

Company registration number 09527065 (England and Wales )

Charity Registration No 1185078



**ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL**

**STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024**

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Trustees	Mr J O'Sullivan	
	Mr J Lenihan	(Appointed 18 April 2023)
	Ms J Drown	(Appointed 1 February 2024)
	Mrs R Chawala	(Appointed 9 February 2024)
Senior management	Mr Frank Mullane	CEO
Charity number	1185078	
Company number	09527065	
Registered office	30 Commercial Road Swindon Wiltshire SN1 5NS	
Independent examiner	David Owen & Co 17 The Market Place Devizes Wiltshire SN10 1BA	

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# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

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## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

To Year Ending 31 March 2024

### Foreword by AAFDA's CEO

2023/24 was another extremely busy year with continued growth in demand for our services. We saw further increases in the rate of suicide and unexplained death related referrals, and in requests for AAFDA's support across the academic, voluntary and statutory sectors to develop and improve responses to fatal domestic abuse.

Our direct work with families highlights the need for consistency of quality through the DHR process. After many years of providing training to those involved in DHRs, we were delighted to secure the opportunity to develop and deliver a mandatory qualification for DHRs. This will make a significant difference to the quality of DHRs and, consequently, the prevention of domestic abuse related deaths.

In December 2023 I wrote a guest blog for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner as part of the #16DaysOfActivism campaign. Within this I reflected that DHRs reveal the horrific and compromised lives of so many (usually) women and they act as pressure loops feeding back into agencies to ensure continuous improvement to prevent further abuse. So, while there is much work to do to ensure the DHR process is as good as it can be, we must not veer from their critical purpose, to shine a bright light on the antecedents, giving us all a chance to make the future safer.

At AAFDA, we raise the status of families in their interactions with agencies after fatal domestic abuse. We help them to assist the review and help protect them from secondary trauma. As one family member told us, *"After the death, it's almost like you're on another traumatic journey. There is no respite from it. And people just sit on the outside, they go, well it's nearly two years now. They just don't get it. They don't realise what comes next."*

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the impressive skill, tenacity and hard work of the amazing AAFDA team, incorporating our paid staff, volunteers and board members, to whom I am immensely grateful. I further extend my thanks to our funders and supporters who continue to make this critical work possible.

Frank Mullane MBE





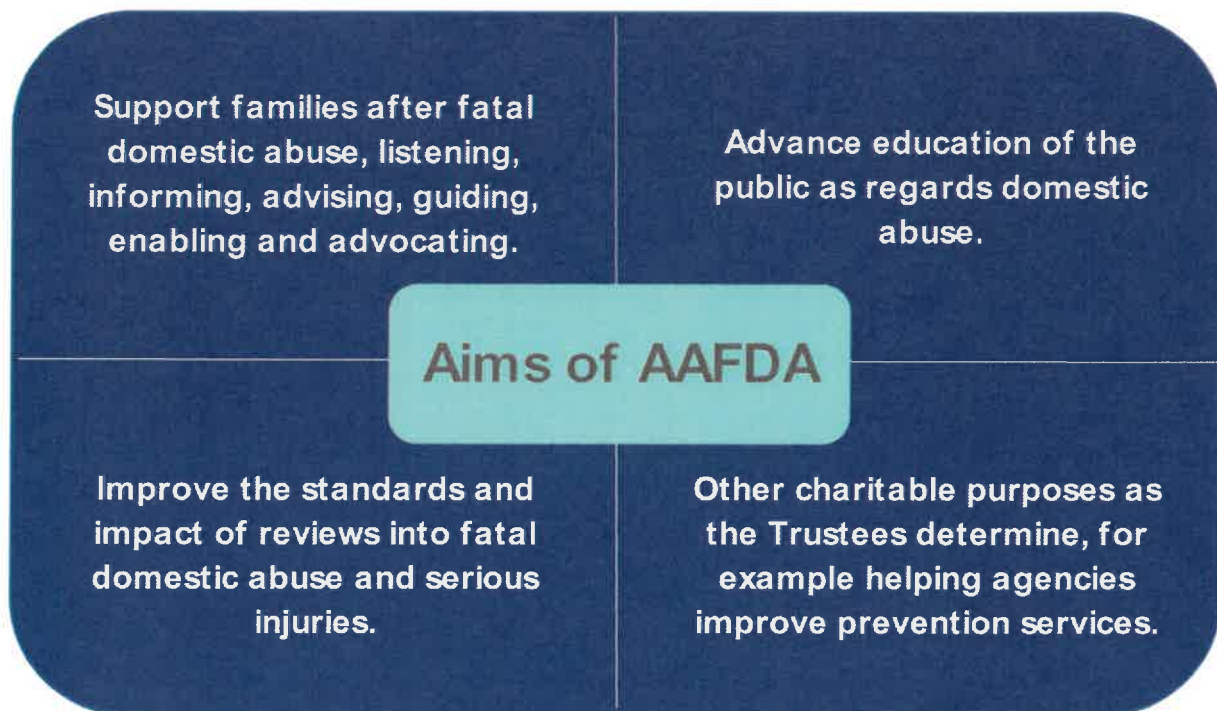
## About AAFDA

Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) was founded by Frank Mullane MBE in 2008, in memory of his sister and nephew, Julia and Will Pemberton, whose murders in 2003 prompted an inquiry exposing the difficulties families face in these circumstances. Known as the Pemberton Homicide Review, the inquiry was the first of its kind, exposing a deeply inadequate response to domestic abuse victims. The emotionally exhausting, arduous, and costly process gave Frank the resolve to ensure no-one else faced the same barriers to access justice. He then helped to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), which became law in 2011. Frank was awarded an MBE in 2019 for his work supporting families bereaved by domestic homicide.

AAFDA is also a Centre of Excellence for reviews into domestic homicides, suicides and unexplained deaths following domestic abuse. We are particularly skilled in DHR methodology and best practice, having been closely involved in developing the model with the Home Office since 2008, three years before they became law. Using our specialist knowledge and collective insights, we provide for the needs of families bereaved by fatal domestic abuse and help agencies to refine their services for victims suffering domestic abuse and to review domestic abuse related deaths more effectively. We provide a unique national voice for the learning that each DHR generates. While no two cases are the same, we believe that each DHR is an opportunity to end domestic abuse.

### **AAFDA's Vision: A future free of domestic violence**

**AAFDA's Mission:** We advocate, educate and influence to ensure victims' voices are heard, driving change.





## Our work with families impacted by fatal domestic abuse

### Advocacy:

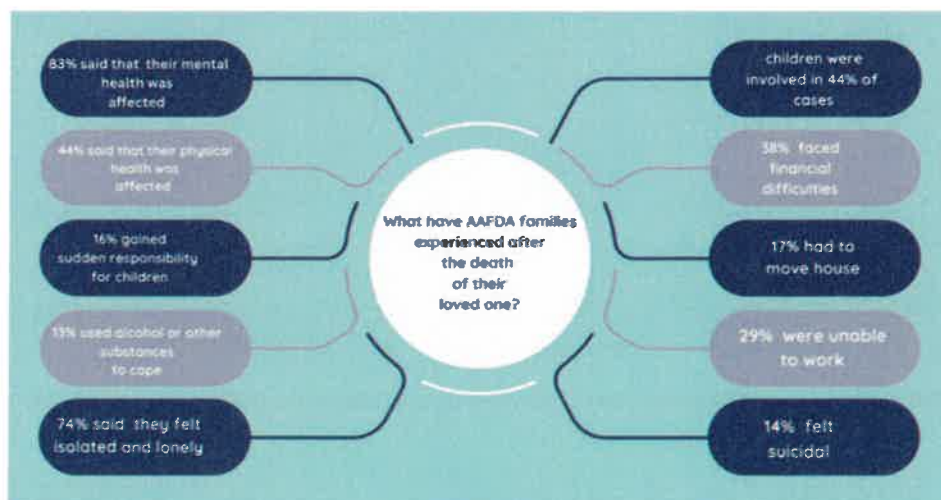
AAFDA's specialist and expert advocates are at the heart of the charity. They have lived experience and understanding of the issues faced. Our advocates provide specialist and expert advocacy and peer support, working with the family to secure their right to an adequate investigation and

equal treatment within the post-fatal domestic abuse process. They challenge disadvantage, raise the status of the victim in the case narrative, and ensure that the family is integral (not just involved) within post-homicide reviews. AAFDA's trauma-informed service, providing long-term advocacy, goes 'above and beyond' to restore dignity and relief for families.

Some highlights of the advocacy support provided in 2023/24 include:

- Securing several DHRs where it was not the intention of the commissioning authorities to undertake one. This includes for a victim who worked in the sex industry and for whom the authorities were reluctant to commission a DHR.
- Successfully influencing the police in multiple areas to reopen two criminal investigations and improving interaction between bereaved families and the police and/or the coroner.
- Ensuring rich detail in DHRs, one of which allowed a Coroner to make the first ever link between suicide and domestic abuse.

AAFDA continues to be the only national provider of specialist and expert advocacy and peer support to people bereaved by suicide and unexplained death where there was a history of domestic abuse. In 2023/24 we received 113 new referrals, 78 of which went on to become cases, taking the total receiving active advocacy support to 255 family members impacted by fatal domestic abuse.



2023-2024	Ongoing/existing support	New cases adopted	Total
Homicide	72	27	99
Suicide	76	41	117
Unexplained/sudden death	27	8	35
Other/not known	0	2	2
Parole	2	0	2
Total	177	78	255



## Support for Children and Young People:

Whilst the Home Office Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews (2016) acknowledges that children should have the opportunity to participate in reviews, this rarely happens, with professionals involved in DHRs lacking the knowledge and tools to facilitate this. And there has been no specialist support available to assist children impacted by fatal domestic abuse. In response to these identified needs, in 2022/23 AAFDA established a dedicated support service for children bereaved by fatal domestic abuse delivered by specialist and expert Children and Young People's Advocates.

This year we have worked to raise awareness of our children and young people's advocacy service and provided advice and support to many professionals and chairs considering a referral for children and young people. We have also continued to develop ways of identifying how many children have been bereaved and providing, where possible and safe to do so, direct or indirect support to ensure those children (linked to families we are currently supporting) benefit from or are aware of specialist support via assisting with referrals and/or signposting.

AAFDA now has two staff members who are accredited Healing Together facilitators, supporting children impacted by fatal domestic abuse.

## Giving families a platform to influence change:

AAFDA has always held in high regard the personal testimonies of the families and friends who use our services and their importance in influencing improvements to policy and practice. Further, we recognise that, for some family members, telling the story of their lost loved one and ensuring that lessons are learned is critical to their recovery process. Family members have been integral to the delivery of our training events. Virtually all courses have had a family speaker joining us, with an opportunity to take questions from the audience.

In March 2024 AAFDA facilitated another learning day, bringing together nine family members bereaved by suicides or unexplained deaths following domestic abuse and the Metropolitan Police Service Assistant Commissioner, National Police Chief's Council lead for domestic abuse, police colleagues, Home Office, Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office and VKPP<sup>1</sup> project representatives. The purpose of the day was to seek feedback from family members and to foster continual learning about what needs to improve regarding police responses to suicides/unexplained deaths within the context of domestic abuse.



*"I think it's great that the police and research team want to meet us. I believe it gives them a far better understanding rather than just a number of statistics on a screen and the ripple effect that domestic abuse has on the wider family left behind."*  
(Family member)

<sup>1</sup> National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme.

With a range of partners and led by Wearside Women in Need, AAFDA has continued to support the development of the 'We Findaway' project, and our reference group of family members who are experts by experience has provided critical input to ensure that the support service for family and friends concerned that someone they care about may be experiencing domestic abuse is as good as it can be. The Findaway project and the family members involved in it were featured on Comic Relief's Red Nose Day in March 2024.

We welcomed Volunteer Week from 1st-7th June 2023 with an online celebration to thank AAFDA volunteers for their time, dedication and work. We gifted them with a card and a cuppa on us! The volunteers also enjoyed the start of their training programme and celebrated our first Peer Support session co-facilitated by a volunteer.



### **Peer support:**

AAFDA's drop-in peer support sessions (facilitated online by an AAFDA team member) are an established safe space to enable families impacted by fatal domestic abuse to connect and share ways to cope with their loss. These sessions also enable families who wish to remain in touch with AAFDA to do so once their advocacy support ends. 201 individuals have attended peer support sessions.

May 2023 saw the launch of our new Peer Support model that we hope benefits all family members. This included more sessions per week, the introduction of fortnightly day sessions, specific group sessions, activities and guest speakers. Our first guest speaker was Nicole Jacobs (Domestic Abuse Commissioner) who enjoyed meeting our family members. Nicole provided an update on her current work and answered questions from families that joined us.

We also introduced Peer Support music sessions, led by Catherine Razzell. Family members worked with Catherine, putting their feelings into words. The feedback was great for this uplifting and creative session.

### **Positive outcomes for family members surveyed:**

- ✓ 93% felt informed about the DHR and/or other review process
- ✓ 89% felt supported on how to engage in the review or other inquiry process
- ✓ 82% were actively engaged in the review process
- ✓ 85% felt satisfied that they know the facts of the case
- ✓ 80% felt better able to cope with the practical and emotional challenges after the homicide/Domestic Abuse related death
- ✓ 66% felt that their wellbeing has improved
- ✓ 79% felt helped to move on positively with their lives





## Our work with professionals

In addition to the direct work our advocates undertake with agencies and professionals to improve their responses to individual cases, AAFDA provides wide-ranging training and professional development, with the aim of improving practice.

The report undertaken in partnership with Warwick University that AAFDA published in March 2023 - Learning Legacies: An Analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Cases of Domestic Abuse Suicide<sup>2</sup> - has been utilised through our training and influencing work to highlight ways in which DHRs might develop our understanding of the experiences of those who take their own lives and identify pathways to improved suicide prevention in the context of domestic abuse.

### The DHR Network:

The DHR Network has continued to grow its membership to include over 250 members representing professionals involved in DHRs, including CSPs and Independent Chairs. The main aim of the DHR Network is to create a consistently high standard of DHRs and offer resources and support for the key professionals involved in them. Benefits for members during 2023/24 included:

- An online discussion forum, with 31 new discussion topics active during the year
- 63 DHR alerts circulated, connecting Chairs with CSPs undertaking a DHR
- A repository of research, articles and resources
- Short monthly learning and connecting events
- Longer quarterly learning events with expert speakers.

Amongst other topics and open networking sessions, events this year included learning sessions on:

- Understanding Autism and related good practice in conducting DHRs
- Developing your Overview Report – a discussion on different approaches
- An update from the Home Office on DHR reform
- The scope of a Panel to make recommendations
- The voices of South Asian women in DHR's
- Learning Legacies: An Analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Cases of Domestic Abuse Suicide.<sup>2</sup>
- Illuminating the past to make the future safer?' Exploring the potential and peril of domestic homicide reviews as a mechanism for change.<sup>3</sup>

*"Network is great. Full of info and resources and the variety and frequency of learning events is really impressive. Great support for those who are new to DHR's, like myself." (DHR Network member)*

The DHR Network Steering Group continued to meet, drawing on intelligence provided by the DHR Network membership and enabling national work on DHR reform to be connected. This includes from a survey in May 2023 of our DHR Network members to gain a snapshot of key issues

<sup>2</sup> [999368 law domestic violence main research report final final pre-print.pdf](#)

<sup>3</sup> ['Illuminating the past to make the future safer?' Exploring the potential and peril of domestic homicide reviews as a mechanism for change](#)

impacting on DHR related work, and to form a picture of the landscape and of who the professionals involved in DHRs are.

### Training:

AAFDA delivered both bespoke and CPD accredited national training on “Being an Effective DHR Panel Member”, “Reviewing Suicide and Unexplained Deaths” and “Managing a Domestic Homicide Review”, as well as many other topic related training events. A total of 246 professionals have received training by AAFDA in these topics. A further 100 delegates have benefitted from locally commissioned bespoke training to meet the area’s need.



Given the importance of DHRs in driving improvement in domestic abuse services, a primary focus for AAFDA is the professional development of DHR Chairs. This year we facilitated four deliveries of our accredited national DHR Chair training with 37 participants. In February 2024, following an open procurement exercise, AAFDA was selected as the provider for the Home Office Funded national DHR Chair training. This provided an opportunity to expand our current offer and create a bespoke qualification – the Certificate in Chairing a Domestic Homicide Review (level 3). The development work on this qualification prepared us to begin delivery in the spring of 2024.

Feedback on our courses has been extremely positive with some **areas of monitoring achieving** 100% satisfaction rates consistently.

*“Excellent training. I came away far more informed about DHRs and confident in ensuring the victim and their family’s voice is heard. Thank you very much.” (Training participant)*



### Our national influence

AAFDA, along with sector partners, has continued to provide strong leadership in building the knowledge base about domestic abuse and fatal domestic abuse, the needs of those impacted by it and best practice responses.

AAFDA responded to the government’s consultation on DHR legislation launched in July 2023. There was a consensus around adding the statutory definition of domestic abuse into DHR legislation, and overwhelming support to rename DHRs to better reflect the range of deaths which fall in scope of a review.

Continuing our influencing work from 2022/23, we monitored the definition of victim in the Victims and Prisoners Bill as it passed through parliament: a previous iteration risked narrowing the definition of victim which may have led to a reduction in access to victims' rights for some. The bill was considered by a public bill committee over 14 sittings between 20 June 2023 and 11 July

2023, to which AAFDA provided information through expert witnesses and members. During the bill's progress through the 2023/24 Government session, we are particularly grateful for the support of Jess Phillips MP, who highlighted our concerns relating to support for those who are bereaved by suicide where the cause is domestic abuse during a number of committee meetings. We are also grateful for the unwavering support of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, and the previous and current Victims Commissioners, Vera Baird KC, and Baroness Newlove, during the progress of the Victim and Prisoners Bill through Parliament.

AAFDA has continued to support the Institute for Addressing Strangulation and SafeLives to deliver sessions and training to professionals on the Non-Fatal Strangulation (NFS) offence which enable professionals to recognise when the offence has occurred and/or where the life or health of a victim of NFS may be at risk.

In July 2023 AAFDA launched our first newsletter enabling recipients to keep up-to-date with AAFDA and other sector news.

### **Raising the profile and understanding of domestic abuse and fatal domestic abuse:**

The CEO and Executive Team spoke at 11 conferences and events throughout the year, using these platforms to heighten awareness of the impacts of and responses to fatal domestic abuse and the needs of bereaved family members.

Additionally, AAFDA has issued press releases on relevant topics and our CEO was regularly approached to provide comment in national and local media.

In December 2023 AAFDA's CEO wrote a guest blog for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner as part of the #16DaysOfActivism campaign.

The website [www.aafda.org.uk](http://www.aafda.org.uk) continues to be a key source of information for both families impacted by fatal domestic abuse and professionals. We have further built upon our online presence throughout 2023/24.

With our followers on Linked in increasing from 528 to 1595 in the past year, we have increased our reach within professional communities. Facebook and X/Twitter (with over 6,000 followers) have also provided platforms for AAFDA to raise awareness and share learning across a broad spectrum of followers.

AAFDA has continued to be a member of the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel, contributing to the discussions of this panel in relation to 156 DHRs and CSP decisions not to undertake DHRs.



Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abu...  
@AAFDA6

Home Office confirms steep rise in suicide related DHRs. [bit.ly/3E7Gdbg](https://bit.ly/3E7Gdbg).  
Quoted in this article is Frank Mullane, CEO of AAFDA. AAFDA support families going through the DHR process, including those that are suicide related.  
[aafda.org.uk](http://aafda.org.uk) @FMullaneAAFDA



12:41 · 24/08/2023 · 1K Views





## Our funders

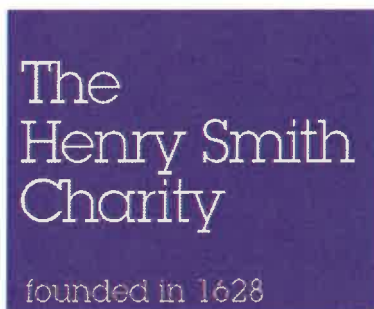
We have continued to diversify our income streams; grants from the Home Office and Police & Crime Commissioners were complemented by awards from The Henry Smith Charity, John Ellerman Foundation, The National Lottery Community Fund, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Clifford Chance Foundation, The Masonic Charitable Foundation and The Worshipful Company of Security Professionals Charitable Trust, Wearside Women in Need.

We would like to express our gratitude to our funders and also to the many generous individuals, business, churches and community groups who continue to support our work and enable us to do so much more. These include:

- Mike Couzens who raised £375 taking part in the Great South Run.
- Dr Anna Hopkins held a unique shoe exhibition. 16 pairs of shoes were exhibited, with 8 pairs painted red to remember those killed by domestic abuse and 8 pairs blue to remember those who took their own lives as a result of the domestic abuse they had experienced. Anna then ran 5km every day during the 16 days of Activism dedicating each run to one of the women's stories told in the shoe exhibition raising £1,771 to support AAFDA.



AAFDA is extremely grateful to the following organisations for their support of our work in 2023/24.



John Ellerman  
Foundation



WILTSHIRE FREEMASONS





## **Structure, good governance and management**

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statement were:

Mr J O'Sullivan

Ms E Jones (Resigned 31 December 2023)

Mr J Lenihan (Appointed 18 April 2023)

Ms J Drown (Appointed 1 February 2024)

Mrs R Chawala (Appointed 9 February 2024)

Ms B Seaborne (Resigned 31 January 2024)

Ms H Wilson (Resigned 31 January 2024)

Mr D Ford (Resigned 7 September 2023)

During 2023/2024, our Board consisted of trustees with a range of complementary expertise and experience.

Our Board meets, at minimum, on a quarterly basis. The Chair and Treasurer had regular and frequent contact with the CEO. During Board meetings the CEO and Deputy CEO report on the main aspects of the charity (work with beneficiaries, impact on victims, emerging issues, finance, strategic plan, operational performance, and risk).

The Board is very aware of its responsibilities to identify and manage risk. A risk management register is reviewed regularly by the CEO who highlights to the Board any increased or new risks identified.

The Board complies with statutory obligations to submit Full Year Accounts, a Trustees' Annual Report, and an Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

### **Trustee recruitment, induction and training:**

We review the composition and skills of the Board each year to ensure that AAFDA has trustees with the right range of skills and knowledge to provide robust governance. One approach to identifying potential trustees is via the extensive networks of current Board members and staff. On occasion, this is supplemented by advertisement in appropriate media. Applicants for the role of trustee undergo a vigorous recruitment process, including meeting the Board and operational staff. All new trustees are supplied with a copy of *"The Essential Trustee"*, provided by the Charity Commission, and relevant training is provided to support trustees in their role.

**Finance:**

AAFDA has seen its income for 2023/24 increase marginally to £977K. AAFDA has maintained excellent cost control and investment in fundraising to ensure financial resilience. In addition, further improving efficiencies helped materially reduce the percentage of total costs which were support costs. Our referrals have been growing significantly, hence more fundraising resource as part of total costs of £888K. The fundraising environment remains very challenging, but AAFDA has continued to invest, in line with the restricted nature of the grants, in more support for families. In addition, costs have continued consistent with an organisation growing in size, leading to further developing the Charity's infrastructure and systems. This increases our efficiency and sustainability whilst ensuring our staff are supported to work with bereaved families in psychologically safe environments.

As AAFDA continues to grow, it has been necessary to ensure excellent internal controls, excellent governance and maintain financial sustainability.

**Reserves Policy:**

To ensure the long-term success and sustainability of AAFDA amidst a very uncertain funding and operating environment, the Trustees aim to maintain free reserves (which exclude restricted grants) equivalent to between three to six months of budgeted operating costs. These free reserves include designated funds which are set aside for specific projects decided by the Board.

**Public Benefit Statement:**

The Trustees understand it is their duty in exercising their powers to meet the obligations as outlined by the Charity Commission. For example, these responsibilities include being clear that the activities undertaken by AAFDA are for the public benefit and meet the objectives outlined in the Charity's Articles of Association.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2024.



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James O'Sullivan  
Chair

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse Ltd (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and 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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



**Mr Julian Pocock FCA CTA**

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

17 The Market Place  
Devizes  
Wiltshire  
SN10 1BA

Dated: 19/12/2024

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Designated	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds Designated	Restricted funds	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>									
Donations and legacies	3	62,020	-	803,702	865,722	16,978	-	809,878	826,856
Charitable activities	4	99,791	-	-	99,791	139,616	-	-	139,616
Investments	5	11,250	-	-	11,250	1,501	-	-	1,501
<b>Total income</b>		<u>173,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>803,702</u>	<u>976,763</u>	<u>158,095</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>809,878</u>	<u>967,973</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>									
Raising funds	6	48,533	-	-	48,533	29,547	-	-	29,547
Charitable activities	7	35,918	-	803,702	839,620	150,057	-	684,878	834,935
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>84,451</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>803,702</u>	<u>888,153</u>	<u>179,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>684,878</u>	<u>864,482</u>
<b>Net income and movement in funds</b>		<u>88,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,610</u>	<u>(21,509)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>103,491</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>									
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		259,250	50,000	125,000	434,250	280,759	50,000	-	330,759
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<u>347,860</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>522,860</u>	<u>259,250</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>434,250</u>

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

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		7,912		12,791
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	124,585		105,376	
Cash at bank and in hand		449,812		448,129	
		574,397		553,505	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(59,449)		(132,046)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			514,948		421,459
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			522,860		434,250
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	17	125,000		125,000	
Unrestricted funds - general	19	347,860		259,250	
Unrestricted funds - Designated	18	50,000		50,000	
		522,860		434,250	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 17 December 2024



Mr J O'Sullivan  
Trustee

Company registration number 09527065 (England and Wales)



# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	22		(9,567)		13,441
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(14,639)	
Investment income received		11,250		1,501	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>			11,250		(13,138)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			1,683		303
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			448,129		447,826
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			449,812		448,129

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 30 Commercial Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 5NS.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") 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)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. 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 charity 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. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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 charity 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 charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised 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.

##### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	3 years straight line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

##### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

##### 1.8 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.

##### 1.9 Financial instruments

The charity 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 charity's balance sheet when the charity 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.

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 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 charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity'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 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	7,020	-	7,020	16,978	-	16,978
Grants receivable for core activities	55,000	803,702	858,702	-	809,878	809,878
	<u>62,020</u>	<u>803,702</u>	<u>865,722</u>	<u>16,978</u>	<u>809,878</u>	<u>826,856</u>

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 3 Income from donations and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Grants receivable for core activities</b>						
Police and Crime Commissioners	-	225,882	225,882	-	206,105	206,105
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	151,417	151,417	-	150,142	150,142
Wearside Women in Need	-	10,000	10,000	-	20,000	20,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	55,000	-	55,000	-	73,000	73,000
Home Office Perpetrator	-	32,626	32,626	-	70,631	70,631
Home Office	-	250,000	250,000	-	250,000	250,000
John Ellerman Foundation	-	40,000	40,000	-	40,000	40,000
Henry Smith	-	60,000	60,000	-	-	-
Other	-	33,777	33,777	-	-	-
	<u>55,000</u>	<u>803,702</u>	<u>858,702</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>809,878</u>	<u>809,878</u>

#### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
<b>Training and Influencing</b>		
Speaking, consultancy and training fees	<u>99,791</u>	<u>139,616</u>

#### 5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Bank Interest	<u>11,250</u>	<u>1,501</u>



# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **6 Expenditure on raising funds**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	3,825	29,547
Staff costs	44,708	-
	<u>48,533</u>	<u>29,547</u>

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Advocacy and peer support 2024 £	Training and influencing 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Advocacy and peer support 2023 £	Training and influencing 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>						
Staff costs	552,754	38,367	591,121	456,126	36,302	492,428
Depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	130	-	130
Travel expenses	18,718	1,146	19,864	29,187	4,812	33,999
Domestic homicide review network	-	15,575	15,575	-	15,445	15,445
Project partner costs	-	2,960	2,960	-	5,841	5,841
Support materials	1,096	-	1,096	1,511	-	1,511
Equipment renewal	16,167	-	16,167	1,552	-	1,552
Trauma therapy	-	-	-	-	(8,315)	(8,315)
Peer support (Residential)	-	-	-	22,899	-	22,899
Supervision and staff welfare	16,415	-	16,415	12,691	378	13,069
Training and recruitment	2,286	-	2,286	11,206	40	11,246
Monitoring and evaluation (includes staff costs of £16,793)	20,268	-	20,268	15,090	-	15,090
Strategic review and capacity development	-	1,022	1,022	-	5,800	5,800
External training and event costs	-	26,312	26,312	-	31,320	31,320
Temporary external staff costs	-	-	-	9,139	-	9,139
Annual conference	-	-	-	-	36,642	36,642
Other charitable expenditure	5,338	-	5,338	1,864	-	1,864
	<u>633,042</u>	<u>85,382</u>	<u>718,424</u>	<u>561,395</u>	<u>128,265</u>	<u>689,660</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)</b>						
Support	97,019	7,302	104,321	95,894	16,923	112,817
Governance	15,694	1,181	16,875	27,589	4,869	32,458
	<u>745,755</u>	<u>93,865</u>	<u>839,620</u>	<u>684,878</u>	<u>150,057</u>	<u>834,935</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds - general	-	35,918	35,918	-	150,057	150,057
Restricted funds	<u>745,755</u>	<u>57,947</u>	<u>803,702</u>	<u>684,878</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>684,878</u>
	<u>745,755</u>	<u>93,865</u>	<u>839,620</u>	<u>684,878</u>	<u>150,057</u>	<u>834,935</u>

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs	53,847	50,554
Depreciation	4,879	1,717
Travel costs	1,055	1,193
IT systems and website	6,270	443
Telephone and postage	5,781	4,660
Security	1,871	1,665
Office supplies and utilities	2,374	3,184
Insurance	5,634	2,299
HR Services	8,347	6,176
Legal and professional	2,673	12,857
Supervision and staff welfare	870	1,826
Training and recruitment	4,108	19,983
Other costs	6,612	6,260
Governance costs	16,875	32,458
	<u>121,196</u>	<u>145,275</u>

#### Analysed between:

Advocacy and peer support	112,713	123,483
Training and influencing	8,483	21,792
	<u>121,196</u>	<u>145,275</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Governance costs comprise:</b>		
Accountancy	8,840	25,314
Board Governance	8,035	7,144
	<u>16,875</u>	<u>32,458</u>

#### 9 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination and preparation of the charity's financial statements	8,000	15,840
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	4,879	1,847
	<u></u>	<u></u>

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 10 Trustees

During the year, the charity reimbursed expenses incurred by one of the trustees, totalling £321 (2023 £1,156).

During the year, the charity purchased services from one of the trustees, totalling £4,800 (2023: £4,800), in adherence to the rules of the Charity Commission.

#### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Fundraising	2	1
Charitable activities	19	19
Administration	1	1
Total	22	21

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	615,064	490,202
Social security costs	53,435	39,795
Other pension costs	18,926	12,985
	687,425	542,982

In addition termination payments totalling £19,444 were made in the reporting period. The termination payments were payable when employment was terminated before the normal retirement date or end of employment contract due to re-structuring.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 to £70,000	1	1

#### 12 Taxation

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

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2023	14,638
At 31 March 2024	14,638
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2023	1,847
Depreciation charged in the year	4,879
At 31 March 2024	6,726
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2024	7,912
At 31 March 2023	12,791

#### 14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	80,298	78,352
Prepayments and accrued income	44,287	27,024
	124,585	105,376

#### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Notes</b>		
Other taxation and social security	12,967	31,004
Deferred income	14,878	46,300
Trade creditors	530	-
Other creditors	4,226	5,197
Accruals	26,848	49,545
	59,449	132,046

#### 16 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	18,926	12,985

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.



# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 17 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.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
Police and Crime Commissioners	-	225,882	(225,882)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	125,000	151,417	(151,417)	125,000
Wearside Women in Need	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Home Office Perpetrator	-	32,626	(32,626)	-
Home Office	-	250,000	(250,000)	-
Henry Smith	-	60,000	(60,000)	-
Other grants	-	40,000	(40,000)	-
Other grants	-	33,777	(33,777)	-
	<u>125,000</u>	<u>803,702</u>	<u>(803,702)</u>	<u>125,000</u>

#### Previous year:

	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
Police and Crime Commissioners	-	201,105	(201,105)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	150,142	(25,142)	125,000
Wearside Women in Need	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	73,000	(73,000)	-
Home Office Perpetrator	-	70,631	(70,631)	-
Home Office	-	250,000	(250,000)	-
John Ellerman Foundation	-	40,000	(40,000)	-
Other grants	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>809,878</u>	<u>684,878</u>	<u>125,000</u>

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 18 Unrestricted funds - Designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 April 2023 £	At 31 March 2024 £
Designated fund	50,000	50,000
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2022 £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2023 £</b>
Designated fund	50,000	50,000

The Charity maintains a designated fund to facilitate its capacity building projects.

#### 19 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 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	259,250	173,061	(84,451)	347,860
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2022 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2023 £</b>
General funds	280,759	158,095	(179,604)	259,250

#### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>				
Tangible assets	7,912	-	-	7,912
Current assets/(liabilities)	339,948	50,000	125,000	514,948
	347,860	50,000	125,000	522,860

# ADVOCACY AFTER FATAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>At 31 March 2023:</b>				
Tangible assets	10,563	-	2,228	12,791
Current assets/(liabilities)	248,687	50,000	122,772	421,459
	<u>259,250</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>434,250</u>

### 21 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

### 22 Cash generated from operations

	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	88,610	103,491
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(11,250)	(1,501)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	4,879	1,848
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(19,209)	(103,396)
(Decrease) in creditors	(41,175)	(33,301)
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income	(31,422)	46,300
<b>Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations</b>	<u>(9,567)</u>	<u>13,441</u>

### 23 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.