCVS Services Limited Priory Campus Pontefract Road Lundwood Barnsley S71 5PN
<b>Bankers:</b>	HSBC 5 Market Hill Barnsley S70 2PY

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

**Structure, governance and management**

Romero Communities is a registered charity with the Charity Commission and a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated March 2012, most recently amended February 2014. The company has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1. The affairs of the charity are managed on a day to day basis by the trustees who have control of the charity and its property and funds.

**Appointment of trustees**

The Trustees are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law. The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Every Trustee must sign a declaration of willingness to act as a charity trustee before being eligible to vote at the meetings.

The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 3 of this report.

**Charitable aims and objectives**

The objectives of the charity are:

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

**Risk Management**

The trustees have ultimate responsibility for identifying and managing risk. The main risk to the organisation is the loss of funding to continue the essential services. The financial position and level of reserves is reviewed at each trustee meeting, the trustees work with an external consultant and funding applications are ongoing. For other areas, the charity has risk management policies and procedures in place which are reviewed regularly by the trustees.

**Public Benefit Statement**

In shaping the objectives for the year the trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**Report of the Trustees on activities undertaken and achievements during the period.**

The Trustees on behalf of the Romero Communities Charity would like to thank our current funders for their considered understanding, guidance and support.

This Annual Report gives an overview of the activities and events that have taken place within the Charity over the past working year. The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their efforts and continued support.

**FOREWORD**

This year has been extremely challenging as we faced the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Alongside our customers, trustees, partners and funders we have changed our methods of delivery to ensure we provided a service throughout the year.

Our Annual Report 2020-2021 delivers for the Charity a more optimistic outlook for the foreseeable future, and a year of constructive consultation and understanding of Trustee responsibility. Secured funding has enabled us to move forward in our overall aim:

*'to support and empower people to take control of their individual life challenges'.*

**WHO IS INVOLVED IN DELIVERING OUR WORK**

We are led by our Board of Trustees. We currently have 4 trustees and Maria who is Company Secretary and volunteer for the support and guidance service. Our trustees are Trevor the Charity Chairperson, Keith who is Treasurer and Finance Director, Lynn and Lorraine who both lived locally for over 20 years and are able to contribute a great deal to ensure our service delivery is in line with local need. Our Board of Trustees have been involved in the charity both as 'service users' and partners or by answering our publicity aimed at recruiting new members. However currently half have accessed the support and guidance themselves. We are keen to encourage and recruit more local people onto our Board. This was planned to take place during the final quarter of 2020 but was postponed due to the Pandemic.

Our thanks and appreciation to our volunteer Company Secretary Maria, for all that she does for Romero Communities Charity. Her work is invaluable to the smooth running of the Charity and administration of our Support and Guidance work. Maria has been the first point of contact for all enquiries by email/telephone on our dedicated system during the pandemic.

Thanks to Lorraine who also carries out a volunteer role. This involves calls to customers. The calls gather feedback from those visiting Romero for support. This information provides valuable information to support our applications for funding and for reports required by them. These are reported by our customers as a lifeline during the pandemic. Lorraine also carries out calls to customers to gather their experiences during the pandemic, our aim is to share any outcomes which may indicate a need to adjust our work to better meet need. We aim to share with partner organisations any recurring issues which they may consider and adjust to meet the needs of their customers.

We have a new volunteer Dick who has a wide knowledge and great experience working for Citizens Advice, mainly as a housing specialist.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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We have 3 sessional paid workers Paula, Geoff and Caroline. Their hours of work in total provide one full time equivalent worker (38 hours).

Our thanks to our sessional Co-Support Workers; - Paula and Geoff who deliver our 3-day a week, face to face, drop-in, Support and Guidance sessions very successfully. They are a great 'team' and deliver our sessions with great humility, kindness and efficiency, supported by their extensive knowledge and skills. This has been maintained as we are all (volunteers, trustees and workers) working from home.

We also welcomed 2 sessional workers, Gemma and Pete to support additional work during the COVID-19 period. This additional capacity was made possible by the Lottery 'uplift' grant.

In the past we have held forums inviting both local people and external partners to help identify need and design the way we work. We intended to develop this approach further in the coming year. The COVID-19 restrictions have prevented us from developing this further. We aim to seek new ways of engaging with potential applicants, for example accessing Barnsley CVS systems as appropriate and our social media platforms and website. We will look at new ways of engaging with customers to inform our future developments.

## OUR ACTIVITIES

### **Romero Support and Guidance - overview**

Romero Support and Guidance continued to deliver a 3-day a week face to face drop-in service until the Covid 19 Pandemic required us to 'work from home' from March 2020.

We re-opened on 8<sup>th</sup> September and then closed again on 4<sup>th</sup> November intending to return for 2<sup>nd</sup> December. However, following a risk assessment, we have remained closed to date. We added face-to-face appointments at the Romero Centre 1 day per week starting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to date.

In order to re-open in September 2020, we carried out in depth cleaning and decorating of our workplace and purchased vital PPE equipment. We purchased individually designed and built screens. These screens were made possible with a donation from a local business and a friend of Romero who designed and built them free of charge. We were confident following our risk assessment that the Centre was safe to open for face-to-face appointments.

In the event of forced closure, we set about making our service available to potential and existing customers by:

- Planning how our team could work from home. This meant applying for small pots of funding to provide any equipment the workers would need.
- Securing funding to design and distribute comprehensive 'Help Packs' to 450 local families. The covering letter enclosed in the pack asked people to share the information as widely as possible in order to reach as many people as possible. We were very aware that any digital information may not be accessible to everyone. We were awarded funds from The Tudor Trust to make this possible.
- We maintain communication via landline and mobile telephone, E mail, Facebook, Twitter, and our Website.
- We have developed a digital system of recording all our contacts while working from home
- We place articles in the local press and place posters on our doors that give information re contacting us etc.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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The Team maintain contact via e mail and telephone with each other and partner organisations. We hold virtual 'team' meetings to update and monitor our work. We also provide each other with support and encouragement.

In addition to our core Support and Guidance work we have developed and delivered additional support for those people who were experiencing the 'Furlough' Scheme, loss of work and or income and the personal and health impacts of the Pandemic.

This has been made possible by the 'uplift' grant we have been awarded by The Lottery. This enabled us to appoint a temporary sessional worker (12 weeks) to cover for one of our existing workers to focus support on these customers. We started this work to coincide with the planned ending of the 'Furlough' Scheme at the beginning of October. As the scheme was extended, we did not see as many customers as predicted who were affected by the end of the scheme. However, our workload has increased substantially by requests for help with benefit claims. Many requests are from individuals who are unfamiliar with the benefit system and consequently may need intense support.

We are extremely concerned that we will face a capacity issue when the scheme does finally end. We intend to seek additional funding so we can extend the work.

Our uplift grant gave us the opportunity to plan and explore ideas with local schools of how we can support parents better. We aim to do this in partnership with interested schools. The uplift grant has allowed us to increase our worker capacity for a short time in order to prepare to launch a pilot in one of the local schools. We are planning to start this before March. This date will of course be dependent on the current restrictions of COVID-19. Below is the development work we carried out prior to our closure.

We contacted 4 local schools to put a programme of preventive measures together that will be beneficial to families who struggle at times with money, confidence, mental health and day to day activities. Through our desire to try and improve the health and wellbeing of people in the local area and to be pro- active in our delivery we hope to work closely with these primary schools in the next 12 months. We aim to look at ways in which together we can support families to start to take control of their lives and give them aspirations for themselves and their children.

Throughout the year we have adapted our recording methods, so we are able to accurately report our work. We have found this to be a pre-cursor to the launch of our new database. This has been held back during the Pandemic, hopefully it will be integrated into our work early in 2021.

We have experienced a reduction of new customers which we know is due to the lack of our usual face-to-face service. However, we have measured these numbers against our predictions and the outcome sees a 50% increase in total number of contacts.

Our approach is based on supporting people in a holistic way. From our recording, the type of issues people seek are varied and often individuals ask for help with more than one issue. Our recording is demonstrating a gender split of 48% male and 52% female customers and we have worked hard to ensure equality for recipients of our work.

Referrals from Romero and to Romero have increased and our partner base has increased. We believe this is because some other organisations are experiencing a reduced capacity to deliver their services or the demand for support is vastly oversubscribed.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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Our referrals to Food Banks have increased substantially as have our referrals to the Charity ACTS 435. Many of our ACTS referrals are as a result of a joined -up working relationship with Barnsley Citizens Advice debt team, tenant and school support workers or our on-going support helping customers with complex issues. Referrals to ACTS in 95% of cases result in a monetary 'gift' which enables the applicants to pay the required cost of £90 for a Debt Relief Order. The result of this order can change a family's financial situation beyond belief. It reduces high levels of stress and helps the individual to take control. Alternatively, customers can purchase goods such as washing machines or cover transport costs to work for example, which in turn also reduces levels of worry and stress.

An analysis of our contacts evidences the prevalence of help needed in the following areas.

Benefit applications and help to appeal decisions which are contrary to the outcome anticipated by the customer. This work is intense and requires a great deal of knowledge and skill by our workers. It has been particularly difficult and time consuming as 90% of our contact is by telephone or via e mail. We support many who do not have access to the internet, this can also be difficult when customers have additional needs such as learning difficulties, complex physical and mental health needs, unstable lifestyles which can result in a breakdown of family relationships and even result in homelessness. Employment and unemployment issues, debt, legal, social care needs, housing, and relationship/poor mental health are recorded in our more copious recording.

We collect many comments from our customers, often relating to the importance of 1 to 1 and face-to-face delivery.

*'I feel very supported and like to speak to someone face to face, I feel more comfortable talking about my problem'.*

This example reflects the views of 90% of our customers giving feedback about their experience of the service during the Pandemic.

### **'Joined up Support'**

Our work is based on positive relationships with partner services and organisations to deliver a holistic service for our customers. We have continued to work in partnership to deliver our service throughout the Pandemic. Unfortunately, this has been impacted due to forced changes to systems, resources and face-to-face services which are often vital for many of our customers. We continue to link with other services to deliver holistic support.

### **Planning for our Future**

Planning for our future was for a very exciting, and productive year. Some of our planning has been placed on hold but will be a focus for the next financial year. Our future is based on meeting the needs of local people along with addressing local and national trends which impact on the day-to-day life of those who we work with. We track need using our current recording system. This will be enhanced in the coming year as we begin to use our new database. This was scheduled for completion in March 2020, but this was delayed as the author and designer was furloughed for most of the year. We are now looking forward to its completion.

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT continued**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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## **Our Challenges**

The work of Romero Communities is a 'team' effort. We have ambitions for the future to secure long-term funding. We aim to develop ways of 'earning' income, so we do not rely fully on external funds. We realise this will be difficult and will be a long-term goal. We hope to engage people from the community to help us to achieve this. The first step will be to establish a Fundraising Sub-Group bringing together service users, trustees, volunteers, partner organisations and workers. We will continue to work closely with Barnsley CVS to ensure we work in line with Voluntary Sector organisations both local and national. Romero Communities is built on partnerships with other voluntary and statutory organisations.

By working in this way, we hope to bring the best and most appropriate advice together to help our customers resolve their problems. The empowerment of individuals is at the forefront of our work, sharing knowledge, encouraging self-help, confidence, self-esteem, and skills which will put people back in control of their own lives.

We try to approach our challenges as opportunities to provide an improved service. We are also very honest and face our challenges realistically. The link between demand, capacity and restrictions placed on us by space can be frustrating at times. We do not want to increase demand to our drop-ins to a point where we have to turn people away, however we are keen to look at ways of managing our sessions to maximise the time available. We resist having to restrict the time we spend with people in order to help them reach a solution rather than spending less time and resorting to a 'sticking plaster' approach. We are keen to increase the times of opening in the future.

We need to have designated time to networking and liaising/co-working with partner organisations when supporting clients with complex problems. Follow up work with partners takes up approximately 50% of our time.

Our biggest challenge as a small charity is the financial sustainability of this type of work. This is at the forefront of our planning for 2021 onwards.

We will continue to adapt alongside COVID-19 restrictions placed on us during 2021.

## **Related parties**

The trustees consider that there are no related parties to the charity.

## **The charity's policy on reserves**

As a small charity, reliant on public and charitable funding and susceptible to factors beyond the control of the organisation, the trustees recognise the need to keep reserves at a level that will give the organisation stability to enable it to continue to operate in the future and meet all statutory and service delivery obligations. The trustees aim to accumulate reserves equivalent to 3 months' annual expenditure, which equates to a sum of £16,000 in the current financial year. At the year-end, the unrestricted reserve stands at £6,021. (2020: £5,975). The trustees are aware of the need to generate further unrestricted funds to bring reserves to the desired level and this is being addressed in the implementation of the business plans.

### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to: select suitable accounting policies and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

### Financial Position

The financial statements are set out in pages 12 to 17. The Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus for the year of £7,516 (2020: £4,192).

The total funds at the year-end stand at £42,234 (2020: £34,718). Total funds include balances remaining on restricted grants of £36,213 and the general reserve of £6,021.

### Small company provisions:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

### Exemptions

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemptions available to small companies, including the audit exemption.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.  
Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Signed K G Moore

Date: 17 November 2021

**K Moore, Trustee/ Director**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 12 to 17.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed Angela Hayes

Date: 17 November 2021

Angela Hayes, FMAAT  
Community Accountant  
BCVS Services Limited  
Priory Campus, Pontefract Road, Lundwood, Barnsley, S71 5PN

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
<b>Incoming resources</b>							
Gifts & donations		245	-	245	2,300	-	2,300
Grants received	2	-	69,962	69,962	-	65,820	65,820
Other income		-	-	-	180	-	180
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>245</b>	<b>69,962</b>	<b>70,207</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>65,820</b>	<b>68,300</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>							
Sessional workers		-	47,233	47,233	-	42,958	42,958
Rent & office costs		-	3,162	3,162	833	2,762	3,595
Insurance		-	140	140	-	140	140
Printing, stationery & office expenses		-	1,938	1,938	-	893	893
Telephone, computer & internet costs		-	2,581	2,581	-	3,807	3,807
Training		-	-	-	-	45	45
Help packs	10	-	5,416	5,426	-	-	-
Covid response & PPE		189	700	889	-	-	-
Volunteer expenses		-	662	662	-	504	504
Accountancy		-	625	625	-	600	600
Project support & consultancy		-	-	-	642	10,658	11,300
Other expenditure		-	35	35	231	35	266
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>199</b>	<b>62,492</b>	<b>62,691</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>62,402</b>	<b>64,108</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>7,470</b>	<b>7,516</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>4,192</b>
Transfers between funds	10	-	-	-	2,401	(2,401)	-
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>5,975</b>	<b>28,743</b>	<b>34,718</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>27,726</b>	<b>30,526</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	9	<b>6,021</b>	<b>36,213</b>	<b>42,234</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>28,743</b>	<b>34,718</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All the activities of the charitable company are classed as continuing.

ROMERO COMMUNITIES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets		-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets			-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors & prepayments	3	-	-	833	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,442		35,745	
Total current assets		43,442		36,578	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors & accruals amounts falling due within one year	4	(1,208)		(1,860)	
Net current assets			42,234		34,718
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>42,234</u>		<u>34,718</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>	9				
Unrestricted funds			6,021		5,975
Restricted funds			36,213		28,743
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>42,234</u>		<u>34,718</u>

**Exemption from audit**

For the period ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

*Directors' responsibilities:*

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed K S Moore

Dated: 17 November 2021

**K Moore, Trustee/Director**

**ROMERO COMMUNITIES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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## **1. Accounting policies**

### **Basis of the preparation of the accounts**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Income and expenditure has been analysed in the accounts using natural classification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.6, SORP 2019 (smaller charities). The charity also meets the requirements for exemption for preparing a statement of cash flows.

### **Going concern note**

After reviewing the charity's forecasts and projections and its reserves, the trustees have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Funding is secured to run the Support & Guidance service until 2024, with a 5-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. Grant funding has continued during the Coronavirus pandemic and the charity has seen no significant reduction in income as a result of the crisis. The Lottery also granted uplift funding to provide help-packs and additional worker hours to support those who are facing difficulties due to the pandemic.

### **Incoming resources**

All material incoming resources have been included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, when any performance conditions attached are met, when it is probable that the income will be received and when the amount can be measured reliably.

### **Resources expended**

Resources expended have been analysed using natural classification.

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised as a liability is incurred. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly resources expended are shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

### **Donated goods and services**

Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts at the amount the charity would pay in the open market for a service equivalent to that being donated, when the charity would otherwise have purchased them and the value can be measured reliably.

Donated goods for the charity's own use are recognised as income, at their fair value.

The contribution of general volunteers is not recognised as income in the charity accounts

# ROMERO COMMUNITIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets, with an individual cost exceeding £1000, over their expected useful lives.

There were no individual assets with a value exceeding £1,000 in the current year.

### Funds Structure

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes and may only be spent for the purposes for which they were given. Any balance remaining outstanding on a restricted fund at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on the fund, unless permission has been given by the funder to remove the restriction on the balance outstanding.

### 2. Restricted grants received

	2021	2020
	£	£
The National Lottery Community Fund	43,800	45,820
The National Lottery Uplift Fund (Covid-19)	21,494	-
The Tudor Trust	3,968	-
South Yorkshire Community Foundation	700	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	15,000
The Edward Gostling Foundation	-	5,000
	<u>69,962</u>	<u>65,820</u>

### 3. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Rent prepaid	-	833
	<u>-</u>	<u>833</u>

### 4. Creditors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accountancy fee	625	600
Room rent	583	-
Sessional fees	-	1,260
	<u>1,208</u>	<u>1,860</u>

ROMERO COMMUNITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**5. Independent examination and accountancy services**

During the period, the cost of the independent examination and accountancy service was £625 (2020: £600).

**6. Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses**

Other than reimbursement of items purchased on behalf of the charity, there were no payments, remuneration or benefits made to trustees in the accounting period.

**7. Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions.

**8. Funds held on behalf of third party groups**

During the year, the charity received funds from the ACTS 435 charity, to pay over to named individuals. The income was held on behalf of ACTS 435 and is therefore not recognised in the accounts of Romero Communities. A sum of £150 remained in the bank account of Romero at the year end.

In addition, a balance of £280 was due to the Next Steps Project, remaining from a grant received in 2019-20, held on their behalf.

**9. Movement in funds**

	Opening balance £	Incoming resources £	(Resources expended) £	Fund Transfers £	Closing balance £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Fund	5,975	245	(199)	-	6,021
	<u>5,975</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,021</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
The National Lottery Community Fund	8,743	43,800	(37,373)	-	15,170
The National Lottery Covid Uplift	-	21,494	(21,494)	-	-
The Tudor Trust	-	3,968	-	-	3,968
S Yorkshire Community Foundation	-	700	(700)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000	-	(2,194)	-	12,806
The Edward Gostling Foundation	5,000	-	(731)	-	4,269
	<u>28,743</u>	<u>69,962</u>	<u>(62,492)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,213</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>34,718</u>	<u>70,207</u>	<u>(62,691)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,234</u>

## 10. Restricted Funds

- The National Lottery Community Fund– a five-year Community Fund grant (2019 to 2024) to fund the Support & Guidance service.
- The National Lottery Covid-19 Uplift Fund – a grant to enable to continuation of services and support during the pandemic and to provide help packs for local families.
- The Tudor Trust – A grant to support staff and volunteer wellbeing in recognition of the challenges face during the pandemic.
- South Yorkshire Community Foundation – a grant of £700 awarded from the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund, to help the charity resume its face-to-face service.
- Garfield Weston Foundation – a grant of £15,000, received in the previous financial year, towards the Support & Guidance service.
- The Edward Gostling Foundation - Contribution towards the salary cost of a support and guidance worker.

