

# AIM NORTHWEST

## Legal and administrative information

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### Trustees

Hazel Lee Williams	Chair
Colette Borrill	Deputy
Richard Mundy	Treasurer
Caroline Beddow	Business Lead
Danny Taylor	IT and Marketing lead
Martin Hoolicken	IT
Sharon Fleming	Fundraising Lead
Michaela Burley	Safeguarding Lead

Kerry Bamber	Director
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Charity Number	1191333
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Principal office	Floor 3 Leigh Spinners Mill Park Lane Leigh WN72LB
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Mr A Bell	Auditor
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## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS REPORT)

Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

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- Covid 19 has presented a challenge for us throughout 2021 and into 2022; with AIM Northwest being in the early stages of development has been difficult to raise awareness of the work we do. We did make progress predominantly through word of mouth via partners and referring agencies and through social media channels. The impact of this is slow progress in receiving referrals of those coming to us to access support. Things in recent months have appeared to be improving, due to the building of positive relationships with key services.
- Much of the support up until January 2022 was delivered via online channels such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Google and over the phone. Our Volunteers have worked tirelessly to make the best of a difficult situation and despite restrictions have supported those accessing our services to reach positive outcomes, in particular by reducing loneliness and supporting mental wellbeing.

*“Talking to Leanne was the highlight of each week because I couldn’t get out due to being on the vulnerable list and having to isolate”*

- With the easing of restrictions support has taken place in community spaces and with the establishment of our AIM Northwest office base we are welcoming those we support to access face to face meetings in a confidential environment.
- The Board of AIM Northwest have met on a bi-monthly basis in a mixture of online and face to face meetings, where this has been possible. Identifying keys areas of development, subgroups also met during the alternate months. The Subgroups complete targeted work around business development, service development, fundraising strategy and IT and Marketing. This has proved to be a positive change from 2020 format of meeting monthly, improving efficiency and making best use of the skills we have within the board to develop the charity.
- The charity has faced some negative feedback from victims of domestic abuse with regards to working with perpetrators. We have discussed with victims and the wider community why this is, to help them understand the greater benefits of working with perpetrators to prevent abuse. We aim to continue to take a Proactive rather than a reactive role in the role we play in tackling domestic abuse.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

### SERVICE DEVELOPMENT:

#### Peer Mentor Programme

Over the course of 2021 the peer mentor programme has received applications for 17 volunteers. 9 were successfully recruited and trained for the role. The criteria for the Role of peer mentor is that the applicant must have direct or indirect experience of Domestic abuse in order to be able to mentor those accessing our service. The Value of this is that Victims accessing our service feel that the mentor understands as they are an 'expert by experience'. The mentor programme also develops survivors of domestic abuse. Mentoring brings an opportunity to learn new skills and build confidence to work towards employment where volunteers may want to.

Mentors have been recruited from Wigan, Salford and Liverpool areas or the Northwest and have supported Victims of Domestic abuse from Wigan, Salford, and Ashton-Under-Lyne areas of the Northwest.

Over 2021 we received a total of 22 referrals for the peer mentor service. Our Volunteers have supported with the following:

- Housing support needs
- Health and wellbeing
- Financial support
- Engagement to reduce offending behaviours

#### Case Study

*Client A was 8 months pregnant when she fled from Northern Ireland with her 2-year-old son due to domestic abuse. Having been placed in refuge accommodation, she was referred to AIM Northwest Peer Mentoring Service by staff at the refuge due to her feeling lonely and isolated and struggling with her mental health and wellbeing.*

*Because of relocation, she had no family or friends, and due to lack of confidence and self-esteem was struggling to access community facilities independently, or make any connections as social interaction within her accommodation was limited due to covid-19 restrictions. The peer mentor has been meeting with client A on a weekly basis, offering emotional support, information and encouragement, as well as support to attend a local baby and toddler wellness group, where the needs of the children are being met and she is starting to make friends amongst other attendees.*

*With our support, client A has been able to recognise that her anxiety levels are reducing. She is feeling less isolated and is starting to feel more settled within the community she has moved to. The children are also benefiting as mum is feeling much more resilient and as a result, they are also gaining through social interaction with other children.*

Our peer mentor will support the family until they are settled in their own permanent accommodation, which will support the transition from refuge to independence and any hurdles that are identified along the way. Eventually this client will be able to attend community groups without the support of her mentor and the aim of the expansion of our current services is so people like client A can develop a network of more naturalistic support without requiring service intervention in the future.

## **Positive Change Service**

The positive change service was launched January 2022. This service is aimed at working to prevent incidences of domestic abuse by working with Perpetrators and their families where there has been incidents of domestic abuse and the partners wish to stay together.

Since January 2022 this service has not been well publicised. We have received a total of 6 referrals in this time. Referral agencies include children's social care and probation services.

### **Case Study**

*Client B is referred to Positive Change by the children's social worker. The children are open to child protection conference due to the nature of the risk. Having been living with his maternal family as he was not allowed to return home social care referred to AIM Northwest with a view to supporting dad to return to the family home once works had been completed to reduce risk*

*Client B did not want to engage but understood that he to achieve the goal of returning home, it would be necessary. We initially worked with Client B to identify any unmet need. We identified substance misuse and mental health needs that were unmet and whilst client B did not wish to engage with drug and alcohol services, he is now engaging with Mental health support.*

*On a 1-2-1 basis over the period of 3 months, Client B engaged in behavioural awareness sessions aimed at achieving awareness and a greater understanding of:-*

- *Being able to recognise abusive behaviours and how they affect others*
- *Understanding why I am violent*
- *Identifying triggers and how to respond to difficulties in a non-abusive way*
- *How to take responsibility without blaming others and minimizing behaviours*
- *Learning to Listen and respect partners to build healthier relationships*

*As the sessions progressed and support was reviewed Client B stated*

*"..this is the first place I have been since I came out of Jail where you make me feel like I matter"*

*The Children social worker said:*

*"I have not been able to find another service that will do the work AIM will, especially working around shift work"*

*Client B is now making good progress around insight into his behaviours. There is still some work to be done, however it is thought that the family will soon be stepping down from child protection status to child in need.*

*The Work AIM has done, has had a positive impact on both client B, his partner, and their children.*

*By investing in working with those who perpetrate we support victims and their children to stay safer.*

We are enabling those who have offended in a positive way, through encouragement, building their confidence and self-esteem, and by showing positive change can happen. Those who offend are often ostracised and struggle to re integrate into the community. We demonstrate through our All Individuals matter approach that despite the barriers we will not be deterred in supporting offenders of domestic abuse to realise their potential.

### **Support group/coffee morning**

We listened to our clients when they said covid 19 had left them feeling isolated and felt they would benefit from the opportunity to socialise in a way they would feel safe.

We successfully secured £1000 funding from forever Manchester to run a weekly support group for victims of domestic abuse. This group is open to both men and women, and we welcome them to bring their children along with them, so this is not a barrier to engagement.

Our support group runs on a Thursday Morning between 10am and 12pm. This takes places at AIM Northwest Charity base at Leigh spinners Mill.

The group is in its infancy and will be led by the needs of those who attend following consultation. The plan is not just to provide a place to meet for coffee but to invite guest speakers along and to provide some therapeutic activities that those attending will benefit from.

Those who access our peer mentor service will be able to continue to access the support group once they are no longer accessing the peer service further supporting them in rebuilding their lives.

## **Feeling and healing**

We are currently working on a Pilot with community partners where families will benefit from 6 weeks of positive activities designed to help children and parents who are living in abusive homes are recovering from abusive homes. The aim is to understand feelings around our experiences, help children and their parents strengthen their bond by doing positive activities together that supports the healing process following suffering from abuse.

Activities to include:

Mental Health Session – promoting positive touch and mindfulness

Social Stories session – Understanding/identifying how we feel and sense of self.

Family craft activity – Creating something positive together

Family Jujitsu session – providing a positive emotional outlet and positive boundaries

Music Expression – Expressing emotion through use of music and instruments

Outdoor Adventure – getting out into Nature to promote healthier minds and reducing anxiety.

Celebration week – certificates and mini party.

This is due to Pilot September time with the view of reviewing outcomes to apply for funding to run the project on a recurring basis to benefit more families.

## FUNDRAISING and GRANTS

AIM Northwest is in the early stages of development as a charity and have fundraised through several channels to support our activities. We have been fortunate to have been awarded 2 grants in the last financial year alongside our own fundraising activities.

### **Grants**

In January 2021 we secured £1000 funding through forever Manchester fund to run our domestic abuse coffee morning.

In March 2022 we secured £1000 through the Arnold Clark fund to help with running costs and help towards the cost of running the feeling and healing sessions.

### **Community Events**

Due to covid-19 fundraising thorough community events has been restricted. As restriction eased, we have been fortunate enough to be supported by local venues in our fundraising efforts and have been able to run the following events:

- September 21 – Ladies Night
- December 21 – Breakfast with Santa
- February 22 – Psychic Night
- March 22 – Stepping Out Against Domestic Abuse
- April 22 – Quiz Night



**Online Shop** – using our online shop, [www.shop.amnnorthwest.org.uk](http://www.shop.amnnorthwest.org.uk) we have utilised donations from members of the public and through organisations that have donated goods to sell to raise funds. We have also utilised the online shop to support in the sale of our charity events.

### **Other activities:**

- We sold advent packs in November 2021 and Christmas Eve boxes in December 2021.
- Ran raffles in October 2021 for domestic violence awareness month

Advent calendar in December 2021 and Easter raffle in March 2022.

- other organisations have supported us in our fundraising efforts by fundraising on our behalf.



## OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

### **21 Elf's**

21 Elf's 2021 was a great success. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we ran the 21-elf's award. Working with a donor, A family was awarded a complete Christmas in December 2021.

This included Christmas dinner, shopping for the week, Christmas tree complete with decorations, presents for all the family, Gas and Electricity for the Christmas period and a supermarket voucher.

This meant the family did not need to worry about finding the money for food and presents and other essential living costs leaving them free to focus on spending time together and enjoying the Christmas experience worry free.

The wider impact of this was that mum was referred to the Peer Mentor service where she accessed support to engage with Mental health services, support with accessing benefits, budgeting support and we applied for a grant from the 'Buttle trust' to support the children with essentials the family were not able to afford themselves. Working in partnership with the Buttle trust the family received their home carpeted, new beds, mattresses and bedding for the children, a fridge freezer and funded swimming lessons for 14 weeks.

Through the gift of 21 Elf's, we have made a bigger impact on this family than we thought we would.

" I am overwhelmed with the award of 21 Elf's, I cannot thank you enough for what you have given us"

## **OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED**

### ***Office Space***

We have achieved our plan to have our own office base. This provides a home for volunteers who now come to work and feel part of a wider team which they didn't feel they were part of before. Clients now have a location to call in on any time they need support. Office space now also means we can provide a wider range of services.

### ***Expanding of existing services***

We have expanded on our services as we planned to do so. With now having the positive change, support group and a pilot ready to launch in September 2022 – feeling and healing. Going forward we plan to consolidate what we are currently doing and look to secure funding before we look to progress to other services.

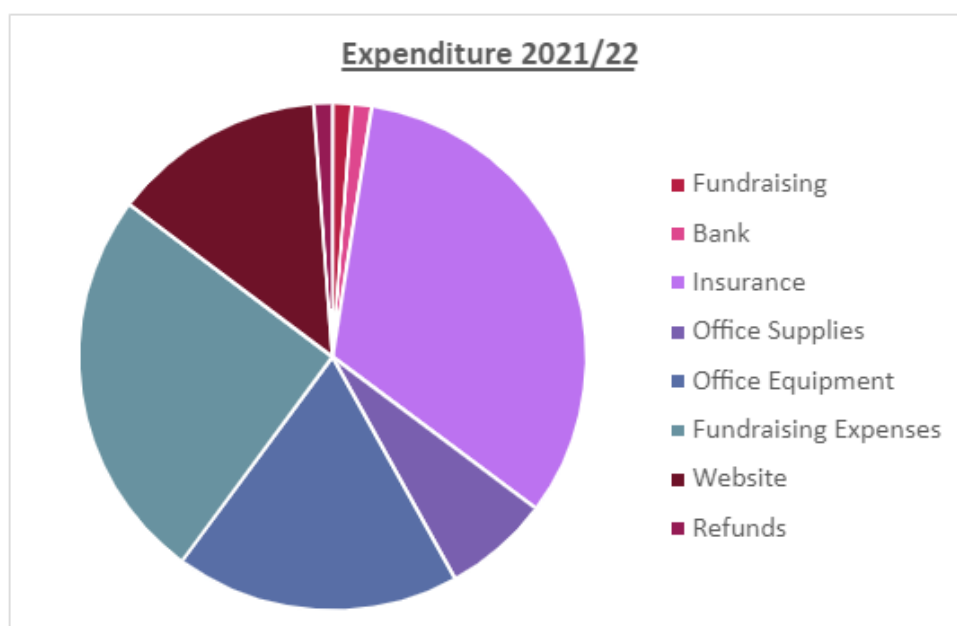
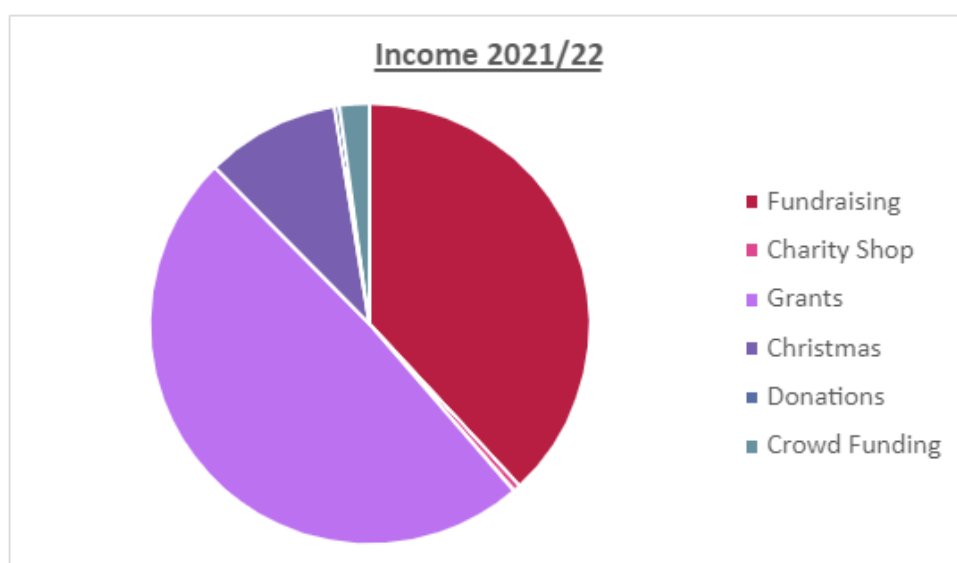
### ***Increasing funds***

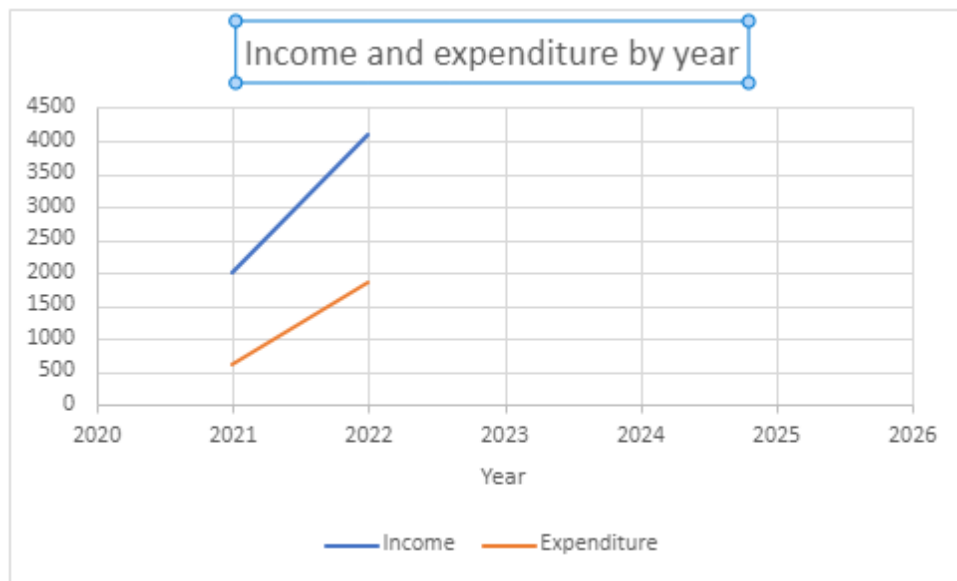
We have increased on funds from last year from £2000 to £4000 including a grant of £1000 for a specific project. Going forward we plan to look for funding to continue to run our existing services and aim to employ a member of staff in 2023. We will also continue to develop our fundraising strategy and run future events.

## INANCIAL REPORT

Income has doubled in our second year of operation. This is partly due to the Covid restrictions being lifted, but mainly due to the hard work of our Director, Trustees and supporters. We have successfully bid for 2 grants of £1000, one to fund the running of a coffee morning at our new premises and the other to cover general expenses.

Expenses have increased considerably, but this was to be expected as we expand our operations. Setting up and running the office has counted for approximately 50% of the outlay, with insurance being the other main expense. We are also upgrading our website which has involved some initial expenditure with more to come in the next year financial year.





## **GRATITUDES**

### ***Gresham Office Furniture Ltd***

For donating, delivering and installing of new office furniture that makes it possible for us to work and provide a supportive environment for our client group.

### ***Leigh Spinners Mill***

For Making it possible to provide a home for volunteers and a safe space for clients.

### ***Lowri Mill, Lowton SC & Nibble and Network team***

For supporting us in our fundraising efforts making the services we provide possible.

### ***Admirals Labels***

For providing printing and literature that helps spread the word.

### ***Professional Witness Group***

For providing round the clock lone working safety for our volunteers so they have piece of mind if they need help, it is at hand.

### ***Image Village***

For believing in the vision and making it come to life.

**An Extra special thanks to All Volunteers of AIM Northwest who selflessly invest their time and to our clients who place their faith in us, by asking us for help in the most difficult of times.**



# Receipts and payments account

For the period from	01/05/2021	To
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## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>			
Fundraising	1,557	-	-
Charity Shop	22	-	-
Grants	1,000	1,000	-
Christmas	402	-	-
Donations	15	-	-
Crowd Funding	90	-	-
Charity Sweets	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	3,087	1,000	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	3,087	1,000	-
<b>A3 Payments</b>			
Fundraising	23	-	-
Bank	23	-	-
Insurance	604	-	-
Office Supplies	125	-	-
Office Equipment	335	-	-
Fundraising Expenses	464	-	-
Charity Sweets			
Mileage			
DBS			
Website	250	-	-
Refunds	22	-	-
IT			
Admin Costs	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	1,846	-	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	1,846	-	-

<b><i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i></b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>1,552</b>	-	-
<b><i>Cash funds this year end</i></b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash	- 45
	Nat West	1,662
	Paypal	1,116
	Tide	60
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>2,793</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates
	Money owing to volunteers (as reflected in the cash balance above)	Cash



Signed by one or two trustees on  
behalf of all the trustees



Signature

Print N



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ounts

30/04/22

CC16a

Total funds

Last year

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

1,557	848
22	11
2,000	-
402	-
15	539
90	150
-	460
-	
4,087	2,007

-	
-	-
-	-

4,087	2,007
-------	-------

23	224
23	2
604	259
125	-
335	-
464	-
	10
	60
250	-
22	-
-	63
1,846	619

-	
-	
-	-

1,846	619
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<b>2,240</b>	<b>1,388</b>
-	-
<b>1,552</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>3,793</b>	<b>1,552</b>

## the period

### Restricted funds

to nearest £

-
1,000
-
1,000

OK

### Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

### Restricted funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

### Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

### Cost (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

### Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

### Cost (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

### Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

### Amount due (optional)

45
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### When due (optional)

22 May 2022
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	-	
	-	
	-	
	-	

lame	Date of approval