

SERICC

England & Wales · Charity number 1186836

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-12-09

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

Contact

Address S E R I C C
The Hall
West Street
Grays
RM17 6LL

Phone 01375381322

Email sericc@sericc.org.uk

Website www.sericc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The objects of the cio are: to relieve sickness and distress amongst those affected by any form of sexual violence and abuse, particularly, but not limited, to women and girls and the community in Essex and the surrounding areas within East Anglia, and including the families and friends of those affected and others affected who are in need, in particular by the provision of counselling and support for such persons; to advance education of the public in the subject of sexual violence and abuse, including but not limited to, the provision of training, research (and by publishing the useful results of such research) and publication of information and guidance.

Activities: SERICC, rape and sexual abuse specialist service, provide free and confidential specialist counselling and advocacy support to victim and survivors in Essex and the surrounding areas.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,937,525	£2,844,831	£1,718,588	25
2024-03-31	£2,896,471	£2,888,454	£1,625,894	28
2023-03-31	£2,752,963	£2,827,165	£1,617,877	27
2022-03-31	£2,684,740	£2,568,819	£1,692,079	28
2021-03-31	£3,067,785	£1,491,627	£1,576,158	24

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Curnick	Chair	2020-02-19
Dawn Hayes		2026-01-21
Michelene Heine		2020-02-19
Sonia Morgan		2026-04-22
Tracy D'Anstee		2026-04-22
Victoria Taylor		2025-03-05

SERICC

England & Wales - Charity number 1186836

Accounts

sericc

Rape and Sexual Abuse
Specialist Service



Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ending 31st March 2025

Contents

Charity reference and administrative details	1
Chairwoman's Report	2
About SERICC	3
SERICC Financial Report	17
Report of the Independent Auditors	27
Statement of Financial Activities	29
Balance Sheet	30
Statement of Cash Flows	31
Notes to the Financial Statements	32

CHARITY REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025



Charity Name: SERICC

Charity Registration Number: 1186836

Registered Office and Address: SERICC
The Hall
West Street
Grays
Essex RM17 6LL

Board of Trustees: A Curnick (Chair)
G Harrington (Secretary)
M Heine
V Taylor (appointed 5th March 2025)

Senior Management: Sheila Coates MBE, Director
Lee Eggleston OBE, Operations Manager
Rebekah Brant, Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Auditors Rowland Hall
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
44/54 Orsett Road
Grays
Essex RM17 5ED

Bankers CAF BANK Ltd Barclays Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue 9 High Street
Kings Hill Grays
West Malling Essex
Kent ME19 4JQ RM17 6NB

Solicitors Birkett Long LLP
1 Amphora Place
Sheepen Road
Colchester
Essex CO3 3WG

HR Advisors Moore Kingston Smith HR Consultancy Limited
9 Appold Street
London EC2A 2AP

Chairwoman's Report 2024–25

This year marks a significant milestone as we enter our 41st year of delivering specialist services to victims and survivors of sexual violence and sexual abuse. Our enduring commitment to providing trauma-informed support remains at the heart of everything we do.

We are pleased to share that SERICC has successfully completed the Rape Crisis England & Wales (RCEW) National Service Standards and now awaits the official Quality Mark. This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication of our team to maintaining the highest standards of care and professional excellence.

The Trustee Board has continued to provide oversight and strategic direction, supporting the Senior Management Team through a highly competitive tender process. Securing continued funding for frontline services in Essex, within an increasingly challenging and competitive funding environment, particularly from central government, is a testament to the team's professionalism, resilience, and commitment to survivors.

Looking to the future, we are proud to be expanding our Essex Partnership into the wider East region, operating as Synergy East. This development marks an exciting new chapter, strengthening regional collaboration to ensure that victims and survivors continue to receive timely, specialist support across a wider geographic area.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Trustees for their steadfast guidance and commitment, and to our staff for their continued hard work, professionalism, and compassion. As we navigate an evolving landscape, including the introduction of devolution over the coming years, we remain focused on sustaining and strengthening the specialist services that lie at the core of SERICC's mission.

This year also saw SERICC's contribution to the national heritage project *50 Years of Rape Crisis*, a collaboration between Rape Crisis England & Wales, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Oxford University, and the British Library. Our involvement in this project helps to preserve and celebrate the history and cultural significance of the Rape Crisis movement for future generations.

Finally, we were especially proud to see SERICC's founder, Sheila Coates MBE, recognised as a Senior Honorary Visiting Fellow at Anglia Ruskin University's International Policing and Public Protection Research Institute, and to celebrate her contribution to the publication *The Book of Nuggets*. Sheila's work continues to inspire and inform our values, ensuring that the voices of survivors remain at the centre of our purpose.

Alison Curnick

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the period April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts 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 published on 16th July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2nd February 2016).

Trustees of The Charity

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- A Curnick (Chair)
- G Harrington (Secretary)
- M Heine
- V Taylor (appointed 5th March 2025)

About SERICC

SERICC provides specialist services to anyone in South and West Essex who has experienced, or is experiencing, any form of sexual violence or abuse at any stage in their life. We also offer tailored interventions to parents/ carers recognising the wider impact on families and communities.

We use a broad and inclusive definition of sexual violence, which refers to any sexual behaviour that is unwanted or occurs without a person's consent. This includes rape, sexual assault, domestic sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, non-contact online grooming, and the creation or sharing of indecent images of children.

SERICC takes an evidence-based approach to delivering high-quality sexual violence services. Our work is strengths - based and trauma-informed and is designed to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families. Services include:

- Children, young people, and family services offering preventative, educative, and therapeutic service. This includes emotional resilience building, physical well-being and safety planning, working closely with families to create a positive environment.
- Early help through telephone sessions. These sessions offer practical strategies around coping, self-esteem, recovery, confidence building, and self-care.

- Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Advisers (ISVAs) delivering emotional and specialist practical help to those who have reported sexual violence to the police or are considering doing so. ISVAs offer clear guidance throughout the criminal justice process.
- Specialist therapeutic interventions including one-to-one counselling and pre-trial therapy, tailored to the individual's experience and readiness to engage in the therapeutic process.

The impact of sexual violence and abuse can be long-lasting and complex, often contributing to low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Service users will often describe feelings of shame, guilt, self-blame, and the difficulty of finding words to speak about their experiences.

SERICC services are delivered in a safe, empathic, and non-judgemental environment. Through specialist counselling and advocacy, we aim to help survivors regain a sense of control, rebuild trust in themselves and others, and take steps toward improved health, well-being, and recovery.

Child and Family Services

SERICC provides an early intervention service for parents and carers whose children have experienced sexual abuse or where the family is working with Thurrock Council Social Care.

SERICC delivers the Brighter Futures Programme to offer an integrated, intensive approach for families to build resourcefulness, resilience, and positive parenting skills. The programme focuses on strengthening family relationships and creating safer, more nurturing environments for children to thrive.

This year SERICC have undertaken project work known as the Damara Project. This has included making targeted improvements in service delivery, community engagement, and resource provision. This is specifically relating to the development of a child house with the aim of expanding our capacity. This has included making a promotional film, completed soundproofing, disability access and child friendly adaptations. A more detailed fundraising strategy for the project will be introduced in May 2025 when the website will be launched.

Quality Assurance and Service Evaluation

SERICC's internal policies and procedures are subject to an annual external review led by Thurrock Council Children's and Adult Services Commissioners. This comprehensive quality assurance process includes a detailed review of policies and procedures, alongside in-person interviews with staff, service users, and family members to independently assess the quality and impact of our commissioned services.

The review concludes with a formal report, which includes service user feedback and recommendations for improvement, where applicable. In response to earlier recommendations, SERICC has made meaningful changes including the development of dedicated child-friendly spaces, moving from a generic building to ensure the well-being of children and young people remains at the heart of our service delivery.

The voices of those who access our services play a vital role in shaping what we do. Parents who took part in the Brighter Futures Programme over the past year have shared their experience:

“Since starting the journey with SERICC, I and my children have travelled from a thorny, bumpy and painful road and have arrived at a peaceful and much better place.”

“I have had lots of support in the past but often felt uncomfortable to share with some people. It was nice to have a space where you could talk openly.”

“I feel listened to and supported and happy that my children are now seeming more confident, and I think SERICC, and its services provide a very important provision that we were lucky enough to access.”

These reflections highlight the importance of safe, specialist spaces for families and of why continuous improvement, shaped by lived experience, stays central to SERICC’s approach.

The Brighter Futures Programme and the Young People counselling service is funded by Thurrock Council for Thurrock residents. 75 children and 25 parents received 900 face to face sessions.

Specialist Sexual Violence Therapeutic Interventions

Over the past year, SERICC’s counselling team responded to **19,574** counselling-related contacts and activities, including telephone calls, emails, letters, and in-person meetings.

In response to increased demand, SERICC introduced an Early Support Service to provide timely help for those beginning their recovery journey.

“I can see I have made changes. I have made a massive difference; my perception has altered.”

“Early Support has given me such amazing direction in my life. I can deal with difficulties; I can say to myself ‘I’ve got this’ and carry on with my day.”

During this period, SERICC received 1,129 new referrals, while continuing to work with 1,911 individuals, many of whom were parents or carers to 1,213 dependants. In total, we delivered:

- **6,624** specialist counselling sessions related to sexual abuse and violence.
- **1,890** ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Adviser) and advocacy sessions

As part of our trauma-informed, person-centred approach, we regularly collect feedback from those accessing our services. This not only demonstrates the impact of our work but also informs and shapes the way help is delivered. Direct feedback from beneficiaries accessing therapeutic and early interventions highlights the difference our services can make:

“My mental health has improved; I have more headspace now and can keep myself grounded.”

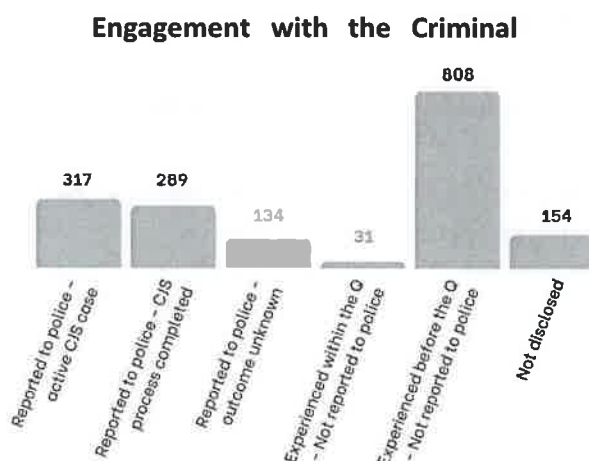
“The counselling I have received from SERICC has been the best I have ever had. Things were explained to me in a way that I understood and now I get it.”

As part of our commitment to a holistic, trauma-informed approach, SERICC’s counselling team continues to work closely with multi-agency partners.

“Being invited by Essex Social Care to contribute to the Multi Agency Case Audit (MACA) regarding three generations of a family affected by sexual violence provided real insight into the difficulties faced by workers trying to provide service. It also gave us an opportunity to raise awareness of the holistic approach we take to working with survivors and the services we offer.” Counselling Team Lead, SERICC

Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Advisers (ISVA’s)

SERICC’s ISVA service provides services to individuals who choose to report sexual offences to the police. ISVA’s ensure that survivors are fully informed and throughout their journey in the Criminal Justice System — from initial reporting, through police investigations, and during court proceedings.



The service works in close partnership with Essex Police and Oakwood Place, Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) to provide a coordinated, survivor-focused response.

"Co-locating at police stations has strengthened our relationships with officers, allowing us to work more effectively with survivors. This means we can get information and updates to survivors quicker and ensure survivors aren't overwhelmed by having to navigate multiple agencies" ISVA and Safeguarding Team Lead.

The ongoing disruption and backlog within the Criminal Justice System has significantly increased the emotional strain on survivors, many of whom face long waits for their cases to be heard. Despite this, SERICC ISVA's have accompanied survivors to 60 trials and sentencing hearings over the last year and already have 67 booked for the coming year.

"I know I wouldn't have survived the last 4 years without your support, you got me through this."

This reflection from a survivor highlights the long-term, life-changing role ISVAs play offering consistency, care, and advocacy in the face of often overwhelming circumstances.

ISVAs provide wide-ranging, practical, and emotional assistance including:

- Information relating to the Criminal, Civil, and Family Justice Systems
- Housing information and signposting, delivered in partnership with Thurrock Council
- Accompaniment to key appointments
- Guidance on Criminal Injuries Compensation applications and the Victims' Code

There has also been a marked increase in the number of individuals presenting with multiple and complex needs. Among those accessing ISVA services in the service in the last year:

- **748 individuals** disclosed mental health difficulties.
- **117 individuals** disclosed a learning disability.
- **180 individuals** disclosed a physical disability.
- **328 individuals** reported a diagnosed long-term illness.

"I have had lots of support in the past but often felt uncomfortable to share with some people. It was nice to have a space where you could talk openly."

With the Ministry of Justice funding currently secured until March 2026, continued investment beyond this point is essential, particularly in the face of systemic delays and increasing complexity of need.

First Contact Navigator Service

The First Contact Navigator service has had a transformational impact on how survivors, their families, and referring agencies access SERICC's services. As the first point of contact for many, Navigators offer reassurance, clarity, and a trauma-informed response at a time when individuals may feel overwhelmed, vulnerable, or unsure of what to expect.

Working through a structured triage process, Navigators explore each person's needs using referral information and guided conversations. They provide clear information about available services, while establishing respectful boundaries and helping service users feel heard, safe, and empowered. In the past year alone, First Contact Navigators delivered 1,288 one-to-one triage sessions and managed an exceptional 13,321 assessment-related contacts. These early, skilled interventions form the foundation of SERICC's holistic, survivor-led model and require not only robust training but also emotional sensitivity, resilience, and compassion.

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, the service is now entering the third and final year of its current grant. This investment has enabled SERICC to train Navigator roles across the wider Essex partnership, drawing on a decade of learning since the service was first introduced in October 2016. An independent evaluation of the service will be completed in the summer and stage one questionnaires, feedback forms, and interviews to gather insight into its reach and impact have been undertaken. The final report is due for completion in September.

To ensure the service is timely and consistent, the Navigator team operates a call-back system that ensures all new contacts receive a response within 48 hours, often providing a lifeline at a critical moment.

"When you called on Monday it was like there was an angel on my shoulder. Someone ringing and talking about services and something positive – you saved my life on my darkest day."
— Service user.

Professionals and partners also recognise the impact of the Navigator service:

"Your knowledge has been nothing short of outstanding. I will certainly be speaking with you in the future. Can I also thank you for the speed at which you return my calls." – Professional Agency.

And for trainees, the service is a model of professional practice in action:

"You really zone in on what each survivor needs and have such a kind, caring way. You put everyone at ease. I can't thank you enough." – Newly appointed Lead Navigator in another Rape Crisis Service

The First Contact Navigator service continues to demonstrate what is possible when survivors are met with empathy, clarity, and care from the very first interaction. Its success highlights the urgent need for continued investment beyond the current funding period.

Beneficiaries Demographics and Data Management

SERICC uses a bespoke Data Performance Management System (DPMS) to securely record and analyse anonymous data relating to sexual abuse and violence. The system is fully compliant with data protection legislation and plays a key role in SERICC's ability to:

- Monitor service performance and outcomes
- Adapt and improve delivery based on real-time insights
- Meet reporting requirements for commissioners and funders
- Identify trends, risks, and areas of unmet need

Data is reviewed regularly, with quarterly reporting ensuring transparency and accountability across all aspects of our work.

SERICC also continues to invest in digital transformation to meet the evolving needs of both staff and service users. This includes ensuring that staff are equipped with the latest tools, secure systems, and digital programmes to undertake their work safely, efficiently and in ways that increase skills in using technology.

In 2024–25, SERICC achieved Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation, successfully meeting the UK Government's highest standards for cyber security and data protection. This major milestone not only strengthens our digital infrastructure but also reinforces the trust placed in us by survivors, who share sensitive and personal information.

This accreditation forms part of a broader digital investment strategy ensuring our systems remain resilient, secure, and responsive as we expand access to specialist services across the East region.

Beneficiaries of SERICC Services

- Most Individuals accessing SERICC's services are women and girls, with the largest age group being adults aged 18 to 54, who make up 72.7% of all service users. **Children and young people (aged 0–17)** represent just under a **fifth of those who accessed services this year**.
- At the first point of contact, 35.7% of individuals disclosed being adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse – an increase on the previous year, and 7.7% were family members or friends seeking services on behalf of others — consistent with last year's figures.

- There has been an increase in the number of individuals reporting **one or more disabilities**, with **49% of service users** identifying additional needs related to physical or mental health, learning disabilities, or long-term conditions.
- Individuals from **Black, Asian, and minoritised communities** has also increased, now making up **15.8% of all individuals**, in line with the Essex population profile (11.2%).

Referral sources remained consistent with the previous year, with referrals from Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC), health services, Local Authorities and voluntary sector partners holding steady. However, referrals from the Criminal Justice System decreased, while self-referrals increased, underlining the importance of trusted, accessible pathways such as the First Contact Navigator service.

It remains the case that around 89% of sexual crimes are committed by someone known to the victim. In over a quarter of cases, that person is a family member, and in a further quarter, a current or former partner.

Looking ahead, there are concerns about the potential impact of forthcoming government legislation on Mandatory Reporting, particularly in relation to young people. It is essential that legislative changes do not compromise the ability of survivors, especially children and young people to access safe, confidential spaces for therapeutic services, where they can speak freely and begin their recovery.

Achievements and Performance

SERICC remains committed to delivering evidence-based, high-quality services, a culture of accountability, continuous learning, and professional development.

This year, we achieved a significant organisational milestone by successfully winning two competitive tenders, one for Essex and another for Bedfordshire. These outcomes mark the beginning of a bold and exciting new phase for the charity, with the formation of a new regional partnership, Synergy East, launching on 1st April 2025.

Synergy East represents a collaborative commitment to:

- Improving access to services, with enhanced triage and IT systems.
- Developing a new website to reflect the shared regional identity.
- Trialling economies of scale to improve efficiency and deliver long-term cost savings.
- Strengthening best practice, through shared learning and knowledge exchange.

Alongside this development, SERICC continues to uphold its core values and deliver consistently high-quality services through:

- Embedding service user experiences via feedback, evaluation, and outcome data.
- Listening to stakeholders, including external organisations and public bodies.
- Providing supervision and performance management for staff.
- Using ongoing data analysis to shape and refine services.
- Promoting staff development and well-being through tailored training opportunities.
- Playing an active role in local, regional, and national partnerships, ensuring that the voices of survivors influence broader policy and practice.

Evidence-Based Services and Insights

SERICC remains committed to delivering services that are trauma-informed, outcome-focused, and grounded in evidence. Central to this approach is the use of robust data collection and analysis, which helps us to understand impact, inform service development, and ensure we remain responsive to need.

All individuals accessing services are invited to complete pre- and post-service questionnaires, enabling us to track progress and monitor outcomes. These responses are collated and benchmarked against a baseline threshold of 40% as minimum satisfaction. Where results fall below this threshold, we undertake detailed reviews and adapt our services accordingly. Data is reviewed regularly through our bespoke DPMS and contributes to quarterly reporting for funders and commissioners.

In addition to internal data, SERICC participated in the Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD) programme, commissioned by the Ministry of Justice. This year saw the publication of the report *“Adult Victim-Survivor’s Journey Through a Sexual Violence Support Service in Essex,”* which provides a detailed, exploratory analysis of data collected from individuals who accessed services at South and West Essex Rape Crisis Centres (SWERCC).

Key findings from the BOLD report include:

- Most victim-survivors were women aged 18–44, with rape reported in 42% of cases.
- 67% of referrals came from non-police sources, including self-referrals (27%) and health services (22%).
- Mental health needs were significant, with 49% reporting post-trauma symptoms and 54% experiencing anxiety.
- 57% of individuals waited more than two years before accessing services, and those with delayed engagement were more likely to experience higher mental health risks.

- Survivors who completed outcome questionnaires reported an 85% improvement in coping and resilience, highlighting the effectiveness of sustained engagement with specialist services.

The BOLD report provides powerful, data-led evidence of the long-term impact of SERICC's work and the importance of timely access to specialist services.

SERICC continues to participate in the BOLD programme through data mapping with Essex Police and active involvement in Blueprint workshops — informing the future design of integrated, survivor-centred victim services across the region.

Strategic Engagement, Policy Influence and Partnerships

SERICC continues to play an active role in shaping policy, improving practice, and championing survivor-centred approaches through its participation in local, regional, and national consultations, working groups, and strategic partnerships.

“Engaging with social care and other professionals at networking events allows us to showcase our impact while strengthening connections — ensuring that everyone receives the service they need.”
Children and Families Services Lead, SERICC

This engagement ensures that current research, lived experience, and good practice are shared both internally with staff and externally with practitioners, agencies, and policymakers strengthening services and a system-wide improvements.

In the past year, SERICC contributed to a wide range of strategic forums and working groups, including:

- East Region Crown Prosecution Service Expert Panels
- Essex Police Community Engagement Group
- Essex Strategic Group, including subgroups on high-profile cases
- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Reference Group
- Anglia Ruskin University 'The Knock' Project
- CPS Child Sexual Abuse Stakeholders Forum
- NHS England Sexual and Domestic Violence Group
- Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service
- Thurrock Multi-Agency Strategic Board for Violence Against Women & Girls
- Essex Sexual Violence and Sexual Assault Strategic Partnership Board
- Home Office – Violence Against Women and Girls Stakeholders Forum
- Ministry of Justice – Victim and Witness Sector Engagement Group

- National Diversity Taskforce Roundtable
- National VCSE Advisory Panel
- Women’s Resource Centre Advisory Group

Partnership Working

SERICC continues to work in partnership with a wide range of agencies and organisations across South and West Essex to ensure a joined-up approach to for survivors of sexual abuse and violence. These relationships are vital in extending our reach, improving referral pathways, and creating safer, more inclusive environments for those most in need.

A key example is our collaboration with the Probation Service in Thurrock. SERICC provides a dedicated, women-only space at our premises for probation appointments, helping to ensure comfort, dignity, and trust for women engaging with both services.

“Our partnership with SERICC has been instrumental in providing essential support and resources to women in Thurrock. The dedicated women-only space has made a real difference to the comfort, dignity, and safety of our clients. SERICC has shown unwavering support to our staff, helping to foster a genuinely collaborative and positive working relationship. Their commitment to our shared aims has been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing this important partnership.” – Senior Probation Officer

Rape Crisis England & Wales: 50 Years of the Rape Crisis Movement

SERICC has played a longstanding and active role in Rape Crisis England & Wales (RCEW), contributing to its development as a leading voice in the sexual violence sector. Over the decades, SERICC has held elected honorary positions, delivered work on behalf of the national organisation, and helped shape strategic direction.

In 2024, as RCEW marked its 50th anniversary of Rape Crisis Centres, SERICC took part in the Heritage Project a national collaboration between RCEW, the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford, and Rape Crisis Centres across the country.

The project used oral history interviews to document the lives and political journeys of women from the 1970s to today capturing activism, challenges, and the resilience that built the movement.

SERICC staff contributed to interviews, podcast recordings, an appearance on BBC Woman’s Hour, the RCEW National Conference, and a working group on archiving Rape Crisis materials reaffirming our commitment to preserving the legacy of the movement and continuing to shape its future.

The project will result in:

- 30 oral histories archived in the British Library
- A celebratory report, podcast series, and playscript for schools and theatres
- A series of academic publications to inform future research and policy

“This project captured the energy, defiance, and radical vision that built the Rape Crisis movement from the ground up. These stories are a reminder that our services were born out of activism — and that we must continue to fight for survivor-led, feminist spaces that challenge injustice and create lasting change.” Director, SERICC

Through this national engagement, SERICC ensures that the voices of survivors and frontline practitioners are heard at the highest levels influencing future strategy while honouring the legacy of the wider Rape Crisis movement.

Memberships include:

- Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP)
- National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
- National Counselling and Psychotherapy Society (NCPS)
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Organisations (TCVS)
- Rape Crisis England & Wales (RCEW)
- Women’s Resource Centre (WRC)

Subscriptions and resources include:

- Clinks (membership for voluntary sector involved in the Criminal Justice System)
- CIPD: HR-inform. (online resources for HR policies)
- Breathe HR software for HR administration
- Civil Society (guidance, publications and surveys to help charity professionals in their role, including the Charity Finance Yearbook, Fundraising publication and the SORP Compliance Checklist).

This broad and active engagement ensures that SERICC stays connected, informed and influential working to ensure that survivor needs are central to all aspects of policy, service design, and national dialogue.

Partnership Working

SERICC works in partnership with Southend on Sea Rape Crisis (SOSRC), and Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA) North and mid Essex. Together we form the Synergy Essex Partnership to ensure services are accessible pan Essex. Centres offer services through primary funding sources

from the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, The Ministry of Justice, and the National Lottery.

Social Impact and Social Value

SERICC continues to demonstrate a strong and measurable social impact, aligned with both the Rape Crisis England & Wales and Ministry of Justice monitoring and evaluation frameworks. These frameworks assess improvements in emotional well-being, resilience, and physical health for individuals accessing our services.

Practical Interventions and Advocacy

SERICC's commitment to holistic services goes beyond therapeutic interventions. In 2024–25, we responded to an increasing number of service users facing financial hardship, requesting assistance with subsidised travel, food vouchers, baby items, school uniforms, furniture, and debt information and signposting.

SERICC staff provided practical interventions and advocacy, relieving pressure on statutory services including GPs, housing providers, and mental health teams. This was delivered through:

- Accompaniment to appointments (e.g. criminal justice related appointments, welfare reviews and appeals, a wide range of professional meetings including social care).
- Housing and debt relief, enabling survivors to regain control and live independently.

“This year, SERICC issued 26 food bank vouchers, helping 60 adults and 12 children access essential supplies. At Christmas, 29 families, 82 people in total with supermarket gift vouchers funded by £1,245 from the SERICC hardship fund and individual donations. As Office Manager, I see first-hand how this practical intervention makes a real difference to people's lives.” – Office Manager, SERICC

In Thurrock, a contribution to this work is a grant fund for a 'Floating Support Worker' to provide longer-term, trauma-informed service, particularly for those who have experienced domestic sexual violence and are engaged social care and the Family Courts.

Jilly was an adult survivor of child sexual abuse and referred to SERICC's floating support service after leaving an abusive relationship. Jilly was facing a series of complex challenges: unmanaged debt, deteriorating mental health, ongoing trauma, and a new pregnancy. SERICC helped her stabilise her tenancy, access perinatal and mental health care, and successfully apply for a Debt Relief Order. By co-ordinating services, advocating on her behalf, the Floating Support Worker enabled Jilly to move from crisis to independence, retaining her home, improving her emotional well-being, and preparing for parenthood with confidence.

Digital Empowerment and Self-Help

SERICC continues to extend its social impact through accessible, survivor-led digital resources. Our website and outreach platforms provide trauma-informed content designed to improve well-being, reduce isolation, and empower individuals with information and tools for self-care.

Key features include:

- Your Space - A dedicated Self-Help area where survivors can access practical resources, with content shaped by service user feedback.
- Websites for SERICC and Synergy Essex, fully aligned with accessibility standards to ensure inclusivity for those with neuro diverse needs.
- A strong focus on user-led development, where individuals are invited to suggest and shape content.

Your Space has been used by 342 individuals, with an 82% excellent and 18% good, service user satisfaction rate. Due to its success, SERICC aim to transition Your Space to its own website domain, enabling other Rape Crisis Centres to embed the resource within their own websites on the 1st of April 2025. This move aims to increase reach, social impact, and enhance public benefit by making recovery resources more widely accessible.

Delivering Public Benefit – Achievements and Performance

SERICC continues to deliver clear and measurable public benefit through the provision of specialist, independent, community-based sexual violence, and abuse services. Our core offer includes counselling, ISVAs, group and outreach services, delivered in safe, trauma-informed environments. Services are delivered from our Thurrock head office, a satellite base at the Beehive Centre (Thurrock CVS), and various outreach locations across South and West Essex, including schools and community venues.

SERICC has undergone a rigorous process to gain professional accreditation through the Rape Crisis England & Wales National Service Standards for Sexual Violence and Abuse Services. These standards offer national recognition of safe, effective, and survivor-centred services. Having successfully completed the renewal process, we are now awaiting formal confirmation in April 2025. In 2024–25, SERICC Data and Insights officer provided 125 hours of direct technical information to other Rape Crisis Centres, focusing on the use and implementation of the Data Performance Management System (DPMS) helping members of the Rape Crisis network improve monitoring, and accountability.

Risk Review

SERICC's reserves are maintained at a level determined through a realistic assessment of projected income, organisational needs, and expenditure. The wider funding landscape remains complex and unpredictable, with:

- Uncertainty in government funding.
- Limited availability of large-scale grants from charitable trusts.
- No inflationary uplifts applied by funders again this year.
- Local authorities facing financial pressures, including declarations of bankruptcy.

To mitigate this, SERICC is actively pursuing ways to diversify its income base and strengthen long-term sustainability.

The Board of Trustees regularly reviews financial and operational risks and is satisfied that appropriate risk management steps are in place to mitigate identified threats to the charity. These include:

- Maintaining robust internal financial controls
- Undertaking annual reviews of the financial risk register
- Taking an evidence-led approach to reserves and future planning

SERICC's approach to risk management is closely tied to its governance, forward planning, and strategic decision-making, ensuring the organisation remains resilient and responsive in a changing funding and policy environment.

SERICC Financial Report

Governance, Financial Controls, and Risk Management

SERICC has robust internal financial controls, policies, and procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Charity Commission's guidance on fiscal management. These procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain fit for purpose and aligned with the evolving needs of the charity. Quarterly monitoring reports are submitted to external funders to provide assurance and ensure consistent quality in service delivery and operational performance.

As part of good governance practice, SERICC engages a range of external specialists for oversight and risk management. These include:

- Moore Kingston Smith for Human Resources (HR) advisory services.
- Rowland Hall Accountancy, bookkeeping and Payroll services.

- Sprint Integration, IT provider, who assisted in securing Cyber Essentials Plus certification for the second consecutive year, a key achievement in safeguarding data and systems.
- Birkett Long LLP solicitors.
- Change – Up Consultancy - strategic planning, finance and project management.

The Senior Management Team is responsible for HR, finance, operational and strategic decisions. Trustees receive regular financial reporting, and HR updates to enable Trustees to make informed decisions on policy, operations, and strategy.

Trustees take an active role in risk management and hold ultimate responsibility for identifying and prudently managing the risks to which the charity is exposed. An annual review of the financial risk register ensures that Trustees are equipped to define acceptable risk thresholds and assess strategic proposals accordingly.

SERICC's Reserves Policy is subject to ongoing review, with Trustees working to agree and maintain a prudent level of reserves in line with the charity's long-term sustainability objectives.

SERICC was successful in securing the contract to deliver specialist services across Essex, a significant achievement. However, a principal financial risk remains because additional funding currently supplementing the contract has only been awarded until March 2026. To sustain and expand service provision, SERICC will need to apply for new funding from the National Lottery and other sources in the next budget year. This short-term funding landscape continues to present challenges for long-term planning and financial security.

SERICC continues to manage financial risk through its reserves, which are in place to provide a level of protection and flexibility in times of funding volatility.

Reserves

The Trustees are satisfied that current risk management measures will help to mitigate key financial risks to the charity. In reviewing the reserves policy, Trustees have carefully considered the wider economic climate, the uncertainty around local authority funding, and the need to maintain organisational resilience.

Trustees acknowledge the importance of holding sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover legal costs, operational and direct costs, honour contractual obligations to staff, and respond to any unexpected reduction in income. This level is reviewed at the start of each budget year and adjusted in line with actual expenditure and anticipated risks.

For the year ending 31st March 2025, the level of unrestricted reserves required was calculated at £665,934, equivalent to six months (26 weeks) of operating costs.

The calculation is based on:

- An understanding of core operating activities to be maintained.
- Potential risks to staffing costs, such as long-term absence or maternity leave.
- The possible need for replacement of essential IT equipment.
- Delays in receiving restricted project funding.
- The risk of funding cuts or reduced unrestricted income.

As the lead partner, SERICC plays a lead finance management role in maintaining financial stability across the partnership. Where funding is received in arrears, SERICC may be required to manage short-term cash flow pressures to ensure continuity of delivery. This risk is recognised and factored into SERICC's financial planning and reserves strategy. From April 2025, this will include the new regional partnership, Synergy East.

Trustees also account for the potential need to manage an orderly wind-down of operations in the event of a significant and unforeseen adverse event. This includes provision for:

- Statutory redundancy payments
- Exiting contractual commitments (e.g. rent, broadband, mobile phones, utilities)
- Maintaining an online presence for a defined period
- Covering staff salary and oversight costs during the wind-down period
- Payment of professional fees, such as accountancy or legal advice

In addition, the Trustees have designated funds for the potential future acquisition of a property, in considering the options for long-term sustainability and security of service delivery and the Legal Fund, to cover any related legal costs.

This approach to reserves aligns with SERICC's wider strategic ambitions under Synergy East, ensuring the organisation is well-placed to deliver regional growth, invest in fit-for-purpose infrastructure, and respond flexibly to future opportunities while maintaining financial resilience and public trust.

At 31st March 2025 SERICC total funds were £1,718,588 which included restricted funds of £28,526, designated funds of £998,536 and unrestricted funds of £691,526. Any surplus funds will be used to increase capacity by recruiting staff, for both central services and frontline staff.

Due to the nature of SERICC's work, particularly with vulnerable and high-risk clients, it is essential that specialist counselling, advocacy services are delivered in a timely and consistent manner. This is especially critical for individuals who have reported offences to the police and are navigating the Criminal Justice System. Many of these clients including children and young people face wait times of up to 18 months between reporting to the police and court attendance. Since the wider disruption to the justice system, this has now extended for some cases into late 2026 and early 2027.

Uncertainty around funding continues to impact service development and staff recruitment, with short-term or delayed funding contributing to:

- Vacant posts, due to difficulties in offering permanent contracts
- Challenges in workforce retention and continuity of care
- Operational strain, as teams manage high need with reduced staffing

The ability to maintain and develop services in this environment relies heavily on robust financial planning and the availability of reserves. SERICC holds reserves not only to manage organisational risk but also to demonstrate sound financial management when applying for future grants and contracts. This positions the charity as a reliable and stable provider, capable of sustaining services over the long term.

Future Developments

- SERICC will continue to build on the success of creating a designated venue for children and families' services, ensuring that safe, dedicated spaces are available for trauma-informed work.
- SERICC will proactively pursue income generation opportunities to future-proof service delivery, ensuring long-term sustainability and independence.
- The charity will consider increasing its capital fund to a more realistic and resilient level and seek professional advice to inform any future property or any investment or capital growth opportunities, with Trustees only acting on external, expert guidance.

Looking ahead, the launch of Synergy East in April 2025 will further strengthen our ability to deliver public benefit on a regional scale. By working in partnership across the East of England, we will extend the reach of specialist services, share learning and resources, and trial economies of scale to enhance efficiency, resilience, and sustainability. This new phase of growth reflects SERICC's ongoing commitment to ensuring that every survivor, wherever they are, can access the right services at the right time.

Looking ahead, SERICC will continue to dedicate time and energy to ICENA, our social enterprise and a growing part of the Synergy East Partnership. As a joint stakeholder, SERICC is signed up to ICENA's mission to provide values-led, survivor-informed training and consultancy that creates safer, more inclusive spaces in schools, workplaces, and public services.

In the past year, ICENA has trained over 7,000 people, and more than 46,000 across the last five years through a mix of in-person, online, and eLearning programmes.

“These figures represent more than just numbers. They reflect a shared commitment to change — to challenge harmful cultures and build environments where safety, inclusion, and understanding are part of everyday practice.” – CEO, ICENA

As ICENA grows, all profits are reinvested, helping to strengthen sustainability and expand social impact across the region.

Fundraising

SERICC has not undertaken any significant public fundraising activities during the year. However, the charity gratefully received donations from local individuals and organisations, which directly contribute to the SERICC Hardship Fund.

Funds have been used to:

- Provide essentials for families in emergency accommodation.
- Contribute to the cost of emergency food, clothing, and transport.
- Ensure access to interpreters so that all survivors can engage with services, regardless of language or communication needs.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The organisation is a charity that merged with South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre and incorporated with the Charity Commission on 9th December 2019.

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), the objects of the Charity as detailed in the SERICC Constitution are:

- to relieve sickness and distress amongst those affected by any form of sexual violence and abuse, particularly, but not limited, to women and girls and the community in Essex and the surrounding areas within East Anglia, and including the families and friends of those affected

and others affected who are in need, in particular by the provision of counselling and support for such persons; and

- to advance education of the public in the subject of sexual violence and abuse, including by but not limited to, the provision of training and publication of information and guidance.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Board of Trustees

SERICC is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of no less than three and no more than twelve Trustees with a range of skills, knowledge, and experience. Trustees that hold honorary positions serve for 12 months, after which they must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets on a regular basis and is responsible for the ongoing viability, strategic development, and direction of the organisation. Trustees hold overall responsibility for the organisation's continued success, it is vital that its Trustees have the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to carry out this function. Trustees are encouraged to take part in all appropriate training opportunities, to continue to develop their skills and update their knowledge of legal requirements, funding issues and other developments and finance information is shared. Board meetings continue to take place virtually. Information from the Charity Commission publications and the Commission's guidance is distributed.

The SERICC Board of Trustees confirms that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

Leadership and Staffing Structure

SERICC is led by a committed Senior Management Team, responsible for the strategic and operational management of the organisation. The team includes:

- Sheila Coates MBE – Director
- Lee Eggleston OBE – Operations Manager
- Rebekah Brant – Deputy Chief Operations Officer

Day-to-day service delivery is carried out by the Office manager, Head of data and Insights, project lead and two Team Leaders, who provide line management, supervision, and operational oversight to their respective staff teams. The staff team brings a wealth of experience in trauma-informed practice, specialist service delivery.

All staff receive regular individual and peer supervision, recognising the emotional intensity of working with trauma and the importance of maintaining professional well-being. Supervision, both

clinical standards and ethical practice and plays a key role in the ongoing professional development of staff.

SERICC is committed to the continued development of all staff, volunteers, and Trustees. Training needs are regularly reviewed to ensure everyone remains informed and up to date with sector developments, legislation, and best practice. All staff are encouraged to access relevant training opportunities, and Trustees are also encouraged to undertake additional training to as part of their governance roles and areas of responsibility.

The Senior Management Team reports regularly to the Board of Trustees, providing updates on operational delivery, risk, finance, and staffing. To enable focused governance and strategic input, Trustee sub-groups are formed as needed, with lead Trustees appointed to oversee key areas such as HR, Safeguarding, GDPR, finance and organisational strategy.

As part of SERICC's preparation for the Rape Crisis England & Wales National Service Standards review, all policies and procedures were updated to ensure compliance and best practice. Key policies were shared with Trustees, who played an active role in reviewing the organisation's approach. External professional advice was sought where appropriate, including from HR specialists and legal advisors, to ensure the organisation's framework is robust, current, and aligned with its obligations.

Remuneration

SERICC is committed to the careful and responsible management of its funds, ensuring the organisation achieves the greatest possible impact in delivering its charitable objectives and meeting the needs of beneficiaries.

The charity has established salary bandings and role descriptions for most posts. Salary allocations are based on the responsibilities of the role, the experience of the staff member, and the funding available in the year. SERICC undertook a salary benchmarking exercise to ensure its pay structure remains fair, competitive, and aligned with sector standards.

In line with financial reporting requirements, the annual accounts disclose the number of staff receiving salaries of more than £60,000 per annum, in bands of £10,000.

SERICC contributes to a pension scheme on behalf of its employees, with a minimum employer contribution of 3% of gross salary. Staff are auto enrolled into the scheme upon employment, and contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on an accrual basis. The charity holds no additional liability under the scheme beyond these contributions.

Cost-of-living increases are reviewed in line with NJC (National Joint Council) recommendations, and an opt in system for salary exchange is planned for May 2025.

Trustees do not receive remuneration for their role but are entitled to claim for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred while undertaking Trustee duties.

Where appropriate, the Board of Trustees seeks external advice from professionals with expertise in legal, HR, finance, or governance matters, to ensure informed decision-making and uphold best practice.

Organisational Values

SERICC is grounded in the principle that the voices and needs of victims and survivors must shape services. We are committed to delivering evidence-based, innovative, and survivor-centred services that reflect the communities we serve.

We use detailed monitoring and evaluation of outcomes and outputs to inform every aspect of our work from identifying service gaps and measuring performance to shaping strategy and enhancing governance. This ensures our services remain responsive, accountable, and high impact.

Our values of survivor-centred practice, integrity, equality, innovation, collaboration, and empowerment are embedded in both our frontline delivery and strategic direction.

As of this report, SERICC employs 25 staff members, who have been employed between one year to twenty-five years plus, contracts with two sessional counsellors and external consultants to bring in additional expertise where required. We are proud to have a learning culture, where continuous development and reflective practice help us to adapt and grow alongside the needs of survivors.

Investment Policy

The Board of Trustees is committed to responsible financial stewardship and adheres to the Charity Commission's guidance on investment. While the charity currently maintains a cautious approach considering the wider economic uncertainty, future investment opportunities will be considered where appropriate to the organisation's long-term sustainability. Where necessary, independent financial advice will be sought to guide any investment decisions and ensure alignment with the charity's reserves policy, risk, and charitable objectives. Should the national financial climate stabilise, the charity will reassess its investment position, with any future strategies continuing to reflect the principles of prudence, public benefit, and risk management.

Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

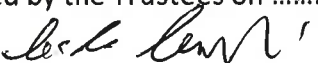
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).
- 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.
- 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 proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Trustees on ...19/4/2025 and signed on their behalf by:


Alison Curnick Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SERICC (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended.
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC**

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 25, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the entity, including but not limited to the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP.
- Enquiry of management, those charge with governance, and the entity's legal advisors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Review of legal costs to ascertain the nature of costs and possible related non-compliance.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

44/54 Orsett Road
Grays
Essex

21 November 2025



ROWLAND HALL (Statutory Auditor)
Chartered Certified Accountants
and Registered Auditors

Rowland Hall is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SERICC

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Total Funds to 31.03.25 £	Total Funds to 31.03.24 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies:						
Donations		-	-	2,919	2,919	8,649
Grants	3	-	-	56,828	56,828	56,828
Charitable activities:						
Grants and contracts	3	551,202	-	2,260,392	2,811,594	2,718,647
Fees for services & direct work	4	-	-	39,537	39,537	91,500
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-
Investments	5	-	-	26,135	26,135	20,847
Other Income		-	-	512	512	-
Total Income		551,202	-	2,386,323	2,937,525	2,896,471
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	6	551,114	9,850	2,283,867	2,844,831	2,888,454
Total Expenditure		551,114	9,850	2,283,867	2,844,831	2,888,454
Net Income/(expenditure)		88	(9,850)	102,456	92,694	8,017
Transfers between funds		4,884	9,850	(14,734)	-	-
Net movement in funds:		4,972	-	87,722	92,694	8,017
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		23,554	1,008,386	593,954	1,625,894	1,617,877
Total funds carried forward		28,526	1,008,386	681,676	1,718,588	1,625,894

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Movements in funds are disclosed in note 14 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 32 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025**

	Notes	31.03.2025 £	31.03.2024 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible assets		-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current assets:			
Debtors	12	148,864	186,048
Cash at bank and in hand		1,637,207	1,497,805
Total current assets		1,786,071	1,683,853
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within one year	13	67,483	57,959
Net current assets		1,718,588	1,625,894
Total assets less current liabilities and Net assets		1,718,588	1,625,894
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		28,526	23,554
Unrestricted income funds:			
General fund		691,526	593,954
Designated fund		998,536	1,008,386
Total unrestricted funds		1,690,062	1,602,340
Total charity funds		1,718,588	1,625,894

The notes on pages 32 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on ...19/11/2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Alison Curnick
Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Total Funds to 31.03.25 £	Total Funds to 31.03.24 £
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	21	113,267	(9,332)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		26,135	20,847
Purchase of equipment		-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		26,135	20,847
Cash flows from financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		139,402	11,515
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,497,805	1,486,290
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		1,637,207	1,497,805
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		1,637,207	1,497,805
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.03.25		1,637,207	1,497,805

The notes on pages 32 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. General Information and Basis of Preparation

SERICC is a charitable incorporated charity registered in England. The address of the charity is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Report of the Trustees on pages 3 to 25.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention in accordance with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the financial currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

b. Fund Accounting

Restricted funds comprise grants made for specific purposes as laid down by the donor (e.g. for specific projects). Expenditure that meets these specific purposes is matched against grant income and analysed over the appropriate cost. Further details regarding restricted funds are provided in note 15.

Unrestricted funds comprise other income received or generated for charitable purposes, but which may be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been earmarked by the Trustees for a purpose.

c. Income Recognition

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the fund, any performance conditions attached have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income generated from contracts for services is recognised as earned.

Investment income and all other incoming resources are accounted for in the period in which they are received.

d. Expenditure Recognition

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

SERICC

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

The charity is not registered for VAT and all expenses are inclusive of VAT where appropriate.

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. per capita, floor space or estimated usage as set out in notes 6, 7 and 8.

e. Fixed Assets

Depreciation on fixed assets has been calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life at a rate of 25% on written down values. It is the charity's policy to capitalise assets costing in excess of £10,000.

f. Staff and Pension Costs

Counselling staff costs are allocated in the Statement of Financial Activities on a direct basis per individual employees and time spent on charitable activities. Other non-counselling staff costs are allocated on the basis of estimated time and resources expended by the charity overall on each charitable activity. Pension costs are accounted for in the period to which they relate and are similarly allocated on a direct basis.

g. Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease.

h. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discount due.

i. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

SERICC

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

j. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern. There is some financial uncertainty with only the Core contract element with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner having been confirmed post 31 March 2026. Certain other income streams also potentially terminate at the end of March. In the event of funding not being renewed, it is considered that an orderly transfer or closure of projects could be facilitated by working closely with the PFCC and other organisations as appropriate and through use of the Charity's reserves.

2. JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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 revisions affect only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

SERICC

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

3. GRANT AND CONTRACT INCOME

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	31.03.25 Total £	31.03.24 Total £
Donations and legacies:				
Thurrock Borough Council Development Fund	-	56,828	56,828	56,828
	-	56,828	56,828	56,828

In the year to 31.03.25, of the grant income classified as Donations and Legacies income, £nil (2024: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £56,828 (2024: £56,828) adding to unrestricted funds.

Income from Charitable activities:

Thurrock Borough Council				
Children and Families	-	-	-	5,000
YP SV Counsellor Children & Families	-	70,000	70,000	71,000
Housing Related Support	-	38,772	38,772	38,772
Brighter Futures	-	54,988	54,988	49,988
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	43,170	-	43,170	43,170
Flexible New Burdens Fund	-	-	-	10,364
Essex Police Crime Commissioner				
Sexual Violence Counselling	-	1,438,816	1,438,816	1,516,138
MOJ ISVA	89,866	657,816	747,682	576,724
National Lottery Community Fund	403,166	-	403,166	393,991
Rape Crisis England & Wales				
External Relations Programme	-	-	-	13,500
Sisters of the Holy Cross	15,000	-	15,000	-
	551,202	2,260,392	2,811,594	2,718,647

In the year to 31.03.25, of the grant and contract income classified as Income from Charitable Activities, £551,202 (2024: £492,458) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £2,260,392 (2024: £2,226,189) adding to unrestricted funds.

£2,450,256 (2024: £2,367,984) of government grant and contract income was received for delivering charitable activities and operational costs. There were no other contingencies or unfulfilled conditions attaching to the government grants.

SERICC

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

4. INCOME FOR SERVICES & DIRECT WORK

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.25	31.03.24
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
MOJ Contract (BOLD)	-	23,300	23,300	76,260
Rape Crisis – Hosting and Other Fees	-	2,839	2,839	2,280
Counselling Sessions	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-	-
Other Services & Direct Work	-	13,398	13,398	12,960
	-	39,537	39,537	91,500

In the year to 31.03.25, of the Fees for Services and Direct Work income, £nil (2024: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £39,537 (2024: £91,500) adding to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.25	31.03.24
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Bank Interest	-	26,135	26,135	20,847

In the year to 31.03.25, of the Investment income, £nil (2024: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £26,135 (2024: £20,847) adding to unrestricted funds.

SERICC

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

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.25 Total £	31.03.24 Total £
Counselling Staff Salary costs	650,018	111,158	761,176	862,478
Counselling Consultants	27,600	-	27,600	33,919
Staff training	6,329	703	7,032	6,972
Travel & Subsistence	8,242	916	9,158	16,738
Supervision/Safeguarding	15,414	1,713	17,127	10,795
Health & Wellbeing	4,747	-	4,747	1,454
Service User Costs	6,101	-	6,101	622
Counselling Telephone costs	15,729	1,748	17,477	20,699
Language & Sign Interpreters	2,729	-	2,729	3,488
Essex Partnership payments	1,512,964	-	1,512,964	1,466,132
Governance costs (note 7)	124,491	207,765	332,256	339,577
Support costs (note 8)	102,524	43,940	146,464	125,580
	2,476,888	367,943	2,844,831	2,888,454

Of the £2,844,831 (2024: £2,888,454) expenditure in the year to 31.03.25 £551,114 (2024: £490,999) was charged to restricted funds and £2,293,717 (2024: £2,397,455) to unrestricted funds.

Costs relating directly to charitable activities have been allocated between the two key activities on a direct basis or on a per capita staff basis depending on the nature of the expense. Governance and support costs have been apportioned as detailed in notes 7 and 8, respectively.

SERICC

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

7. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy	Prevention & Education	31.03.25 Total	31.03.24 Total
	£	£	£	£
Non-Counselling Staff Salary costs	37,661	180,208	217,869	243,631
Payroll/Accounting fees	12,264	3,066	15,330	5,418
Audit fee	3,499	1,499	4,998	7,098
Legal & Professional fees	37,131	9,283	46,414	38,451
Consultancy	25,200	10,800	36,000	36,000
Project Monitoring	4,676	1,169	5,845	2,200
Insurances	4,060	1,740	5,800	6,779
	124,491	207,765	332,256	339,577

Governance costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities based on the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy	Prevention & Education	31.03.25 Total	31.03.24 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rent	35,741	15,318	51,059	52,880
Heat and Light	2,642	1,132	3,774	4,397
Cleaning, Repairs, and maintenance	16,345	7,005	23,350	13,405
IT Equipment & software	7,948	3,406	11,354	18,223
IT Support & development costs	19,408	8,318	27,726	16,460
Printing, stationery & postage	2,664	1,142	3,806	10,015
Publications, subscriptions & publicity	10,679	4,577	15,256	6,382
Non-Counselling Telephone costs	921	395	1,316	1,558
Hospitality & refreshments	798	342	1,140	961
General expenses	5,213	2,234	7,447	-
Depreciation & Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	916
Bank charges	165	71	236	383
	102,524	43,940	146,464	125,580

Support costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities on the basis of the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

SERICC

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

9. STAFF COSTS AND KEY PERSONNEL

	31.03.25	31.03.24
	Total	Total
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	866,356	978,925
Social Security Costs	88,753	101,669
Pension costs	23,936	25,515
	979,045	1,106,109

Average head count (number of staff employed)	25	28
---	----	----

During the year, the number of higher paid employees was as follows:

£60,000-£69,999	1	1
£70,000-£79,999	-	-

Total redundancy/termination payments amounted to £nil (2024: £nil).

The Trustees received no remuneration nor were they reimbursed for any expenses during the year (2024: £nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees, the Director and Operations Manager. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £120,355 (2024: £125,127).

10. PENSIONS

The charity offers a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of employees. The assets of the scheme are administered by an independent pension provider, Royal London. Contributions are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate. The charge for the year was £23,926 (2024: £25,515).

11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	31.03.25	31.03.24
	Total	Total
	£	£
Audit fees	4,998	7,098
Other services	15,330	5,418
	20,328	12,516

SERICCC

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

12. DEBTORS

	31.03.25	31.03.24
	Total	Total
	£	£
Grants and fees receivable	24,255	22,652
Prepayments and accrued income	16,155	25,354
Other debtors	108,454	138,042
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	148,864	186,048
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Other debtors comprise interest free loans of £108,454 of which £69,004 is recoverable after more than one year.

13. CREDITORS

	31.03.25	31.03.24
	Total	Total
	£	£
Trade creditors	14,176	10,056
Accruals and deferred income	32,876	16,370
Other taxation and social security	20,431	31,533
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	67,483	57,959
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

SERICC

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

14. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance B/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	-	43,170	(43,390)	220	-
National Lottery Community Fund	95	403,166	(407,925)	4,664	-
Thurrock Borough Council New Burdens Flexible Fund	23,459	-	(3,111)	-	20,348
MOJ ISVA (Additional)	-	89,866	(89,866)	-	-
Sisters of the Holy Cross	-	15,000	(6,822)	-	8,178
	23,554	551,202	(551,114)	4,884	28,526
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	858,386	-	-	-	858,386
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	(9,850)	9,850	50,000
	1,008,386	-	(9,850)	9,850	1,008,386
Unrestricted Funds					
	593,954	2,386,323	(2,283,867)	(14,734)	681,676
	1,625,894	2,937,525	(2,844,831)	-	1,718,588

SERICC

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

14. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Analysis of movement in funds-previous year

	Balance Transferred £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	-	43,170	(45,695)	2,525	-
National Community Lottery Fund	-	393,991	(393,896)	-	95
Thurrock Borough Council New					
Burdens Flexible Fund	19,570	10,364	(6,475)	-	23,459
MOJ ISVA (Additional)	-	44,933	(44,933)	-	-
	19,570	492,458	(490,999)	2,525	23,554
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	858,386	-	-	-	858,386
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	1,008,386	-	-	-	1,008,386
Unrestricted Funds					
	589,921	2,404,013	(2,397,455)	(2,525)	593,954
	1,617,877	2,896,471	(2,888,454)	-	1,625,894

The details of each restricted fund are provided in note 15.

The details of designated funds are provided in note 17.

SERICC

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

15 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

- Better Care Fund

Grant funding and contracts have been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of a Thurrock sexual abuse and violence counsellor.

The National Lottery Community Fund

The First Contact Navigator team which provides the triage service both to service users and professionals across the Essex Partnership between the 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2026.

Thurrock Borough Council:

New Burdens Flexible Fund for providing practical assistance to victims who have experienced sexual and domestic violence. This fund covers white goods, meeting legal or housing costs.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

During the year, the MOJ made additional ISVA funding available to increase staffing capacity.

Sisters of the Holy Cross (CIO)

Awarded SERICC a grant of £15,000 for the Damara Project to be used towards refurbishment and equipment and a promotional film. The grant was awarded in December and reporting to the charity is required by 31st August 2025.

16. PRINCIPLE UNRESTRICTED FUNDING SOURCES

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

This contract enables the Essex Rape Crisis services to provide specialist services for wrap around counselling and ISVA services. As the lead partner for the PFCC contract, SERICC ensures contract compliance on behalf of the Essex Rape Crisis Centres (SOSRC and CARA). This contract is in place until March 2028.

In addition to the PFCC core contract, additional funding has been made available to increase capacity, meeting operational costs, and funding ISVA and counselling services to adults, children, young people.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

- Rape Support Fund
- ISVA funding
- Domestic And Sexual Violence Fund

Rape Crisis England & Wales (RCEW): DPMS

SERICC provided over 124 hours of direct work to RCEW member centres in relation to their use of the Data Performance Management system for £2,839.00. This contract ends July 2025.

SERICC

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

BOLD February 2025

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is leading a group of government organisations in a programme to link data on vulnerable people. Named the Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD) programme, it is aimed at providing more joined up services and improving the evidence base for policy creation and operational decision making. Working in partnership with SOS Rape Crisis, this work focuses on working with service users and front-line practitioners to create a blueprint specification for Westminster government consideration. This contract started in February 2025 and is due to end in June 2025.

Thurrock Borough Council:

- Brighter Futures contract for providing Early Interventions with children and families.
- New Burdens Flexible Fund for providing practical assistance to victims who have experienced domestic violence.
- Young Peoples Counselling contract
- Independent Housing (floating) support for providing emotional support and advocacy to enable individuals to live independently.

17. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Contingency Fund is maintained for the potential expenditure that would be incurred in the event that funding is withdrawn from SERICC. At the period end, the Trustees reviewed the level of the Contingency Fund and took the decision that this level of contingency was appropriate as of 31st March 2025.

The Capital fund is for future and additional capital costs that may include additional premises to deliver services effectively in the community.

Whilst there are no existing or pending claims against the charity, the Trustees have taken advice and maintained a designated Legal fund as a cautionary measure in order to meet any legal and professional fees and ancillary costs that may arise in the future as a result of any potential claim against the charity or in connection with its operations.

SERICC

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

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 31.03.25
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	36,907	1,008,386	740,778	1,786,071
Current Liabilities	(8,381)	-	(59,102)	(67,483)
	<u>28,526</u>	<u>1,008,386</u>	<u>681,676</u>	<u>1,718,588</u>

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds – Previous year

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 31.03.24
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	29,785	1,008,386	645,682	1,683,853
Current Liabilities	(6,231)	-	(51,728)	(57,959)
	<u>23,554</u>	<u>1,008,386</u>	<u>593,954</u>	<u>1,625,894</u>

19. COMMITMENTS

On 31st March 2025, the charity was committed to three formal premises leases.

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows: -

	31.03.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Not later than one year	36,609	22,886
Later than one and not later than five years	80,986	32,447
	<u>117,595</u>	<u>55,333</u>

The financial statements for the period include lease payments recognised as an expense of £41,524.

SERICC

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

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

At 31st March 2025, an amount of £108,454 was owed to SERICC by ICENA, an entity in which certain key management personnel of SERICC are directors. This loan is interest free and repayable in instalments, as agreed between the two parties.

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.03.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Net movement in funds	92,694	8,017
Add back depreciation charge	-	916
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(26,135)	(20,847)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	37,184	15,271
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	9,524	(12,689)
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	113,267	(9,332)

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At	Cashflows	Total
	01.04.24		31.3.25
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	1,497,805	139,402	1,637,207
Total Net Debt	1,497,805	139,402	1,637,207

SERICC

England & Wales - Charity number 1186836

Accounts

sericc 40 years

Rape and Sexual Abuse
Specialist Service

of challenging myths
and changing attitudes

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

CONTENTS

	Page
Charity Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Board of Trustees	2
Report of the Independent Auditors	25
Statement of Financial Activities	28
Balance Sheet	29
Statement of Cash Flows	30
Notes to the Financial Statements	31

**CHARITY REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**



Charity Name:	SERICC	
Charity Registration Number:	1186836	
Registered Office and Address:	SERICC The Hall West Street Grays Essex RM17 6LL	
Board of Trustees:	A Curnick (Chair) G Harrington (Secretary) M Heine K Dobson (resigned 01 November 2023)	
Senior Management:	Sheila Coates MBE, Director Lee Eggleston OBE, Operational Manager Rebekah Brant, Deputy Chief Operating Officer	
Auditors	Rowland Hall Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors 44/54 Orsett Road Grays Essex RM17 5ED	
Bankers	CAF BANK Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	Barclays Bank 9 High Street Grays Essex RM17 6NB
Solicitors	Taylor Vinters Merlin Place Milton Road Cambridge CB4 0DP	
HR Advisors	Moore Kingston Smith HR Consultancy Limited 9 Appold Street London EC2A 2AP	

Chairwoman's report

This year we are proud to be entering our 40th year of delivering specialist services to victims and survivors of sexual violence and sexual abuse.

Our dedicated staff team has shown their commitment and expertise in delivering specialist front-line, life-changing services to children, young people, adults and their families and carers.

This report highlights the impact and evidenced based outcomes of our services.

This year, we have seen again, the longer term consequences of the cost of living crisis and the uncertainty in UK and global events directly affecting the daily lives and mental health of service users. The backlog in the criminal courts, resulting in delays to justice has meant the charity has needed to work with individuals for longer periods of time. The funding uncertainties of these essential services are some of the challenges the charity will face in the near future.

I would like to thank our team of Trustees for their ongoing commitment in supporting SERICC and their plans to recruit new Trustees across 2024. Together, we have risen to the challenges and continued to develop new services and projects, consolidate and invest in our existing service provision, always with the focus on the individuals who come to us for support. The ongoing need for long-term funding remains front and center for the organisation.

Alison Curnick

40years
of challenging myths
and changing attitudes

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the period April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts 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 published on 16th July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2nd February 2016).

TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- A Curnick (Chair)
- M Heine
- G Harrington (Secretary)
- K Dobson (resigned 01 November 2023)

SERICC provides specialist services to anyone in South and West Essex who is experiencing, or who has experienced, any form of sexual violence and abuse at any time in their life. Specialised services are offered to parents, carers and supporters.

Sexual violence is a term that includes any sexual behaviours that are unwanted or that happen without a person's consent. SERICC uses a wide definition of sexual violence and abuse and includes rape, sexual assault, domestic sexual violence and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, non-contact online grooming, viewing and making indecent images of children.

“
My whole life I've been told and treated that I'm worthless, I'm not worthy of anything. You have changed that I AM worthy and deserve and feel able to look to the future. I'm smiling and found myself singing along to a song - I started crying because I can't remember when I last sang
”

SERICC uses an evidenced based approach to providing high-quality sexual violence services including:

- Children, young people and family's services – preventative, educative and therapeutic work, working with families to build emotional resilience and physical well-being and safety planning
- Emotional support services – telephone triage, early support providing information on coping strategies, self-esteem, recovery, confidence building and self-care
- Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Advisers (ISVAAs) provide emotional and specialist practical support and information to victims and survivors of sexual violence who have reported to the police or are considering reporting to the police.
- Specialist sexual violence therapeutic interventions – one-to-one counselling, pre-trial therapy.

The impact of sexual abuse and violence often results in low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and mental health problems. Many individuals who contact us share their feelings of self-blame, shame, guilt and find it difficult to speak of their experiences. Sexual violence counselling, support and advocacy is delivered in an empathic sensitive environment to enable individuals to regain-control over their lives and improvement their health and well-being.

Child and Family Services

SERICC provides an early intervention service to parents / carers whose children have experienced sexual abuse and violence and/or where the family are engaged with Thurrock Council social care. The Brighter Futures Programme offers an integrated and intensive service to equip families to learn and apply parenting skills that develop resourcefulness and resilience while strengthening positive relationships with their children. The Brighter Futures Programme and the Young People counselling service is funded by Thurrock Council for Thurrock residents. 46 families (19 children and 27 parents) received 239 face to face sessions.

“It has been fantastic for me in coping with the incident with my daughter and most of the fallout from my family. Having the counsellor there to reflect and talk to has been amazing”

SERICC's internal policies and procedures are subject to an external annual review undertaken by Thurrock Children's and Adult Services Commissioners. This annual quality assurance review involves policy and procedures, staff and service user interviews.

Specialist sexual violence therapeutic interventions

SERICC's counselling service has responded to 16,726 counselling related contacts and activities including telephone calls, emails/ letters and meetings. SERICC are committed to ensuring that as many individuals as possible can access services without lengthy waiting lists and introduced a new service for individuals to access early support. SERICC collates feedback to prove outcomes which influence policy and practice in the services they receive from SERICC and other agencies.

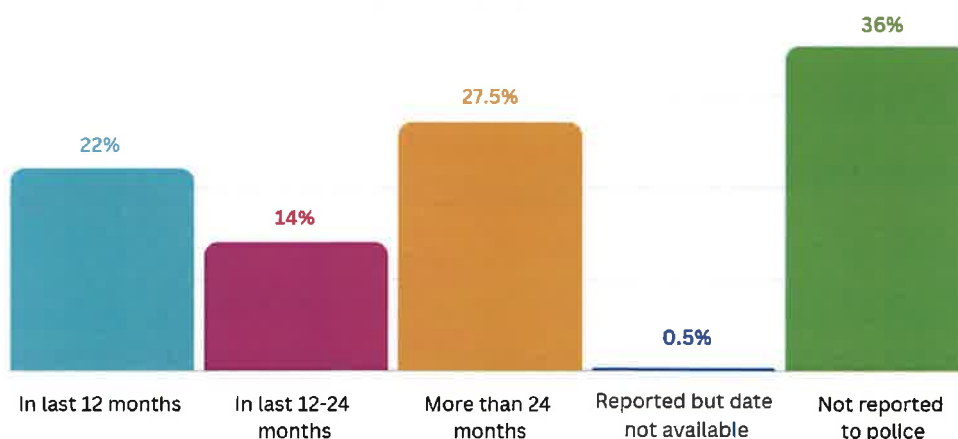
SERICC worked with 1,179 new referrals in the last year whilst working with 1,869 individuals who had 1,276 dependants. Individuals were offered 6,035 sexual abuse and violence counselling sessions and 2,379 Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Adviser (ISVAA) and advocacy sessions.

Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Advisers (ISVAAs)

The ISVAA service provides essential specialist support to those who choose to report sexual offences to the police. ISVAAs ensure that individuals are fully informed whilst going through the Criminal Justice System including initial and ongoing police investigations and support through the courts process. The ISVAA service works in close partnership with Essex Police and Oakwood Place, Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

There continues to be disruption to the Criminal Justice System due to the backlog in cases increasing the already lengthy delays. ISVAA's provided accompaniment to 24 trials and court cases, police related appointments, sexual health services, general health and well-being services. This will double in 2024.

Number of incidents reported to the police



“ You lot are like superwomen, the stuff you do and all the people you help, what would I do without you ”

Services include:

- Criminal, Civil & Family Justice System information and dedicated support
- Housing support, signposting and information in partnership with Thurrock Council
- information and accompaniment to appointments
- Information about criminal injuries compensation applications and victim's code

“
My abuse is so unreal I don't think people believe me. When I told you about my past, I was waiting for you to ask if it's true but you didn't. You asked me questions that made me feel you understood. I asked you if you believed me and you said yes, I don't think I have ever felt so supported
”

Emotional support services

There has also been a significant increase in the number of **new referrals** who self-reported multiple needs relating to their mental and physical health:



623 individuals stated they are experiencing mental health difficulties



122 individuals stated they have a learning disability



149 individuals stated they have a physical disability



272 individuals stated they have a diagnosed long-term illness

First Contact Navigators (triage service) provided **1,396** First meeting sessions and **13,291** assessment contacts on behalf of SERICC.

Service User Demographics

SERICC has a bespoke Data Performance Management System (DPMS) that collates detailed anonymous sexual abuse and violence statistical records and data in line within data protection legislation to performance manage, inform service delivery, meet funding monitoring requirements and identify trends and patterns.



Who uses our services?

The majority of individuals are women and girls:

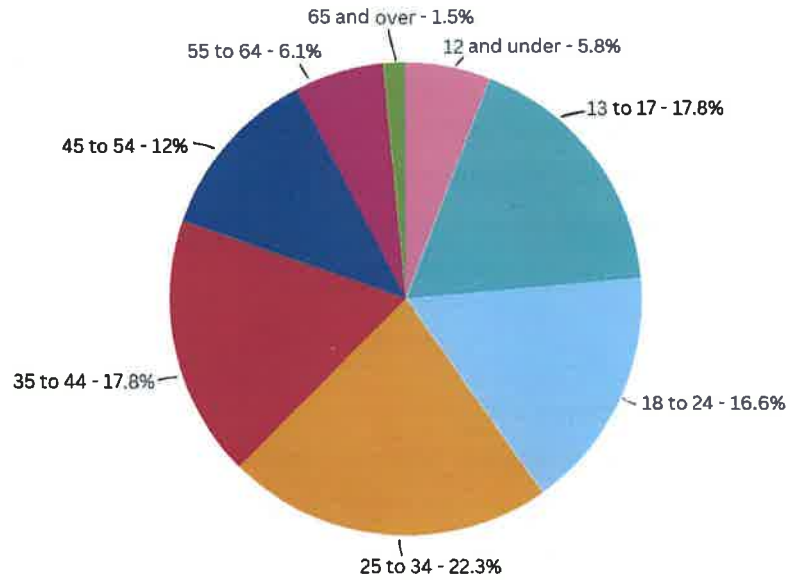
- The largest proportion of individuals using services this year are aged between 18 and 54 **68.7%**, with children and young people (aged up to 17 years old) making up just under a quarter of all individuals supported.
- Nearly half, **47%**, of all individuals using services reported having one or more disability.
- Black, Asian and minoritised communities has increased to **13%** of all individuals supported. In line with the Essex census population (11.2%).
- The Criminal Justice System, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Health and Voluntary Sector Services referrals were generally the same as the previous year. However, referrals from the Local Authority have decreased, there was an increase in the number of self-referrals.
- At first point of contact **25%** of individuals are adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
- In line with the previous year **7%** of individuals are family members or friends of the victims and survivors.
- Around **87%** of sexual crimes are committed by a known individual, in just over **1 in 4** cases, that person is a family member, and just over a further **1 in 4** cases involve a current or ex-partner.



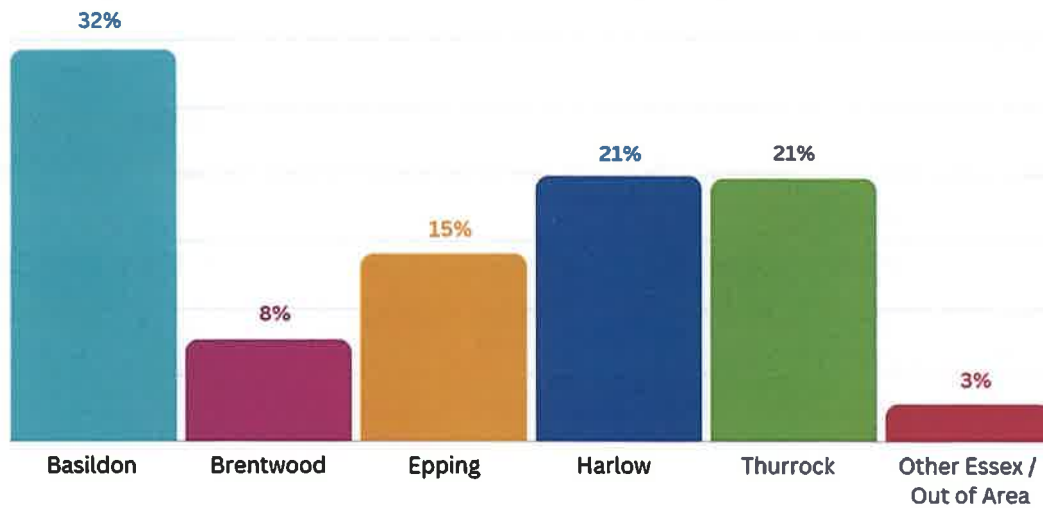
I feel so listened to and not judged I have had no sleep due to being anxious and this appointment and you've made me feel so safe. Thank you



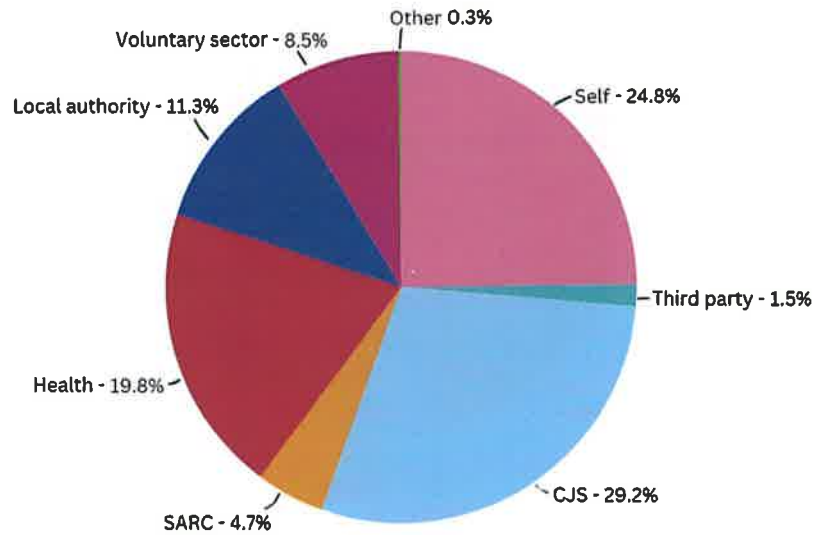
What is the age range of victims and survivors?



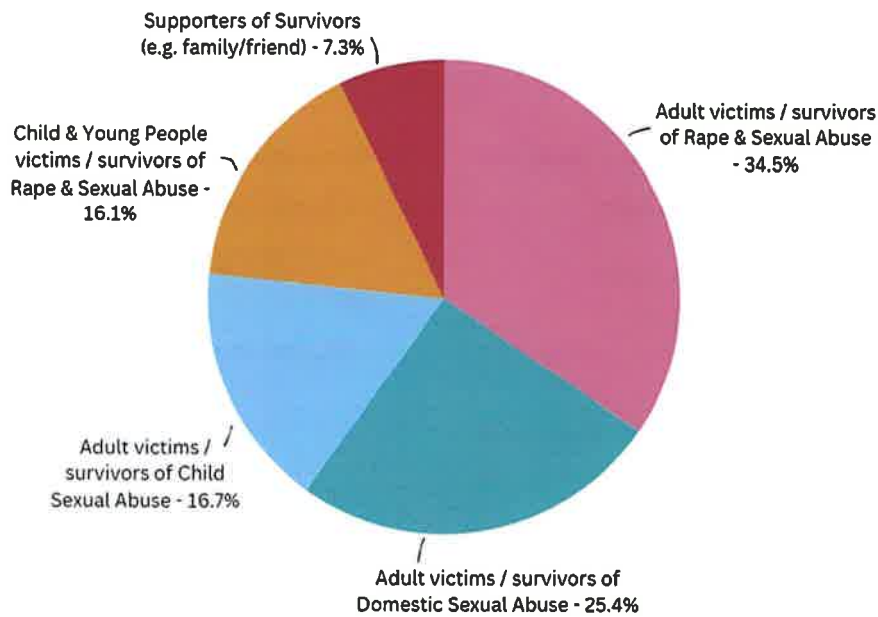
Where do victims and survivors live?



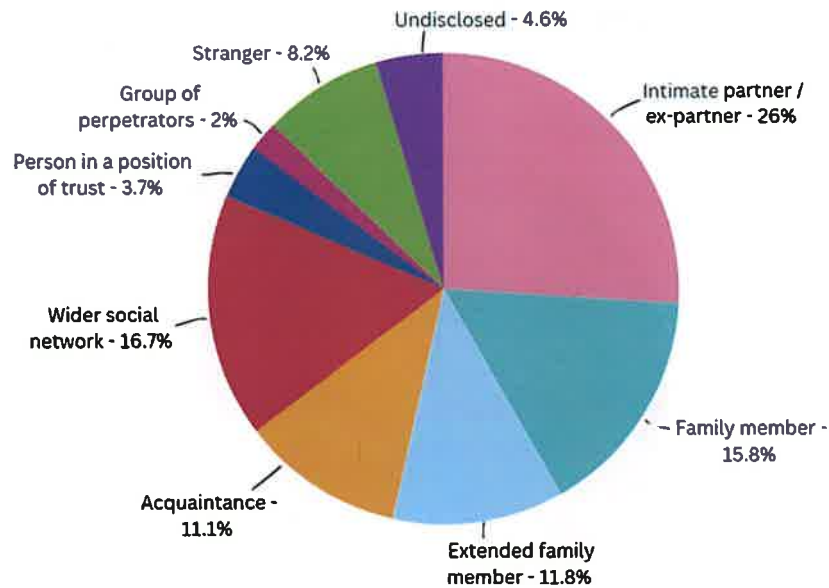
**How do victims and survivors access services?
(referral source)**



What are the presenting experiences of sexual violence



Who commits crimes of sexual violence?



Achievements and Performance

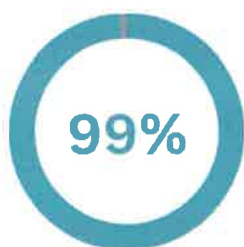
SERICC is committed to upholding the highest possible standards for staff and providing internal and external training and evidence-based service delivery. This was achieved through:

- Ensuring service users' experiences, are heard through feedback, evaluation and outcome data
- Receiving stakeholder feedback (external organisations and public bodies)
- Providing staff supervision, peer supervision and performance management
- The use of ongoing data collection followed by data analysis for service planning and development
- Providing training for staff as part of ongoing professional development and staff health and well-being
- Strengthening and participating in local, regional and national partnerships and undertaking joint working to ensure that service user needs, and experiences are included in policy and procedure

“ Thank you so much for your patience, I have never been able to speak to anyone about this before ”

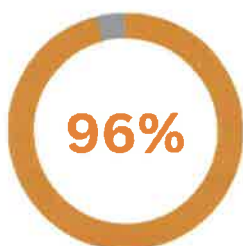
Evidence based services:

SERICC undertakes client surveys before and after services. The questionnaires are collated and the % reflects the overall total. A benchmark measure of 40% is used. Any % returned that is below this value are closely examined and changes made to service provision.



Satisfaction with the service

of closed cases said they were satisfied with the service and the support was sensitive to their needs and situation



More in control of their lives

of closed cases said they were now more confident and able to make decisions about their future



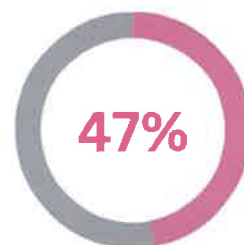
Better health and well being

of closed cases had better coping strategies and were able to recognise the impact of sexual violence on their lives



More able to access further support

of closed cases said they knew of resources and opportunities to access education or employment



More able to develop & maintain positive relationships

of closed cases stated they felt more able to trust people and build relationships



More able to assert their rights

of closed cases stated that they knew their rights and entitlements, which included engaging with the Criminal Justice System, family courts and/or civil proceedings

SERICC participates in local, regional and national policy consultations and working groups that relate to sexual abuse and violence in which current research and good practice can be shared internally with staff and external practitioners and agencies. SERICC participated in Consultations/Working Groups and undertook work which included:

- East Region Crown Prosecution Service expert panels
- Essex Domestic Violence Board
- Essex Police Community Engagement Group
- Essex Strategic Group including subgroups relating to high profile cases
- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Reference Group
- Anglia Ruskin University Child Sexual Abuse Project
- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Child Sexual Abuse Stakeholders Forum
- National Health Service England (NHSE) sexual and domestic violence group
- Support and prevention work in schools, and other educational settings
- Thurrock Children's Commissioned Services
- Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service
- Thurrock multi-agency Strategic Board for Violence Against Women & Girls
- Essex Sexual Violence and Sexual Assault Strategic Partnership Board
- Home Office - Violence against Women and Girls Stakeholders Forum
- Ministry of Justice – Victim and Witness Sector Engagement Group

Memberships:

- Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP)
- National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
- National Counselling and Psychotherapy Society (NCPS)
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Organisations (TCVS)
- Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW)
- Women's Resource Centre (WRC)

“
It has changed my life to get rid of the negative feelings and knowing I am not to blame
”

Subscriptions

- Clinks (supporting the voluntary sector working in the Criminal Justice System)
- CIPD: HR-inform
- Breathe HR
- Civil Society

Awards

SERICC successfully completed the national standards required to be awarded a Trauma Kite Mark from the National Charity One Small Thing (valid until July 2026).

Partnership working

SERICC works in partnership with Southend on Sea Rape Crisis (SOSRC), and Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA) North and mid Essex. Together we form the Synergy Essex Partnership to ensure services are accessible pan Essex. Centres offer services through primary funding sources from: the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Ministry of Justice. More victims can be supported through the partnership and the provision of a triage system and access to immediate specialist support.

Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD).

SERICC completed the BOLD project with the Ministry of Justice in August. BOLD is a government data-linking programme which aims to improve the connectedness of government data in England and Wales. The final Ministry of Justice report will be published in the autumn of 2024.

Social Impact and Social Value

SERICC adheres to the Rape Crisis England & Wales and Ministry of Justice monitoring and evaluation framework which is aimed at reporting on the improvements to emotional and physical health after using SERICC services.

SERICC distributes and circulates information on education, skills and self-help via the SERICC website and outreach sites. The materials and information on SERICC's website, has the added benefit of increasing well-being, improving resilience and reducing isolation.

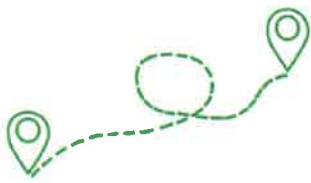
The Synergy Essex and SERICC websites continues to grow and adhere to the good practice guidance of Browse Aloud which offers a range of accessible tools and languages on the web sites.

SERICC has a dedicated area on the website for anyone to access self-help resources. Service users are encouraged to suggest content or let us know what is useful to them or their families.



To date, more than 250 people have signed up to Your Space with a satisfaction rate of 100%.

SERICC:



This past year has seen an increase in requests from service users for subsidised travel, food vouchers and essentials such as baby food and items, school uniform and furniture and information about debt management.

In addition to helping with financial hardship, SERICC offers accompaniment to appointments, such as welfare reviews and medical appeals.



SERICC undertakes advocacy work to enable individuals who are experiencing housing or debt difficulties to address and resolve problems, enabling them to live independently. Relieving pressure on statutory services e.g. housing, GPs, mental health services etc. In Thurrock, this service received dedicated funding and enables the Floating Support worker to provide longer term support, particularly to those who have experienced domestic sexual violence.



SERICC held a Christmas party in December 2023, with a traditional Santa presenting the toys and gifts to 33 children. SERICC staff delivered fresh food parcels, toys and gifts, all hand-picked, packed, wrapped and personally delivered to homes across the SERICC service delivery areas - supporting 73 adults and 108 children.



No one usually believes me this is the first time I have felt someone understands me



Delivering Public Benefits - Achievements and Performance

The core services provided by SERICC is the provision of specialist, independent, community based sexual abuse and violence 'face to face' counselling, support, advocacy, telephone service and information support and outreach. The sexual abuse and violence counselling and ISVAA services operate at the SERICC head office based in Thurrock, its satellite base in Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service (Beehive Centre) and across outreach sites including schools across South and West Essex.

After refurbishing our sites in Thurrock and Harlow, a pilot group for girls has been successfully delivered with plans for delivering three future groups between 2024 and 2025.

Harlow Venue



GIRLS GROUP



Thank you for accepting our invitation to join our 5 week support group designed to improve your well being and give you a safe space to meet other girls who have experienced sexual violence.

This is to confirm your place in the group and tell you the following information:

Venue:
SERICC at Latton Bush, CM18 7BL

Dates:
14th, 21st & 28th September
5th & 12th October

Time:
Meet in Reception at 5:45pm.
finish by 7:15pm

Please bring your consent form with you, signed by a parent or carer if you have not already sent this back.

We look forward to meeting you on the 14th September, please let one of us know if you cannot attend for some reason. Thank you.

Evie: 07931 550481
Jackie: 07508 534964



SERICC has undertaken an internal audit of policies, procedures and internal systems in relation to succession, recruitment and retirement, working with LEEP Consultancy to ensure that all are robust and up to date. SERICC is professionally approved through the Rape Crisis England and Wales sexual violence and abuse National Service Standards. The Rape Crisis England and Wales Service Standards are due for renewal by March 2025.

SERICC provided **113 hours** of direct technical support to Rape Crisis Centres regarding the Data Performance Management System (DPMS) and **18 hours** per month engagement on behalf of Rape Crisis England & Wales at national strategic groups including, Home Office, Ministry of Justice and NHS England influencing policy and practice for victims and survivors of sexual abuse and violence.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity, with the aid of sound financial management and the support of both its staff and Trustees, generated a positive financial outcome for the period.

Principal Funding Sources

SERICC's main source of income is project-specific grants, contracts and Service Level Agreements which include:

- Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Ministry of Justice
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Rape Crisis England and Wales
- Thurrock Council / Thurrock Integrated Care Board 'Better Care Fund'
- Thurrock Council (Development Fund, Strategic Fund, Housing Related Support, Brighter Futures, Young People Counsellor)

These income sources are dependent on the ability and willingness of external agencies and government departments/local authorities to support the provision of specialist sexual violence services.

“ You have helped me to understand how trauma has affected my ways of trying to cope ”

Risk Review

The level of income kept in reserves is based on a realistic assessment of the charity's future income, needs and expenditure. The funding landscape is still complex and dynamic with unpredictability of existing government funds, limited availability of larger grants from trusts and local authorities declaring bankruptcy. No inflationary increases have been applied by any funders again this year. SERICC continues to look at ways of diversifying income sources.

The wider economic climate, fuel and energy increases, and the overall cost of living increase has affected on our staff team which SERICC recognised and responded to by increases to salaries and a cost-of-living award. Premises that SERICC rent to deliver services have incurred increased fuel costs

and rent increases. The Board of Trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity and are regularly reviewed. SERICC approach to risk management:



Risk Management

Internal financial controls, policy and procedures are in place to ensure compliance and are in line with the Charity Commission guidance on financial controls. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity. Quarterly monitoring reports to external funders ensure a consistent quality of delivery for the operational aspects of the charity.

SERICC work with a range of external experts as part of good practice for the overall governance and risk management. For example, Human Resources (HR) are provided by Moore Kingston Smith, Subject access requests and data protection advice is provided by A Jolly Consultancy. SERICC were certified as Cyber Essential Plus for the second year working with our IT support provider Sprint Integration.

The Senior Management Team have supported Trustees in the overall management and monitoring of finance and staffing matters by providing a suitable level of scrutiny of the finances and HR policies and practices to make recommendations on these matters to the trustees for their decision. SERICC trustees acknowledge their responsibility for naming and prudently managing the risks to which the charity is exposed. An annual review of the financial risk register ensures that the trustees are well informed to arrive at a set of parameters and decisions for risk they consider to be acceptable. The trustees continue to review and question the reserves policy to set up and agree a suitable level of reserves. With this information, the trustees can make informed choices about the strategic proposals put forward by the Senior Management Team. The principal risk, which continues to cause uncertainty for SERICC is its dependence on the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) who, in addition to their contract, administrate grants made available from the Ministry of Justice which are due to cease in March 2025. This has provided, along with the PFCC contract 37% of SERICC income and continues to be a significant uncertainty beyond the end of the current grant period in March 2025. The procurement for these services will 'go out' to competitive tendering in the Summer of 2024.

The charity manages risks through reserves to keep essential staff, operations and services stable whilst contingency plans are implemented.

Reserves

The Trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity. SERICC Trustees have considered the wider economic climate and the likelihood of reduced levels of local authority funding which may affect reserves.

Trustees recognise the need to ensure adequate operational costs are held in unrestricted reserves to account for contractual obligations to staff, risk management and any unanticipated reduction in income. This is set at the beginning of the financial year and is subject to review based on actual expenditure across the financial year. The level set in relation to the year to 31st March 2024 was £716,111 for 26 weeks (6 months) running costs.

The level of reserves required is based on:

- An understanding of operating activities to be maintained
- Potential risks to staffing costs such as long-term staff illness or maternity leave
- Potential unanticipated need for new IT equipment
- Possible delays in restricted funding to on-going projects
- Potential risks of funding cuts
- Potentially reduced unrestricted funding

Amounts are set aside to meet the provision for an orderly winding-down of operations in the event of a significant adverse event that is outside the control of SERICC. This may include:

- Statutory redundancy payments
- Exiting contracts such as those for mobile phones, rent and broadband
- The continuation of an internet presence for a period of time
- Staff salary and expenses to oversee the winding down
- Any professional fees needed e.g. accountancy and legal

SERICC Trustees have agreed to designate funds for the potential future acquisition of a property.

As at 31st March 2024 SERICC total funds were £1,625,894 which included restricted funds of £23,554, designated funds of £1,008,386 and unrestricted funds of £593,954.

Any surplus funds will be used to increase capacity by recruiting new staff for both central services and frontline staff.

Due to the nature of SERICC's work, particularly with vulnerable clients, it is vital specialist counselling, support and advocacy services are completed with each individual client in a time sensitive manner, particularly for clients who have reported to the police and are awaiting criminal justice outcomes. These individuals, and in particular children, can wait up to eighteen months or longer from reporting the offence to the police to attendance in court. Since the disruption to the Criminal Justice System this has extended to end of 2026 – beginning of 2027.

Service development and staff recruitment is affected by lack of funding certainty causing multiple organisational problems including employment issues such as posts being vacant due to short-term or fixed-term contracts. The charity needs reserves to evidence sound financial management, particularly when applying for grants and contracts and can demonstrate reliable services or funding over the longer term. As lead partner in the Essex Partnership, reserves are held to ensure payments can be made in advance to partners to ensure seamless service delivery. This has been particularly challenging due to delayed payments or part year awards for funding paid in significant arrears.

Future Developments

- Continuing to build on the success of a designated venue for children and families' services and opportunities for diversifying income streams, SERICC will be integrating service user questionnaires to ensure areas of development will be undertaken.
- SERICC will proactively seek to income generate to future proof the delivery of services.
- SERICC will be increasing its capital fund to a more realistic figure. SERICC will take advice on investments and opportunities and Trustees will only act on professional advice about any potential property investments.

Fundraising

The charity has not undertaken any significant fundraising activities with the public in the year but has welcomed donations from local individuals and organisations which goes towards the SERICC 'hardship' fund which is used when service users face economic or other adversities. This includes supporting families in emergency accommodation or supplying emergency food and clothing, and transport. SERICC also ensures interpreters are available for service users and meets this cost with this fund.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charity that merged with South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre and incorporated with the Charity Commission on 9th December 2019.

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), the objects of the Charity as detailed in the SERICC Constitution are:

- to relieve sickness and distress amongst those affected by any form of sexual violence and abuse, particularly, but not limited, to women and girls and the community in Essex and the surrounding areas within East Anglia, and including the families and friends of those affected and others affected who are in need, in particular by the provision of counselling and support for such persons; and
- to advance education of the public in the subject of sexual violence and abuse, including by but not limited to, the provision of training and publication of information and guidance.

Recruitment and appointment of the Board of Trustees

SERICC is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of no less than three and no more than twelve Trustees with a range of skills, knowledge and experience. Trustees that hold honorary positions serve for 12 months, after which they must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets on a regular basis and is responsible for the ongoing viability, strategic development and direction of the organisation. Trustees hold overall responsibility for the organisation's continued success, it is vital that its Trustees have the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to carry out this function. Trustees are encouraged to take part in all appropriate training opportunities, to continue to develop their skills and update their knowledge of legal requirements, funding issues and other developments and finance information is shared. Board meetings continue to take place virtually. Information from the Charity Commission publications and the Commission's guidance is distributed.

The SERICC Board of Trustees confirms that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

Organisational structure

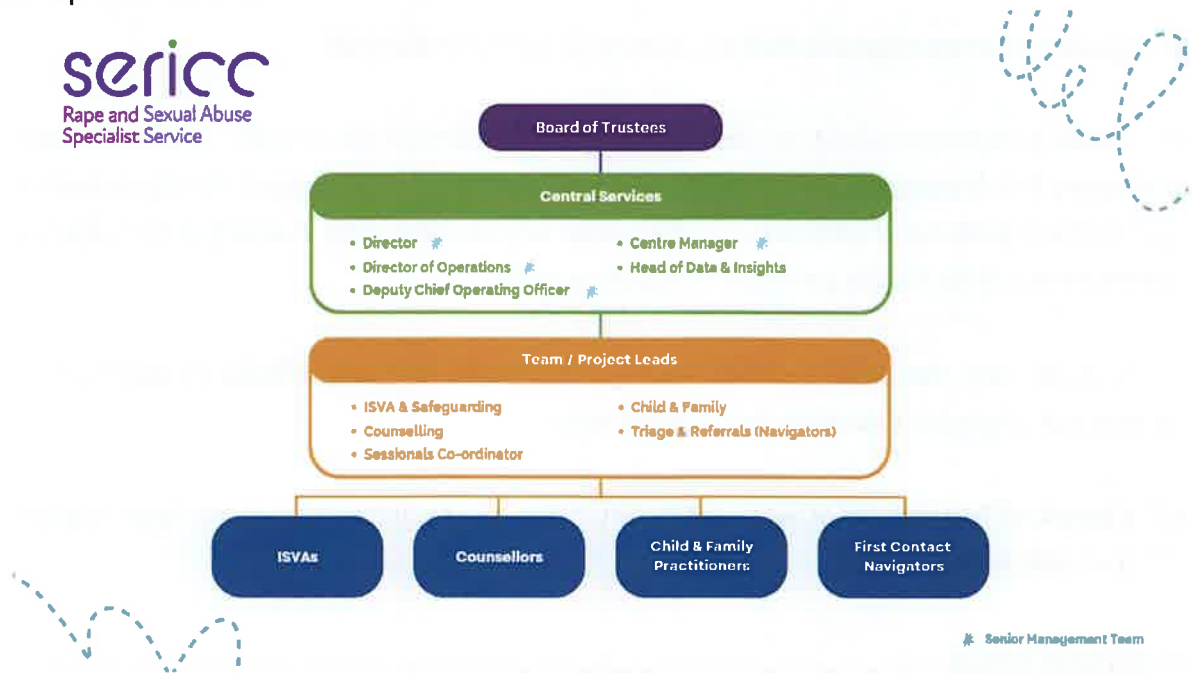
SERICC is a South Essex based charity providing essential services to individuals who have experienced any form of sexual violence and child sexual abuse. A range of specialist services are provided in Thurrock, Brentwood, Southend and Harlow with hub outreach sites across the districts,

schools and colleges, hospitals and voluntary sector buildings and are delivered by professional and experienced staff.

SERICC’s primary beneficiaries are individuals affected by any form of sexual violence and sexual abuse, particularly, but not limited, to women and girls and the community in South Essex and the surrounding areas.

Secondary beneficiaries include the community, organisations and agencies that access awareness raising relating to the impact of sexual abuse and violence.

SERICC is a needs-led service in which the needs of service users influence the strategic and operational development of the organisation. Service users play a central role through the provision of ongoing individual feedback and evaluation. SERICC also facilitates focus groups with service users to ensure their views and opinions are included in the development and monitoring process. SERICC Operational Chart:



The central services team including Director, Sheila Coates MBE, Operations Manager Lee Eggleston OBE and Deputy Chief Operations Officer, Rebekah Brant provide the overall management of SERICC.

Team Leaders are in place to provide daily line management of staff teams. SERICC staff receive individual and peer supervision in recognition of the impact of working with trauma and adhering to professional code of ethics. In addition to providing clinical support, supervision also plays an important role in the continued professional development of all staff, ensuring they are up to date

with therapeutic and other developments in the sector and related fields. SERICC is committed to the ongoing professional and personal development of all its staff and volunteers (including Trustees), of which training, and supervision is an integral part. The training needs of all staff are closely monitored to ensure that individuals and the staff team are provided with opportunities to develop or improve their practice and stay up to date with new developments, legislation and procedures.

Remuneration

SERICC is committed to careful management of its charity funds. In so doing, it ensures the greatest effectiveness in delivering its charitable objectives and meeting the needs of service users. After undertaking a benchmarking exercise with LEEP consultancy, SERICC have established salary bandings and descriptions for the majority of posts, and salary allocations are based on the requirements of the post, including experience of staff and the funding available for the post. Cost of living increases are considered in line with any NJC recommendations and in the future an inflationary rise will be applied to salaries in 2024. The annual accounts disclose the number of staff receiving salary of more than £60,000 per annum, in bands of £10,000.

SERICC makes pension contributions equivalent to a minimum of 3% of gross salaries on behalf of its employees. Employees are Auto Enrolled into the scheme on employment. The contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities on an accrual basis. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

SERICC Trustees are not paid for their work as a Trustee but are offered reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses should they arise.

SERICC's Board of Trustees takes legal, HR or any other advice, when necessary, from experts that SERICC contracts with.

Organisational values

SERICC's services are evidenced based. Recording (monitoring) the service delivery outcomes and outputs inform service delivery and measures performance. Monitoring informs all aspects of the organisation, from service gaps in provision, governance and any changes to service provision. SERICC offer creative and innovative services that best meets the needs of service users and the local communities in which SERICC serves.

At the time of this report SERICC employs 27 staff and contracts with sessional counsellors and consultants who have specific areas of expertise, when necessary.

INVESTMENT POLICY

SERICC Trustees, where necessary, will seek advice from an independent financial advisor regarding any future financial investments. Should the national financial position change and stabilise, the charity would reassess its position whilst continuing to adhere to the Charity Commission guidance on investments.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and 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 charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

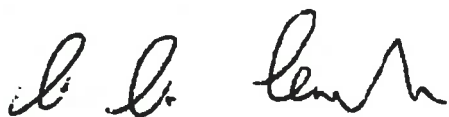
- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2019 (FR 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

Approved by the Trustees on 25th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Alison Curnick
Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SERICC (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 23 and 24, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the entity, including but not limited to the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP;
- Enquiry of management, those charge with governance, and the entity's legal advisors around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Review of legal costs to ascertain the nature of costs and possible related non-compliance;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

44/54 Orsett Road
Grays
Essex



ROWLAND HALL (Statutory Auditor)
Chartered Certified Accountants
and Registered Auditors

27th September 2024

Rowland Hall is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SERICC

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Total Funds to 31.03.24 £	Total Funds to 31.03.23 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies:						
Donations		-	-	8,649	8,649	6,991
Grants	3	-	-	56,828	56,828	63,142
Charitable activities:						
Grants and contracts	3	492,458	-	2,226,189	2,718,647	2,672,462
Fees for services & direct work	4	-	-	91,500	91,500	4,247
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-
Investments	5	-	-	20,847	20,847	5,121
Other Income		-	-	-	-	1,000
Total Income		492,458	-	2,404,013	2,896,471	2,752,963
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	6	490,999	-	2,397,455	2,888,454	2,827,165
Total Expenditure		490,999	-	2,397,455	2,888,454	2,827,165
Net Income/(expenditure)		1,459	-	6,558	8,017	(74,202)
Transfers between funds		2,525	-	(2,525)	-	-
Net movement in funds:		3,984	-	4,033	8,017	(74,202)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		19,570	1,008,386	589,921	1,617,877	1,692,079
Total funds carried forward		23,554	1,008,386	593,954	1,625,894	1,617,877

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

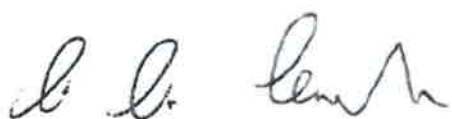
SERICC

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

	Notes	31.03.2024 £	31.03.2023 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible assets	12	-	916
Total fixed assets		-	916
Current assets:			
Debtors	13	186,048	201,319
Cash at bank and in hand		1,497,805	1,486,290
Total current assets		1,683,853	1,687,609
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within one year	14	57,959	70,648
Net current assets		1,625,894	1,616,961
Total assets less current liabilities and Net assets		1,625,894	1,617,877
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		23,554	19,570
Unrestricted income funds:			
General fund		593,954	589,921
Designated fund		1,008,386	1,008,386
Total unrestricted funds		1,602,340	1,598,307
Total charity funds		1,625,894	1,617,877

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 25th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Alison Curnick
Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Total Funds to 31.03.24 £	Total Funds to 31.03.23 £
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	22	(9,332)	(93,038)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		20,847	5,121
Purchase of equipment		-	-
		20,847	5,121
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		20,847	5,121
Cash flows from financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		11,515	(87,917)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,486,290	1,574,207
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		1,497,805	1,486,290
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		1,497,805	1,486,290
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.03.24		1,497,805	1,486,290

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. General Information and Basis of Preparation

SERICC is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England. The address of the charity is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Report of the Trustees on pages 2 to 25.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention in accordance with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the financial currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

b. Fund Accounting

Restricted funds comprise grants made for specific purposes as laid down by the donor (e.g. for specific projects). Expenditure that meets these specific purposes is matched against grant income and analysed over the appropriate cost. Further details regarding restricted funds are provided in note 16.

Unrestricted funds comprise other income received or generated for charitable purposes but which may be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been earmarked by the Trustees for a purpose.

c. Income Recognition

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the fund, any performance conditions attached have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income generated from contracts for services is recognised as earned.

Investment income and all other incoming resources are accounted for in the period in which they are received.

d. Expenditure Recognition

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

The charity is not registered for VAT and all expenses are inclusive of VAT where appropriate.

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. per capita, floor space or estimated usage as set out in notes 6, 7 and 8.

e. Fixed Assets

Depreciation on fixed assets has been calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life at a rate of 25% on written down values. It is the charity's policy to capitalise assets costing in excess of £10,000.

f. Staff and Pension Costs

Counselling staff costs are allocated in the Statement of Financial Activities on a direct basis per individual employees and time spent on charitable activities. Other non-counselling staff costs are allocated on the basis of estimated time and resources expended by the charity overall on each charitable activity. Pension costs are accounted for in the period to which they relate and are similarly allocated on a direct basis.

g. Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease.

h. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discount due.

i. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

j. Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there is a risk of financial uncertainty due to a significant contract with the Police and Crime Commissioner potentially coming to an end at the end of March 2025. The Charity has varied funding streams as well as contingency plans and reserves in place should the contract not be renewed. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

2. JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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 revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

3. GRANT AND CONTRACT INCOME

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	31.03.24 Total £	31.03.23 Total £
Donations and legacies:				
Thurrock Borough Council				
Development Fund	-	56,828	56,828	63,142
	-	56,828	56,828	63,142

In the year to 31.03.24, of the grant income classified as Donations and Legacies income, £nil (2023: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £56,828 (2023: £63,142) adding to unrestricted funds.

Income from Charitable activities:

Thurrock Borough Council				
Children and Families	-	5,000	5,000	10,000
YP SV Counsellor Children & Families	-	71,000	71,000	72,000
Housing Related Support	-	38,772	38,772	41,746
Brighter Futures	-	49,988	49,988	44,988
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	43,170	-	43,170	43,170
Flexible New Burdens Fund	10,364	-	10,364	20,729
Essex Police Crime Commissioner				
Sexual Violence Counselling	-	1,516,138	1,516,138	1,758,488
MOJ ISVA	44,933	531,791	576,724	531,791
National Lottery Community Fund	393,991	-	393,991	82,050
Rape Crisis England & Wales				
External Relations Programme	-	13,500	13,500	33,500
Essex Community Foundation (CARA)	-	-	-	16,000
Basildon Borough Council	-	-	-	18,000
	492,458	2,226,189	2,718,647	2,672,462

In the year to 31.03.24, of the grant and contract income classified as Income from Charitable Activities, £492,458 (2023: £179,949) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £2,226,189 (2023: £2,492,513) adding to unrestricted funds.

£2,367,984 (2023: £2,604,054) of government grant and contract income was received for delivering charitable activities and operational costs. There were no other contingencies or unfulfilled conditions attaching to the government grants.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

4. INCOME FOR SERVICES & DIRECT WORK

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.24	31.03.23
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
MOJ Contract (BOLD)	-	76,260	76,260	-
Rape Crisis – Hosting and Other Fees	-	2,280	2,280	3,947
Counselling Sessions	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-	300
Other Services & Direct Work	-	12,960	12,960	-
	-	91,500	91,500	4,247

In the year to 31.03.24, of the Fees for Services and Direct Work income, £nil (2023: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £91,500 (2023: £4,247) adding to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.24	31.03.23
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Bank Interest	-	20,847	20,847	5,121

In the year to 31.03.24, of the Investment income, £nil (2023: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £20,847 (2023: £5,121) adding to unrestricted funds.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.24 Total £	31.03.23 Total £
Counselling Staff Salary costs	736,903	125,575	862,478	870,416
Counselling Consultants	33,919	-	33,919	39,225
Staff training	6,275	697	6,972	14,493
Travel & Subsistence	15,064	1,674	16,738	8,252
Supervision/Safeguarding	9,716	1,079	10,795	10,175
Health & Wellbeing	1,454	-	1,454	2,583
Service User Costs	622	-	622	2,743
Counselling Telephone costs	18,629	2,070	20,699	26,444
Language & Sign Interpreters	3,488	-	3,488	7,158
Essex Partnership payments	1,466,132	-	1,466,132	1,334,449
Governance costs (note 7)	271,661	67,916	339,577	328,903
Support costs (note 8)	87,906	37,674	125,580	182,324
	2,651,769	236,685	2,888,454	2,827,165

Of the £2,888,454 (2023: £2,827,165) expenditure in the year to 31.03.24 £490,999 (2023: £167,304) was charged to restricted funds and £2,397,455 (2023: £2,659,861) to unrestricted funds.

Costs relating directly to charitable activities have been allocated between the two key activities on a direct basis or on a per capita staff basis depending on the nature of the expense. Governance and support costs have been apportioned as detailed in notes 7 and 8 respectively.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

7. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy	Prevention & Education	31.03.24 Total	31.03.23 Total
	£	£	£	£
Non-Counselling Staff Salary costs	194,905	48,726	243,631	227,351
Payroll/Accounting fees	4,334	1,084	5,418	13,618
Audit fee	5,678	1,420	7,098	6,900
Legal & Professional fees	30,761	7,690	38,451	39,529
Consultancy	28,800	7,200	36,000	36,000
Project Monitoring	1,760	440	2,200	-
Insurances	5,423	1,356	6,779	5,505
	271,661	67,916	339,577	328,903

Governance costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities based on the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy	Prevention & Education	31.03.24 Total	31.03.23 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rent	37,016	15,864	52,880	57,013
Heat and Light	3,078	1,319	4,397	4,517
Cleaning, Repairs and maintenance	9,384	4,021	13,405	38,465
IT Equipment & software	12,756	5,467	18,223	29,502
IT Support & development costs	11,522	4,938	16,460	37,453
Printing, stationery & postage	7,010	3,005	10,015	8,577
Publications, subscriptions & publicity	4,467	1,915	6,382	3,180
Non-Counselling Telephone costs	1,091	467	1,558	1,990
Hospitality & refreshments	673	288	961	993
General expenses	-	-	-	-
Depreciation & Loss on Disposal	641	275	916	304
Bank charges	268	115	383	330
	87,906	37,674	125,580	182,324

Support costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities on the basis of the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

9. STAFF COSTS AND KEY PERSONNEL

	31.03.24	31.03.23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	978,925	977,036
Social Security Costs	101,669	95,344
Pension costs	25,515	25,387
	1,106,109	1,097,767

Average head count (number of staff employed)	28	27
---	----	----

During the year, the number of higher paid employees was as follows:

£60,000-£69,999	1	1
£70,000-£79,999	-	-

Total redundancy/termination payments amounted to £nil (2023: £26,497).

The Trustees received no remuneration nor were they reimbursed for any expenses during the year (2023: £nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees, the Director and Operations Manager. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £125,127 (2023: £120,182).

10. PENSIONS

The charity offers a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of employees. The assets of the scheme are administered by an independent pension provider, Royal London.

Contributions are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate. The charge for the year was £25,515 (2023: £25,387).

11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	31.03.24	31.03.23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Audit fees	7,098	6,900
Other services	5,418	3,780
	12,516	10,680

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

12. FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
COST	
As at 1 st April 2023	2,034
Additions	-
Disposals	(2,034)
As at 31 st March 2024	-
 DEPRECIATION	
As at 1 st April 2023	1,118
Charge	-
Eliminated on disposals	(1,118)
As at 31 st March 2024	-
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 st March 2024	-
At 31 st March 2023	916

13. DEBTORS

	31.03.24 Total £	31.03.23 Total £
Grants and fees receivable	22,652	48,065
Prepayments and accrued income	25,354	4,315
Other debtors	138,042	148,939
	186,048	201,319
	186,048	201,319

Other debtors comprise interest free loans of £138,042 of which £108,454 is recoverable after more than one year.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

14. CREDITORS	31.03.24	31.03.23
	Total	Total
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,056	8,922
Accruals and deferred income	16,370	28,318
Other taxation and social security	31,533	33,408
	57,959	70,648
	57,959	70,648

15. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance B/f	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance C/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	-	43,170	(45,695)	2,525	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	393,991	(393,896)	-	95
Thurrock Borough Council New Burdens Flexible Fund	19,570	10,364	(6,475)	-	23,459
MOJ ISVA (Additional)	-	44,933	(44,933)	-	-
	19,570	492,458	(490,999)	2,525	23,554
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	858,386	-	-	-	858,386
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	1,008,386	-	-	-	1,008,386
Unrestricted Funds					
	589,921	2,404,013	(2,397,455)	(2,525)	593,954
	1,617,877	2,896,471	(2,888,454)	-	1,625,894
	1,617,877	2,896,471	(2,888,454)	-	1,625,894

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

15. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Analysis of movement in funds-previous year

	Balance Transferred £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	-	43,170	(48,082)	4,912	-
National Lottery Fund	19,629	82,050	(102,064)	385	-
Essex Community Foundation	-	16,000	(16,000)	-	-
Basildon Borough Council	-	18,000	-	(18,000)	-
Thurrock Borough Council New Burdens Flexible Fund	-	20,728	(1,158)	-	19,570
	19,629	179,948	(167,304)	(12,703)	19,570
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	791,748	-	-	66,638	858,386
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	941,748	-	-	66,638	1,008,386
Unrestricted Funds	730,702	2,573,015	(2,659,861)	(53,935)	589,921
	1,692,079	2,752,963	(2,827,165)	-	1,617,877

The details of each restricted fund are provided in note 16.

The details of designated funds are provided in note 18.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

16. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

- Better Care Fund

Grant funding and contracts have been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of a Thurrock sexual abuse and violence counsellor.

The National Lottery Community Fund

The First Contact Navigator team which provides the triage support both to service users and professionals across the Essex Partnership was successfully funded to start the project from 1st April 2023 for three years.



Thurrock Borough Council:

New Burdens Flexible Fund for providing practical support to victims who have experienced sexual and domestic violence.



Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

During the year the MOJ made additional ISVA funding available to increase staffing capacity.



17. PRINCIPLE UNRESTRICTED FUNDING SOURCES

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

This core contract enables the Essex Rape Crisis services to provide specialist services for wrap around counselling and ISVA services. As the lead partner for the PFCC contract, SERICC ensures contract compliance on behalf of the Essex Rape Crisis Centres (SOSRC and CARA). This contract is in place until March 2025.



In addition to the PFCC core contract, additional funding has been made available to increase capacity, meeting operational costs, and funding ISVA and counselling services to adults, children, young people.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

- Rape Support Fund
- ISVA funding
- Domestic And Sexual Violence Fund



MOJ Men's Fund

This fund has enabled SERICC to work with men and boys in South East Essex by contracting with a dedicated male counsellor. This fund ceased 31st March 2024.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW): Policy and Strategic Work

Delivering national policy and strategic work on behalf of Rape Crisis England & Wales. This includes responding to national consultations, attending national stakeholder meetings and ensuring that policy is informed by frontline practice, victims and survivors experiences. This fund ceased 31st March 2024.



SERICC provide support to RCEW member centres in relation to their use of the Data Performance Management system. This contract ends July 2024.

BOLD January 2023

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is leading a group of government organisations in a programme to link data on vulnerable people. Named the Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD) programme, it is aimed at providing more joined up services and improving the evidence base for policy creation and operational decision making. This contract started in January 2023 and ended on 31st August 2023.



Thurrock Borough Council:

- Brighter Futures contract for providing Early Interventions with children and families
- New Burdens Fund for providing support to victims who have experienced sexual domestic abuse
- New Burdens Flexible Fund for providing emotional and practical support to victims who have experienced domestic violence
- Young Peoples Counselling contract
- Development grant for operational and direct staff costs
- Strategic and operational grant for involvement in strategic and operational meetings ceased in the autumn of 2023.
- Independent Housing support for providing advocacy and support to enable individuals to live independently.



18. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Contingency Fund is maintained for the potential expenditure that would be incurred in the event that funding is withdrawn from SERICC. At the period end, the Trustees reviewed the level of the Contingency Fund and took the decision that this level of contingency was appropriate as of 31st March 2024.

The Capital fund is for future and additional capital costs that may include additional premises in order to deliver services effectively in the community.

Whilst there are no existing or pending claims against the charity, the Trustees have taken advice and maintained a designated Legal fund as a cautionary measure in order to meet any legal and professional fees and ancillary costs that may arise in the future as a result of any potential claim against the charity or in connection with its operations.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 31.03.24
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	29,785	1,008,386	645,682	1,683,853
Current Liabilities	(6,231)	-	(51,728)	(57,959)
	23,554	1,008,386	593,954	1,625,894

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds – Previous year

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 31.03.23
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	916	916
Current assets	21,190	1,008,386	658,033	1,687,609
Current Liabilities	(1,620)	-	(69,028)	(70,648)
	19,570	1,008,386	589,921	1,617,877

20. COMMITMENTS

At 31st March 2024, the charity was committed to three formal premises leases.

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:-

	31.03.24 £	31.3.23 £
Not later than one year	22,886	39,560
Later than one and not later than five years	32,447	55,334
	55,333	94,894

The financial statements for the period include lease payments recognised as an expense of £39,309.

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

At 31st March 2024, an amount of £138,042 was owed to SERICC by ICENA, an entity in which certain key management personnel of SERICC are directors. This loan is interest free and repayable in instalments, as agreed between the two parties.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.03.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Net movement in funds	8,017	(74,202)
Add back depreciation charge	916	304
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(20,847)	(5,121)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	15,271	(41,118)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(12,689)	27,099
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	(9,332)	(93,038)

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At	Cashflows	Total
	01.04.23		31.3.24
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	1,486,290	11,515	1,497,805
Total Net Debt	1,486,290	11,515	1,497,805

SERICC

England & Wales - Charity number 1186836

Accounts



sericc

Rape and Sexual Abuse
Specialist Service

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

CONTENTS

	Page
Charity Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Board of Trustees	2
Report of the Independent Auditors	25
Statement of Financial Activities	28
Balance Sheet	29
Statement of Cash Flows	30
Notes to the Financial Statements	31

**CHARITY REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**



Charity Name: SERICC

Charity Registration Number: 1186836

Registered Office and Address: SERICC
The Hall
West Street
Grays
Essex RM17 6LL

Board of Trustees: A Curnick (Chair)
G Harrington (Secretary)
M Heine
K Dobson

Senior Management: Sheila Coates MBE, Director
Lee Eggleston OBE, Operational Manager

Auditors Rowland Hall
Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors
44/54 Orsett Road
Grays
Essex RM17 5ED

Bankers CAF BANK Ltd Barclays Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue 9 High Street
Kings Hill Grays
West Malling Essex
Kent ME19 4JQ RM17 6NB

Solicitors Taylor Vinters
Merlin Place
Milton Road
Cambridge CB4 0DP

HR Advisors Moore Kingston Smith HR Consultancy Limited
9 Appold Street
London EC2A 2AP

Chair woman's report

I would like to congratulate the SERICC team on another successful year in providing essential and life changing services to those in need. Our dedicated staff team has shown their commitment, and expertise in delivering specialist frontline services to 1,895 individuals. SERICC's Director was awarded a Commendation by the Home Secretary and two members of the ISVAA team were recognised with awards given by Essex police for their diligence and safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children.

SERICC's recovery from government COVID restrictions, the long-lasting effect of the response to COVID and the cost of living crisis has been extremely challenging. Staff have worked tirelessly to reduce waiting lists and ensure that waiting times became shorter. Over the last year we have seen 11 starters and leavers in the staff team as funds came to an end this financial year. We were successful in increasing capacity for our Essex Rape Crisis partnership (Synergy Essex) and ICENA through a National Lottery award. We refurbished newly leased premises in Thurrock and Harlow, dedicated to providing services to children, young people and families, with exciting developments on the horizon.

I would like to thank our team of trustees for their ongoing reliability in supporting SERICC through online meetings and emails while it has forged ahead with the development of new projects and in continuing to consolidate and invest in our existing service provision, always with the focus on the individuals who come to us for support. The ongoing need for long term funding remains front and centre for the organisation.

We look forward to 2023 and what opportunities it brings to take SERICC forward and thrive.

A. Curnick

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the period April 2022 to 31st March 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts 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 published on 16th July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2nd February 2016).

TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- A Curnick (Chair)
- M Heine
- G Harrington (Secretary)
- K Dobson

SERICC provides specialist services to anyone in South and West Essex who is experiencing, or who has experienced, any form of sexual violence and abuse at any time in their life. Specialised services are offered to parents, carers and supporters.

Sexual violence is a term that includes any sexual behaviours that are unwanted or that happen without a person's consent. SERICC uses a wide definition of sexual violence and abuse and includes rape, sexual assault, domestic sexual violence and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, non-contact online grooming, viewing and making indecent images of children.

“

Before using this service I was in a very dark place and could not see a way out. I wanted to die everyday and felt worthless. Now I am happy and becoming my old self I'm enjoying life and can move forward and be excited about my future, I could not be more grateful for your service.

I am able to believe in myself and to actually like myself again. My therapist was brilliant and amazing - I owe her so much. I cannot praise this experience enough. It was life changing to me and I cannot thank you enough

”

SERICC uses an evidenced based approach to providing high-quality sexual violence services including:

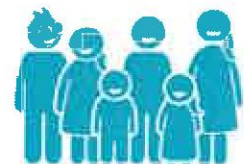
- Children, young people and family's services – preventative, educative and therapeutic work, working with families to build emotional resilience and physical well-being and safety planning
- Emotional support services – telephone triage, early support providing information on coping strategies, self-esteem, recovery, confidence building and self-care
- Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Advisers (ISVAAs) provide emotional and specialist practical support and information to victims and survivors of sexual violence who have reported to the police or are considering reporting to the police.
- Specialist sexual violence therapeutic interventions – one-to-one counselling, pre-trial therapy.

The impact of sexual violence and abuse often results in low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and mental health problems. Many individuals who contact us share their feelings of self-blame, shame, guilt and find it difficult to speak of their experiences. Sexual violence counselling, support and advocacy is delivered in an empathic sensitive environment which provide practical and emotional support and works with individuals in regaining control over their lives and improvements to health and well-being.

Below is a summary of activities:

Child and Family Services

SERICC provides an early intervention service to parents / carers whose children have experienced sexual violence and/or where the family are engaged with Thurrock Council social care. The Brighter Futures programme offers an integrated and intensive support service to equip families to learn and apply parenting skills that develop resourcefulness and resilience while strengthening positive relationships with their children. The Brighter Futures Programme and Young People counselling service is funded by Thurrock Council for Thurrock residents. **76** children received **340** face to face sessions.



Specialist sexual violence therapeutic interventions

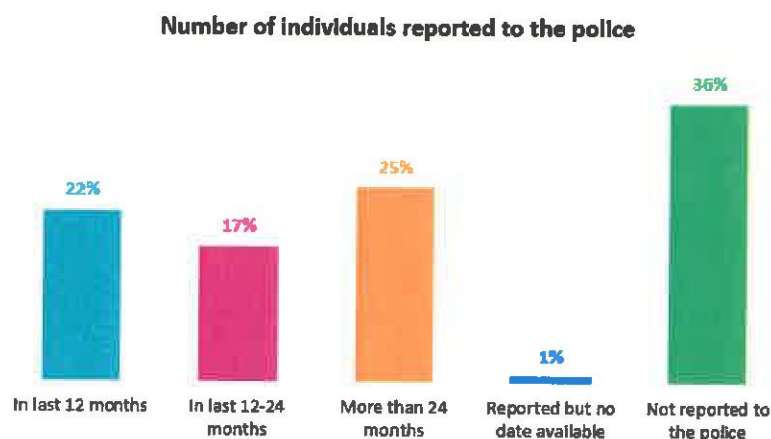
SERICC's counselling service has responded to **21,531** counselling related contacts and activities including telephone calls, emails/ letters and meetings. With the year-on-year increase in take-up of services, SERICC are committed to ensuring that as many individuals as possible can access services without lengthy waiting lists. SERICC collates feedback to demonstrate outcomes which influence policy and practice in the services they receive from SERICC and other agencies.

SERICC worked with **1,069** new referrals in the last year whilst working with **1,895** individuals who had **1,362** dependants. Individuals were offered **7,119** in person face-to-face sexual violence counselling sessions and **2,720** ISVA and advocacy sessions.

Independent Sexual Violence Accredited Advisors (ISVAAs)

The ISVAA service provides an essential specialist support to those who choose to report sexual offences to the police. ISVAAs ensure that individuals are fully informed whilst going through the Criminal Justice System including initial and ongoing police investigations and support through the courts process. The ISVAA service works in close partnership with Essex police and Oakwood Place, Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

There has been considerable disruption to the Criminal Justice System due to backlog in cases increasing the already lengthy delays. ISVAA's provide accompaniment to court and police related appointments, sexual health services, general health and well-being services.

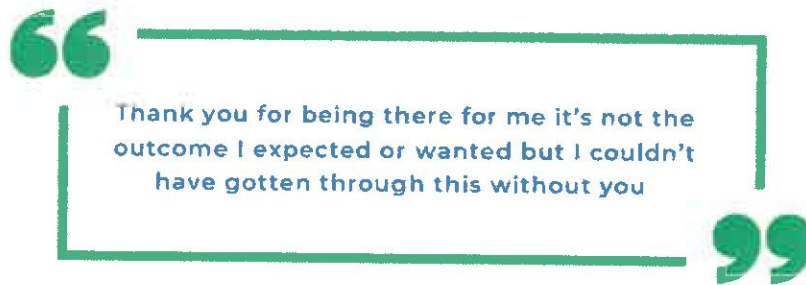


thank you for coming to court it really helps knowing you're there



Additional services include:

- Criminal Justice System information and dedicated support
- Sexual violence legal information and accompaniment to appointments
- Housing support, signposting and information
- Information about criminal injuries compensation applications



There was a **45%** increase this year with **33,963** contacts relating to advocacy for ISVAA clients.

This year, two of the staff members who are in the ISVAA team received special awards from the police celebrating their expertise, safeguarding skills and dedication to victims and survivors.

Emotional support services

There has also been a significant increase in the number of **new referrals** who self-reported multiple mental health and health needs:



613 individuals stated they are experiencing mental health difficulties



126 individuals stated they have a learning disability



165 individuals stated they have a physical disability



272 individuals stated they have a diagnosed long-term illness

SERICC delivered the triage service on behalf of the Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres and provided **1,127** First meeting sessions and **11,157** assessment contacts on behalf of SERICC.

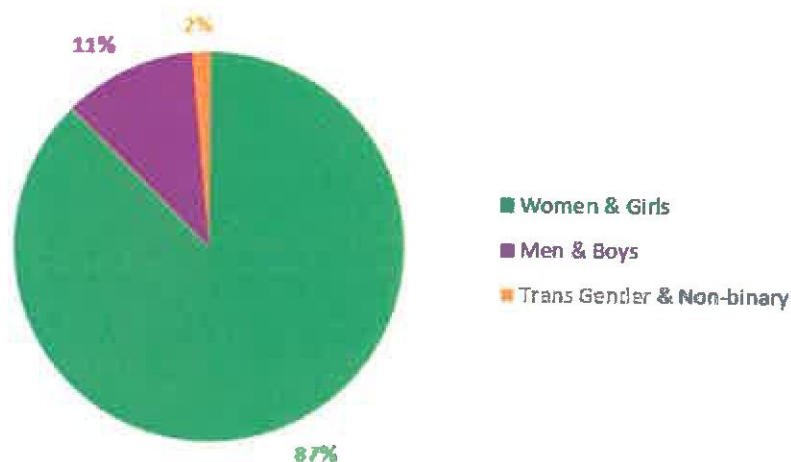
Service User Demographics

SERICC has a bespoke Data Performance Management System (DPMS) that collates detailed anonymous sexual violence statistical records and data in line with data protection legislation to performance manage, inform service delivery, meet funding monitoring requirements and identify trends and patterns. In July 2022, SERICC recruited a data and insights officer to build the team for research and data informing projects.

Who uses our services?

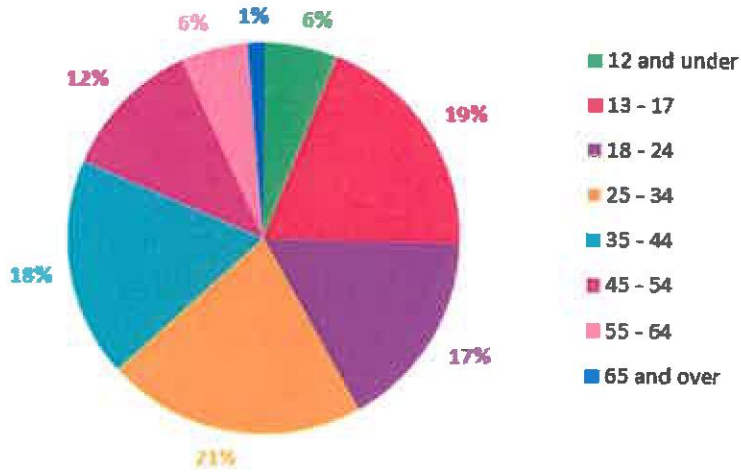
The vast majority of individuals supported continues to be women and girls, however the number of men and boys, trans gender and non-binary individuals has increased slightly compared to the previous year.

What are victims and survivors sex/gender identity?



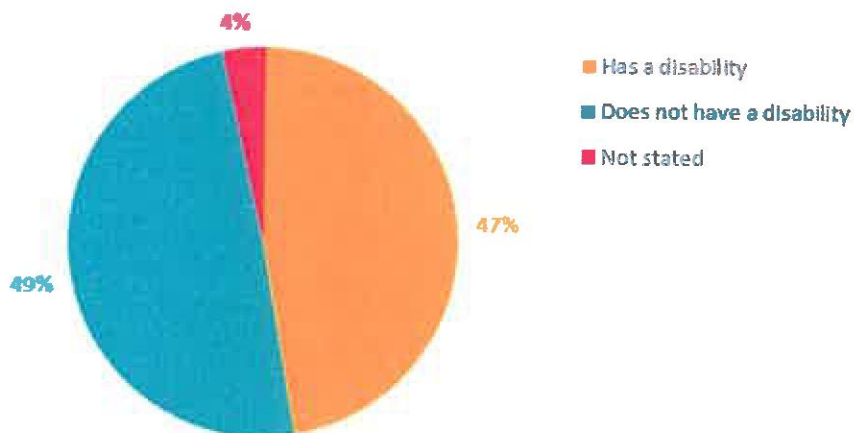
The largest proportion of individuals supported this year are aged between 18 and 54 **68%**, with children and young people (aged up to 17 years old) making up a further quarter of all individuals supported.

What is the age range of victims and survivors?



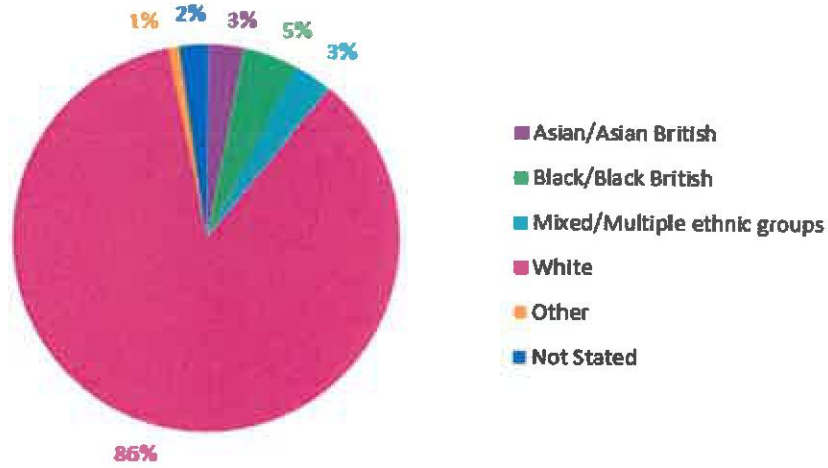
Nearly half, **47%**, of all individuals supported reported having one or more disability.

Do victims and survivors have disabilities?



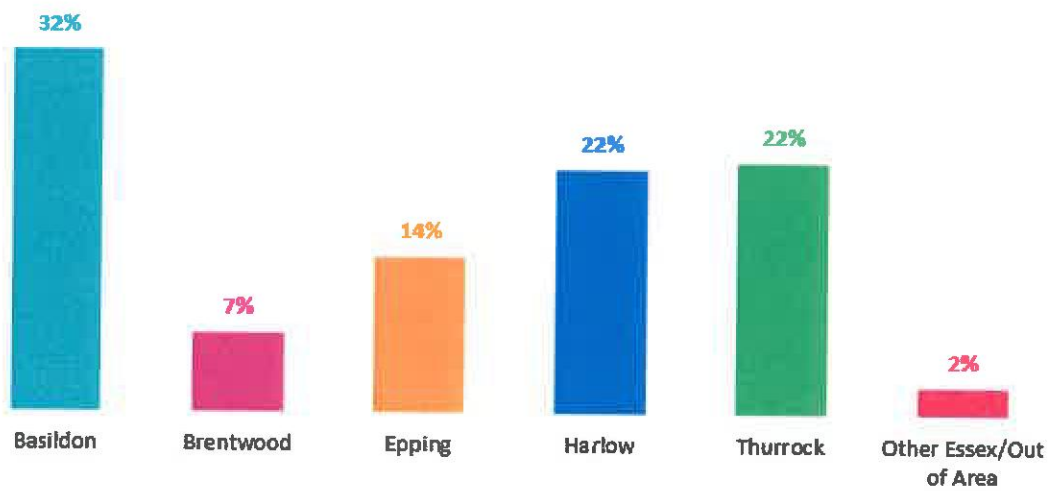
In line with the previous year Black, Asian and minoritised communities continue to make up **12%** of all individuals supported.

What is the ethnic composition of victims and survivors?



The number of individuals living in Harlow has increased by **3%**,

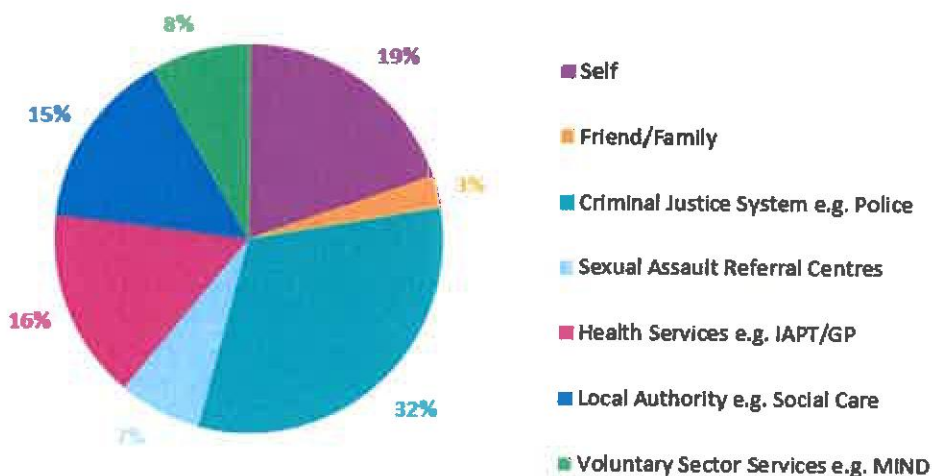
Where do victims and survivors live?



Access to services

Criminal Justice System, SARC and Health referrals were roughly the same as the previous year. However referrals from Local Authority and Voluntary Sector Services increased. There was a slight decrease in the number of Self and Friend/Family referrals.

How do victims and survivors access services? (referral source)

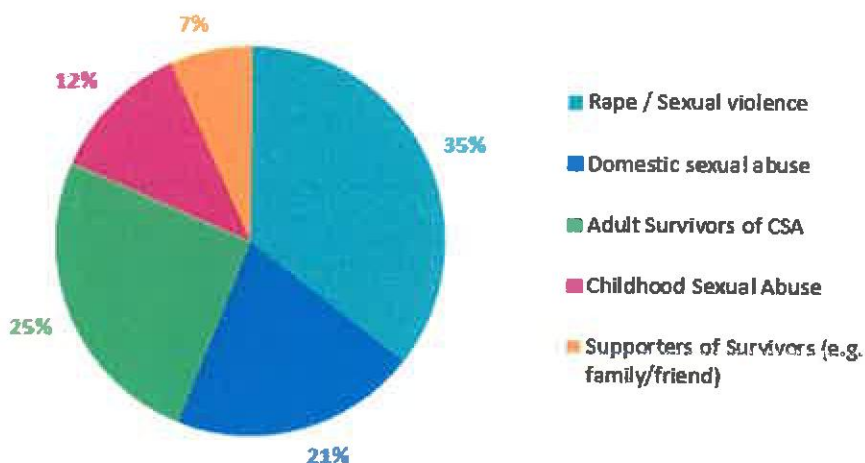


Experiences of Sexual Violence

At first point of contact **25%** of individuals supported are adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

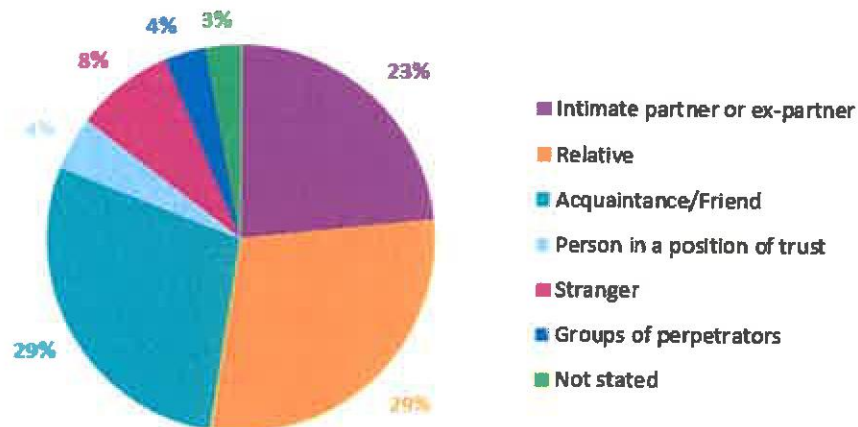
In line with the previous year **7%** of individuals supported are family members or friends of victims and survivors.

What are the presenting experiences of sexual violence?



Around **88%** of sexual crimes are committed by a known individual, in almost **1 in 3** cases that person is a family member, and just under **1 in 4** cases involve a current or ex-partner.

Who commits crimes of sexual violence?



Achievements and Performance

SERICC is committed to upholding the highest possible standards for all services, training and consultation. This was achieved through:

- Gathering information about the service users' experiences, through feedback, evaluation and outcome data
- Receiving stakeholder feedback (external organisations and public bodies)
- Providing ongoing staff supervision, peer and performance management
- The use of ongoing data collection followed by data analysis for service planning
- The provision of training for staff as part of ongoing professional development
- Strengthening and expanding of local, regional and national partnerships and joint working to ensure that service user needs and experience are included in policy and procedure

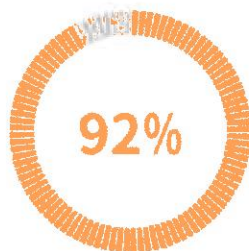


SERICC undertakes client surveys before and after services. The questionnaires are collated and the % reflects the overall total. A benchmark measure of 40% is used. Any % returned that is below this value are closely examined and changes made to service provision.



Satisfaction with the service

of closed cases said they were satisfied with the service and the support was sensitive to their needs and situation



More in control of their lives

of closed cases said they were now more confident and able to make decisions about their future



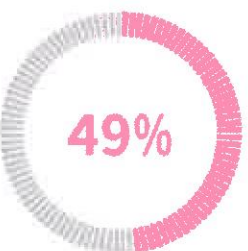
Better health and well being

of closed cases had better coping strategies and were able to recognise the impact of sexual violence on their lives



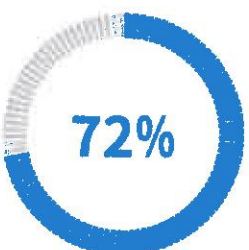
More able to access further support

of closed cases said they knew of resources and opportunities to access education or employment



More able to develop & maintain positive relationships

of closed cases stated they felt more able to trust people and build relationships



More able to assert their rights

of closed cases stated that they knew their rights and entitlements, which included engaging with the Criminal Justice System, family courts and/or civil proceedings

SERICC organises and participates in consultations and working groups relating to sexual violence and provides training and learning opportunities in which current research and good practice are disseminated to external practitioners and agencies. SERICC participated in Consultations/Working Groups with and undertook work related to these groups, including:

- East Region Crown Prosecution Service expert panels
- Essex Domestic Violence Board
- Essex Police Community Engagement Group
- Essex Strategic Group including sub groups relating to high profile cases
- Quarterly meetings with Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Reference Group
- Support and prevention work in Thurrock, Basildon and other Essex Schools
- Thurrock Children's Commissioned Services
- Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service Joint Strategic Forum, Stronger Together and Managed Networks
- Thurrock multi-agency Strategic Board for Violence Against Women & Girls

Partnership working

SERICC works in partnership with Southend on Sea Rape Crisis (SOSRC), and Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA). Together we form the partnership Synergy Essex to ensure services are accessible pan Essex. Centres offer services through the primary funding sources: the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Ministry of Justice. More victims who have experienced sexual violence in Essex are supported through the partnership and the provision of a triage system and access to immediate specialist support. The Ministry of Justice made additional funds available to increase capacity through increasing hours for counselling and ISVAA posts.

The Synergy Essex and SERICC websites have had new additions this year including animations and a dedicated area on the SERICC site for individuals to access resources online called Your Space. To date, more than **60** people have signed up with a satisfaction rate of **94%**.

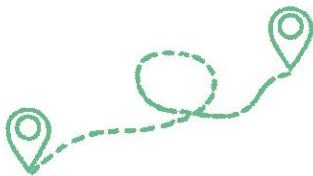


Social Impact and Social Value

SERICC works to the Rape Crisis England & Wales monitoring and evaluation framework that is aimed at reporting on the improvements to emotional and physical health after using SERICC services.

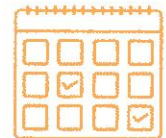
SERICC distributes and circulates information on educations, skills and self help via the SERICC website and outreach sites. The materials and information on SERICC's website, has the added benefits of increasing well-being and resilience and reducing isolation.

SERICC:



Provides subsidised travel for individuals who are experiencing financial hardship, issues food vouchers and supplies essential equipment such as baby equipment, school uniform and furniture.

Provides accompaniment to appointments, such as welfare reviews and medical appeals, which are funded by SERICC.



Undertakes advocacy work to enable individuals who are experiencing housing or debt difficulties to address and resolve problems, enabling them to live independently. Relieving pressure on statutory services e.g. housing, GPs, mental health services etc

Achievements and Performance Delivering Public Benefits

The core services provided by SERICC are the provision of sexual violence 'face to face' counselling, support, advocacy, telephone support and an information support and outreach work. The sexual violence counselling and ISVAA services are provided at the SERICC main office and its satellite base in Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service (Beehive Centre) and across outreach sites including schools across South and West Essex.

This year, SERICC have expanded the spaces to increase availability for service users to access the Latton Bush Centre in Harlow, providing services to adults, children and young people. This venue is offered to individuals living in Harlow and Epping.



SERICC work in partnership with SOS Rape Crisis (based in Southend town centre) to provide services to individuals in the Basildon, Southend and surrounding areas.

In July 2022, SERICC were given an opportunity to lease a house next to our main premises. Trustees and staff were consulted regarding expanding the services offered to children and families in a dedicated venue. This expansion ensures that services are available in an appropriate setting and provides opportunities for developing the service offer.



New counselling rooms ready for September 2022





The garden underwent a transformation and is now ready to provide a setting for growing veg and group work.



SERICC has undertaken an internal audit of policies, procedures and internal systems to ensure that all are robust and up to date. SERICC's internal policies and procedures are subject to an external annual review undertaken by Thurrock Children's and Adult Services Commissioners. This annual quality assurance review involves policy and procedures, staff and service user interviews. SERICC is professionally approved as a Rape Crisis Centre by Rape Crisis England & Wales.

SERICC provides the external relations on behalf of Rape Crisis England & Wales. Attendance and work related to the following groups

- Cabinet Office Rape Review
- Government Silver Command Group
- Home Office Child Sexual Abuse Stakeholder Group
- Home Office Safeguarding Group
- Home Office Third Sector Group
- Home Office Violence Against Women & Girls Stakeholder roundtable
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
- Ministry of Justice Rape Monitoring Group
- National Victims Commissioner Group
- NHS England Sexual Assault and Abuse Strategic Group

In September 2022 SERICC's Director Sheila Coates MBE received a commendation from the Home Secretary for her leadership in providing frontline services to victims and survivors of sexual abuse.



*Brave, inspirational and selfless acts recognised
with Home Secretary commendation*



In January 2023 SERICC staff received an award made by the High Sheriff of Essex in recognition of great and valuable services to the community. The High Sheriff for the county expressed the appreciation for activity and contribution in enhancing the life of the on behalf of the residents and community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity has completed the year with the aid of sound financial management and the support of both its staff and Trustees. The financial statements are reporting a deficit for the period as a result of the use of resources that the charity was unable to fully utilise in the previous financial year due to timing, recruitment or other reasons.

Principal Funding Sources

SERICC's main source of income is project-specific grants, contracts and Service Level Agreements include:

- Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Ministry of Justice
- NHS England
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Rape Crisis England and Wales
- Thurrock Council Better Care Fund
- Thurrock Council (Development Fund, Strategic Fund, Housing Related Support, Brighter Futures, Young People Counsellor)

These income sources are dependent on the ability and willingness of external agencies and government departments/local authorities to support the provision of specialist sexual violence services.

Risk Review

The level of income retained in reserves is based on a realistic assessment of the charity's future income needs and SERICC continues to be prudent in any expenditure. The current unpredictability of existing funding streams and the limited availability of new funding streams, specifically for sexual violence. Thurrock Borough Council was declared bankrupt and are under special measures from the Government and this may have implications for SERICC funding in the future.

The wider economic climate, fuel and energy increases and the overall cost of living crisis has impacted on our staff team which SERICC recognised and responded to by increases to salaries and a cost of living award. Premises that SERICC occupy have experienced increases in fuel costs and this has increased rent. SERICC is now directly responsible for the newly leased house and will need to have a dedicated budget for maintenance and associated costs. External funding does not have an inflationary rise in grant or contract agreements. The Board of Trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees recognise that the main external risk to the organisation is loss or reduction in funding. Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner awarded the tender to the Essex Partnership, led by SERICC, until March 2024. SERICC are meeting with the commissioners during 2023 to ascertain whether there will be a further one-year extension on this contract.

Internal financial controls, policy and procedures are in place to ensure compliance and are in line with the Charity Commission guidance on financial controls. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity. Quarterly monitoring reports to external funders ensure a consistent quality of delivery for the operational aspects of the charity.

External expertise has been commissioned regarding HR provided by Moore Kingston Smith, legal advice provided by Taylor Vinters and data protection and improving data security for the charity by A Jolly Consultancy. SERICC were certified as Cyber Essential Plus in March 2023.

The charity manages risks through reserves to maintain operations and services whilst contingency plans are implemented.

Reserves

The level of income retained in reserves is based on a realistic assessment of the charity's future income needs and SERICC continues to be prudent in any expenditure. The current unpredictability of existing funding streams and the reduction in the availability of new funding streams due to the economic climate remains a risk. The Trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity. SERICC are mindful of the wider economic climate and the likelihood of reduced levels of funding which may impact on reserves.

SERICC reserves policy is determined on an annual basis. The budget is monitored against actual expenditure on a quarterly basis. The Trustees recognise the need to ensure adequate operational costs are held in unrestricted reserves to account for contractual obligations to staff, risk management and any unanticipated reduction in income. This is set at the beginning of the financial year and is subject to review when staff levels and operational costs increase. The level set in relation to the year to 31st March 2023 was £680,027 for 26 weeks (6 months) running costs.

The level of reserves required is based on:

- An understanding of operating activities to be maintained
- Potential risks to staffing costs such as long-term staff illness or maternity leave
- Potential unanticipated need for new IT equipment
- Possible delays in restricted funding to on-going projects
- Potential risks of funding cuts
- Potentially reduced unrestricted funding

Amounts are set aside to meet the provision for an orderly winding-down of operations in the event of a significant adverse event that is outside the control of SERICC. This may include:

- Statutory redundancy payments
- Exiting contracts such as those for mobile phones, rent and broadband
- The continuation of an internet presence for a period of time
- Staff salary and expenses to oversee the winding down
- Any professional fees needed e.g. accountancy and legal

SERICC have agreed to designate funds for legal costs and a new property and will actively seek advice in relation to this in the next two years.

As at 31st March 2023 SERICC total funds were £1,617,877 which included restricted funds of £19,570, designated funds of £1,008,386 and unrestricted funds of £589,921.

Any surplus funds will be used to increase capacity by recruiting new staff for both central services and frontline staff.

Due to the nature of SERICC's work, particularly with vulnerable clients, it is vital counselling, support and advocacy services are completed with each individual client in a time sensitive manner, particularly for clients who have reported to the police and are awaiting criminal justice outcomes. These individuals, and in particular children, can wait up to eighteen months or longer from reporting the offence to the police to attendance in court. Since the disruption to the Criminal Justice System this has extended to nearly 4 years. Support work needs to continue throughout and after the criminal justice process ends.

Lack of certainty about future funding has ongoing significant impact on strategic short- and long-term planning and service delivery, causes multiple organisational problems including employment issues such as redundancy notices, short-term or fixed-term contracts and maintaining staff morale. The charity needs reserves to evidence sound financial management, particularly when applying for grants and contracts and can demonstrate reliable services or funding over the longer term. As lead partner in the Essex Partnership, reserves are held to ensure payments can be made in advance to partners to ensure seamless service delivery. This has been particularly challenging due to delayed payments or part year awards for funding paid in significant arrears.

Future Developments

- ★ As part of the SERICC internal review, SERICC are working with consultants to improve recruitment, retention, retirement and succession planning. This work is informing policy and practice and will be completed by August 2023.
- ★ With the exciting new designated venues for children and families' services and opportunities for diversifying income streams, SERICC will be conducting a service user questionnaire to explore areas of development and will work with a consultant to create a new web area specifically for children, young people and families. This work will be completed by October 2023.
- ★ SERICC leased a house in May 2022 to provide dedicated children and families services. Over the next two years SERICC will proactively seek to secure property to future proof the delivery of services. SERICC will be increasing its capital fund to a more realistic figure. SERICC will take advice on investments and opportunities and Trustees will only act on professional advice about any potential property investments.

Fundraising

The charity has not undertaken any significant fundraising activities in the year but has welcomed donations from local individuals and organisations. These unrestricted donations go towards meeting some of SERICC's organisations costs such as increased utility bills but more specifically go towards a 'hardship' fund which is used when emergency situations arise. This includes supporting families in emergency accommodation or supplying emergency food and clothing, transport and interpreting. SERICC also ensures interpreters are available for service users and meets this cost with this fund. This year SERICC successfully registered for Gift Aid.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charity that registered with the Charity Commission on 9th December 2019. The charity was established under a constitution that includes specific objects and powers. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Recruitment and appointment of the Board of Trustees

SERICC is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of no less than three and no more than twelve Trustees with a range of skills, knowledge and experience. Trustees that hold honorary positions serve for 12 months, after which they must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets on a regular basis and is responsible for the ongoing viability, strategic development and direction of the organisation. Trustees hold overall responsibility for the organisation's continued success, it is vital that its Trustees have the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to carry out this function. Trustees are encouraged to take part in all appropriate training opportunities, to continue to develop their skills and update their knowledge of legal requirements, funding issues and other developments and finance information is shared. Board meetings continue to take place virtually. Information from the Charity Commission publications and the Commission's guidance is distributed.

The SERICC Board of Trustees confirms that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

Organisational structure

SERICC is a South Essex based charity providing essential services to individuals who have experienced any form of sexual violence and child sexual abuse. A range of specialised services are provided in Thurrock, Brentwood, Southend and Harlow with hub outreach sites across the districts, schools and colleges, hospitals and voluntary sector buildings and are delivered by professional and experienced staff.

SERICC's primary beneficiaries are individuals affected by any form of sexual violence and sexual abuse, particularly, but not limited, to women and girls and the community in South Essex and the surrounding areas.

Secondary beneficiaries include the community, organisations and agencies that access awareness raising relating to the impact of sexual violence and sexual abuse.

SERICC is a needs-led service in which the needs of service users influence the strategic and operational development of the organisation. Service users play a central role through the provision of ongoing individual feedback and evaluation. SERICC also facilitates focus groups with service users to ensure their views and opinions are included in the development and monitoring process.

The Director Sheila Coates MBE and Operations Manager Lee Eggleston OBE carry out day-to-day overall management and strategic development. Team Leaders are in place to provide daily line management of staff teams. SERICC staff receive individual and peer supervision in recognition of the impact of working with trauma and adhering to professional code of ethics. In addition to providing clinical support, supervision also plays an important role in the continued professional development of all staff, ensuring they are up to date with therapeutic and other developments in the sector and related fields. SERICC is committed to the ongoing professional and personal development of all its staff and volunteers (including Trustees), of which training and supervision is an integral part. The training needs of all staff are closely monitored to ensure that individuals and the staff team are provided with opportunities to develop or improve their practice and stay up to date with new developments, legislation and procedures.

Remuneration

SERICC is committed to careful management of its charity funds. In so doing, it ensures the greatest effectiveness in delivering its charitable objectives and meeting the needs of service users. After undertaking a benchmarking exercise with Moore Kingston Smith, SERICC have established salary bandings and descriptions for the majority of posts, and salary allocations are based on the requirements of the post, including experience of staff and the funding available for the post. Cost

of living increases were considered in line with any NJC recommendations and in the future an inflationary rise will be applied to salaries in 2023. The annual accounts disclose the number of staff receiving salary of more than £60,000 per annum, in bands of £10,000.

SERICC makes pension contributions equivalent to a minimum of 3% of gross salaries on behalf of its employees. Employees are Auto-Enrolled into the scheme on employment. The contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities on an accrual basis. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

SERICC Trustees are not paid for their work as a Trustee but are offered reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses should they arise.

SERICC's Board of Trustees takes legal, HR or any other advice when necessary from experts that SERICC contracts with.

Organisational values

SERICC's services are evidenced based. Recording (monitoring) the service delivery outcomes and outputs inform service delivery and measures performance. Monitoring informs all aspects of the organisation, from service gaps in provision, governance and any changes to service provision. SERICC offer creative and innovative services that best meets the needs of service users and the local communities in which SERICC serves.

At the time of this report SERICC employs 29 staff and contracts with sessional counsellors and consultants who have specific areas of expertise, when necessary.

INVESTMENT POLICY

SERICC Trustees, where necessary will seek advice from an independent financial advisor regarding any future financial investments. Should the national financial position change and stabilise the charity would reassess its position whilst continuing to adhere to the Charity Commission guidance on investments.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and 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 charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2019 (FR 102)
- 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
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Trustees on 27th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Glenda Harrington
Trustee



SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SERICC (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 23 and 24, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the entity, including but not limited to the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP;
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance, and the entity's legal advisors around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Review of legal costs to ascertain the nature of costs and possible related non-compliance;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

44/54 Orsett Road
Grays
Essex

16.10.2023



ROWLAND HALL (Statutory Auditor)
Chartered Certified Accountants
and Registered Auditors

SERICC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Total Funds to 31.03.23 £	Total Funds to 31.03.22 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies:						
Donations		-	-	6,991	6,991	2,585
Grants	3	-	-	63,142	63,142	63,142
Charitable activities:						
Grants	3	179,948	-	2,492,514	2,672,462	2,610,907
Fees for services & direct work	4	-	-	4,247	4,247	7,979
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities						
Investments	5	-	-	5,121	5,121	127
Other Income		-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Total Income		179,948	-	2,573,015	2,752,963	2,684,740
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Charitable activities	6	167,304	-	2,659,861	2,827,165	2,568,819
Total Expenditure		167,304	-	2,659,861	2,827,165	2,568,819
Net Income/(expenditure)		12,644	-	(86,846)	(74,202)	115,921
Transfers between funds		(12,703)	66,638	(53,935)	-	-
Net movement in funds:		(59)	66,638	(140,781)	(74,202)	115,921
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		19,629	941,748	730,702	1,692,079	1,576,158
Total funds carried forward		19,570	1,008,386	589,921	1,617,877	1,692,079

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

	Notes	31.03.2023 £	31.03.2022 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible assets	12	916	1,220
Total fixed assets		916	1,220
Current assets:			
Debtors	13	201,319	160,201
Cash at bank and in hand		1,486,290	1,574,207
Total current assets		1,687,609	1,734,408
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within one year	14	70,648	43,549
Net current assets		1,616,961	1,690,859
Total assets less current liabilities and Net assets		1,617,877	1,692,079
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		19,570	19,629
Unrestricted income funds:			
General fund		589,921	730,702
Designated fund		1,008,386	941,748
Total unrestricted funds		1,598,307	1,672,450
Total charity funds		1,617,877	1,692,079

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 27th September 2023 signed on their behalf by:

Glenda Harrington –Trustee



SERICC

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Total Funds to 31.03.23 £	Total Funds to 31.03.22 £
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	22	(93,038)	80,924
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		5,121	127
Purchase of equipment		-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		5,121	127
Cash flows from financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(87,917)	81,051
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,574,207	1,493,156
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		1,486,290	1,574,207
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		1,486,290	1,574,207
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.03.23		1,486,290	1,574,207

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. General Information and Basis of Preparation

SERICC is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England. The address of the charity is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Report of the Trustees on pages 2 to 24.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention in accordance with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the financial currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

b. Fund Accounting

Restricted funds comprise grants made for specific purposes as laid down by the donor (e.g. for specific projects). Expenditure that meets these specific purposes is matched against grant income and analysed over the appropriate cost. Further details regarding restricted funds are provided in note 16.

Unrestricted funds comprise other income received or generated for charitable purposes but which may be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been earmarked by the Trustees for a purpose.

c. Income Recognition

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the fund, any performance conditions attached have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income generated from contracts for services is recognised as earned.

Investment income and all other incoming resources are accounted for in the period in which they are received.

d. Expenditure Recognition

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

The charity is not registered for VAT and all expenses are inclusive of VAT where appropriate.

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. per capita, floor space or estimated usage as set out in notes 6, 7 and 8.

e. Fixed Assets

Depreciation on fixed assets has been calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life at a rate of 25% on written down values. It is the charity's policy to capitalise assets costing in excess of £5,000.

f. Staff and Pension Costs

Counselling staff costs are allocated in the Statement of Financial Activities on a direct basis per individual employees and time spent on charitable activities. Other non-counselling staff costs are allocated on the basis of estimated time and resources expended by the charity overall on each charitable activity. Pension costs are accounted for in the period to which they relate and are similarly allocated on a direct basis.

g. Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease.

h. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discount due.

i. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

j. Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there is a risk of financial uncertainty due to a significant contract with the Police and Crime Commissioner potentially coming to an end at the end of March 2024. It is currently understood that there is an intention for the PFCC to extend the existing contract (for ISVA and Community-based sexual abuse support) for a further term until 31st March 2025. This would be the final one-year extension available before the PFCC are required to re-tender for the service. SERICC understand that the PFCC are in the process of securing the necessary formal sign-off. The Charity has contingency plans and reserves in place should the contract not be renewed or delayed. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

2. JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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 revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

3. GRANT AND CONTRACT INCOME

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	31.03.23 Total £	31.03.22 Total £
Donations and legacies:				
Thurrock Borough Council				
Development Fund	-	63,142	63,142	63,142
	-	63,142	63,142	63,142

In the year to 31.03.23, of the grant income classified as Donations and Legacies income, £nil (2022: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £63,142 (2022: £63,142) adding to unrestricted funds.

Income from Charitable activities:

Thurrock Borough Council				
Children and Families	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
YP SV Counsellor Children & Families	-	72,000	72,000	72,000
Housing Related Support	-	41,746	41,746	38,347
Brighter Futures	-	44,988	44,988	44,988
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	43,170	-	43,170	39,267
Control Outbreak Management Fund	-	-	-	68,082
New Burdens Fund	-	-	-	20,000
Flexible New Burdens Fund	20,729	-	20,729	-
Essex Police Crime Commissioner				
Sexual Violence Counselling	-	1,758,488	1,758,488	1,502,554
MOJ ISVA	-	531,791	531,791	426,805
MOJ Extraordinary COVID fund		-	-	147,709
Big Lottery Fund	82,050	-	82,050	207,655
Rape Crisis England & Wales				
External Relations Programme	-	33,500	33,500	33,500
Essex Community Foundation	16,000	-	16,000	-
Basildon Borough Council	18,000	-	18,000	-
	179,949	2,492,513	2,672,462	2,610,907

In the year to 31.03.23, of the grant and contract income classified as Income from Charitable Activities, £179,949 (2022: £315,004) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £2,492,513 (2022: £2,295,903) adding to unrestricted funds.

£2,604,054 (2022: £2,369,752) of government grant and contract income was received for delivering charitable activities and operational costs. There were no other contingencies or unfulfilled conditions attaching to the government grants.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

4. INCOME FOR SERVICES & DIRECT WORK

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.23	31.03.22
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Rape Crisis – Hosting and Other Fees	-	3,947	3,947	4,940
Counselling Sessions	-	-	-	-
Training	-	300	300	350
Other Services & Direct Work	-	-	-	2,689
	-	4,247	4,247	7,979

In the year to 31.03.23, of the Fees for Services and Direct Work income, £nil (2022: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £4,247 (2022: £7,979) adding to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.23	31.03.22
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Bank Interest	-	5,121	5,121	127

In the year to 31.03.23, of the Investment income, £nil (2022: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £5,121 (2022: £127) adding to unrestricted funds.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Counselling & Advocacy	Prevention & Education	31.03.23 Total	31.03.22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Counselling Staff Salary costs	746,415	124,001	870,416	803,124
Counselling Consultants	39,225	-	39,225	40,550
Staff training	12,946	1,547	14,493	21,950
Travel & Subsistence	7,427	825	8,252	4,599
Supervision	9,158	1,017	10,175	10,328
Health & Wellbeing	2,583	-	2,583	8,722
Service User Costs	2,743	-	2,743	344
Counselling Telephone costs	23,800	2,644	26,444	17,567
Language & Sign Interpreters	7,158	-	7,158	546
Essex Partnership payments	1,334,449	-	1,334,449	1,234,064
Governance costs (note 7)	252,967	75,936	328,903	307,606
Support costs (note 8)	127,627	54,697	182,324	119,419
	2,566,498	260,667	2,827,165	2,568,819

Of the £2,827,165 (2022: £2,568,819) expenditure in the year to 31.03.23 £166,146 (2022: £288,558) was charged to restricted funds and £2,661,019 (2022: £2,280,261) to unrestricted funds.

Costs relating directly to charitable activities have been allocated between the two key activities on a direct basis or on a per capita staff basis depending on the nature of the expense. Governance and support costs have been apportioned as detailed in notes 7 and 8 respectively.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

7. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.23 Total £	31.03.22 Total £
Non-Counselling Staff Salary costs	181,881	45,470	227,351	234,065
Salary costs recharged to ICENA	-	-	-	(49,313)
Payroll/Accounting fees	9,533	4,085	13,618	14,929
Audit fee	4,830	2,070	6,900	4,668
Legal & Professional fees	27,670	11,859	39,529	56,527
Consultancy	25,200	10,800	36,000	36,000
Project Monitoring	-	-	-	7,000
Insurances	3,853	1,652	5,505	3,730
	252,967	75,936	328,903	307,606

Governance costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities based on the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.23 Total £	31.03.22 Total £
Rent	39,909	17,104	57,013	62,910
Heat and Light	3,162	1,355	4,517	1,240
Cleaning, Repairs and maintenance	26,926	11,539	38,465	13,085
IT Equipment & software	20,651	8,851	29,502	15,786
IT Support & development costs	26,217	11,236	37,453	10,810
Printing, stationery & postage	6,004	2,573	8,577	3,763
Publications, subscriptions & publicity	2,226	954	3,180	8,746
Non-Counselling Telephone costs	1,393	597	1,990	1,322
Hospitality & refreshments	695	298	993	675
General expenses	-	-	-	264
Depreciation	213	91	304	407
Bank charges	231	99	330	411
	127,627	54,697	182,324	119,419

Support costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities on the basis of the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

9. STAFF COSTS AND KEY PERSONNEL

	31.03.23	31.03.22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	977,036	929,437
Social Security Costs	95,344	82,178
Pension costs	25,387	25,574
	1,097,767	1,037,189

Average head count (number of staff employed)	27	28
---	----	----

During the year, the number of higher paid employees was as follows:

£60,000-£69,999	1	2
£70,000-£79,999	-	-

Total redundancy/termination payments amounted to £26,497 (2022: £19,272).

The Trustees received no remuneration nor were they reimbursed for any expenses during the year (2022: £nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees, the Director and Operations Manager. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £120,182 (2022: £131,346).

10. PENSIONS

The charity offers a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of employees. The assets of the scheme are administered by an independent pension provider, Royal London.

Contributions are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate. The charge for the year was £25,387 (2022: £25,574).

11. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	31.03.23	31.03.22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Audit fees	6,900	4,668
Other services	3,780	4,404
	10,680	9,072

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

12. FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
COST	
As at 1 st April 2022	2,034
Additions	-
Disposals	-
As at 31 st March 2023	2,034
 DEPRECIATION	
As at 1 st April 2022	814
Charge	304
Eliminated on disposals	-
As at 31 st March 2023	1,118
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 st March 2023	916
At 31 st March 2022	1,220

13. DEBTORS

	31.03.23 Total £	31.03.22 Total £
Grants and fees receivable	48,065	-
Prepayments and accrued income	4,315	12,262
Other debtors	148,939	147,939
	201,319	160,201

Other debtors comprise interest free loans of £147,939 of which £128,214 is recoverable after more than one year.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

14. CREDITORS	31.03.23	31.03.22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,922	1,430
Accruals and deferred income	28,318	7,760
Other taxation and social security	33,408	34,359
	70,648	43,549
	70,648	43,549

15. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance B/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	-	43,170	(48,082)	4,912	-
National Lottery Fund	19,629	82,050	(102,064)	385	-
Essex Community Foundation	-	16,000	(16,000)	-	-
Basildon Borough Council	-	18,000	-	(18,000)	-
Thurrock Borough Council New Burdens Flexible Fund	-	20,728	(1,158)	-	19,570
	19,629	179,948	(167,304)	(12,703)	19,570
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	791,748	-	-	66,638	858,386
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	941,748	-	-	66,638	1,008,386
Unrestricted Funds	730,702	2,573,015	(2,659,861)	(53,935)	589,921
	1,692,079	2,752,963	(2,827,165)	-	1,617,877

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

15. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

Analysis of movement in funds-previous year

	Balance Transferred £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	10,878	39,267	(36,509)	(13,636)	-
National Lottery Fund	5,814	207,655	(194,162)	322	19,629
National Lottery Community Fund (Coronavirus Community Support Fund)	322	-	-	(322)	-
Control Outbreak Management Fund	-	68,082	(57,887)	(10,195)	-
Development and Policy:					
RCEW Digital Transformation	308	-	-	(308)	-
Ministry of Justice:					
Extra-Ordinary Funds	(2,823)	-	-	2,823	-
	14,499	315,004	(288,558)	(21,316)	19,629
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	680,184	-	-	111,564	791,748
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	830,184	-	-	111,564	941,748
Unrestricted Funds	731,475	2,369,736	(2,280,261)	(90,248)	730,702
	1,576,158	2,684,740	(2,568,819)	-	1,692,079

The details of each restricted fund are provided in note 16.
The details of designated funds are provided in note 18.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

16. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

- Better Care Fund

Grant funding and contracts have been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of counsellors and advocates providing sexual violence support, counselling and advocacy services to adults, children, young people.

The National Lottery Community Fund

This essential funding has ensured the continuation of the first contact Navigator team which provides the triage support both to service users and professionals across the Essex partnership. The fund runs across the financial year and is due to end 31st October 2022. Continuation funding has been successful and will be applied from 1st April 2023.



Thurrock Borough Council:

New Burdens Flexible Fund for providing only practical support to victims who have experienced sexual and domestic violence.



Essex Community Foundation

CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse) was awarded a grant of £80,000 over two years (July 2021 – June 2023) from the Mid and South Essex Community Grants Programme administered by Essex Community Foundation.

The grant was for the provision of additional specialist sexual violence counselling for adults, young people and children in Mid and South Essex. As a partner, SERICC received a contribution towards counselling provision of £16,000 from the fund.



Basildon Council

BASILDON · BILLERICAY · WICKFORD Essex County Council – Basildon Council

SERICC was awarded £18,000 between 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2022 as a contribution towards providing counselling to Basildon adult victims of sexual violence and abuse, as part of the South Essex Domestic Abuse Hub (SEDAH) project.

This income is due to be received in 2023/24 but was fully spent in earlier years.

17. PRINCIPLE UNRESTRICTED FUNDING SOURCES

Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

This contract was awarded after a successful procurement process in the Autumn 2019 for three years and is in its first extension year. Third party payments are made to the two Essex Rape Crisis Centres, SOSRC and CARA. SERICC are the lead partner. Reserves are maintained to ensure third party payments can be made in advance to ensure seamless service delivery across the partnership.



Under the PCC contract the following funding has been made available:

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

Talking Therapies (NHS England)

The service delivery includes providing sexual violence support, counselling and advocacy services to adults, children, young people across Essex. This fund ceased on 31st March 2023.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

- Rape Support uplift Funding
- ISVA funding (Early Engagement and continuation of ISVA provision)



This funding has been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of counsellors and advocates providing sexual violence support, counselling and ISVA advocacy services to adults, children, young people.

- Men's Fund

Awarded for counselling support and to reduce waiting lists for men and boys in Essex

- Operation Haiti

Awarded for facilitating and delivering specialist services to victims identified in an Essex Police Operation.

Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW):



Policy and strategic work

SERICC's senior staff delivers national policy and strategic work on behalf of Rape Crisis England & Wales. This includes responding to national consultations, attending national stakeholder meetings and ensuring that policy is informed by frontline practice, victims and survivors experiences.

SERICC hosted a national staff member. The hosting arrangement ended in July 2022.

Thurrock Borough Council:

- Brighter Futures Contract for providing Early Interventions with children and families
- Young Peoples Counselling service
- Development fund for operational and direct staff costs
- Strategic and Operational Funds for direct staff costs for involvement in strategic and operational meetings
- Independent Housing support for providing advocacy and support to enable individuals to live independently



SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

18. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Contingency fund is maintained for the potential expenditure that would be incurred in the event that funding is withdrawn from SERICC. At the period end the Trustees reviewed the level of the Contingency fund and took the decision to increase it by £66,638 to reflect the increased staffing levels and core costs related to the charity's activities.

The Capital fund is for future and additional capital costs that may include additional premises in order to deliver services effectively in the community.

Whilst there are no existing or pending claims against the charity, the Trustees have taken advice and maintained a designated Legal fund as a cautionary measure in order to meet any legal and professional fees and ancillary costs that may arise in the future as a result of any potential claim against the charity or in connection with its operations.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	916	916
Current assets	21,190	1,008,386	658,033	1,687,609
Current Liabilities	(1,620)	-	(69,028)	(70,648)
	19,570	1,008,386	589,921	1,617,877

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds – Previous year

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,220	1,220
Current assets	28,421	941,748	764,239	1,734,408
Current Liabilities	(8,792)	-	(34,757)	(43,549)
	19,629	941,748	730,702	1,692,079

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

20. COMMITMENTS

At 31st March 2023, the charity was committed to three formal premises leases.

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:-

	31.03.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Not later than one year	39,560	21,450
Later than one and not later than five years	55,334	26,726
	94,894	48,176
	94,894	48,176

The financial statements for the period include lease payments recognised as an expense of £33,780.

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

At 31st March 2023, an amount of £147,939 was owed to SERICC by ICENA, an entity in which certain key management personnel of SERICC are directors. This loan is interest free and repayable in instalments from August 2023, as agreed between the two parties.

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.03.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(74,202)	66,608
Add back depreciation charge	304	407
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(5,121)	(127)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(41,118)	44,737
Decrease/Increase in creditors	27,099	(30,701)
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	(93,038)	80,924
	(93,038)	80,924

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At	Cashflows	Total
	01.04.22		31.3.23
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	1,574,207	(87,917)	1,486,290
Total Net Debt	1,574,207	(87,917)	1,486,290
	1,574,207	(87,917)	1,486,290

SERICC

England & Wales - Charity number 1186836

Accounts

sericc

Rape and Sexual Abuse
Specialist Service

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1186836



⚙ office 01375 381322
☎ support 01375 380609
➔ information & referrals 0300 003 7777

✉ email sericc@sericc.org.uk
🌐 visit www.sericc.org.uk
📍 The Hall, West Street, Grays, Essex RM17 6LL

Charity No 1186836

SERICC

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

CONTENTS	PAGE
Charity Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Board of Trustees	2 - 15
Report of the Independent Auditors	16 - 18
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance Sheet	20
Statement of Cash Flows	21
Notes to the Financial Statements	22 - 36

SERICC

CHARITY REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

Charity Name:	SERICC
Charity Registration Number:	1186836
Registered Office and Address:	SERICC The Hall West Street Grays Essex RM17 6Ll
Board of Trustees:	A Curnick (Acting Chair) G Harrington (Acting Secretary) M Heine K Dobson S Todd (resigned February 2022)
Senior Management:	Sheila Coates MBE, Director Lee Eggleston OBE, Operational Manager
Auditors	Rowland Hall Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors 44/54 Orsett Road Grays Essex RM17 5ED
Bankers	CAF BANK Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ Barclays Bank Thurrock Business Centre 9 The Street Grays Essex RM17 6NL
Solicitors	Taylor Vinters Merlin Place Milton Road Cambridge CB4 0DP
HR Advisors	Moore Kingston Smith HR Consultancy Limited 9 Appold Street London EC2A 2AP

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts 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 published on 16th July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2nd February 2016).

Trustees of The Charity

The trustees who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:

- A Curnick (Chair)
- G Harrington (Secretary)
- M Heine
- K Dobson
- S Todd (resigned February 2022)

Purpose and Aims

The charity's purpose as set out in the constitutional objectives and activities for public benefit are:

- *to relieve sickness and distress amongst those affected by any form of sexual violence and abuse, particularly, but not limited to, women and girls and the community in Essex and the surrounding areas within East Anglia, and including the families and friends of those affected and others affected who are in need, in particular by the provision of counselling and support for such persons; and*
- *to advance education of the public in the subject of sexual violence and abuse, including by but not limited to, the provision of training and publication of information and guidance.*

SERICC provides specialist services to anyone in South and West Essex who is experiencing, or who has experienced, any form of sexual violence and abuse at any time in their life. Specialised services are also offered to parents, carers and supporters.

Sexual violence is a term that includes any sexual behaviours that are unwanted or that happen without a person's consent. It includes rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse. Sexual violence and abuse does not always involve physical contact it can include online grooming, viewing and making indecent images of children.

SERICC provide short-term and long-term emotional support and practical information by telephone, online and in person, and offer advocacy and support through the criminal justice system.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

Many individuals experience self-blame, shame, guilt and find it difficult to speak of their experiences. The impact of sexual violence and abuse often results in low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and mental health problems. Sexual violence counselling, support and advocacy is delivered in an empathic sensitive environment which provides emotional support and works with individuals in regaining control over their lives.

SERICC uses an evidenced based approach to providing high-quality sexual violence services including:

- Emotional support services – telephone and face-to-face support, involving coping strategies, self-esteem, recovery, confidence building and self-care
- Family and Young People's Services – preventative and educative work, working with families to look at safety, emotional resilience and physical well being
- Practical Support services – advocacy, information and support with debt, housing, education, childcare, welfare benefits, legal issues and liaison with statutory organisations such as social care, police, youth offending services, child sexual exploitation triage team
- Specialist sexual violence therapeutic interventions – one-to-one counselling, pre-trial therapy and support groups

SERICC provides a range of specialist services including counselling for adults, young people and children, Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, telephone and emotional support. Below is a summary of activities:

Child and Family Services

SERICC provides an early intervention service to parents / carers whose children have experienced sexual violence and/or where the family are engaged with Thurrock Council social care. The Brighter Futures programme offers an integrated and intensive support service to equip families to learn and apply parenting skills that develop resourcefulness and resilience while strengthening positive relationships with their children. This service is funded by Thurrock Council.

77 families received 865 sessions of direct work with children who were 12 years or under.

SERICC's counselling service have responded to 17,683 counselling related contacts and activities including telephone calls, emails/ letters and meetings. This is an increase of 15% from the previous year. With the year-on-year increase in take-up of services, SERICC are committed to ensuring that as many individuals as possible can access services and have their individual needs met, including increasing their support networks and decreasing isolation. SERICC collates feedback to demonstrate outcomes which influence policy and practice in the services they receive from SERICC and other agencies. This has been particularly challenging through the impact of the pandemic and government restrictions.

SERICC worked with 1,313 new referrals in the last year whilst working with 3,350 individuals. Individuals were offered 6,469 in person face-to-face sexual violence counselling sessions and 2,902 ISVA and advocacy sessions.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

Feedback from service users:

"Thank you for helping me through difficult times."

"Thank you for all your time and support, I don't know what I would have done without talking to you."

"I have really come a long way, you have supported me so much. "

"I just want to say thank you for all your help, and that you have made me realise many things, and thank you for helping me be more confident in myself."

Advocacy and Support

Staff provide needs-based advocacy and support to those who require assistance in accessing additional services external to SERICC. There has been considerable disruption to the Criminal Justice system with lengthy delays. Services include:

- housing support and information
- legal information and accompaniment
- support with criminal injuries compensation applications
- criminal justice system information and dedicated support

SERICC have an established advocacy service offering specialist advocacy service that includes independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA). The ISVA service provides an essential specialist support to those who choose to report sexual offences to the police. ISVAs ensure that individuals are fully informed whilst going through the Criminal Justice System including initial and ongoing police investigations and support through the courts process. The ISVA service works in close partnership with Essex police and Oakwood Place, Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

Advocacy and Support Staff provide needs-based advocacy and support to those who require assistance in accessing additional services external to SERICC. There was a 54% increase this year with 23,344 contacts relating to advocacy and ISVA. During the pandemic ISVAs were recognized by the government, Ministry of Justice, as an Essential service and continued to provide accompaniment to court and police related appointments, sexual health services, general health and well-being services.

Feedback from service users:

"Thank you for your support it has really helped me get through this."

"I know you believe me and that has made such a difference when I felt no one else did."

"Thank you for your support and understanding. I don't think I would be here if it wasn't for your support it has been invaluable."

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

In November 2021 the SERICC ISVA team received a certificate of recognition of services during the pandemic from the Mayor of Thurrock.

In December 2021 the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Justice, Dominic Raab MP, visited SERICC to discuss with the ISVA team the challenges faced by victims and survivors.

During the year SERICC supported:

Number of individuals reported to the police	
In last 12 months	587
In last 12 -24 months	325
More than 24 months	506
Not reported to the police	898

There has also been a significant increase in the number of referrals for 1,165 individuals concerning multiple mental health and health needs self-reported:

- 611 individuals stated they are experiencing mental health difficulties (a 30% increase from previous year)
- 107 individuals stated they have learning disability
- 162 individuals stated they have physical disability
- 285 individuals stated they have a diagnosed long-term illness

Feedback from service user:

"You made me see that I don't walk around with a sign saying that I have been raped, I always thought others could tell. You knew it happened to me but I felt you saw me as me and not the rape. It allowed me to see me even though to start with I didn't know who me was".

SERICC delivers the triage service on behalf of the Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres and provided for SERICC 1,286 First meeting sessions and 10,411 assessment contacts.

Achievements and Performance

SERICC is committed to upholding the highest possible standards for all services, training and consultation. This was achieved through:

- gathering information about the service user experience, through feedback, evaluation and outcome data
- receiving stakeholder feedback (external organisations and public bodies)
- providing ongoing staff supervision. Peer and performance management
- the use of ongoing data collection followed by data analysis for service planning
- the provision of training for staff as part of ongoing professional development
- strengthening and expanding of local, regional and national partnerships and joint working to ensure that service user needs and experience are included in policy and procedure.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

SERICC undertakes client surveys before and after service. The questionnaires are collated and the % reflects the overall total. A benchmark measure of 40% is used. Any % returned that is below this value are closely examined.

Satisfaction with the service:	98% of closed cases said they were satisfied with the service and the support was sensitive to needs and situation.
More in control of their lives:	96% of closed cases said they were now more confident and able to make decisions about their future.
Better health & Well Being:	95% of closed cases had better coping strategies and were able to recognise the impact of sexual violence in their lives.
More able to access further support:	93% of closed cases said they knew of resources and opportunities to access education or employment.
More able to develop & maintain positive relationships:	48% of closed cases stated they felt more able to trust people and build relationships.
More able to assert their rights:	94% of closed cases stated that they knew their rights and entitlements which included engaging with the Criminal Justice System, family courts and / or civil proceedings.

SERICC organises and participates in consultations and working groups relating to sexual violence and provides training and learning opportunities in which current research and good practice are disseminated to external practitioners and agencies. This engagement was increased during the year due to multiple online meetings and discussions relating to the impact of the government restrictions and its effect on the charity and service users. SERICC participated in Consultations/Working Groups with and undertook work related to these groups, including: -

- Thurrock multi-agency Strategic Board for Violence Against Women & Girls
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service Joint Strategic Forum, Stronger Together and Managed Networks
- Support and prevention work in Thurrock & Basildon and other Essex Schools
- East Region Crown Prosecution Service expert panels
- Quarterly meetings with Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Essex Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategic Group including sub groups relating to high profile media coverage of sexual violence and sexual harassment including the campaign group 'Everyone's Invited'.
- Essex Domestic Abuse Board re Domestic Abuse Bill
- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Reference group
- Thurrock Children's Commissioned Services
- Essex Police Community Engagement Group

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

- Thurrock Community Safety Group
- Hidden Harms Community Safety Partnership
- Thurrock Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on sexual violence and abuse (separate groups for pathways of support, Safeguarding, partnership board)
- Strategic Leads social care
- Violence Against Women & Girls Operation Minerva

Partnership working

SERICC works in partnership with Southend Rape Crisis Centre (SOSRC), and Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA). Together we form the partnership Synergy Essex to ensure services are accessible pan Essex. Centres offer services through the primary funding sources: the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Ministry of Justice and NHS England. More victims who have experienced sexual violence in Essex are supported through the partnership and the provision of a triage system and access to immediate specialist support. The Ministry of Justice made additional funds available due to the impact of COVID, by funding counselling and ISVA posts.

The Synergy Essex and SERICC website have been refreshed.

Social Impact and Social Value

SERICC works to the Rape Crisis England & Wales monitoring and evaluation framework that is aimed at reporting on the improvements to victims and survivor's mental and physical health after using SERICC services.

SERICC distributes and circulates on the SERICC website and through outreach sites, education, skills and employment opportunities to service users. The materials and information on SERICC's website, has the added benefits of increasing well-being and resilience and reducing isolation. A training course is in development and will be completed by midsummer.

SERICC:

- provides subsidised travel for individuals who are experiencing financial hardship
- provides accompaniment to appointments, such as welfare reviews and medical appeals, which are funded by SERICC
- supports victims to apply for criminal injury compensation awards and when appropriate to support appeals
- undertakes advocacy work to enable individuals who are experiencing housing or debt difficulties to address and resolve problems, enabling them to move forward with their lives
- provides advocacy support, which relieves pressure on statutory services e.g. housing, GPs, mental health services by providing one to one support for individuals to maintain independent living including food vouchers.

Achievements and Performance Delivering Public Benefits

The impact of the pandemic has created challenges as well as opportunities to re-vision future offers of support to victims and survivors. To provide continuity, the logistical and practical challenges have incurred substantial IT costs, increasing mobile phone use, scaling up of equipment and staff

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

training. The government and local infrastructure organisations made additional funding available to ensure that office spaces could be Covid Compliant which enabled SERICC to purchase equipment, IT support and Personal Protective Equipment.

The Government designated front line charity workers as 'Essential' which means services such as court and police support could continue. SERICC have continued to provide services despite the challenges of self-isolation and disruption to schools. Referrals rates to the charity continue to increase. SERICC have recruited additional staff and increased hours of existing staff through COVID emergency funds.

The core services provided by SERICC are the provision of sexual violence 'face to face' counselling, support, advocacy, telephone support and an information helpline and outreach work. The sexual violence counselling and advocacy support is provided both at the SERICC main office and its satellite base in Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service (Beehive Centre) and across outreach sites including schools across South and West Essex.

SERICC have a dedicated venue in Latton Bush, Harlow to provide services to adults, children and young people. This venue is offered to individuals living in Harlow and Epping.

SERICC work in close partnership with SOS Rape Crisis in Southend. Together we have rented premises to provide services to individuals in the Basildon, Southend and surrounding areas.

Information and awareness raising training is provided to statutory and voluntary organisations on a range of issues including the long-term impact of sexual violence and abuse. Due to the government restrictions face to face services were moved online or by telephone for young people and adults. The advocacy service has continued face to face services as they were considered essential workers. Managers have been in the SERICC main office throughout the pandemic to ensure the continuation of the service and to provide access to confidential spaces for service users as and when needed. Training and information sharing have been conducted online over the last year. SERICC have provided health and well-being sessions to staff recognising the impact on delivering services in this way.

COVID related funding has increased staff and contracted hours provided by counselling sessional workers to increase capacity to tackle waiting lists. SERICC did not join the government Furlough scheme.

SERICC will be applying for continuation of funding due to the inevitable decrease in central government funds and increase in demand. To maximise SERICC's resources we continue to look for suitable premises that will accommodate all staff on one site and have designated reserves for potential opportunities.

Funding ensured that we were able to take on additional spaces in Thurrock to provide accessible face to face sessions. In the new financial year, we will review premises and aim towards locating a venue in Thurrock to provide dedicated children's services.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

SERICC continues to review and improve internal systems to ensure that all are robust and up to date. SERICC's internal policies and procedures are subject to an external annual review undertaken by Thurrock Children's and Adult Services Commissioners. This annual quality assurance review involves policy and procedures, staff and service user interviews. SERICC is professionally approved as a Rape Crisis Centre by Rape Crisis England & Wales.

SERICC provides policy and strategic work on behalf of Rape Crisis England & Wales. Attendance and work related to the following groups

- Home Office Child Sexual Abuse Stakeholder Group
- Home Office Third Sector Group
- Home Office Safeguarding Group
- Home Office Violence Against Women & Girls Stakeholder roundtable
- Home Office Violence Against Women & Girls
- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
- Ministry of Justice Rape Monitoring Group
- Government Silver Command Group
- NHS England Sexual Assault and Abuse Strategic Group
- National Victims Commissioner Group
- Cabinet Office Rape Review (Stakeholder Round Tables)

SERICC has a bespoke Data Performance Management System (DPMS) that collates detailed anonymous sexual violence statistical records and data in line with data protection legislation to performance manage, inform service delivery, meet funding monitoring requirements and identify trends and patterns.

Financial Review

The charity, with the aid of sound financial management and the support of both its staff and trustees generated a positive financial outcome for the period.

PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

SERICC's main source of income is project-specific grants, contracts and Service Level Agreements include:

- Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Ministry of Justice
- NHS England
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group / Thurrock Council Better Care Fund
- Thurrock Council (Development Fund, Operational and Strategic Fund, Housing Related Support, Brighter Futures, Young People Counsellor)
- Rape Crisis England and Wales

These income sources are dependent on the ability and willingness of external agencies and government departments/local authorities to support the provision of specialist sexual violence services.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

RISK REVIEW

The level of income retained in reserves is based on a realistic assessment of the charity's future income needs and SERICC continues to be prudent in any expenditure. The current unpredictability of existing funding streams and the limited availability of new funding streams, specifically for sexual violence.

There has been significant investment from central government via the Essex PCC office in response to the impact of COVID 19. It is uncertain regarding the overall economic climate; cost of living crisis and risks remain. The Board of Trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees recognise that the main external risk to the organisation is loss or reduction in funding. Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner awarded the tender to the Essex Partnership, led by SERICC, until March 2024.

Internal financial controls, policy and procedures are in place to ensure compliance. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity. Quarterly monitoring reports to external funders ensure a consistent quality of delivery for the operational aspects of the charity.

External expertise has been commissioned regarding HR provided by Moore Kingston Smith, legal advice provided by Taylor Vinters and data protection and improving data security for the charity.

The charity manages risks through reserves to maintain operations and services whilst contingency plans are implemented.

RESERVES

The level of income retained in reserves is based on a realistic assessment of the charity's future income needs and SERICC continues to be prudent in any expenditure. The current unpredictability of existing funding streams and the reduction in the availability of new funding streams due to the economic climate remains a risk. The trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity. SERICC are mindful of the current economic climate and the likelihood of reduced levels of funding which may impact on reserves.

SERICC reserves policy is determined on an annual basis. The budget is monitored against actual expenditure on a quarterly basis. The trustees recognise the need to ensure adequate operational costs are held in unrestricted reserves to account for contractual obligations to staff, risk management and any unanticipated reduction in income. This is set at the beginning of the financial year and is subject to review when staff levels and operational costs increase. The level set in relation to the year to 31st March 2022 was £688,294 for 6 months running costs.

The level of reserves required is based on:

- An understanding of operating activities to be maintained;

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

- Potential risks to staffing costs such as long-term staff illness or maternity leave;
- Potential unanticipated need for new ICT equipment;
- Possible delays in restricted funding to on-going projects;
- Potential risks of funding cuts; and
- Potentially reduced unrestricted funding.

Amounts are set aside to meet the provision for an orderly winding-down of operations in the event of a significant adverse event that is outside the control of SERICC. This may include:

- Statutory redundancy payments;
- paying off contracts such as those for mobile phones, rent and broadband;
- the continuation of an internet presence for a period of time;
- staff salary and expenses to oversee the winding down; and
- any professional fees needed e.g. accountancy and legal.

SERICC have agreed to designate funds for legal costs and a new property and will actively seek advice in relation to this in the next two years.

As at 31st March 2022 SERICC total funds were £1,692,079 which included restricted funds of £19,629, designated funds of £941,748 and unrestricted funds of £730,702, which is slightly above the target for the organisation although is not of immediate concern to the charity.

Any surplus funds will be used to increase capacity, additional hours and duties of staff to meet the waiting lists.

Due to the nature of SERICC's work, particularly with vulnerable clients, it is vital counselling, support and advocacy services are completed with each individual client in a time sensitive manner, particularly for clients who have reported to the police and are awaiting criminal justice outcomes. These individuals, and in particular children, can wait up to eighteen months or longer from reporting the offence to the police to attendance in court. Since the disruption to the Criminal Justice System this has extended to nearly 4 years. Support work needs to continue throughout and after the criminal justice process ends.

Lack of certainty about future funding has ongoing significant impact on strategic short- and long-term planning and service delivery, causes multiple organisational problems including employment issues such as redundancy notices, short-term or fixed-term contracts and maintaining staff morale. The charity needs reserves to evidence sound financial management, particularly when applying for grants and contracts and can demonstrate reliable services or funding over the longer term. As lead partner in Essex Partnership, reserves are held to ensure payments can be made in advance to partners to ensure seamless service delivery. This has been particularly challenging due to delayed payments or mid-year funding of posts.

Future Developments

As part of SERICC's sustainability work we have been working in partnership with 4 rape crisis centres to develop a trading arm. SERICC's sustainability officer has been leading developing this

SERICCC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

project. It is envisaged that the sustainability officer is 'seconded' into this role full time to ensure that the project has more capacity going forward. This arrangement will cease 31st July 2022. SERICC will continue to invest in the trading arm.

Due to the increasing property prices SERICC are looking to lease a building from May 2022 to provide dedicated children and families services. This will be a significant move towards developing this area of work which has previously been limited. A new building that has appropriate space to provided specialist services will enhance SERICC's service offer to victims and survivors.

SERICCC will continue to take advice on investments and opportunities.

Fundraising

The charity has not undertaken any significant fundraising activities in the year but has welcomed donations from local individuals and organisations. These unrestricted donations go towards meeting some of SERICC's organisations costs such as utility bills but more specifically go towards a 'hardship' fund which is used when emergency situations arise. This includes supporting families in emergency accommodation or providing emergency food and clothing, transport and interpreting. With an increase in modern day slavery and trafficking for sexual exploitation, donations become crucial support, as these individuals often have no access to public funds.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charity that registered with the Charity Commission on 9th December 2019 and was merged with South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre in July 2020. The charity was established under a constitution that includes specific objects and powers. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

SERICCC is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of no less than three and no more than twelve trustees with a range of skills, knowledge and experience. Trustees that hold honorary positions serve for 12 months, after which they must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets on a regular basis and is responsible for the ongoing viability, strategic development and direction of the organisation. Trustees hold overall responsibility for the organisation's continued success, it is vital that its trustees have the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to carry out this function. Trustees are encouraged to take part in all appropriate training opportunities, to continue to develop their skills and update their knowledge of legal requirements, funding issues and other developments. Meetings have taken place virtually and in person when possible, according to government guidance.

Information from the Charity Commission publications and the Commission's guidance is distributed to as well as updated financial information at the meetings.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

The SERICC Board of Trustees confirms that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

Organisational structure

SERICC is a South Essex based charity providing essential services to individuals who have experienced any form of sexual violence and abuse. A range of specialised services are provided in Thurrock, Brentwood, Southend and Harlow (covering Epping) with hub outreach sites across the districts, schools and colleges, GP surgeries and voluntary sector buildings and are delivered by professional and experienced staff.

SERICC's primary beneficiaries are individuals affected by any form of sexual violence and sexual abuse, particularly, but not limited, to women and girls and the community in South Essex and the surrounding areas.

Secondary beneficiaries include the community, organisations and agencies that access awareness raising relating to the impact of sexual violence and sexual abuse.

SERICC is a needs-led service in which the needs of service users influence the strategic and operational development of the organisation. Service users play a central role through the provision of ongoing individual feedback and evaluation. SERICC also facilitates focus groups with service users to ensure their views and opinions are included in the development and monitoring process.

The Director Sheila Coates MBE and Operations Manager Lee Eggleston OBE carry out day-to-day overall management and strategic development. SERICC staff receive individual and peer supervision in recognition of the impact of working with trauma and adhering to professional code of ethics. In addition to providing clinical support, supervision also plays an important role in the continued professional development of all staff, ensuring they are up to date with therapeutic and other developments in the sector and related fields. SERICC is committed to the ongoing professional and personal development of all its staff and volunteers (including trustees), of which training and supervision is an integral part. The training needs of all staff are closely monitored to ensure that individuals and the staff team are provided with opportunities to develop or improve their practice and stay up to date with new developments, legislation and procedures.

Remuneration

SERICC is committed to careful management of its charity funds. In so doing, it ensures the greatest effectiveness in delivering its charitable objectives and meeting the needs of service users. SERICC uses salary bandings and descriptions for all posts, and salary allocations are based on the requirements of the post, including experience and the funding available for the post. The median of the band would be the 'market average' salary for this type of post identified through the benchmarking process above. Any cost of living increases are considered in line with any NJC recommendations, where appropriate. The annual accounts disclose the number of staff receiving salary of more than £60,000 per annum, in bands of £10,000.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

Members of staff are entitled to receive a contribution towards the auto enrolment pension scheme, equivalent to 3% of their gross salary.

SERICC trustees are not paid for their work as a trustee. Trustees are offered reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses.

SERICC's Board of Trustees takes legal, HR or any other advice when necessary from experts that SERICC contracts with.

Organisational values

SERICC's services are evidenced based. Recording (monitoring) the service delivery outcomes and outputs inform service delivery and measures performance. Monitoring informs all aspects of the organisation, from service gaps in provision, governance and any changes to service provision. SERICC offer creative and innovative services that best meets the needs of service users and the local communities in which SERICC serves.

At the time of this report SERICC employs 29 staff and contracts with sessional counsellors and consultants who have specific areas of expertise, when necessary.

INVESTMENT POLICY

SERICC trustees, where necessary will seek advice from an independent financial advisor regarding any future financial investments. Should the national financial position change and stabilise the charity would reassess its position whilst continuing to adhere to the Charity Commission guidance on investments.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and 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 charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- 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;
- 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 proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports)

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees on 8th September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Curnick', written over a horizontal line.

Alison Curnick –
Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SERICC (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 14 and 15, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

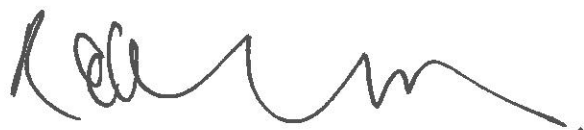
- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the entity, including but not limited to the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP;
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance, and the entity's legal advisors around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Review of legal costs to ascertain the nature of costs and possible related non-compliance;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



44/54 Orsett Road
Grays
Essex

ROWLAND HALL (Statutory Auditor)
Chartered Certified Accountants
and Registered Auditors

12th September 2022

SERICC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Total Funds to 31.03.22 £	Total Funds to 31.03.21 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies:						
Donations	-	-	-	2,585	2,585	3,962
Grants	3	-	-	63,142	63,142	48,219
Charitable activities:						
Grants	3	315,004	-	2,295,903	2,610,907	1,608,177
Fees for services & direct work	4	-	-	7,979	7,979	28,597
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities						
Investments	5	-	-	127	127	56
Other						
Donation from South Essex Rape & Incest Crisis Centre	6	-	-	-	-	1,378,774
Total Income		315,004	-	2,369,736	2,684,740	3,067,785
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities						
	7	288,558	-	2,280,261	2,568,819	1,491,627
Total Expenditure		288,558	-	2,280,261	2,568,819	1,491,627
Net Income/(expenditure)		26,446	-	89,475	115,921	1,576,158
Transfers between funds		(21,316)	111,654	(90,248)	-	-
Net movement in funds:		5,130	111,564	(773)	115,921	1,576,158
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		14,499	830,184	731,475	1,576,158	-
Total funds carried forward		19,629	941,748	730,702	1,692,079	1,576,158

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Movements in funds are disclosed in note 16 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

	Notes	31.03.2022 £	31.03.2021 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible assets	13	1,220	1,627
Total fixed assets		1,220	1,627
Current assets:			
Debtors	14	160,201	155,625
Cash at bank and in hand		1,574,207	1,493,156
Total current assets		1,734,408	1,648,781
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within one year	15	43,549	74,250
Net current assets		1,690,859	1,574,531
Total assets less current liabilities and Net assets		1,692,079	1,576,158
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		19,629	14,499
Unrestricted income funds:			
General fund		730,702	731,475
Designated fund		941,748	830,184
Total unrestricted funds		1,672,450	1,561,659
Total charity funds		1,692,079	1,576,158

The notes on pages 22 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 8th September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Alison Curnick –Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Total Funds to 31.03.22	Total Funds to 31.03.21 £
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	22	80,924	1,495,134
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		127	56
Purchase of equipment		-	(2,034)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		127	(1,978)
Cash flows from financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		81,051	1,493,156
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,493,156	-
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		1,574,207	1,493,156
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		1,574,207	1,493,156
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.03.22		1,574,207	1,493,156

The notes on pages 22 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. General Information and Basis of Preparation

SERICC is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England. The address of the charity is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Report of the Trustees on pages 2 to 15.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention in accordance with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the financial currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

b. Fund Accounting

Restricted funds comprise grants made for specific purposes as laid down by the donor (e.g. for specific projects). Expenditure that meets these specific purposes is matched against grant income and analysed over the appropriate cost. Further details regarding restricted funds are provided in note 17.

Unrestricted funds comprise other income received or generated for charitable purposes but which may be spent at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been earmarked by the trustees for a purpose.

c. Income Recognition

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the fund, any performance conditions attached have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income generated from contracts for services is recognised as earned.

Investment income and all other incoming resources are accounted for in the period in which they are received.

d. Expenditure Recognition

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

The charity is not registered for VAT and all expenses are inclusive of VAT where appropriate.

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. per capita, floor space or estimated usage as set out in notes 7, 8 and 9.

e. Fixed Assets

Depreciation on fixed assets has been calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life at a rate of 25% on written down values. It is the charity's policy to capitalise assets costing in excess of £5,000.

f. Staff and Pension Costs

Counselling staff costs are allocated in the Statement of Financial Activities on a direct basis per individual employees and time spent on charitable activities. Other non-counselling staff costs are allocated on the basis of estimated time and resources expended by the charity overall on each charitable activity. Pension costs are accounted for in the period to which they relate and are similarly allocated on a direct basis.

g. Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease.

h. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discount due.

i. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

j. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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 revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

3. GRANT AND CONTRACT INCOME

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.22	31.03.21
	£	£	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies:				
Thurrock Borough Council				
Development Fund	-	63,142	63,142	48,219
	-	63,142	63,142	48,219

In the year to 31.03.22, of the grant income classified as Donations and Legacies income, £nil (2021: nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £63,142 (2021: £48,219) adding to unrestricted funds.

Income from Charitable activities:

Thurrock Borough Council				
Children and Families	-	10,000	10,000	7,500
YP SV Counsellor Children & Families	-	72,000	72,000	54,000
Housing Related Support	-	38,347	38,347	31,769
Brighter Futures	-	44,988	44,988	33,741
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	39,267	-	39,267	29,450
Control Outbreak Management Fund	68,082	-	68,082	-
New Burdens Fund		20,000	20,000	-
Essex Police Crime Commissioner				
Sexual Violence Counselling	-	1,502,554	1,502,554	986,998
MOJ ISVA	-	426,805	426,805	185,130
MOJ Extraordinary COVID fund		147,709	147,709	160,000
Big Lottery Fund	207,655		207,655	84,464
The National Lottery Community Fund (Coronavirus Community Support Fund)	-	-	-	10,000
Rape Crisis England & Wales				
External Relations Programme	-	33,500	33,500	25,125
	315,004	2,295,903	2,610,907	1,608,177

In the year to 31.03.22, of the grant and contract income classified as Income from Charitable Activities, £315,004 (2021: £283,914) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £2,295,903 (2021: £1,324,263) adding to unrestricted funds.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

4. INCOME FOR SERVICES & DIRECT WORK

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.22	31.03.21
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Rape Crisis – Hosting Fees	-	4,940	4,940	5,187
Counselling Sessions	-	-	-	-
Training	-	350	350	1,500
Other Services & Direct Work	-	2,689	2,689	21,910
		7,979	7,979	28,597

In the year to 31.03.22, of the Fees for Services and Direct Work income, £nil (2021: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £7,979 (2021: £28,597) adding to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.22	31.03.21
	£	£	Total	Total
			£	£
Bank Interest	-	127	127	56

In the year to 31.03.22, of the Investment income, £nil (2021: £nil) was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £127 (2021: £56) adding to unrestricted funds.

6. DONATION FROM SOUTH ESSEX RAPE AND INCEST CRISIS CENTRE

South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre, charity no: 287762, continued activity until 1st July 2020 when the majority of assets were transferred to SERICC, with all assets and liabilities having been fully transferred by 31st July 2020. South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre ceased activity after that date and has been removed from the Charity Commission register. The net amount of assets and liabilities transferred in the prior period totalled £1,378,774.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.22 Total £	31.03.21 Total £
Counselling Staff Salary costs	688,974	114,150	803,124	448,587
Counselling Consultants	40,550	-	40,550	31,312
Staff training	19,733	2,217	21,950	4,006
Travel & Subsistence	4,139	460	4,599	916
Supervision	9,295	1,033	10,328	11,570
Health & Wellbeing	8,722	-	8,722	-
Transport for clients	344	-	344	7
Counselling Telephone costs	15,810	1,757	17,567	17,522
Language & Sign Interpreters	546	-	546	968
Essex Partnership payments	1,234,064	-	1,234,064	724,213
Governance costs (note 8)	233,800	73,806	307,606	148,026
Support costs (note 9)	83,593	35,826	119,419	104,500
	2,339,570	229,249	2,568,819	1,491,627

Of the £2,568,819 (2021: £1,491,627) expenditure in the year to 31.03.22 £288,558 (2021: £398,460) was charged to restricted funds and £2,280,261 (2021: £1,093,167) to unrestricted funds.

Costs relating directly to charitable activities have been allocated between the two key activities on a direct basis or on a per capita staff basis depending on the nature of the expense. Governance and support costs have been apportioned as detailed in notes 8 and 9 respectively.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

8. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.22 Total £	31.03.21 Total £
Non-Counselling Staff Salary costs	187,252	46,813	234,065	179,613
Salary costs recharged to ICENA	(39,450)	(9,863)	(49,313)	(98,626)
Payroll/Accounting fees	10,450	4,479	14,929	15,136
Audit fee	3,268	1,400	4,668	3,500
Legal & Professional fees	39,569	16,958	56,527	17,214
Consultancy	25,200	10,800	36,000	27,000
Project Monitoring	4,900	2,100	7,000	-
Insurances	2,611	1,119	3,730	4,189
	233,800	73,806	307,606	148,026

Governance costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities based on the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.22 Total £	31.03.21 Total £
Rent	44,037	18,873	62,910	19,725
Heat and Light	868	372	1,240	498
Cleaning, Repairs and maintenance	9,160	3,925	13,085	26,688
IT Equipment & software	11,050	4,736	15,786	28,226
IT Support & development costs	7,567	3,243	10,810	7,844
Printing, stationery & postage	2,634	1,129	3,763	16,293
Publications, subscriptions & publicity	6,122	2,624	8,746	2,884
Non-Counselling Telephone costs	925	397	1,322	1,319
Hospitality & refreshments	472	203	675	357
General expenses	185	79	264	39
Depreciation	285	122	407	407
Bank charges	288	123	411	220
	83,593	35,826	119,419	104,500

Support costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities on the basis of the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

10. STAFF COSTS AND KEY PERSONNEL

	31.03.22	31.03.21
	Total	Total
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	929,437	555,683
Social Security Costs	82,178	57,216
Pension costs	25,574	15,301
	1,037,189	628,200
Average head count (number of staff employed)	28	24

During the year, the number of higher paid employees was as follows:

£60,000-£69,999	2	-
£70,000-£79,999	-	-

The trustees received no remuneration nor were they reimbursed for any expenses during the year (2021: £nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees, the Director and Operations Manager. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £131,346 (2021: £79,265).

11. PENSIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate. The charge for the year was £25,574 (2021: £15,301).

12. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	31.03.22	31.03.21
	Total	Total
	£	£
Audit fees	4,668	3,500
Other services	4,404	5,266
	9,072	8,766

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

13. FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
COST	
As at 1 st April 2021	2,034
Additions	-
Disposals	-
As at 31st March 2022	2,034
 DEPRECIATION	
As at 1 st April 2021	407
Charge	407
Eliminated on disposals	-
As at 31st March 2022	814
 NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 st March 2022	1,220
At 31 st March 2021	1,627

14. DEBTORS

	31.03.22 Total £	31.03.21 Total £
Grants and fees receivable	-	33,214
Prepayments and accrued income	12,262	23,785
Other debtors	147,939	98,626
	160,201	155,625

Other debtors comprise interest free loans of £147,939 for which there is no formal repayment schedule but total loans are repayable within 20 years of the initial agreement.

15. CREDITORS

	31.03.22 Total £	31.03.21 Total £
Trade creditors	1,430	38,486
Accruals and deferred income	7,760	35,764
Other taxation and social security	34,359	-
	43,549	74,250

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

16. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance B/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	10,878	39,267	(36,509)	(13,636)	-
National Lottery Fund	5,814	207,655	(194,162)	322	19,629
National Lottery Community Fund (Coronavirus Community Support Fund)	322	-	-	(322)	-
Control Outbreak Management Fund	-	68,082	(57,887)	(10,195)	-
Development and Policy:					
RCEW Digital Transformation	308	-	-	(308)	-
Ministry of Justice:					
Extra-Ordinary Funds	(2,823)	-	-	2,823	-
	14,499	315,004	(288,558)	(21,316)	19,629
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	680,184	-	-	111,564	791,748
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	830,184	-	-	111,564	941,748
Unrestricted Funds					
	731,475	2,369,736	(2,280,261)	(90,248)	730,702
	1,576,158	2,684,740	(2,568,819)	-	1,692,079

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

16. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Analysis of movement in funds-previous year

	Balance Transferred £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	(450)	29,450	(18,122)	-	10,878
TBC Brighter Futures	(6,834)	-	-	6,834	-
Essex Police Crime Commissioner	(12,103)	-	-	12,103	-
101 Essex PCC	18,104	-	-	(18,104)	-
Talking Therapies	(165)	-	-	165	-
National Lottery Community Fund	47,529	84,464	(126,179)	-	5,814
National Lottery Community Fund (Coronavirus Community Support Fund)	-	10,000	(9,678)	-	322
Development and Policy:					
Rape Crisis England & Wales	25,550	-	-	(25,550)	-
RCEW Digital Transformation	4,210	-	(3,902)	-	308
Ministry of Justice:					
Extra-Ordinary Funds	53,275	160,000	(205,936)	(10,162)	(2,823)
Rape Support Fund	36,325	-	(34,643)	(1,682)	-
	165,441	283,914	(398,460)	(36,396)	14,499
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	627,781	-	-	52,403	680,184
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	777,781	-	-	52,403	830,184
Unrestricted Funds	435,552	1,405,097	(1,093,167)	(16,007)	731,475
	1,378,774	1,689,011	(1,491,627)	-	1,576,158

The details of each restricted fund are provided in note 17.
The details of designated funds are provided in note 19.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

- Better Care Fund
- Control Outbreak Management Fund awarded to respond to the pandemic and increase capacity as a result of the COVID restrictions

Grant funding and contracts have been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of counsellors and advocates providing sexual violence support, counselling and advocacy services to adults, children, young people.

The National Lottery Community Fund

This essential funding has ensured the continuation of the first contact Navigator team which provides the triage support both to service users and professionals across the Essex partnership. The fund runs across the financial year and is due to end 31st October 2022. Continuation funding for 2022/23 has been applied for.

18. PRINCIPLE UNRESTRICTED FUNDING SOURCES

Thurrock Borough Council:

- Brighter Futures Contract for providing Early Interventions with Children and Families
- New Burdens Fund for providing support to victims who have experience sexual domestic abuse
- Young Peoples Counselling
- Development fund for operational and direct staff costs
- Strategic and Operational Funds for direct staff costs for involvement in strategic and operational meetings
- Independent Housing support for providing advocacy and support to enable individuals to live independently

Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

This contract was awarded after a successful procurement process in the Autumn 2019 for three years. Third party payments are made to the two Essex Rape Crisis Centres, SOSRC and CARA. SERICC are the lead partner. Reserves are maintained to ensure third party payments can be made in advance to ensure seamless service delivery across the partnership.

Under the PCC contract the following funding has been made available:

Talking Therapies

The service delivery includes providing sexual violence support, counselling and advocacy services to adults, children, young people across Essex.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

- Rape Support uplift Funding
- COVID related funding
- ISVA funding (Early Engagement and continuation of ISVA provision (2nd Year)

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

This funding has been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of counsellors and advocates providing sexual violence support, counselling and ISVA advocacy services to adults, children, young people.

- Men's Fund

Awarded to reduce waiting lists specifically for men and boys in Essex

Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW):

Policy and strategic work

SERICC's senior staff deliver national policy and strategic work on behalf of Rape Crisis England & Wales. This includes responding to national consultations, attending national stakeholder meetings and ensuring that policy is informed by frontline practice, victims and survivors experiences. SERICC also hosts staff members from the national team at the SERICC office.

SERICC was awarded a designated fund of £21,000 for research and policy related work. The fund was used to provide a feasibility study of the national helpline. Due to COVID the remainder of this fund was extended until February 2022. With permission this fund of £14,000 will be carried over into the new financial year and be utilised on a new research project SERICC are involved with.

19. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Contingency fund is maintained for the potential expenditure that would be incurred in the event that funding is withdrawn from SERICC. At the period end the trustees reviewed the level of the Contingency fund and took the decision to increase it by £111,564 to reflect the increased staffing levels and core costs related to the charity's activities.

The Capital fund is for future and additional capital costs that may include additional premises in order to deliver services effectively in the community.

Whilst there are no existing or pending claims against the charity, the trustees have taken advice and maintained a designated Legal fund as a cautionary measure in order to meet any legal and professional fees and ancillary costs that may arise in the future as a result of any potential claim against the charity or in connection with its operations.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 31.03.22
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,220	1,220
Current assets	28,421	941,748	764,239	1,734,408
Current Liabilities	(8,792)	-	(34,757)	(43,549)
	19,629	941,748	730,702	1,692,079

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds – Previous year

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 31.03.21
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,627	1,627
Current assets	42,130	830,184	776,467	1,648,781
Current Liabilities	(27,631)	-	(46,619)	(74,250)
	14,499	830,184	731,475	1,576,158

21. COMMITMENTS

At 31st March 2022, the charity was committed to two formal premises leases with commitments totaling £48,176 due within the next 5 years.

The financial statements for the period include lease payments recognised as an expense of £21,734

22. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

At 31st March 2022, an amount of £147,939 was owed to SERICC by ICENA, an entity in which certain key management personnel of SERICC are directors. This loan is interest free and repayable in installments as agreed between the two parties.

In addition, SERICC re invested the amount of £2,307 to contribute towards the development of training modules that SERICC staff can access.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022**

23. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.03.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Net movement in funds	66,608	1,576,158
Add back depreciation charge	407	407
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(127)	(56)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	44,737	(155,625)
Decrease/Increase in creditors	(30,701)	74,250
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	80,924	1,495,134

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 01.04.21	Cashflows	Total 31.3.22
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	1,493,156	81,051	1,574,207
Total Net Debt	1,493,156	81,051	1,574,207

SERICC

England & Wales - Charity number 1186836

Accounts

sericc

Rape and Sexual Abuse
Specialist Service

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1186836



SERICC

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

CONTENTS	PAGE
Charity Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Board of Trustees	2 - 15
Report of the Independent Auditors	16 - 18
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance Sheet	20
Statement of Cash Flows	21
Notes to the Financial Statements	22 - 34

SERICC

CHARITY REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Charity Name:	SERICC
Charity Registration Number:	1186836
Registered Office and Address:	SERICC The Hall West Street Grays Essex RM17 6LL
Board of Trustees:	A Curnick (Acting Chair) G Harrington (Acting Secretary) M Heine K Dobson S Todd
Senior Management:	Sheila Coates MBE, Director Lee Eggleston OBE, Operational Manager
Auditors	Rowland Hall Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors 44/54 Orsett Road Grays Essex RM17 5ED
Bankers	CAF BANK Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ Barclays Bank Thurrock Business Centre 9 The Street Grays Essex RM17 6NL
Solicitors	Taylor Vinters Merlin Place Milton Road Cambridge CB4 0DP

SERICCC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

SERICCC applied to the Charity Commission to change its name from South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (which was established on 13th January 1983) to SERICCC and incorporate the charity. The Charity Commission granted this on 9th December 2019. Trustees agreed to continue with the existing charity until the end of the financial year ending 31st March 2020. Trustees attended a special meeting at the end of February 2020 to propose the transfer of assets and the merger of the charities. However, the extraordinary global situation of the COVID pandemic crisis made this challenging and the process was delayed.

The merger of the charities was published at the end of June on the Charity Commission website. Due to the delays SERICCC (CIO) did not become fully operational until the transfer was substantially complete at 1st July 2020, including grants and contracts been assigned or novated to SERICCC CIO by that date with the merger fully finalised by the end of July 2020 and existing staff transferred to the new charity in August 2020. At the end of July, the net assets of £1,378,774 were donated from South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre to SERICCC.

The charity activities have seamlessly continued throughout this change of charitable status. As such the statistics in this report relate to the period April 2020 – March 2021.

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 9th December 2019 to 31st March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts 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 published on 16th July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2nd February 2016).

Trustees of The Charity

The trustees who have served during the period and since the period end were as follows:

- A Curnick (Acting Chair)
- G Harrington (Acting Secretary)
- M Heine
- K Dobson
- S Todd
- M Abboyi (resigned July 2020)

Purpose and Aims

The charity's purpose as set out in the constitutional objectives and activities for public benefit are:

- to relieve sickness and distress amongst those affected by any form of sexual violence and abuse, particularly, but not limited to, women and girls and the community in Essex and the surrounding areas within East Anglia, and including the families and friends of those affected and others affected who are in need, in particular by the provision of counselling and support for such persons; and

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

- to advance education of the public in the subject of sexual violence and abuse, including by but not limited to, the provision of training and publication of information and guidance.

SERICC provides specialist services to anyone in South and West Essex who is experiencing, or who has experienced, any form of sexual violence and abuse at any time in their life. Specialised services are also offered to parents, carers and supporters.

Sexual violence is a term that includes any sexual behaviours that are unwanted or that happen without a person's consent. It includes rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse. Sexual violence and abuse does not always involve physical contact it can include online grooming, viewing and making indecent images of children.

SERICC provide short-term and long-term emotional support and practical information by telephone, online and in person, and offer advocacy and support through the criminal justice system.

Many individuals experience self-blame, shame, guilt and find it difficult to speak of their experiences. The impact of sexual violence and abuse often results in low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and mental health problems. Some individuals say that feel disconnected from their friends, family and peers, school or work performance can suffer difficulty caring for family members or themselves. Sexual violence counselling, support and advocacy is delivered in an empathic sensitive environment which provides emotional support and works with individuals in regaining control over their own lives.

SERICC uses an evidenced based approach to providing high-quality sexual violence services including:

- Emotional support services – telephone and face-to-face support, involving coping strategies, self-esteem, recovery, confidence building and self-care
- Family and Young People's Services – preventative and educative work, working with families to look at safety, emotional resilience and physical well being
- Practical Support services – advocacy, information and support with debt, housing, education, childcare, welfare benefits, legal issues and liaison with statutory organisations such as social care, police, youth offending services, child sexual exploitation triage team
- Specialist sexual violence therapeutic interventions – one-to-one counselling, pre-trial therapy and support groups

This objective is achieved through the provision of high-quality services that are based within SERICC's ethos of empowerment and choice.

SERICC provides a range of specialist services including counselling for adults, young people and children, Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, telephone and emotional support. Below is a summary of activities:

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

Child and Family Services

SERICC provides a service for Thurrock council to parents / carers whose children have experienced sexual violence and/or where the family are engaged with social care. The Brighter Futures programme offers an integrated and intensive support service to equip families to learn and apply parenting skills that develop resourcefulness and resilience while strengthening positive relationships with their children. This has been difficult to deliver during the pandemic and resources were used to create an online programme for parents and children. When possible, face to face services have been provided. In person services resumed in September but were impacted by the NHS isolation alerts for parents and children to stay at home.

Child and Family Services SERICC offers parents / carers whose children have experienced sexual violence and/or where the family are engaged with social care, specialised information and support provided by a registered Social Worker. SERICC provides an integrated and intensive support service to equip families to learn and apply parenting skills that develop resourcefulness and resilience while strengthening positive relationships with their children, 56 Children and families have received 681 sessions of direct work with children who were 12 years or under.

SERICC responded to 15,364 counselling related contacts and activities including telephone calls, emails/ letters and meetings. With the year-on-year increase in take-up of services, SERICC are committed to ensuring that as many individuals as possible can access services and have their individual needs met, including increasing their support networks, decreasing isolation and influence the services they receive from SERICC and other agencies. This has been particularly challenging through the pandemic. SERICC received 2,762 new referrals in the last year whilst working with 3,796 individuals. Individuals were offered 7,764 in person face-to-face sexual violence counselling sessions and 1,490 ISVA and advocacy sessions.

"I am so thankful you that you walked along me and told me it was ok to feel as I did. I had counselling in the past but you let me it was ok to be angry, upset, blaming and shameful. Thank you".

"Lockdown has really challenged my boundaries – I have worked so hard in my counselling to build my boundaries and working on having my own choice but now I am feeling confused. It feels like my choices have been taken from me and some of my old ways of thinking have returned – it is so good to be able to talk about it "

Advocacy and Support

Staff provide needs-based advocacy and support to those who require assistance in accessing additional services external to SERICC. This has continued throughout the pandemic and within government restrictions. Services include:

- housing support and information
- legal information and accompaniment
- support with criminal injuries compensation applications
- criminal justice system information and dedicated support

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

SERICC has an established specialist advocacy service that includes Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA). The ISVA service provides an essential advocacy service to those who choose to report sexual offences to the police. ISVAs provided support to individuals going through the Criminal Justice System including initial and ongoing police investigations and support through the courts process. The ISVA service works in close partnership with Essex police and Oakwood Place, Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) who carry out forensic evidence gathering.

Advocacy and Support Staff provide needs-based advocacy and support to those who require assistance in accessing additional services external to SERICC.

The ISVA service provides an essential advocacy service to those who choose to report sexual offences to the police. ISVAs provided specialist interventions including initial and ongoing police investigations and support through the courts process. There has been an increase in safeguarding concerns due to the 'stay at home' guidance from the government. The ISVA service works in close partnership with Essex police and Oakwood Place, Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) who carry out forensic evidence gathering. There were 15,191 contacts relating to advocacy and ISVA. During the pandemic ISVAs continued to provide accompaniment to court and police related appointments, sexual health services, general health and well-being services.

"I can't thank you enough for helping me with this, I don't know how I would have done this. I feel like I have been let down time and time again, it been one thing after another and it's been made it easier having you in my corner"

They provided housing support and information and where necessary access to legal information and accompaniment. ISVA provided support with criminal injuries compensation applications, criminal justice system information.

"I sincerely want to thank you, even though we didn't get to court this time and have yet another delay you have helped me to keep calm and understand it is what it is, your support has helped me get through this".

During the period SERICC supported:

Number of individuals reported to the police	
In last 12 months	591
In last 12 -24 months	263
More than 24 months	422
Not reported to the police	707

There has also been a significant increase in the number of referrals for 956 individuals concerning multiple mental health and health needs self reported:

- 469 individuals stated they are experiencing mental health difficulties
- 97 individuals stated they have learning disability
- 155 individuals stated they have physical disability

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

- 235 individuals stated they have a diagnosed long-term illness

"Thank you for taking the time to see me and not my Mental Health"

Achievements and Performance

SERICC is committed to upholding the highest possible standards for all services, training and consultation. This was achieved through:

- Gathering information about the service user experience, through feedback, evaluation and outcome data
- Receiving stakeholder feedback
- Providing ongoing staff supervision and staff performance appraisals
- The use of ongoing data collection followed by data analysis for service planning
- The provision of training for staff as part of ongoing professional development
- Strengthening and expanding of local, national and international partnerships and joint working to ensure that service user needs are included in policy and procedure.

SERICC undertakes client surveys before and after service. The questionnaires are collated and the % reflects the overall total. A benchmark measure of 40% is used. Any % returned that is below this value are closely examined and changes made.

Satisfaction with the service:	97% of closed cases said they were satisfied with the service and the support was sensitive to needs and situation.
More in control of their lives:	95% of closed cases said they were now more confident and able to make decisions about their future.
Better health & Well Being:	94% of closed cases had better coping strategies and were able to recognise the impact of sexual violence in their lives.
More able to access further support:	95% of closed cases said they knew of resources and opportunities to access education or employment.
More able to develop & maintain positive relationships:	47% of closed cases stated they felt more able to trust people and build relationships.
More able to assert their rights:	93% of closed cases stated that they knew their rights and entitlements which included engaging with the Criminal Justice System, family courts and / or civil proceedings.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

SERICC meets this objective through organising and participating in consultations and working groups relating to sexual violence, and providing training and learning opportunities in which current research and good practice are disseminated to external practitioners and agencies. This engagement was increased during the period due to multiple online meetings and discussions relating to the impact of the government restrictions and its effect on the charity and service users. SERICC participated in Consultations/Working Groups with and undertook work related to the following:

- Thurrock multi-agency Strategic Board for Violence Against Women & Girls
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service Joint Strategic Forum and Managed Networks
- Support and prevention work in Thurrock & Basildon and other Essex Schools
- East Region Crown Prosecution Service expert panels
- Quarterly meetings with Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Essex Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategic Group including sub groups relating to high profile media coverage of sexual violence and sexual harassment

Partnership working

SERICC works in partnership with Southend Rape Crisis Centre (SOSRC), and Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA). Together we form the partnership Synergy Essex to ensure services are accessible pan Essex. Centres offer services through the primary funding sources: the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Ministry of Justice and NHS England. More victims who have experienced sexual violence in Essex are supported through the partnership and the provision of a triage system and access to immediate specialist support. The Ministry of Justice made additional funds available due to the impact of COVID.

Social Impact

SERICC works to the Rape Crisis England & Wales monitoring and evaluation framework that is aimed at reporting on the improvements to victims and survivor's mental and physical health after using SERICC services.

SERICC distributes and circulates on the SERICC website and through outreach sites, education, skills and employment opportunities to service users. The materials and information on SERICC's website, has the added benefits of increasing well-being and resilience and reducing isolation.

SERICC:

- provides subsidised travel for individuals who are experiencing financial hardship
- provides accompaniment to appointments, such as welfare reviews and medical appeals, which are funded by SERICC
- supports victims to apply for criminal injury compensation awards and when appropriate to support appeals
- undertakes advocacy work to enable individuals who are experiencing housing or debt difficulties to address and resolve problems, enabling them to move forward with their lives
- provides advocacy support, which relieves pressure on statutory services e.g. housing, GPs, mental health services by providing one to one support for individuals to maintain independent living including food vouchers.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

Achievements and Performance Delivering Public Benefits

SERICC responded to the pandemic by ensuring services could be fully delivered via home working and are implementing a hybrid blend of home and office-based work. The impact of the pandemic has created challenges as well as opportunities to revision future offers of support to victims and survivors. This will include counselling and support work provided by safe and confidential platforms online. To provide continuity, the logistical and practical challenging have incurred substantial IT costs, increasing mobile phone use, scaling up of equipment and staff training. The government and local infrastructure organisations made additional funding available to ensure that office spaces could be Covid Compliant which enabled SERICC to purchase equipment, IT support and Personal Protective Equipment. The Government designated front line charity workers as 'Essential' which means services such as court and police support could continue. SERICC have continued to provide services despite the challenges of self-isolation and disruption to schools. Referrals rates to the charity continue to increase. Additional staffing and capacity has been implemented on a short term basis to respond to demand as the charity navigates its way through the impact of the pandemic on society.

The core services provided by SERICC are usually the provision of sexual violence 'face to face' counselling, support, advocacy, telephone support and an information helpline and outreach work. The sexual violence counselling and advocacy support is provided both at the SERICC main office and its satellite base in Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service (Beehive Centre) and across outreach sites including schools and clinics across South and West Essex. Information and awareness raising training is provided to statutory and voluntary organisations on a range of issues including the long-term impact of sexual violence and abuse. Due to the government restrictions face to face services were moved online or by telephone for young people and adults. The advocacy service has continued face to face services as they were considered 'essential workers. Managers have been in the SERICC main office throughout the pandemic to ensure the continuation of the service and to provide access to confidential spaces for service users as and when needed. Training and information sharing has been conducted online over the last year.

Covid related funding has increased staff and contracted hours provided by counselling sessional workers to increase capacity to tackle waiting lists. SERICC did not join the government Furlough scheme.

SERICC will be applying for continuation of funding due to the inevitable decrease in central government funds and increased in demand. To maximise SERICC's resources we continue to look for suitable premises that will accommodate all staff on one site and have designated reserves for potential opportunities. We have secured shared premises and are pooling service delivery with Southend Rape Crisis to increase capacity across the South East. We are looking at the feasibility of providing dedicated children's services from the Southend venue.

SERICC continues to review and improve internal systems to ensure that all are robust and up to date. SERICC's internal policies and procedures are subject to an external annual review undertaken by Thurrock Children's and Adult Services Commissioners. This annual quality assurance review involves

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

policy and procedures, staff and service user interviews. SERICC is professionally approved as a Rape Crisis Centre by Rape Crisis England & Wales.

SERICC works in partnership with a range of local, regional and national statutory strategic groups and provides the external relations on behalf of Rape Crisis England & Wales. This includes attending meetings held by Ministry of Justice, the Home Office, Department of Health, NHS England and Crown Prosecution Service. SERICC works in partnership with Essex Police, Basildon Council, Community Safety Partnerships across South Essex and the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

SERICC is recognised as a strategic lead regionally across Essex and nationally regarding services for sexual violence and abuse victims and survivors. SERICC has a bespoke Data Performance Management System (DPMS) that collates detailed anonymous sexual violence statistical records and data in line with data protection legislation to performance manage, inform service delivery, meet funding monitoring requirements and identify trends and patterns.

Financial Review

The charity, with the aid of sound financial management and the support of both its staff and trustees generated a positive financial outcome for the period.

PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

SERICC's main source of income is project-specific grants, contracts and Service Level Agreements include:

- Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Ministry of Justice
- NHS England
- Rape Crisis England & Wales
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group / Thurrock Council Better Care Fund
- Thurrock Council (Development Fund, Housing Related Support, Brighter Futures, Young People Counsellor)

These income sources are dependent on the ability and willingness of external agencies and government departments/local authorities to support the provision of specialist sexual violence services.

RISK REVIEW

The level of income retained in reserves is based on a realistic assessment of the charity's future income needs and SERICC continues to be prudent in any expenditure. The current unpredictability of existing funding streams and the limited availability of new funding streams, specifically for sexual violence.

There has been significant investment from central government via the Essex PCC office in response to the impact of COVID 19. This investment ceases as of March 31st 2023. It is uncertain regarding

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

the overall economic climate and risks remain. The Board of Trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees recognise that the main external risk to the organisation is loss or reduction in funding. Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner awarded the tender to the Essex Partnership, led by SERICC, until March 2023. There are discussions that this contract will be extended for a further year as stated in the original procurement. SERICC have received additional funding from the National Lottery Community Fund due to the impact of COVID to increase capacity for the First Contact Navigator project until November 2022 and a one-off grant to update the Synergy Essex website to incorporate emerging digital technologies.

Internal financial controls, policy and procedures are in place to ensure compliance. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity. Quarterly monitoring reports to external funders ensure a consistent quality of delivery for the operational aspects of the charity.

External expertise has been commissioned regarding data protection and improving data security for the charity.

The charity manages risks through reserves to maintain operations and services whilst contingency plans are implemented.

RESERVES

The level of income retained in reserves is based on a realistic assessment of the charity's future income needs and SERICC continues to be prudent in any expenditure. The current unpredictability of existing funding streams and the reduction in the availability of new funding streams due to the economic climate remains a risk. The trustees are satisfied that risk management steps will mitigate the identified risks to the charity. SERICC are mindful of the current economic climate and the likelihood of reduced levels of funding which may impact on reserves when COVID related funding is reduced from central government.

SERICC reserves policy is determined on an annual basis. The budget is monitored against actual expenditure on a quarterly basis. The trustees recognise the need to ensure adequate operational costs are held in unrestricted reserves to account for contractual obligations to staff, risk management and any unanticipated reduction in income. This is set at the beginning of the financial year and is subject to review when staff levels and operational costs increase. The level set in relation to the year to 31st March 2021 was £646,768 for 6 months running costs.

The level of reserves required is based on:

- An understanding of operating activities to be maintained;
- Potential risks to staffing costs such as long-term staff illness or maternity leave;
- Potential unanticipated need for new ICT equipment;
- Possible delays in restricted funding to on-going projects;

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

- Potential risks of funding cuts; and
- Potentially reduced unrestricted funding.

Amounts are set aside to meet the provision for an orderly winding-down of operations in the event of a significant adverse event that is outside the control of SERICC. This may include:

- Statutory redundancy payments;
- paying off contracts such as those for mobile phones, rent and broadband;
- the continuation of an internet presence for a period of time;
- staff salary and expenses to oversee the winding down; and
- any professional fees needed e.g. accountancy and legal.

SERICC have agreed to designate funds for legal costs and a new property and will actively seek advice in relation to this in the next two years.

As at 31st March 2021 SERICC total funds were £1,576,158 which included restricted funds of £14,499, designated funds of £830,184 and unrestricted funds of £731,475, which is slightly above the target for the organization although is not of immediate concern to the charity.

Any surplus funds will be used to increase capacity, additional hours and duties of staff to meet the waiting lists.

Due to the nature of SERICC's work, particularly with vulnerable clients, it is vital counselling, support and advocacy services are completed with each individual client in a time sensitive manner, particularly for clients who have reported to the police and are awaiting criminal justice outcomes. These individuals, and in particular children, can wait up to eighteen months or longer from reporting the offence to the police to attendance in court. Support work needs to continue throughout and after the criminal justice process ends. The impact of the pandemic has meant that delays have increased to up to four years.

Lack of certainty about future funding has ongoing significant impact on strategic short- and long-term planning and service delivery, causes multiple organisational problems including employment issues such as redundancy notices, short-term or fixed-term contracts and maintaining staff morale. The charity needs reserves to evidence sound financial management, particularly when applying for grants and contracts and can demonstrate reliable services or funding over the longer term. As lead partner in Essex Partnership, reserves are held to ensure payments can be made in advance to partners to ensure seamless service delivery. This has been particularly challenging due to fast turn around of emergency funding that has been delayed for up to three months.

Future Developments

As part of SERICC's sustainability work we have been working in partnership with 4 rape crisis centres to develop a trading arm. SERICC's sustainability officer has been leading developing this project. It is envisaged that the sustainability officer is 'seconded' into this role full time to ensure that the project has more capacity going forward.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

SERICC have received additional funding to increase capacity and will be undertaking a programme of recruitment over the next year to reduce the waiting lists for services and increased demand for our services.

Fundraising

The charity has not undertaken any significant fundraising activities in the year but has welcomed donations from local individuals and organisations. These unrestricted donations go towards meeting some of SERICC's organisations costs such as utility bills but more specifically go towards a 'hardship' fund which is used when emergency situations arise. This includes supporting families in emergency accommodation or providing emergency food and clothing, transport and interpreting. With an increase in modern day slavery and trafficking for sexual exploitation, donations become crucial support, as these individuals have no access to public funds.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charity that registered with the Charity Commission on 9th December 2019. The charity was established under a constitution that includes specific objects and powers. It is an Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Recruitment and appointment of the Management Committee

SERICC is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of no less than three and no more than twelve trustees with a range of skills, knowledge and experience. Trustees that hold honorary positions serve for 12 months, after which they must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets on a regular basis and is responsible for the ongoing viability, strategic development and direction of the organisation. Trustees hold overall responsibility for the organisation's continued success, it is vital that its trustees have the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to carry out this function. Trustees are encouraged to take part in all appropriate training opportunities, to continue to develop their skills and update their knowledge of legal requirements, funding issues and other developments. Meetings have taken place virtually and in person when possible according to government guidance.

Information from the Charity Commission publications and the Commission's guidance is distributed to as well as updated financial information at the meetings.

The SERICC Board of Trustees confirms that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Organisational structure

SERICC is a South Essex based charity providing essential services to individuals who have experienced any form of sexual violence and abuse. A range of specialised services are provided in Thurrock, Brentwood, Southend and Harlow with hub outreach sites across the districts, schools and colleges, GP surgeries and voluntary sector buildings and are delivered by professional and experienced staff.

SERICC's primary beneficiaries are individuals affected by any form of sexual violence and sexual abuse, particularly, but not limited, to women and girls and the community in South Essex and the surrounding areas.

Secondary beneficiaries include the community, organisations and agencies that access awareness raising relating to the impact of sexual violence and sexual abuse.

SERICC is a needs-led service in which the needs of service users influence the strategic and operational development of the organisation. Service users play a central role through the provision of ongoing individual feedback and evaluation. SERICC also facilitates focus groups with service users to ensure their views and opinions are included in the development and monitoring process.

The Director Sheila Coates MBE and Operations Manager Lee Eggleston OBE carry out day-to-day overall management and strategic development. SERICC staff receive individual and peer supervision in recognition of the impact of working with trauma and adhering to professional code of ethics. In addition to providing clinical support, supervision also plays an important role in the continued professional development of all staff, ensuring they are up to date with therapeutic and other developments in the sector and related fields. SERICC is committed to the ongoing professional and personal development of all its staff and volunteers (including trustees), of which training and supervision is an integral part. The training needs of all staff are closely monitored to ensure that individuals and the staff team are provided with opportunities to develop or improve their practice and stay up to date with new developments, legislation and procedures.

Remuneration

SERICC is committed to careful management of its charity funds. In so doing, it ensures the greatest effectiveness in delivering its charitable objectives and meeting the needs of service users. SERICC uses salary bandings and descriptions for all posts, and salary allocations are based on the requirements of the post, including experience and the funding available for the post. The median of the band would be the 'market average' salary for this type of post identified through the benchmarking process above. Any cost of living increases are considered in line with any NJC recommendations, where appropriate. The annual accounts disclose the number of staff receiving salary of more than £60,000 per annum, in bands of £10,000.

Members of staff are entitled to receive a contribution towards the auto enrolment pension scheme, equivalent to 3% of their gross salary.

SERICC trustees are not paid for their work as a trustee. Trustees are offered reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

SERICC's Board of Trustees takes legal, HR or any other advice when necessary from experts that SERICC contracts with.

Organisational values

SERICC's services are evidenced based. Recording (monitoring) the service delivery outcomes and outputs inform service delivery and measures performance. Monitoring informs all aspects of the organisation, from service gaps in provision, governance and any changes to service provision. SERICC offer creative and innovative services that best meets the needs of service users and the local communities in which SERICC serves.

At the time of this report SERICC employs 24 staff and contracts with sessional counsellors and consultants who have specific areas of expertise, when necessary.

INVESTMENT POLICY

SERICC trustees, where necessary will seek advice from an independent financial advisor regarding any future financial investments. Should the national financial position change and stabilise the charity would reassess its position whilst continuing to adhere to the Charity Commission guidance on investments.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and 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 charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

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

SERICC

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees on 14th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Alison Curnick – Acting Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SERICC (the 'charity') for the period ended 31st March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 14 and 15, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

SERICC

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
TO THE MEMBERS OF SERICC

Use of our audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

44/54 Orsett Road
Grays
Essex

20/1-2022


.....
ROWLAND HALL (Statutory Auditor)
Chartered Certified Accountants
and Registered Auditors

SERICC

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Total Funds to 31.03.21 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies:					
Donations		-	-	3,962	3,962
Grants	3	-	-	48,219	48,219
Charitable activities:					
Grants	3	283,914	-	1,324,263	1,608,177
Fees for services & direct work	4	-	-	28,597	28,597
Other		-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments	5	-	-	56	56
Other					
Donation from South Essex Rape & Incest Crisis Centre	6	165,441	777,781	435,552	1,378,774
Total Income		449,355	777,781	1,840,649	3,067,785
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds					
		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	7	398,460	-	1,093,167	1,491,627
Total Expenditure		398,460	-	1,093,167	1,491,627
Net Income/(expenditure)		50,895	777,781	747,482	1,576,158
Transfers between funds		(36,396)	52,403	(16,007)	-
Net movement in funds and Total funds carried forward		14,499	830,184	731,475	1,576,158

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Movements in funds are disclosed in note 16 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 22 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

SERICC

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Notes	31.03.2021
		£
Fixed Assets:		
Tangible assets	13	1,627
Total fixed assets		1,627
Current assets:		
Debtors	14	155,625
Cash at bank and in hand		1,493,156
Total current assets		1,648,781
Liabilities:		
Creditors falling due within one year	15	74,250
Net current assets		1,574,531
Total assets less current liabilities and Net assets		1,576,158
 The funds of the charity:		
Restricted income funds		14,499
 Unrestricted income funds:		
General fund		731,475
Designated fund		830,184
Total unrestricted funds		1,561,659
Total charity funds		1,576,158

The notes on pages 22 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 14th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Alison Curnick – Acting Chair of Board of Trustees

SERICC

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Total Funds to 31.03.21 £
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	22	1,495,134
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>		
Interest		56
Purchase of equipment		(2,034)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(1,978)
Cash flows from financing activities		-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period		1,493,156
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		-
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		1,493,156
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash at bank and in hand		1,493,156
Short term deposits		-
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.3.21		1,493,156

The notes on pages 22 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. General Information and Basis of Preparation

SERICCC is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England. The address of the charity is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Report of the Trustees on pages 2 to 15.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention in accordance with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these financial statements. 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the financial currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

b. Reporting Period

These financial statements are the first for this entity and represent a long period from registration of the charity on 9th December 2019 to 31st March 2021. A year end of 31st March has been chosen in line with many of the Charity's funding contracts.

c. Fund Accounting

Restricted funds comprise grants made for specific purposes as laid down by the donor (e.g. for specific projects). Expenditure that meets these specific purposes is matched against grant income and analysed over the appropriate cost. Further details regarding restricted funds are provided in note 17.

Unrestricted funds comprise other income received or generated for charitable purposes but which may be spent at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been earmarked by the trustees for a purpose.

d. Income Recognition

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the fund, any performance conditions attached have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income generated from contracts for services is recognised as earned.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Investment income and all other incoming resources are accounted for in the period in which they are received.

e. Expenditure Recognition

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

The charity is not registered for VAT and all expenses are inclusive of VAT where appropriate.

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. per capita, floor space or estimated usage as set out in notes 7, 8 and 9.

f. Fixed Assets

Depreciation on fixed assets has been calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life at a rate of 25% on written down values. It is the charity's policy to capitalise assets costing in excess of £5,000.

g. Staff and Pension Costs

Counselling staff costs are allocated in the Statement of Financial Activities on a direct basis per individual employees and time spent on charitable activities. Other non-counselling staff costs are allocated on the basis of estimated time and resources expended by the charity overall on each charitable activity. Pension costs are accounted for in the period to which they relate and are similarly allocated on a direct basis.

h. Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the lease.

i. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discount due.

j. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

k. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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 revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

3. GRANT AND CONTRACT INCOME

	Restricted	Unrestricted	31.03.21
	£	£	Total
			£
Donations and legacies:			
Thurrock Borough Council			
Development Fund	-	48,219	48,219
Ministry of Justice Rape Support Fund	-	-	-
	-	48,219	48,219

In the period to 31.03.21, of the grant income classified as Donations and Legacies income, £nil was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £48,219 adding to unrestricted funds.

Income from Charitable activities:

Thurrock Borough Council			
Children and Families	-	7,500	7,500
YP SV Counsellor Children & Families	-	54,000	54,000
Housing Related Support	-	31,769	31,769
Brighter Futures	-	33,741	33,741
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	29,450	-	29,450
Essex Police Crime Commissioner			
Sexual Violence Counselling	-	986,998	986,998
MOJ ISVA	-	185,130	185,130
MOJ Extraordinary COVID fund	160,000	-	160,000
Big Lottery Fund	84,464	-	84,464
The National Lottery Community Fund (Coronavirus Community Support Fund)	10,000	-	10,000
Rape Crisis England & Wales			
External Relations Programme	-	25,125	25,125
	283,914	1,324,263	1,608,177

In the period to 31.03.21, of the grant and contract income classified as Income from Charitable Activities, £283,914 was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £1,324,263 adding to unrestricted funds.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

4. INCOME FOR SERVICES & DIRECT WORK

			31.03.21
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Rape Crisis – Hosting Fees	-	5,187	5,187
Counselling Sessions	-	-	-
Training	-	1,500	1,500
Other Services & Direct Work	-	21,910	21,910
	-	28,597	28,597

In the period to 31.03.21, of the Fees for Services and Direct Work income, £nil was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £28,597 adding to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

			31.03.21
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Bank Interest	-	56	56

In the period to 31.03.21, of the Investment income, £nil was attributable to restricted income funds with the balance of £56 adding to unrestricted funds.

6. DONATION FROM SOUTH ESSEX RAPE AND INCEST CRISIS CENTRE

South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre, charity no: 287762, continued activity until 1st July 2020 when the majority of assets were transferred to SERICC, with all assets and liabilities having been fully transferred by 31st July 2020. South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre ceased activity after that date and has been removed from the Charity Commission register. The net amount of assets and liabilities transferred in the period totalled £1,378,774.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.21 Total £
Counselling Staff Salary costs	372,647	75,940	448,587
Counselling Consultants	31,312	-	31,312
Staff training	3,583	423	4,006
Travel & Subsistence	824	92	916
Supervision	10,413	1,157	11,570
Transport for clients	7	-	7
Counselling Telephone costs	15,770	1,752	17,522
Language & Sign Interpreters	968	-	968
Essex Partnership payments	724,213	-	724,213
Governance costs (note 8)	118,126	29,900	148,026
Support costs (note 9)	73,150	31,350	104,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,351,013	140,614	1,491,627
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the £1,491,627 expenditure in the period to 31.03.21 £398,460 was charged to restricted funds and £1,093,167 to unrestricted funds.

Costs relating directly to charitable activities have been allocated between the two key activities on a direct basis or on a per capita staff basis depending on the nature of the expense. Governance and support costs have been apportioned as detailed in notes 8 and 9 respectively.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

8. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.21 Total £
Non-Counselling Staff Salary costs	143,690	35,923	179,613
Salary costs recharged to ICENA (inc prior periods)	(72,491)	(26,135)	(98,626)
Payroll/Accounting fees	10,595	4,541	15,136
Audit fee	2,450	1,050	3,500
Legal & Professional fees	12,050	5,164	17,214
Consultancy	18,900	8,100	27,000
Insurances	2,932	1,257	4,189
	<hr/> 118,126	<hr/> 29,900	<hr/> 148,026 <hr/>

Governance costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities based on the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Counselling & Advocacy £	Prevention & Education £	31.03.21 Total £
Rent	13,807	5,918	19,725
Heat and Light	349	149	498
Cleaning, Repairs and maintenance	18,682	8,006	26,688
IT Equipment & software	19,758	8,468	28,226
IT Support & development costs	5,491	2,353	7,844
Printing, stationery & postage	11,405	4,888	16,293
Publications, subscriptions & publicity	2,019	865	2,884
Non-Counselling Telephone costs	923	396	1,319
Hospitality & refreshments	250	107	357
General expenses	27	12	39
Depreciation	285	122	407
Bank charges	154	66	220
	<hr/> 73,150	<hr/> 31,350	<hr/> 104,500 <hr/>

Support costs are apportioned between the two key charitable activities on the basis of the level of resources and time expended by the charity as a whole on each activity.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

10. STAFF COSTS AND KEY PERSONNEL

	31.03.21
	Total
	£
Salaries and Wages	555,683
Social Security Costs	57,216
Pension costs	15,301
	<hr/>
	628,200
	<hr/>
	Number
Average head count (number of staff employed)	24

During the period, the number of higher paid employees was as follows:

£60,000-£69,999

-

£70,000-£79,999

-

The trustees received no remuneration nor were they reimbursed for any expenses during the period.

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees, the Director and Operations Manager. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £79,265.

11. PENSIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate. The charge for the period was £15,301.

12. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	31.03.21
	Total
	£
Audit fees	3,500
Other services	5,266
	<hr/>
	8,766
	<hr/>

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

13. FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £
COST	
Additions	2,034
Disposals	-
As at 31 st March 2021	2,034
DEPRECIATION	
Charge	407
Eliminated on disposals	-
As at 31 st March 2021	407
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 st March 2021	1,627

14. DEBTORS

	31.03.21
	Total
	£
Grants and fees receivable	33,214
Prepayments and accrued income	23,785
Other debtors	98,626
	155,625

Other debtors comprise interest free loans of £98,626 for which there is no formal repayment schedule but total loans are repayable within 20 years of the initial agreement.

15. CREDITORS

	31.03.21
	Total
	£
Trade creditors	38,486
Accruals and deferred income	35,764
	74,250

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

16. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance Transferred £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance C/f £
Restricted Funds:					
Counselling & Advocacy:					
Thurrock CCG/Better Care Fund	(450)	29,450	(18,122)	-	10,878
TBC Brighter Futures	(6,834)	-	-	6,834	-
Essex Police Crime Commissioner	(12,103)	-	-	12,103	-
101 Essex PCC	18,104	-	-	(18,104)	-
Talking Therapies	(165)	-	-	165	-
National Lottery Community Fund	47,529	84,464	(126,179)	-	5,814
National Lottery Community Fund (Coronavirus Community Support Fund)		10,000	(9,678)	-	322
Development and Policy:					
Rape Crisis England & Wales	25,550	-	-	(25,550)	-
RCEW Digital Transformation	4,210	-	(3,902)	-	308
Ministry of Justice:					
Extra-Ordinary Funds	53,275	160,000	(205,936)	(10,162)	(2,823)
Rape Support Fund	36,325	-	(34,643)	(1,682)	-
	165,441	283,914	(398,460)	(36,396)	14,499
Designated Funds:					
Contingency Fund	627,781	-	-	52,403	680,184
Capital Fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Legal Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
	777,781	-	-	52,403	830,184
Unrestricted Funds					
	435,552	1,405,097	(1,093,167)	(16,007)	731,475
	1,378,774	1,689,011	(1,491,627)	-	1,576,158

The details of each restricted fund are provided in note 17.
The details of designated funds are provided in note 18.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Sexual Violence Counselling and Advocacy:

- Thurrock Borough Council:
- Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

Grant funding and contracts have been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of counsellors and advocates providing sexual violence support, counselling and advocacy services to adults, children, young people.

Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

This contract was awarded after a successful procurement process in the Autumn 2019 for three years. Third party payments are made to the two Essex Rape Crisis Centres, SOSRC and CARA. SERICC are the lead partner. Reserves are maintained to ensure third party payments can be made in advance to ensure seamless service delivery across the partnership.

Talking Therapies

This NHS funding stream integrated into the PCC contract is for providing counselling support to victims and survivors who have been referred by the Sexual Assault Referral Centre. It contributes towards time limited counselling before clients are referred into ISVA and counselling services provided by SERICC and the partnership.

The service delivery includes providing sexual violence support, counselling and advocacy services to adults, children, young people across Essex.

MOJ Rape Support Fund

This grant funding has been utilised to meet operational and delivery costs of counsellors and advocates providing sexual violence support, counselling and advocacy services to adults, children, young people.

SERICC as lead partner for the Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres have managed additional funds this period that have been awarded to cover exceptional costs due to government restrictions and increase capacity for counselling and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers.

MOJ Extraordinary COVID Fund

Additional funding of £160,000 was made available to the Partnership to provide support to the charity and partnership organisations due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Lottery Community Fund

This essential funding has ensured the continuation of the first contact team which provides the triage support both to service users and professionals.

A one-off grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, has helped SERICC re-design the website with additional resources.

SERICC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW):

Policy and strategic work

SERICC's senior staff deliver national policy and strategic work on behalf of the Rape Crisis network. The work includes responding to national consultations, attending national stakeholder meetings and ensuring that policy is informed by frontline practice, victims and survivors experiences. SERICC also hosts staff members from the national team at the SERICC office. From time to time SERICC undertake additional time limited pieces of work, such as updating specific policy on behalf of RCEW. RCEW has been provided with a dedicated budget for research and policy purposes across a two-year period. This year the research was focused on providing a National Helpline.

Digital Transformation and Rape Crisis 'Weaving the Web' project

Rape Crisis England & Wales has supported centres with training and funding to begin to address a digital transformation in our sector by formalising an action plan and dedicated resources. Funding was used to update SERICC IT, and IT support and create dedicated IT office space. The funding enabled the website to be refreshed, engage in training and updating office space and equipment. Rape Crisis is running a national project called Weaving the Web which provides a virtual chat and information support service for victims. Resources were to support any referrals, involvement or related activities were received from RCEW services.

Transfers between funds

Certain restricted funds have been reclassified as unrestricted income from contracts for services. Any funds transferred from South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre relating to these funds have been transferred accordingly.

18. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Contingency fund is maintained for the potential expenditure that would be incurred in the event that funding is withdrawn from SERICC. At the period end the trustees reviewed the level of the Contingency fund and took the decision to increase it by £52,403 to reflect the increased staffing levels and core costs related to the charity's activities.

The Capital fund is for future and additional capital costs that may include additional premises in order to deliver services effectively in the community.

Whilst there are no existing or pending claims against the charity, the trustees have taken advice and maintained a designated Legal fund as a cautionary measure in order to meet any legal and professional fees and ancillary costs that may arise in the future as a result of any potential claim against the charity or in connection with its operations.

SERICC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS IN FUNDS

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,627	1,627
Current assets	42,130	830,184	776,467	1,648,781
Current Liabilities	(27,631)	-	(46,619)	(74,250)
	14,499	830,184	731,475	1,576,158

20. COMMITMENTS

At 31st March 2021, the charity was committed to a formal lease with the Parochial Church Council of Grays Team Ministry with commitments totalling £55,000 due within the next 5 years. The lease commitment was formally transferred to SERICC CIO after the end of the period.

The financial statements for the period include lease payments recognised as an expense of £12,043.

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

At 31st March 2021, an amount of £98,626 was owed to SERICC by ICENA, an entity in which certain key management personnel of SERICC are directors. This loan is interest free and repayable in installments as agreed between the two parties.

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.03.21
	£
Net movement in funds	1,576,158
Add back depreciation charge	407
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(56)
(Increase) in debtors	(155,625)
Increase in creditors	74,250
Net Cash used in Operating Activities	1,495,134

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	Transfer from South Essex Rape & Incest Crisis Centre	Cashflows	Total
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	1,282,551	210,605	1,493,156
Total Net Debt	1,282,551	210,605	1,493,156