

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
for
Stepping Stones (Luton)

Hicks and Company
Chartered Accountants
Vaughan Chambers
Vaughan Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 4EE

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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Stepping Stones (Luton)

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the 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 (FRS 102)(effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

To empower every vulnerable woman that walks through our door with the opportunity and freedom to transform her life and the lives of her children and family.

Vision:

As a direct result of our work we will have built stronger communities by putting systems in place that enable women to thrive and be their best selves.

Mission:

Stepping Stones (Luton) is an innovative woman-centred service that is driven by passion enabling vulnerable women to transform their lives and reach their full potential. We empower and inspire women to make positive choices, creating a better future for themselves, their children, their families and the communities in which they live.

Guiding principles:

Important to Stepping Stones (Luton):

- 1) Gender: A service that acknowledges that gender makes a difference.
- 2) Environment: Safety, respect and dignity.
- 3) Relationships: Policies, practices, and programmes that are relational and promote healthy connections to children, family, significant others and the community.
- 4) Services: Addressing domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol and antisocial behaviour sometimes demonstrated by the most vulnerable for example, homeless women, and mental health issues through comprehensive, integrated services.
- 5) Socioeconomic status: Providing women with opportunities to improve their socioeconomic conditions.
- 6) Community: To partner with other key lead services in providing support and services to address unmet needs and overcome barriers.

Charitable Objects

The Charitable Objects of Stepping Stones (Luton) are for the public benefit and are restricted to the following: To relieve physical and mental sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health, in particular, through the provision of support services of any kind, for women and their children and families suffering from drug addiction and substance abuse and who may have offended or re-offended or be victims of domestic abuse, living in Luton or such other parts of Bedfordshire or the United Kingdom as the trustees from time to time may think fit.

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity'. As explained further in the Achievements and Performance section set out below, the charity has addressed the activities undertaken in relation to its objects and their relationship to addressing the public benefit.

Principal areas of work

Since 2008 Stepping Stones (Luton) has been dedicated to helping women and their children reach their potential and create healthier, happier lives.

The charity works with vulnerable women and their children to transform the stumbling blocks of their lives into Stepping Stones through the provision of one to one and group support for women and support through an Ofsted registered childcare provision. The charity aims to:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable women and their children
- Improve the life prospects of vulnerable women and their children
- Create stronger and more cohesive families

2021/22 Summary

This year we worked with 285 vulnerable women and delivered 2,113 hours of support. This was again lower than our pre-Covid delivery levels but close to the previous year (308 women and 2823 hours of support). It is again due to implementing changes in how we were able to support women due to Covid 19 restrictions but also due to making a gradual change to delivering again from the office. During the year we have tried to open the office to service users as much as was possible (with social distancing and increased health and safety procedures) while continuing to offer support to women on a one-to-one basis on the phone and using video calls where possible. We used a hybrid working model between the home and office with face-to-face appointments generally limited in number and length. We surveyed our clients throughout the year to gauge their feelings towards returning to face-to-face support and have gradually seen their confidence and desire to come into the office return. Our childcare team returned to the office in the Spring of 2021 and have seen a gradual increase of children using the service (generally in line with our support practitioners working from the office too). By April 2022, all staff were fully back in the office and we have stopped home working.

The pandemic continued to have a significant impact on our client group. Our referral rates have fluctuated significantly during the year, although we are now experiencing a sustained and significant increase in referrals. We have also seen an increase in the needs and complexities of the women presenting to us. The percentage of our clients reporting domestic abuse is 83% (from 85% last year). Anecdotally clients are reporting needing more support around their mental and emotional wellbeing (over 88% of women). Again, clients have also reported feeling isolated due to the restrictions imposed and are not always able to engage with remote support as they often have difficulties accessing the necessary technology. It has often been difficult to progress support plans due to the support being offered over the phone and the impact of other circumstances including clients often having others present at home such as their perpetrators and/or their children. Supporting a woman who has experienced trauma is challenging both for the client and the practitioner whilst they are both in their own homes.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the pandemic continued to have an emotional impact on our staff. We have implemented a variety of support activities for staff including regular zoom check ins, virtual team lunches, virtual team challenges and team building sessions including support around resilience and self-compassion. We have signed up to the British Safety Council's Being Well Together and Keep Thriving programmes to improve workplace wellbeing and, based on staff feedback, will be introducing a strategy and action plan around this soon.

We have continued to receive referrals from a variety of sources; Probation, Children's Services and the Police remain our biggest referrers, comprising over 40% of all referrals. We have seen another slight increase in self-referrals; this year self-referrals made up 31% of all referrals compared to 30 % last year.

Our childcare support was the first service to fully open in Stepping Stones once Covid restrictions were eased and as a result, has been open since Spring 2021. While numbers of children attending were lower than pre-Covid times, this is simply due to lower numbers of women accessing face to face support in the early part of the financial year. Numbers have risen considerably as the year progressed and more and more women felt comfortable coming back to the office for support. We have seen 53 children in the nursery over the course of the year and provided 1755 childcare sessions.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

During 2021/22 the following services were provided:

Intervention / services	No. of women
One to one support (Luton)	199
One to one support (Central Beds)	50
Probation	34
Group programmes (incl Own My Life, Serenity)	43
Education, Training and Employment support	38
Counselling	36

Services:

Luton one-to-one support: Following an initial assessment, keyworkers will work collaboratively with women to devise a support plan of action, identify and manage risks.

One-to-one support continues to be the largest proportion of support offered where we can be responsive to the individual needs of the client and offer ongoing support around any additional interventions. One-to-one support will include such things as:

- offering emotional support - building self-esteem / confidence, empowering women to make decisions, problem solving
- exploring options / planning for the future
- guidance on life skills (budgeting, healthy eating)
- support in a crisis
- domestic abuse support - building knowledge about what is domestic abuse, how to manage risk, what the impact of abuse can be on children, options for court orders, information on healthy relationships
- help filling out forms
- accompanying service users at professionals' meetings / advocacy with other professionals
- attending court with clients.

To manage waiting times during our peak referral periods we also implemented a 'lighter touch' telephone support offer for lower risk clients.

Childcare: All women engaging with our services are encouraged to make use of our childcare services, and we have seen a really positive rise in numbers. The childcare team lost a couple of members of staff, including our cook, which placed considerable pressure on the remaining team to open the service all year round and comply with Ofsted regulations. Amazingly they achieved this and we now have a full team in place and we have recently extended our opening hours to five days a week.

Central Beds one-to-one support: Although our official Central Beds outreach project finished at the end of March 2020, we continued to offer support to women living in Central Beds over the phone in line with the support being offered to women living in Luton at the time. We will continue this approach and encourage women from this area to visit the office whenever possible - offering a hybrid service of face-to-face and telephone.

Group programmes: In the first half of the year, we continued to run some online group programmes (mostly Own my Life and Serenity) but it was a challenge trying to sustain attendance levels. Women found it difficult to participate if they had young children at home for example. As the year progressed, we started to run our courses face-to-face from the office. This has received an overwhelmingly positive response. Women have enjoyed sharing their experiences and started to build friendships.

Own My Life - All our practitioners are trained to deliver the Own My Life programme. It is a 12-week course to help women, who have suffered abuse, regain ownership of their lives. It looks at sexism, rape culture, violence, misogyny, disrespect in relationships and abusive behaviour. We have run 5 groups over the year (mixture of online and face-to-face).

Shine - This is a personal development and group mentoring programme that uses inspirational, practical and experiential approach to learning. Women are equipped to become effective global citizens for the future. Each woman is supported to develop an understanding of her own personal worth, strength and purpose and realise the potential within her to fulfil her desires. We have delivered this on a one-to-one basis.

Anger - The Anger Programme explores anger and violence in different areas of the women's lives, focussing on strengths and how women can express their emotions and make positive changes to their lives. We completed our first group since Covid in early 2022 - given the complexities of the subjects discussed we felt this group could only be delivered when practitioners were on hand to provide additional support.

Onyx - This is a structured group programme where women who have experienced domestic abuse or other trauma can explore and make sense of their experiences and increase control over their own lives. The sessions focus on: understanding the dynamics of violence, abuse and trauma; understanding the impact of trauma on women's lives; and learning how to live with and to heal from trauma. We have been unable to deliver Onyx remotely but have delivered on a one-to-one basis.

Parenting - Our usual parenting programmes were previously delivered jointly involving children and mums. It has been very difficult to continue in this way this year but we have offered individual support where possible over the phone. We did deliver a small number of face-to-face Parenting resilience groups as well as parent-led arts and craft sessions.

Serenity - we developed our own brief intervention to enhance wellbeing and develop strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety. This programme was delivered both on a one-to-one basis and through a group.

Education, Training and Employment (ETE) support: The Lloyds Bank Foundation funded ETE Advisor post has continued this year and despite working in difficult economic circumstances we have seen an increase in women gaining employment and going for interviews. Through this role, we have offered one-to-one support with CVs, interview preparation, exploration of training and development opportunities, apprenticeship opportunities and discussion of self-employment opportunities. The role will develop over the year to also provide money management advice.

Probation (Advance): The Probation service underwent significant reform over the course of the year and we were pleased to continue to provide support for women on statutory orders and licences in Luton and the South area of Central Bedfordshire. Our contract is managed through the women's charity Advance. Referrals come directly from the Probation Service in this area. This provision encompasses:

- Dedicated one to one support
- Liaison with Probation Responsible Officer
- Opportunity for female offenders to have all their appointments in a female-only environment
- Access to all our other Luton based services including Childcare and Counselling

Additional support: We have a bank of committed and qualified volunteers that offer additional support in their respective fields and we have accessed additional support through our partnership organisations. We were able to continue to offer counselling through video calls with volunteer trainee counsellors. We have also been able to offer practical support with clothes, food and toiletries donations from partner organisations such as the Rapid Relief Team, the Hygiene Bank, Kids Out and through generous donations from members of the public. We have met our clients' needs either through arranging for clients to pick up from the office or by delivering these where possible.

Broad outcomes for women support in the community include:

164 clients have exited the service this year.

- 245 positive outcomes in relation to health (including women reducing the symptoms of anxiety and trauma and accessing mental health support)
- 23 positive outcomes in relation to finances (including women feeling better able to manage their finances and more able to manage debt)
- 41 positive outcomes in relation to ETE
- 121 positive outcomes in relation to parenting (including being supported through contact processes, increasing their confidence in parenting, increasing their understanding of the impact of DA on children and better relationships with their children)
- 64 social and community outcomes.

Further, of the women exiting the service over the course of the year:

- 91% strongly agreed or agreed that they are clear that the abuse they experienced was not their fault
- 89% strongly agreed or agreed that they are better able to recognise abusive behaviour
- 89% felt more confident in asking for help
- 85% feel more confident in their parenting skills
- 79% said they felt able to make up their own mind either all of the time or often
- 78% said they felt optimistic about the future either all of the time or often
- 76% said they felt safe either all of the time or often
- 71% said they felt good about themselves either all of the time or often

Operational challenges during the year 2021/22

- Staff changes: We lost 3 members of staff (1 childcare and 2 women's support practitioners) over the course of the year. Both practitioners were replaced, but due to a temporary reduction in demand we have only just replaced childcare practitioner. The team has been stable for the past 6 months and have found the return to the office beneficial in terms of being able to support each other and share experiences/knowledge.
- Funding: As for all charities, this continues to be one of our biggest challenges. We have a Fundraising Plan in place and continue to focus our business development resources on bid writing. We saw another slight fall in the amount received from our largest funder but secured our Probation contract (managed through Advance) for the next five years. We started to undertake a small level of community fundraising via social media (aided by The Big Give). We will continue to try to diversify our funding sources.
- Remote working: As the Coronavirus restrictions eased, we began to support clients and staff to return to the office. Not unexpectedly, there were some initial concerns raised about a full time return but this was managed in stages, and we have listened to our team.

Business Development and Fundraising

We have continued to undertake regular service user engagement including a virtual service user engagement group and regular surveys completed using SurveyMonkey. This has assisted us in making decisions around new services and informed our next steps in returning to the office.

We were fortunate to be awarded a three-year grant from the National Lottery Reaching Communities that will support our core work and help us to build a stronger pool of active volunteers.

In 2021/22, we have continued to increase our online presence, focusing on our social media content and gaining new followers particularly on Instagram. At the end of the financial year, we participated in the online fundraiser for Women & Girls through The Big Give and raised almost £8,000.

At the start of the year we were selected by LCFitness, a local women's-led fitness company as their charity of the year and as well as early donations, they plan to hold a community fundraising event for us over the coming year.

Partnership working

Working in partnership with complementary organisations both within Luton and across Central Bedfordshire remains critical to ensure effective service delivery (linking to housing, drug and alcohol and other complementary services) and to maximise resources. We continue to enjoy strong working relationships with Women's Aid Luton, Luton All Women's Centre and Victim Support to name but a few within the voluntary women's sector. We also work very closely with both Luton Council and Central Bedfordshire Council, as well as the Police and Probation services, all of which form a significant proportion of our referrals. We have an important presence on many of the local forums at a strategic and operational level.

Volunteering

The Trustees wish to thank the many volunteers and supporters without whom the charity would be unable to maintain the quality of service at the level of funds that is currently received. In particular, the Trustees would like to acknowledge and thank Meryl Dolling for her support; through her work with the Luton North Inner Wheel, the charity has been able to distribute many donations throughout the year of clothes, toiletries, gifts and their wonderful postbox toppers!

In 2021/22 the charity has benefited from the unpaid work of 5 volunteers, who supported paid staff in various ways including administrative support functions and counselling.

Organisation Structure

The Trustees also wish to thank all the staff of the charity whose dedication is essential to the provision of high quality support for clients. By the end of the year, the charity employed 18 members of staff (56% work part time). The services the charity provides is hugely demanding on staff. To ensure they are well-supported and their well-being protected, we provide confidential clinical supervision on a monthly basis.

We have implemented the Government's initiative of auto-enrolment and promoted this to our staff. 100% of eligible staff are now in a pension scheme.

Pay Policy Senior Staff

Remuneration of staff is set with regards to market rates and will be reviewed in 2022/23 to ensure that the pay levels are fair.

Principal risks and uncertainties

We have considered the main areas of risk and outlined in the Business Continuity Plan. The main areas of risk for the charity are:

- Loss of workspace - building damage, unexpected structural faults, heating / plumbing failure and/or loss of utilities.
- Loss of IT / data - Failure of computer hardware and/or IT systems, hacking or security breach, damage to phone lines / internet access.
- Loss of key staff - inability of staff to attend workplace or permanent / temporary loss of staff.
- Loss of income - inability to secure sufficient funding for the year, not receiving expected funding on time, not receiving funding at all.

Plans for future periods

For the 2022/23 period we will be focusing on:

- Exploration and development of our childcare service - we plan to further develop the package of family friendly interventions with a view to developing our provisions in this area.
- Creating a more celebratory end of service programme and developing peer support networks.
- Financial sustainability of the organisation and continued diversification of our funding streams.
- Peer support service - dependant on securing funding, we are planning on developing the opportunity for clients to support each other in a more formal capacity.
- Investing in more practitioners to support them to achieve the Preventing and Tackling Domestic Abuse Certificate through Women's Aid.
- Generating a new bank of volunteers.
- Exploring new trauma group programmes.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The detailed figures for the year ended 31 March 2022 are set out in the financial statements that follow this Trustees' Report. During the year, the Company received £440,648 (2021: £635,051) and spent £500,127 (2021: £498,684) leaving a deficit of £59,479 (2021: net surplus of £136,367).

The primary sources of income were from a service agreement contract with BeNCH/Advance (probation) and grants from Luton Rising, The Tudor Trust, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Early Years Masonic Foundation, Ministry of Justice, The Pilgrim Trust and The Henry Smith Charity.

Income and expenditure for the year were in line with budget.

Reserves policy

The current reserves policy is to keep between 45% and 50% of operating costs as reserves (excluding those relating to restricted income funds, endowment funds, tangible assets held for the Company's use and amounts designated for essential future spending) to ensure that the Company can continue to operate in the short term should it suffer an unexpected fall in incoming funds. At the balance sheet date, the Company held £235,609 (2021: £237,268) in reserves under the above definition, which represents 47.1% (2021: 47.6%) of operating costs for the year.

Investment policy

The trustees have decided to maintain a low risk investment strategy. The main purpose of the Company is to provide support services to vulnerable women and their children and families and because of the uncertainty of income streams, it is necessary to ensure that funds are readily available to ensure that services are not adversely affected by short term income falls. As such the trustees choose not to risk funds in potentially higher return investments.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Stepping Stones (Luton) is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 8 June 2015 (amended 11 January 2017). It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The maximum contribution required by members of the company is an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up. The Company was originally incorporated on 8 May 2008 as a Community Interest Company and passed a special resolution on 8 June 2015 to convert to a Charitable Company.

Appointment of trustees

New Trustees are appointed by a majority ballot of the existing Trustees or by ordinary resolution of the members in general meeting. New Trustees appointed by the existing Trustees only hold office until the next AGM at which time they may seek re-appointment. One third of the Trustees retire from office by rotation at each AGM following the first AGM and may seek re-appointment.

Following resignations of Trustees from the Board for a variety of personal reasons, we have sought new Trustees and have been fortunate to identify a number of well qualified and interested people who have been appointed to the Board since the year end.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

06588338 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1162349

Registered office

9a George Street West
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU1 2BW

Company Trustees and Directors

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Sandra Brown (Chair)
Sally Hopwood (Deputy Chair) (resigned 25.4.22)
Sandra Williams-Carraro (resigned 7.2.22)
Sara Miles
Hannah Hill
Rosemary Hughes
Manoj Jain
Letitia Winston (appointed 25.4.22)
Claire McNally (appointed 25.4.22)
Sarita Jain (appointed 25.4.22)

Independent Examiner

Philip Dean, FCA (Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)
Hicks and Company
Chartered Accountants
Vaughan Chambers
Vaughan Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 4EE

Patron

Meryl Dolling

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Nicola Panton (CEO)
Karrina Usher (Manager Women's Services)
Linda Rogers (Manager Children's Services)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Stepping Stones (Luton) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company 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 charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 18 July 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Sandra Brown

Sandra Brown (Chair) - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stepping Stones (Luton) ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and 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.

Philip N Dean

Philip Dean, FCA (Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)
Hicks and Company
Chartered Accountants
Vaughan Chambers
Vaughan Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 4EE

18 July 2022

Stepping Stones (Luton)

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	-	11,204	11,204	27,663
Charitable activities	4				
Support services for vulnerable women		82,685	346,753	429,438	607,297
Investment income	3	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>91</u>
Total		82,691	357,957	440,648	635,051
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Support services for vulnerable women		91,506	408,621	500,127	498,684
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(8,815)	(50,664)	(59,479)	136,367
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		244,517	200,191	444,708	308,341
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>235,702</u>	<u>149,527</u>	<u>385,229</u>	<u>444,708</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Stepping Stones (Luton)

Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11	93	-	93	7,249
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	6,912	14,133	21,045	32,404
Cash at bank and in hand		251,183	197,169	448,352	485,249
		258,095	211,302	469,397	517,653
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(22,486)	(61,775)	(84,261)	(80,194)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		235,609	149,527	385,136	437,459
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		235,702	149,527	385,229	444,708
NET ASSETS		235,702	149,527	385,229	444,708
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				235,702	244,517
Restricted funds:					
Support services for vulnerable women				149,527	200,191
TOTAL FUNDS				385,229	444,708

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

Stepping Stones (Luton)

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 March 2022

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 July 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Sandra Brown

Sandra Brown (Chair) - Trustee

Manoj

Manoj Jain - Trustee

Stepping Stones (Luton)

Statement of Cash Flows
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(36,673)	150,763
Interest paid		<u>(224)</u>	<u>(130)</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(36,897)</u>	<u>150,633</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(36,897)	150,633
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>485,249</u>	<u>334,616</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>448,352</u></u>	<u><u>485,249</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. **RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(59,479)	136,367
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	7,156	12,974
Interest paid	224	130
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	11,359	(8,493)
Increase in creditors	<u>4,067</u>	<u>9,785</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(36,673)</u>	<u>150,763</u>

2. **ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	At 1.4.21 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.22 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>485,249</u>	<u>(36,897)</u>	<u>448,352</u>
	<u>485,249</u>	<u>(36,897)</u>	<u>448,352</u>
Total	<u>485,249</u>	<u>(36,897)</u>	<u>448,352</u>

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to them.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

The charity has one main activity being the provision of support services for vulnerable women.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs have either been directly allocated or have been allocated on the basis of the proportion of income to which they relate. Where depreciation is properly chargeable to restricted fund activities, this has also been allocated on the basis of the proportion of income between restricted and unrestricted activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Short leasehold	- 10% on cost
Fixtures & equipment	- 25% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Donations	<u>11,204</u>	<u>27,663</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Interest received	<u>6</u>	<u>91</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		31.3.22	31.3.21
	Activity	£	£
Service agreement	Support services for vulnerable women	71,733	77,762
Sundry income	Support services for vulnerable women	5	-
Grants	Support services for vulnerable women	347,611	484,898
Government Job Retention Scheme	Support services for vulnerable women	<u>10,089</u>	<u>44,637</u>
		<u>429,438</u>	<u>607,297</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Luton Rising	149,364	154,445
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	-	4,988
Tudor Trust	26,700	25,500
Resolutions Partnership	-	10,000
Awards For All	-	9,394
Lloyds Bank Foundation	31,600	38,441
Ministry Of Justice	40,069	39,106
The Henry Smith Charity	53,800	53,800
Bedfordshire Luton Community Foundation (emergency Covid)	3,891	3,457
Garfield Weston	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Carried forward	305,424	364,131

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Brought forward	305,424	364,131
Julia and Hans Rausing	-	41,285
Police and Crime Commissioner	4,160	10,290
Pilgrim Trust	10,052	23,698
Women's Aid	-	24,244
Steel Charitable Trust	-	15,000
Active Luton	-	400
Luton Borough Council	858	5,850
Masonic Charitable Foundation	24,731	-
DWP Resource Management	2,386	-
	<u>347,611</u>	<u>484,898</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Support services for vulnerable women	<u>421,920</u>	<u>78,207</u>	<u>500,127</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Other £
Support services for vulnerable women	<u>78,207</u>

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	7,156	12,974
Independent Examiner's remuneration	<u>2,250</u>	<u>2,250</u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS - continued

Trustees' expenses

During the year ended 31 March 2022, £20 expenses was paid in connection with one Trustee.

9. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	363,163	353,603
Social security costs	24,709	23,064
Other pension costs	<u>6,891</u>	<u>6,467</u>
	<u>394,763</u>	<u>383,134</u>

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred.

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
Support services for vulnerable women		

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The employee benefits of key management personnel for the company were £96,374 (2021: £94,414).

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	27,663	-	27,663
Charitable activities			
Support services for vulnerable women	163,249	444,048	607,297
Investment income	<u>91</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91</u>
Total	191,003	444,048	635,051
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Support services for vulnerable women	99,245	399,439	498,684
NET INCOME	91,758	44,609	136,367
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	152,759	155,582	308,341
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>244,517</u>	<u>200,191</u>	<u>444,708</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Short leasehold £	Fixtures & equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	<u>129,248</u>	<u>46,085</u>	<u>175,333</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2021	122,140	45,944	168,084
Charge for year	<u>7,107</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>7,156</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>129,247</u>	<u>45,993</u>	<u>175,240</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2022	<u>1</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>7,108</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>7,249</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Trade debtors	5,081	19,462
Other debtors	-	2,541
Prepayments	<u>15,964</u>	<u>10,401</u>
	<u>21,045</u>	<u>32,404</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Trade creditors	2,489	897
Social security and other taxes	21,215	18,979
Other creditors	24,611	25,185
Accruals and deferred income	<u>35,946</u>	<u>35,133</u>
	<u>84,261</u>	<u>80,194</u>

14. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>2,663</u>

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	244,517	(8,815)	235,702
Restricted funds			
Support services for vulnerable women	200,191	(50,664)	149,527
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>444,708</u>	<u>(59,479)</u>	<u>385,229</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	82,691	(91,506)	(8,815)
Restricted funds			
Support services for vulnerable women	357,957	(408,621)	(50,664)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>440,648</u>	<u>(500,127)</u>	<u>(59,479)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	152,759	91,758	244,517
Restricted funds			
Support services for vulnerable women	155,582	44,609	200,191
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>308,341</u>	<u>136,367</u>	<u>444,708</u>

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	191,003	(99,245)	91,758
Restricted funds			
Support services for vulnerable women	444,048	(399,439)	44,609
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>635,051</u>	<u>(498,684)</u>	<u>136,367</u>

Purpose of restricted funds:

The restricted funds are held and applied for the overall objects of the company. Due to the complex needs of all service users, it is not possible to allocate income and costs to specific services provided by the company.

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no transactions with related parties during the year ended 31 March 2022.

17. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

In the opinion of the trustees, there was no controlling party during the year.

18. GENERAL INFORMATION

The company is a private company registered in England and Wales. It is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of a winding up, every member has undertaken to contribute a sum not exceeding £1. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

Stepping Stones (Luton)Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Donations and legacies				
Donations	-	11,204	11,204	27,663
Investment income				
Interest received	6	-	6	91
Charitable activities				
Service agreement	71,733	-	71,733	77,762
Sundry income	5	-	5	-
Grants	858	346,753	347,611	484,898
Government Job Retention Scheme	10,089	-	10,089	44,637
	<u>82,685</u>	<u>346,753</u>	<u>429,438</u>	<u>607,297</u>
Total incoming resources	82,691	357,957	440,648	635,051
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities				
Salaries	61,741	301,422	363,163	353,603
Social security	4,191	20,518	24,709	23,064
Pensions	1,173	5,718	6,891	6,467
Staff training	12	11,183	11,195	5,432
Recruitment costs	230	-	230	500
DBS costs	506	-	506	582
Refreshments & canteen expenses	284	1,960	2,244	338
Travel expenses	17	(16)	1	168
Supervision costs	35	6,111	6,146	7,347
Materials	(52)	1,210	1,158	2,182
Service user support expenses	310	(13)	297	-
Accountancy	5,360	-	5,360	5,045
Trustee expenses	20	-	20	-
	<u>73,827</u>	<u>348,093</u>	<u>421,920</u>	<u>404,728</u>
Support costs				
Other				
Fundraising and promotion	20	-	20	123
Rent & parking payable	4,675	13,325	18,000	19,206
Rates & water rates	737	414	1,151	2,826
Insurance	1,877	3,663	5,540	1,551
Telephone	1,271	8,487	9,758	15,139
Printing, postage & stationery	1,113	640	1,753	2,451
Repairs, renewals & alterations	770	6,181	6,951	9,876
Carried forward	10,463	32,710	43,173	51,172

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Stepping Stones (Luton)Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
Other				
Brought forward	10,463	32,710	43,173	51,172
Light & heat	-	3,554	3,554	2,279
Computer & software expenses	2,344	11,755	14,099	17,861
Subscriptions	1,731	-	1,731	1,616
Professional fees	1,256	2,461	3,717	755
Volunteer expenses	-	374	374	1,975
Refuse collection & cleaning	372	3,562	3,934	3,732
Sundry expenses	245	-	245	394
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	1,068
Depreciation of short leasehold	1,037	6,070	7,107	12,925
Depreciation of fixtures & equipment	7	42	49	49
Bank charges & interest	224	-	224	130
	<u>17,679</u>	<u>60,528</u>	<u>78,207</u>	<u>93,956</u>
Total resources expended	<u>91,506</u>	<u>408,621</u>	<u>500,127</u>	<u>498,684</u>
Net income	<u>(8,815)</u>	<u>(50,664)</u>	<u>(59,479)</u>	<u>136,367</u>