

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Ms S Kirkley	
	Mr C Miller	
	Ms A Weir	
	Ms A Cutler	
	Ms N Patel	
	Ms J Pearce	
	Ms D Mistry	(Appointed 1 January 2024)
	Ms L Brown	(Appointed 1 January 2024)
	Ms A Lorek	(Appointed 1 January 2024)
	Mr D Goosey	(Appointed 1 January 2024)
Management committee	Ms S Kirkley	
	Mr C Miller	
	Ms A Weir	
	Ms A Cutler	
	Ms N Patel	
	Ms J Pearce	
	Ms D Mistry	
	Ms L Brown	
	Ms A Lorek	
	Mr D Goosey	
Charity number	1186634	
Independent examiner	Afford Bond Holdings Limited	
	31 Wellington Road	
	Nantwich	
	Cheshire	
	CW5 7ED	

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 5
Independent examiner's report	6
Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 13

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "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).

Background

The Charity was formed in November 2019 as a successor body to the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs (AILC). AILC performed a similar function to that now carried by the Charity but as a company limited by guarantee.

TASP wishes to be a substantial influencing voice for safeguarding which represents and helps to develop the views of its members, while working to safeguard children and the vulnerable. To achieve this the Charity seeks to attract members from a wide range of safeguarding backgrounds.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to improve safeguarding structures and safeguarding understanding within and between organisations whose people or activities bring them into contact with children or vulnerable adults. They also act as a voice for the safeguarding workforce so that concerns and developments can be communicated and escalated.

The Charity's objects are:

To promote for public-benefit the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people by:

- Supporting the different forms of partnerships that exist to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of joint working arrangements to protect vulnerable people.
- Encouraging the enhancement of the skills and roles of those who take part in safeguarding partnerships.
- Helping partnerships and partners to set standards, achieve effective scrutiny that results in learning and assurance which has a positive impact.
- Promoting a shared and a consistent approach to safeguarding partnerships.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

The charity has performed well during the year

Financial review

The charity aims to hold sufficient funds to ensure it is able to meet any financial obligations as they fall due. The charity is currently undergoing a re-structuring of its operations and the trustees are of the opinion the charity is well on course to meeting its aims in the short to medium term.

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on the following pages. The financial statements should be read in conjunction with their related notes. A summary of the financial results and the work of the charity is set out below. In the opinion of the Board of Trustees, the future prospects for the Charity are considered satisfactory.

The Trustees report a successful year in relation to our continued goal of growing into a strong and relevant safeguarding association.

We believe that we are helping to improve safeguarding knowledge and skills for those who belong to or work with our organisation.

We are currently in a reasonably strong position in relation to our finances and more importantly our growing reputation and footprint. We hope the members can see how their vision which we encapsulate is taking shape.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Structure, governance and management

The charity was registered on 28 November 2019.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr R Burrows	(Resigned 31 December 2023)
Ms M Gresswell	(Resigned 31 December 2023)
Ms S Kirkley	
Mr C Miller	
Mr N Afzal	(Resigned 31 December 2023)
Ms A Weir	
Dr D Hodes	(Resigned 31 December 2023)
Ms A Cutler	
Ms N Patel	
Ms J Pearce	
Ms D Mistry	(Appointed 1 January 2024)
Ms L Brown	(Appointed 1 January 2024)
Ms A Lorek	(Appointed 1 January 2024)
Mr D Goosey	(Appointed 1 January 2024)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Membership developments

Statutory Partnerships

There are 139 statutory safeguarding children partnerships / sets of arrangements in England (as at 31/3/24). In addition, there are myriad bodies, whose remit is to safeguard the vulnerable in sports, religious and charitable settings.

Our goal is to have as members at least 75% of statutory partnerships and as many other non- statutory organisations as feel that TASP is a place of support and advice for them.

In our first year we had 73 statutory safeguarding partnerships members. We have now 105.(Figure 1) Our aspiration, when we formed, was to be able to say with confidence that we could reasonably be considered an organisation that represents safeguarding partnerships. With 76% now on board we believe that is a claim we can make with confidence.

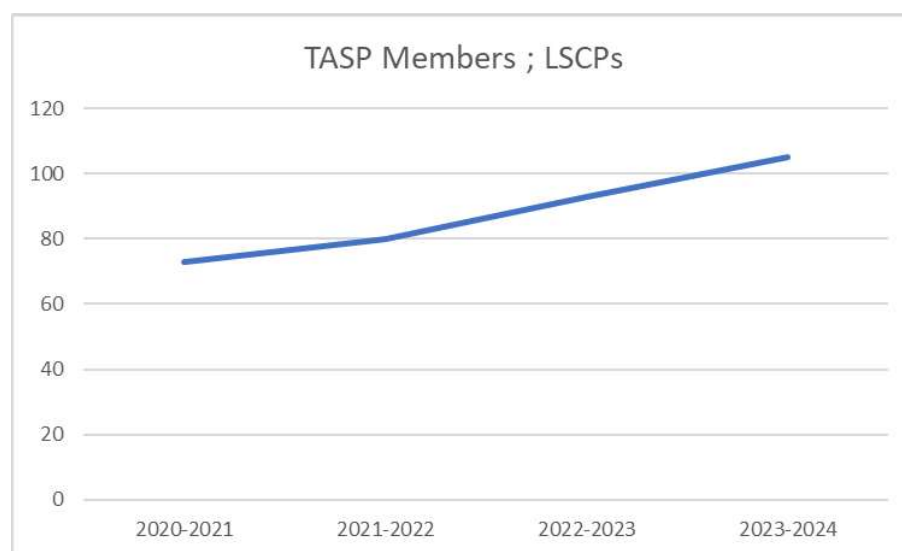


Figure 1

Third Sector organisations and other bodies (corporate and incorporate)

We continue to explore opportunities with other non-statutory and non-safeguarding specific bodies as to how we can support them and how we can work with each other. We now have seven such members

Individuals

There are many individuals, involved in safeguarding who would value the opportunity to belong to an association that provides them with peer support, advice and networking.

We also have a goal to have individuals as members. This remains an emerging area for engagement and development. We have 4 individual members who have actively sought subscription.

Activities

Webinars and Podcasts

The principal activity of the Charity since its inception has been the hosting of webinars. Using a professional facilitator, we run a minimum of 10 webinars a year. This year we attracted an average of 87 attendees per webinar which is similar to 2022-2023 when there were 93 .

Our webinars cover a wide variety of topics and this year we covered subjects as wide as the Children's Commissioner's vision for the UK's children to the safeguarding implication for children of imprisoned parents and separately how grandparents can play a vital role in safeguarding their grand- children.

The webinars are recorded and are available on our website. (<https://www.theasp.org.uk>)

We also have a small number of podcasts , which have been produced occasionally as a follow up to our webinars.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Website

Our website is a repository for a range of material generated through webinars and posted by members and other organisations. We also have a vacancies section which enables those seeking experienced domain experts to access the right people directly.

We realise that our website could do with a refresh and later this year we will be appointing a new member of staff to develop its look and functionality and to improve the material available to members and the wider public.

Work with Kings College London and Others

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) launched an invitation to bid for a 2-year research project on evaluating the multi-agency child safeguarding reforms and TASP has partnered with Kings College London, University of Bedfordshire & Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership to complete this project (also in collaboration with Family Rights Group & Association of Child Protection Professionals). The aim of the project is to provide evidence about what makes LSCPs effective and provide a framework for LSCPs to use for monitoring, evaluation and learning. For full details and up to date status reports, you can see our website at www.theasp.org.uk/MACS.

The Business Managers' Forum

Business managers in a local partnership safeguarding setting are vital to ensuring quality outcomes for children. They are a highly skilled group of staff, who, because of the nature of their work can be isolated. The Charity has run a series of forums for business managers to provide opportunities for support and the sharing of good practice and emerging issues. These are very popular events, with an average of 35 attendees at our monthly sessions.

The Independent Scrutineers' Support Network

We launched this support network in 2023 and had 3 meetings up to the end of the performance year, with an average attendance of 28. Like the business managers group this forum is run by scrutineers and its agenda is determined by the needs of the group. Its aim is to develop a series of materials that will enable scrutineers to learn from each other, get a sense of best practice and instil confidence in the sector. It has, to date, produced an Independent Scrutineer Induction Pack and launched a task and finish group to establish an online Independent Scrutineer Register in the next year.

Wider networks and Engagement Plans for next year

We continue to seek opportunities for conversations with the wider safeguarding community to enable us to develop our voice as a safeguarding domain expert and establish its presence where it can have influence.

TASP meets on a regular basis with ADCS. We also keep in regular contact with the Safeguarding Reform Facilitators and the Archbishops' Council

We began a programme of outreach in the latter part of the year which is intended to enable us to represent members in a range of Government settings. To that end we have begun to have regular meetings with

- Department for Education
- The National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme
- The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and
- Children at the Table

The focus for this engagement is to enable TASP to demonstrate that it can be an important partner to any organisation who wants to consult on future safeguarding plans or wants to communicate important safeguarding information. We want to be a helpful influencer who works hard for children while representing the views of the safeguarding workforce

We also want to ensure that our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is strengthened in the coming year and with an additional member of staff soon to be in post this is an area where we can improve our focus and reach.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Child Protection

In March we hosted an event with a number of LSCP partners and industry experts at Tech UK where we explored how the development of AI offered possibilities for partnerships to improve their decision making in relation to child safeguarding.

We are now currently working with these tech developers and some Local Authorities and a significant children's charity to see whether we can develop a tool which will enhance information gathering and analysis and thereby improve the understanding of real time risk to children.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mr C Miller
Trustee

Date:18 Dec 2024.....

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Association of Safeguarding Partners (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of 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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts 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 financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 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 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.

David Bailey FCA
Afford Bond Holdings Limited



31 Wellington Road
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 7ED

Dated:18 Dec 2024

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	-	598
Charitable activities	4	94,887	77,496
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		94,887	78,094
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	79,571	67,021
Other expenditure	9	3,000	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure		82,571	67,021
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income and movement in funds		12,316	11,073
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		40,335	29,262
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		52,651	40,335
		<hr/>	<hr/>

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

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	45,020		39,587	
Cash at bank and in hand		17,382		8,316	
		62,402		47,903	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(9,751)		(7,568)	
Net current assets			52,651		40,335
Net assets excluding pension liability			52,651		40,335
			=====		=====
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			52,651		40,335
			52,651		40,335
			=====		=====

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on ..18.Dec.2024..



Mr C Miller
Trustee


Ms A Cutler
Trustee

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Association of Safeguarding Partners is an unincorporated entity established under a trust deed dated 28 November 2019. The charity's correspondence address is 36 Stock Lane, Shavington, Crewe, CW2 5ED.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, 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 charity 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 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.

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.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

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.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 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 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.

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.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.8 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.

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 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts	-	598

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Charitable income		
Member subscriptions	76,508	71,872
Other charitable income		
Other income	18,379	5,624
	<u>94,887</u>	<u>77,496</u>

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	55,433	44,136
Insurances	380	370
Advertising	480	-
Professional fees	12,600	10,290
Accountancy	2,856	2,850
Computer expenses	6,241	8,066
Telephone	884	719
Printing, postage and stationery	375	590
Sundry expenses	101	-
Travel and accommodation	202	-
Bank charges	19	-
	<u>79,571</u>	<u>67,021</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	<u>79,571</u>	<u>67,021</u>

6 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	<u></u>	<u></u>

7 Trustees

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

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
Employment costs		
	<u>2024 £</u>	<u>2023 £</u>
Wages and salaries	<u>55,433</u>	<u>44,136</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SAFEGUARDING PARTNERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Bad debt write off	3,000	-

10 Taxation

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

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	45,020	39,045
Prepayments and accrued income	-	542
	45,020	39,587

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	6,000	3,000
Other creditors	691	889
Accruals and deferred income	3,060	3,679
	9,751	7,568

13 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	40,335	94,887	(82,571)	52,651
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	29,262	78,094	(67,021)	40,335