

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

England & Wales · Charity number 1180884

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2018-11-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Citizens Advice Bureau
Burgess Well House
Coval Lane
Chelmsford
CM1 1FW

Phone 01245205601

Email enquiries@essex.communitylegalcentre.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:1) THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP BY THE PROVISION OF FREE LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WHO THROUGH LACK OF MEANS WOULD OTHERWISE BE UNABLE TO ACCESS SUCH SERVICES.2) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY INCREASING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW.

Activities: The objects are:1) The relief of financial hardship by the provision of free legal advice and assistance to persons who through lack of means would otherwise be unable to access such services provided by a private practice and qualified legal representative or equivalent.2) The advancement of the education of the public by increasing knowledge and understanding of the law.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£69,804	£11,404	-	-
2024-03-31	£124,015	£65,480	-	-
2023-03-31	£94,185	£75,209	-	-
2022-03-31	£38,223	£34,949	-	-
2021-03-31	£37,306	£27,048	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew George Thorpe-Apps		2022-11-15
PHILIP ROBERT ANDREW WILSON		2018-06-15
RUSSELL MYNOTT		2018-06-15

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1180884

Accounts

Draft Financial Statements at 27 March 2026 at 15:59:09

Company registration number CE015727 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1180884 (England and Wales)

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

R C Mynott
A G Thorpe-Apps
P R A Wilson
C Todd

Charity registration

England and Wales

1180884

Principal address

Burgess Well House
Coval Lane
Chelmsford
CM1 1FW

Independent examiner

Affinia (Chelmsford)
Swift House
Ground Floor
18 Hoffmanns Way
Chelmsford
Essex
UK
CM1 1GU

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COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 Incorporated Organisation and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



.....
R C Mynott

Chair of Trustees

Date: 28 March 2026

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Community Legal Centre Essex (the Charitable Incorporated Organisation) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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 financial statements to be reached.

Mark Philpott BFP FCA

Affinia (Chelmsford)

Swift House

Ground Floor

18 Hoffmanns Way

Chelmsford

Essex

CM1 1GU

UK

Date:

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	69,804	88,200	-	88,200
Charitable activities	4	-	-	27,461	27,461
Other trading activities	5	-	8,354	-	8,354
Total income		69,804	96,554	27,461	124,015
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	11,404	54,250	27,461	81,711
Total expenditure		11,404	54,250	27,461	81,711
Net income and movement in funds		58,400	42,304	-	42,304
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		65,480	23,176	-	23,176
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		123,880	65,480	-	65,480

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 5 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	160,174		90,370	
Cash at bank and in hand		4,666		15,810	
		<u>164,840</u>		<u>106,180</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(40,960)		(40,700)	
Net current assets			<u>123,880</u>		<u>65,480</u>
The funds of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation					
Unrestricted funds	15		<u>123,880</u>		<u>65,480</u>
			<u>123,880</u>		<u>65,480</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on and authorised for issue.

.....
R C Mynott
Chair of Trustees

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Community Legal Centre Essex is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in the UK. The principal address is Burgess Well House, Coval Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 1FW.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisation's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The Charitable Incorporated Organisation is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Incorporated Organisation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not an unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included within creditors as deferred income until the performance related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Other income from trading activities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent that the CIO has provided the services.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis, once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT,

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charitable Incorporated Organisation's balance sheet when the Charitable Incorporated Organisation becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charitable Incorporated Organisation's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	69,804	88,200

4 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £
Charitable activities		
Grant income	-	27,461

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5 Income from other trading activities

Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Other trading income	-	8,354
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

Charitable activities 2025 £	Charitable activities 2024 £
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Direct costs

Software fees	10,531	12,678
Professional fees	-	40,000
Project professional fees	-	18,943
Other project costs	-	8,518
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	10,531	80,139

Share of support and governance costs (see note 7)

Support	873	1,572
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	11,404	81,711
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Analysis by fund

Unrestricted funds	11,404	54,250
Restricted funds	-	27,461
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	11,404	81,711
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7 Support costs allocated to activities

2025 £	2024 £
-----------	-----------

Office administration	873	1,572
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Analysed between:

Charitable activities	873	1,572
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8	Net movement in funds	2025	2024
		£	£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	960	720
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charitable Incorporated Organisation during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Total	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	160,174	90,370
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	40,960	40,700
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

14 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

Previous year:	At 1 April	Incoming	Resources	At 31 March
	2023	resources	expended	2024
	£	£	£	£
	-	27,461	(27,461)	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Designated funds	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
General funds	25,480	69,804	(11,404)	-	83,880
	<u>65,480</u>	<u>69,804</u>	<u>(11,404)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,880</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
General funds	23,176	96,554	(54,250)	(40,000)	25,480
	<u>23,176</u>	<u>96,554</u>	<u>(54,250)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,480</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:	
Current assets/(liabilities)	123,880
	<u>123,880</u>
	<u>123,880</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:	
Current assets/(liabilities)	65,480
	<u>65,480</u>
	<u>65,480</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the Charitable Incorporated Organisation entered into the following transactions with related parties:

	Income		Expenditure	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Other related parties	69,804	96,554	-	66,623
	<u>69,804</u>	<u>96,554</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,623</u>
	<u><u>69,804</u></u>	<u><u>96,554</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>66,623</u></u>

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed to related parties	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Other related parties	40,000	40,000
	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
	<u><u>40,000</u></u>	<u><u>40,000</u></u>

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed by related parties 2025		Amounts owed by related parties 2024	
	Balance	Net	Balance	Net
	£	£	£	£
Other related parties	160,174	160,174	90,370	90,370
	<u>160,174</u>	<u>160,174</u>	<u>90,370</u>	<u>90,370</u>
	<u><u>160,174</u></u>	<u><u>160,174</u></u>	<u><u>90,370</u></u>	<u><u>90,370</u></u>

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1180884

Accounts

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

A charitable incorporated organisation

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1180884

Community Legal Centre Essex

A charitable incorporated organisation

Charity number: 1180884

Trustees' Report for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

The trustees submit their annual report and the financial accounts of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are:

1. The relief of financial hardship by the provision of free legal advice and assistance to persons who through lack of means would otherwise be unable to access such services; and
2. The advancement of the education of the public by increasing knowledge and understanding of the law.

The charity funds lawyers to provide expert advice and assistance.

The charity has funded free legal advice to in the areas of family law, employment and housing to people who could not afford a high street lawyer.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. All our charitable activities focus on the provision of legal advice to those who cannot afford high street prices and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

During the year to 31 March 2024, the charity received funding from the Access to Justice Foundation for 3 months to assist litigants in person at courts throughout Essex. Through this Help Access Legal Support project over 20 family cases involving children were helped to settle disputes or get long term interim orders. Legal advice was also provided in the courts for civil, housing, employment and other cases, which not only helped the litigants but also the court processes involved. The charity has also funded the provision of pro bono advice on a range of legal matters including family law, housing and employment. The advice is provided remotely by telephone, email or Facebook group.

Financial Review

At the end of March 2024, the charity had a surplus for the year of £42,304 (2023: surplus of £18,976). Income for the year included a donation from Central Law Group CIC, which provides reduced fee legal advice to people who can afford some but not all of full price fees charged by high street firms.

The charity's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to cover 3 months expenditure. Reserves at the year-end were £65,480 (2023: £23,176), which will be used to continue the service in 2024-25.

The financial statements

- Have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements;
- Comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (the "Charities SORP").

The charity was awarded a grant from the Ministry of Justice's Access to Justice Foundation for the Help Access to Legal Support project which supports litigants in person in courts across Essex.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by its constitution. Its only voting members are its trustees.

Trustees are selected on the basis of their skills and experience. New trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

The charity works closely with Citizens Advice Chelmsford and with Central Law Group CIC.

Reference and Administrative details

The charity's name: Community Legal Centre Essex.

Registered charity number: 1180884.


Charity's principal address: Burgess Well House, Coval Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 1FW.

Bankers: Unity Trust Bank, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB.

Trustees

Trustees serving since April 2023 have been as follows:

	Appointed	Resigned
Mr R C Mynott (Chair)		
Ms E R Eisenberg		March 2024
Ms M Uddin		November 2023
Mr P R A Wilson		
Mr A Thorpe-Apps		
Mr C Todd	November 2023	

Signed 
Date 29 January 2025

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Community Legal Centre Essex

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Community Legal Centre Essex ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 financial statements to be reached.

E Oddie

Elaine Oddie OBE MA FCA FCCA

Date: 29 January 2025

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for year to 31 March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources (Note 3)				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	88,200	0	88,200	34,523
Charitable activities				
Grants	0	27,461	27,461	54,921
Other trading activities	8,354	0	8,354	4,741
Total	96,554	27,461	124,015	94,185
Resources expended (Note 4)				
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	54,250	27,461	81,711	75,209
Total	54,250	27,461	81,711	75,209
Net movement in funds	42,304	0	42,304	18,976
Total funds brought forward	23,176	0	23,176	4,200
Total funds carried forward	65,480	0	65,480	23,176

Balance Sheet		2024	2023
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors (Note 7)		90,370	7,531
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)		15,810	26,421
Total current assets		106,180	33,952
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 8)		-40,700	-10,776
Net current assets		65,480	23,176
Total net assets		65,480	23,176
Funds of the Charity (Note 10)			
Unrestricted funds		25,480	23,176
Designated funds		40,000	0
Restricted Funds		0	0
Total funds		65,480	23,176

Signed by a trustee on behalf of all the trustees



29 January 2025

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these 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 effective 1 January 2015 - Charities Sorp (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The charity continues to seek donations and grants. It funds free legal advice only when funds are available to do so.

Note 2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

2.3 Assets

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Note 3 Analysis of income

		2024	2024
		Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	88,200	0
Charitable activities:	Grants	0	27,461
Other trading activities:		8,354	0
TOTAL INCOME	Total	96,554	27,461

		2023	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	34,523	0
Charitable activities:	Grants	0	54,921
Other trading activities:		4,741	0
TOTAL INCOME	Total	39,264	54,921

Note 4 Analysis of Expenditure
Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted
	£	£
Lawyer and admin costs for HALS project	0	18,943
Office and other project costs	0	8,518
Lawyers' fees for pro bono legal advice and assistance	40,000	0
Legal Case management system and reference material	12,678	0
Other office, admin and support costs	1,572	0
Total expenditure on charitable activities	54,250	27,461
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	54,250	27,461

	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted
	£	£
Bursaries for supported clients	1,310	0
Lawyers and admin costs of HALS project	0	38,150
Lawyers' fees for pro bono legal advice and assistance	8,000	0
Office and other project costs	0	16,771
Legal Case management system and reference material	9,563	0
Other office, admin and support costs	1,415	0
Total expenditure on charitable activities	20,288	54,921
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	20,288	54,921

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Note 5 **Details of certain items of expenditure**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	730	660

Note 6 **Paid Employees**

The charity has no paid employees.

Note 7 **Debtors and prepayments**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Analysis of debtors		
Other debtors	90,370	7,531
Total	90,370	7,531

Note 8 **Creditors and accruals**

Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	40,700	10,776
Total	40,700	10,776

Note 9 **Cash at bank and in hand**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	15,180	26,421

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Note 10 **Charity funds**

10.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period to 31 March 2024

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
HALS project	0	27,461	-27,461	0	0
Unrestricted Funds -General	23,176	96,554	-54,250	-40,000	25,480
-Designated	0	0	0	40,000	40,000
	<u>23,176</u>	<u>124,015</u>	<u>-81,711</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>65,480</u>

Community Legal Centre Essex received a Help Accessing Legal Support grant (HALS) from the Ministry of Justice to make free legal advice available in courts in Essex.

Community Legal Centre Essex has unrestricted funds for the provision of free legal advice.

Community Legal Centre Essex has designated funds to continue the provision of free legal advice in courts in Essex.

Note 11. **Transactions with related parties**

None of the trustees has been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity in the year to 31 March 2024 or in the previous year to 31 March 2023.

Related Parties	2024	2023
	£	£
a. Saxon Advice Services Limited		
Donation	0	10,823
b. Central Law Group CIC		
Income		
Donations	88,200	23,700
Other income	8,354	4,741
	<u>96,554</u>	<u>28,441</u>
Expenditure		
Costs of HALS project	26,623	25,651
Bursaries	0	1,310
Fees for legal advice for pro bono cases	0	8,000
Donation for Family Court legal advisers	40,000	0
	<u>66,623</u>	<u>34,961</u>
c. Balances at 31 March with Related Parties	2024	2023
	£	£
Balances due from Central Law Group at year end	<u>90,370</u>	<u>7,531</u>
Balances due to Central Law Group at year end	<u>40,000</u>	<u>10,116</u>

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for year to 31 March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources (Note 3)				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	88,200	0	88,200	34,523
Charitable activities				
Grants	0	27,461	27,461	54,921
Other trading activities	8,354	0	8,354	4,741
Total	96,554	27,461	124,015	94,185
Resources expended (Note 4)				
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	54,250	27,461	81,711	75,209
Total	54,250	27,461	81,711	75,209
Net movement in funds	42,304	0	42,304	18,976
Total funds brought forward	23,176	0	23,176	4,200
Total funds carried forward	65,480	0	65,480	23,176

Balance Sheet		2024	2023
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors (Note 7)		90,370	7,531
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)		15,810	26,421
Total current assets		106,180	33,952
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 8)		-40,700	-10,776
Net current assets		65,480	23,176
Total net assets		65,480	23,176
Funds of the Charity (Note 10)			
Unrestricted funds		25,480	23,176
Designated funds		40,000	0
Restricted Funds		0	0
Total funds		65,480	23,176

Signed by a trustee on behalf of all the trustees



29 January 2025

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these 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 effective 1 January 2015 - Charities Sorp (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The charity continues to seek donations and grants. It funds free legal advice only when funds are available to do so.

Note 2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

2.3 Assets

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Note 3 Analysis of income

		2024	2024
		Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	88,200	0
Charitable activities:	Grants	0	27,461
Other trading activities:		8,354	0
TOTAL INCOME	Total	<u>96,554</u>	<u>27,461</u>

		2023	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	34,523	0
Charitable activities:	Grants	0	54,921
Other trading activities:		4,741	0
TOTAL INCOME	Total	<u>39,264</u>	<u>54,921</u>

Note 4 Analysis of Expenditure
Expenditure on charitable activities

		2024	2024
		Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£
Lawyer and admin costs for HALS project		0	18,943
Office and other project costs		0	8,518
Lawyers' fees for pro bono legal advice and assistance		40,000	0
Legal Case management system and reference material		12,678	0
Other office, admin and support costs		1,572	0
Total expenditure on charitable activities		<u>54,250</u>	<u>27,461</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>54,250</u>	<u>27,461</u>

		2023	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£
Bursaries for supported clients		1,310	0
Lawyers and admin costs of HALS project		0	38,150
Lawyers' fees for pro bono legal advice and assistance		8,000	0
Office and other project costs		0	16,771
Legal Case management system and reference material		9,563	0
Other office, admin and support costs		1,415	0
Total expenditure on charitable activities		<u>20,288</u>	<u>54,921</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>20,288</u>	<u>54,921</u>

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Note 5 **Details of certain items of expenditure**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	<u>730</u>	<u>660</u>

Note 6 **Paid Employees**

The charity has no paid employees.

Note 7 **Debtors and prepayments**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Analysis of debtors		
Other debtors	90,370	7,531
Total	<u>90,370</u>	<u>7,531</u>

Note 8 **Creditors and accruals**

Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	40,700	10,776
Total	<u>40,700</u>	<u>10,776</u>

Note 9 **Cash at bank and in hand**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	<u>15,180</u>	<u>26,421</u>

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX
Financial Statements year ended 31 March 2024

Note 10 **Charity funds**

10.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period to 31 March 2024

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
HALS project	0	27,461	-27,461	0	0
Unrestricted Funds -General	23,176	96,554	-54,250	-40,000	25,480
-Designated	0	0	0	40,000	40,000
	<u>23,176</u>	<u>124,015</u>	<u>-81,711</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>65,480</u>

Community Legal Centre Essex received a Help Accessing Legal Support grant (HALS) from the Ministry of Justice to make free legal advice available in courts in Essex.

Community Legal Centre Essex has unrestricted funds for the provision of free legal advice.

Community Legal Centre Essex has designated funds to continue the provision of free legal advice in courts in Essex.

Note 11. **Transactions with related parties**

None of the trustees has been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity in the year to 31 March 2024 or in the previous year to 31 March 2023.

Related Parties	2024	2023
	£	£
a. Saxon Advice Services Limited		
Donation	0	10,823
b. Central Law Group CIC		
Income		
Donations	88,200	23,700
Other income	8,354	4,741
	<u>96,554</u>	<u>28,441</u>
Expenditure		
Costs of HALS project	26,623	25,651
Bursaries	0	1,310
Fees for legal advice for pro bono cases	0	8,000
Donation for Family Court legal advisers	40,000	0
	<u>66,623</u>	<u>34,961</u>
c. Balances at 31 March with Related Parties	2024	2023
	£	£
Balances due from Central Law Group at year end	<u>90,370</u>	<u>7,531</u>
Balances due to Central Law Group at year end	<u>40,000</u>	<u>10,116</u>

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1180884

Accounts

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

A charitable incorporated organisation

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2022

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER : 1180884

Community Legal Centre Essex

A charitable incorporated organisation

Charity number: 1180884

Trustees' Report for the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

The trustees submit their annual report and the financial accounts of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are:

1. The relief of financial hardship by the provision of free legal advice and assistance to persons who through lack of means would otherwise be unable to access such services; and
2. The advancement of the education of the public by increasing knowledge and understanding of the law.

The charity funds lawyers to provide expert advice and assistance.

The charity has funded free legal advice to members of various Facebook Groups including Dadsnet and has awarded bursaries to individuals contacting the charity direct. The advice has been in the areas of family law, employment and housing.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. All our charitable activities focus on the provision of legal advice to those who cannot afford high street prices and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

During the year to 31 March 2022, the charity has provided bursaries to 8 clients who could not afford high street solicitors' fees, allowing them to obtain free legal advice in the areas of employment and housing from Central Law Group. The charity has also funded the provision of pro bono advice to over 300 individuals and families on a range of legal matters including family law, housing and employment. The advice is provided remotely by telephone, email or Facebook group.

Financial Review

At the end of March 2022, the charity had a surplus for the year of £ 3,274 (2021: surplus of £10,258). Income for the year included a donation from Central Law Group CIC, which

provides reduced fee legal advice to people who can afford some but not all of full price fees charged by high street firms.

The charity's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to cover 3 months expenditure. Reserves at the year end were £4,200 (2021: £926), which will be used to continue the service in 2022-23.

The financial statements

- Have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements;
- Comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (the "Charities SORP").

In November 2022, the charity was awarded a grant from the Access to Justice Foundation for the Help Access to Legal Support project which will support litigants in person in courts across Essex.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by its constitution. Its only voting members are its trustees.

Trustees are selected on the basis of their skills and experience. New trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

The charity works closely with Citizens Advice Chelmsford and with Central Law Group CIC.

Reference and Administrative details

The charity's name: Community Legal Centre Essex.

Registered charity number: 1180884.

Charity's principal address: Burgess Well House, Coval Lane, Chelmsford, CMI 1FW.

Bankers: Unity Trust Bank, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB.

Trustees

Trustees serving since April 2021 have been as follows:

	Appointed	Resigned
Mr R C Mynott (Chair)		
Ms E R Eisenberg		
Mr A M John		December 2021
Ms M Uddin		
Mr P R A Wilson		
Mr A Thorpe-Apps	November 2022	

Signed 

Date 25 January 2023

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Community Legal Centre Essex

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Community Legal Centre Essex ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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. 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 financial statements to be reached.

Elaine

Elaine Oddie OBE MA FCA FCCA
NSO Associates LLP
75 Springfield Road
Chelmsford
CM2 6JB

Date: 27 January 2023

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX Financial Statements 2021-22

Statement of Financial Activities for year to 31 March 2022

Incoming resources (Note 3)	2022	2021
Income from:		
	£	£
Donations and legacies	34,000	32,000
Charitable activities	0	4,000
Other trading activities	4,223	1,306
Total	<u>38,223</u>	<u>37,306</u>
Resources expended (Note 4)		
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	34,949	27,048
Total	<u>34,949</u>	<u>27,048</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>3,274</u>	<u>10,258</u>
Total funds brought forward	926	-9,332
Total funds carried forward	<u>4,200</u>	<u>926</u>
Balance Sheet	2022	2021
Current assets	£	£
Debtors (Note 7)	2,260	1,306
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 10)	41,247	18,372
Total current assets	<u>43,507</u>	<u>19,678</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 8)	-29,307	-8,752
Net current assets/(liabilities)	<u>14,200</u>	<u>10,926</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 10)	-10,000	-10,000
Total net assets or liabilities	<u>4,200</u>	<u>926</u>
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	4,200	926
Total funds	<u>4,200</u>	<u>926</u>

Signed by a trustee on behalf of all the trustees



25 January 2023

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these 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 effective 1 January 2015 - Charities Sorp (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The charity continues to seek donations and grants. It funds free legal advice only when funds are available to do so.

Note 2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants

In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

2.3 Assets

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Note 3 Analysis of income

	Analysis	£	2022	2021
			£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts		34,000	32,000
Charitable activities:	Grants		0	4,000
Other trading activities:			4,223	1,306
TOTAL INCOME	Total		<u>38,223</u>	<u>37,306</u>

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted.

Note 4 Analysis of Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bursaries for supported clients	4,925	70
Lawyers' fees for pro bono legal advice and assistance	15,630	9,782
Legal Case management system and reference material	9,782	11,230
Other office, admin and support costs	4,612	5,966
Total expenditure on charitable activities	<u>34,949</u>	<u>27,048</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>34,949</u>	<u>27,048</u>

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

Fees for examination of the accounts	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

Note 6 Paid Employees

The charity has no paid employees.

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

Analysis of debtors		2022	2021
		£	£
Other debtors		2,260	1,306
	Total	<u>2,260</u>	<u>1,306</u>

Note 8 Creditors and accruals

Analysis of creditors

		Amounts falling due within one year	
		2022	2021
		£	£
Trade creditors		28,707	8,152
Accruals		600	600
		<u>29,307</u>	<u>8,752</u>

		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
		2022	2021
		£	£
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year: Interest free loan from Saxon Advice Services Ltd		10,000	10,000
		<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

		2022	2021
		£	£
Cash at bank and on hand		<u>41,247</u>	<u>18,372</u>

Note 10**Charity funds****10.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period to 31 March 2022**

Community Legal Centre Essex has unrestricted funds for the provision on free legal advice.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fund balances brought forward	926	-9,332
Income	38,223	37,306
Expenditure	-34,949	-27,048
Fund balance carried forward	<u>4,200</u>	<u>926</u>

Note 11.**Transactions with related parties**

None of the trustees has been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity in the year to 31 March 2022 or in the previous year to 31 March 2021.

Creditors due in more than one year includes an amount due to the following related party

	2022	2021
	£	£
Saxon Advice Services Limited	10,000	10,000
Transactions with Central Law Group CIC		
Income		
Donations	34,000	32,000
Grant	0	4,000
Other income	4,223	1,306
	<u>38,223</u>	<u>37,306</u>
Expenditure		
Bursaries	4,925	0
Fees for legal advice for pro bono cases	15,630	6,452
	<u>20,555</u>	<u>6,452</u>

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

England & Wales - Charity number 1180884

Accounts

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

A charitable incorporated organisation

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2021

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER : 1180884

Community Legal Centre Essex

A charitable incorporated organisation

Charity number: 1180884

Trustees' Report for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

The trustees submit their annual report and the financial accounts of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are:

1. The relief of financial hardship by the provision of free legal advice and assistance to persons who through lack of means would otherwise be unable to access such services; and
2. The advancement of the education of the public by increasing knowledge and understanding of the law.

The charity funds lawyers to provide expert advice and assistance.

The charity has funded free legal advice to members of the Armed Services, to members of various Facebook Groups including Dadsnet and Essex Coronavirus Action and to individuals contacting the charity direct. The advice has been in the areas of family law, employment and housing.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. All our charitable activities focus on the provision of legal advice to those who cannot afford high street prices and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

During the year to 31 March 2021, the charity has delivered legal advice remotely by telephone, email or Facebook group. Some clients have their issues resolved within one or two short sessions. In other cases, the charity provides a full legal service including representation at hearings and mediation. In 2020-21, the charity advised over 300 individuals and families on a range of legal matters. These clients were unable to afford the prices of high street legal firms and were not entitled to legal aid.

Family Law: Many cases handled by the charity involve access to children where one party has financial resources or has been granted legal aid, whereas our client has no money to fund

legal advice. We have assisted clients gain direct or indirect contact with children, sometimes after several years.

Employment Law: Cases cover various employment issues. For example, the charity advised a client on a potential constructive dismissal claim, resulting in a settlement of £3,500

Housing Law: The charity advised a client, who had three children and two adults living in potentially overcrowded conditions, on their entitlement to housing assistance from their local authority and on how to put in an application for that assistance.

An ancillary benefit of the charity's work is reducing the time cases take to be heard in court. If one party has legal representation while the other is forced to represent themselves, cases can take much longer to process than if both parties are represented.

A further such benefit is that the parties are more likely than not to settle their case through negotiation where there is an "equality of arms". The presence of representation on both sides makes that a possibility because clients who usually would not be able to afford representation, feel able to protect their interests and fight their corner.

The delivery of pro bono advice through the Facebook platform remains unique. Unlike any other legal service, the charity supports the delivery of free, timely legal advice, delivered by a lawyer, to any question posted on Central Law Group's Facebook groups. The numbers in each group rise year on year and they are manned through usually fallow periods such as Christmas and Easter – vital for child contact matters.

The charity also makes it possible for Central Law Group be to be able to say that we are the only resource in the country who provide legal advice, support and representation for the Armed Forces based in Essex. Through this initiative, we have supported members of every battalion in the Parachute Regiment and news of our work has spread entirely organically because Army Welfare Services at Colchester all but shut down during the Pandemic.

Financial Review

At the end of March 2021, the charity had a surplus for the year of £10,258 (2020: deficit of £9,332). Income for the year included a grant for the work with the Armed Services from the Men's Mental Health Community Fund, and a donation from Central Law Group CIC, which provides reduced fee legal advice to people who can afford some but not all of full price fees charged by high street firms.

The charity's policy is to hold sufficient reserves to cover 3 months expenditure. Reserves at the year end were £926 (2020: £-£9,332), which will be used to continue the service in 2021-22.

The financial statements

- Have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements;

- Comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (the "Charities SORP").

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by its constitution. Its only voting members are its trustees.

Trustees are selected on the basis of their skills and experience. New trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees.

The charity works closely with Citizens Advice Chelmsford and with Central Law Group CIC.

Reference and Administrative details

The charity's name: Community Legal Centre Essex.

Registered charity number: 1180884.

Charity's principal address: Burgess Well House, Coval Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 1FW.


Bankers: Unity Trust Bank, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB.

Trustees

Trustees serving since April 2020 have been as follows:

Mr R C Mynott	(Chair)	Resigned
Ms I W Bainbridge		September 2020
Ms E R Eisenberg		
Mr A M John		
Ms M Musson		June 2020
Ms M Uddin		
Mr P R A Wilson		

Signed



Date 25th January 2022

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Community Legal Centre Essex

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Community Legal Centre Essex ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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 financial statements to be reached.

Elaine

Elaine Oddie OBE MA FCA FCCA
NSO Associates LLP
75 Springfield Road
Chelmsford
CMJ2 6JB

Date: 27 January 2022

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Financial Statements 2020-21

Statement of Financial Activities for year to 31 March 2021
(Prior period November 2018 to March 2020)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Incoming resources (Note 3)		
Income from:		
Donations and legacies	32,000	1,000
Charitable activities	4,000	5,000
Other trading activities	1,306	920
Total	<u>37,306</u>	<u>6,920</u>
Resources expended (Note 4)		
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	27,048	16,252
Total	<u>27,048</u>	<u>16,252</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>10,258</u>	<u>-9,332</u>
Total funds brought forward	-9,332	0
Total funds carried forward	<u>926</u>	<u>-9,332</u>

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Financial Statements 2020-21

Balance Sheet at 31 March

	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets		
Debtors (Note 7)	1,306	0
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	18,372	668
Total current assets	<u>19,678</u>	<u>668</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 8)	-8,752	0
Net current assets/(liabilities)	<u>10,926</u>	<u>668</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 8)	-10,000	-10,000
Total net assets or liabilities	<u>926</u>	<u>-9,332</u>
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	926	-9,332
Total funds	<u>926</u>	<u>-9,332</u>

Signed by a trustee on behalf of all the trustees



R. MYNOTT

Date: 26th January 2022

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Financial Statements 2020-21

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these 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 effective 1 January 2015 - Charities Sorp (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The charity continues to seek donations and grants. It funds free legal advice only when funds are available to do so.

Note 2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants

In the case of performance related grants, income is only recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

2.3 Assets

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Financial Statements 2020-21

Note 3 Analysis of income

	Analysis	2021 £	2020 £
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	32,000	1,000
Charitable activities:	Grants	4,000	5,000
Other trading activities:		1,306	920
TOTAL INCOME	Total	37,306	6,920

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted.

Note 4 Analysis of Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Lawyers' fees for pro bono legal advice and assistance	9,852	1,000
Legal Case management system and reference material	11,230	13,351
Other office, admin and support costs	5,966	1,901
Total expenditure on charitable activities	27,048	16,252
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	27,048	16,252

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

Fees for examination of the accounts

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent examiner's fees	600	0

Note 6 Paid Employees

The charity has no paid employees.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Financial Statements 2020-21

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	1,306	0
Total	1,306	0

Note 8 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,152	0
Accruals	600	0
	8,752	0

	Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest free loan from Saxon Advice Services Ltd	10,000	10,000

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	18,372	668

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE ESSEX

Financial Statements 2020-21

Note 10 Charity funds

10.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period to 31 March 2021

Community Legal Centre Essex holds unrestricted funds for the provision of free legal advice

	2021 £	2020 £
Fund balances brought forward	-9,332	0
Income	37,306	6,920
Expenditure	-27,048	-16,252
Fund balance carried forward	<u>926</u>	<u>-9,332</u>

Note 11 Transactions with related parties

None of the trustees has been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity in the year to 31 March 2021 or in the previous period to 31 March 2020.

Creditors due in more than one year includes an amount due to the following related party

	2021 £	2020 £
Saxon Advice Services Limited	10,000	10,000
Transactions with Central Law Group CIC		
Income		
Donations	32,000	0
Grant	4,000	0
Other income	<u>1,306</u>	<u>920</u>
Expenditure		
Fees for legal advice for pro bono cases	<u>6,452</u>	<u>1,195</u>
Transactions with Citizens Advice Chelmsford		
Grant	<u>0</u>	<u>5,000</u>