

Charity Registration No. 1192772

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	F Purchase (Chair) N Kuhrt CE Townend L Yaffe (appointed 17 May 2023) L O'Connor (appointed 20 June 2024) I Altinkaya (appointed 11 March 2024)
Chief Executive Officer	A Huston
Registered Charity name	Release Counselling And Therapy For Women CIO
Charity number	1192772
Registered office	Community Base 113 Queens Road Brighton East Sussex BN1 3XG
Website	www.releaseforwomen.org.uk
Telephone	07954216995
Independent Examiner	TC Group The Courtyard Shoreham Road Upper Beeding Steyning West Sussex BN44 3TN
Bankers	Co-Operative Bank PLC Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6NY

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO

CONTENTS

Trustees' Report	1 - 5
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Accounts	10 - 16

**RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees of Release Counselling and Therapy for Women present their Annual Report for the period ended 31 March 2024 together with the accounts for the Charity.

The accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the charity's governing document and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Message from the chair and chief executive

Release Counselling and Therapy for Women was set up in Brighton and Hove in January 2013, and registered as a UK charity in 2020, to provide affordable counselling and other forms of support for women across Sussex experiencing mental health distress.

The vision of Release simply put is for better mental health and wellbeing for women across Sussex. As part of this, we aim to increase inclusion, reaching women often excluded from counselling and other mental health support due to cost.

Our mission is to support women to change how they feel and to live better. Through low-cost one-to-one counselling and a range of therapeutic groups, we empower women to bring about change in their lives, live better happier lives, and become more active in their communities through feeling more connected.

We have experienced a period of rapid growth in our activities in the last couple of years, increasing our income to close to £150k, with the year ending April 2025 expected to show yet further growth. This increase in income reflects the high levels of demand for our services, which provide such vital support to women across the region.

Lastly, we would like to welcome Amy Hutson to the charity as the incoming Chief Executive Officer from August 2024, taking on the role from our founder Ellen Baldwin who is stepping down after over 10 years of service. Amy, who is well regarded within our field of work, has been an advocate of Release for some time, and we're delighted to have her lead the charity for many years to come.

Ellen Baldwin, Chief Executive Officer
Felicity Purchase, Chair

**RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Overview of our work

Release Counselling and Therapy for Women (Release), is a UK registered charity, working to improve the mental health of women in Sussex, reduce isolation, and enable women to bring about changes in their lives. We specialise in maternal mental health, supporting mothers and their babies during the perinatal period, a key transition period in which many mothers experience vulnerable mental health.

Release operates a team of qualified counsellors and carefully selected trainee counsellors, and work within the BACP (British Association for Counsellors and Psychotherapists) Ethical Framework. As a team we have additional specialism in the areas of trauma and sexual violation, perinatal mental health, couples counselling, addictions, and bereavement and loss.

All our activities are funded by voluntary donations and other funding sources, to ensure that all women who are in need of support can access our services.

In 2020 Release Counselling and Therapy for Women transitioned from a Community Interest Company to a UK Registered Charity to better reflect the nature of our work. Release Counselling and Therapy for Women has been operating since 2013.

Mission

Release exists to help women across Sussex change how they feel and to live better, through one-to-one counselling and a range of therapeutic groups

Charitable objectives

To protect and promote the mental and emotional health of women (and their families where necessary), living in Brighton and Hove and the surrounding areas. This will be achieved through, but not necessarily restricted to: providing an affordable and accessible counselling service, and by the training of individuals or groups in the provision of such counselling and therapeutic support.

Our core work

We fulfil our mission by running the following three areas of service:

1. **One-to-One affordable counselling** for individuals, on a time-limited basis.
2. **Therapeutic Groups**
3. **Workshops & Retreats**

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance

The charity continues to grow its reach, with the 12 months covered by this report seeing more delivery than ever before. This important work included:

- Following a consultation with service users, we rebranded our 10-week motherhood groups to Mother Nurture (formerly Mummys shock)
- Delivering our 10-week Mother Nurture groups for mums experiencing postnatal depression and anxiety, 9 times, in a variety of new locations. All 9 groups developed into peer support groups at the end of the courses. We also developed specialist Mother Nurture groups for parents with babies in NICU (neonatal infant care unit), LGBTQ+ families and survivors of sexual violence.
- Delivering our new 8-week group Second Nature group for second/third+time mums, 5 times in a variety of new locations.
- We continued to provide mum & baby mental health wellbeing days, set in nature in partnership with Rock Farm.
- In addition, we have provided low-cost counselling for women in Brighton & Hove through our 1-2-1 counselling provision.

The following stories give an insight of the impact that our services have had on individual women:

"Brilliant group. Great to meet all the other mothers and going for coffee afterwards. The facilitators were excellent they were warm caring and really interested in what we were saying. I feel so supported in the group and found exploring these topics both interesting and illuminating. The course gave me the gift of headspace to be able to look into some challenging areas of motherhood amongst a group of women I now consider to be my friends, whilst having a rare hot cup of tea!"

"I loved this course - found it hugely helpful and such a positive in my second time parenting journey! I have recommended it to so many people!"

"I found the course so helpful, it was such a safe space to meet other mums and to have open, honest conversations that have made me feel less lonely as a new parent. It has also given me more confidence and reassurance in my motherhood journey. The facilitators were so kind and made everyone feel at ease, whilst maintaining a great balance between speaking and listening. I will really miss this group!"

Plans for the future

In the year ahead, along with developing our existing delivery supporting women and new mums, we plan to build on our current success by continuing to meet the growing need for our postnatal groups by providing services in new locations throughout Sussex.

Trustees

F Purchase (Chair)

I Itinkaya (appointed 11 March 2024)

R D'Cunha (resigned 26 March 2024)

N Kuhrt

L O'Connor (appointed 20 June 2024)

CE Townend

LH Yaffe (appointed 17 May 2023)

**RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Chief Executive Officer

E Baldwin (resigned 24 August 2024)

A Hutson (appointed 24 August 2024)

Registered office

Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton
BN1 3XG

UK registered charity number

1192772

Financial review

During the year ended 31 March 2024, Release Counselling and Therapy for Women saw an increase in income to £141,946 (2023: £125,127), which represented a significant increase on the prior year. This strong growth in income was driven predominantly through an increase in grant funding, but also through a greater focus on developing unrestricted income streams. This included seeing increases in fundraised income and income from our low-cost counselling provision.

Expenditure during this period also increased in line with the growth of our delivery activity, and through planned investment into increasing our organisational capacity. This investment included increasing our income generation capacity, which has seen a direct return in the year, as well as investing into the good governance of the charity. As a result the charity has now secured multi-year funding, enabling ever more long term infrastructural development for the charity.

Whilst the impact of this growth in income has resulted in a surplus of £12,290 at the year end, and an increase in reserves to £19,821, the investment of unrestricted funds to support long term growth has led to an increase in unrestricted reserves, leaving a year-end balance of £5,792.

The year ahead is projected to see this strong financial performance continue, with both further growth in income, and particularly a growth in unrestricted income, leading to a further growth in unrestricted reserves. This strong financial performance, combined with the positive financial projections for the year ahead, leave the charity well placed to continue to deliver impactful, life-changing work within our community.

Remuneration

The salaries of the staffing team are determined by the board of trustees and reviewed annually. The board ensures that the charity pay staff an appropriate and competitive level of remuneration. The board of trustees set and approve any annual cost of living increase.

Reserves

The trustees are focused on developing a proportionate reserves policy for the charity, whilst recognising that it is still in its infancy. The reserves policy looks to maintain an appropriate level of free reserves to support the ongoing activities of the organisation. This policy takes into account any risks to which the charity is exposed, along with the current and projected future levels of income and expenditure. The policy and determination of the required level of reserves are set in accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines and are reviewed by the trustees annually.

**RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 30/11/2024 and signed on its behalf by;



Felicity Purchase
Chair

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of Release Counselling and Therapy for Women CIO for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the accounts 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate 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.

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr Mark Cummins FCCA FCIE
for and on behalf of TC Group

The Courtyard
Shoreham Road
Upper Beeding
Steyning
West Sussex
BN44 3TN

Dated:

6 December 2024.

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Year ended 31 March 2024	Restricted Year ended 31 March 2024	Total Year ended 31 March 2024	Total Year ended 31 March 2023
<u>Income from:</u>		£	£	£	£
Donations	3	32,342	-	32,342	18,088
Grants	4	7,529	89,984	97,513	99,835
Charitable activities	5	12,091	-	12,091	7,204
Total income		51,962	89,984	141,946	125,127
<u>Expenditure on:</u>	6				
Raising funds		1,296	-	1,296	1,106
Charitable activities		45,262	83,098	128,360	122,389
Total expenditure		46,558	83,098	129,656	123,495
Net income and movement in funds		5,404	6,886	12,290	1,632
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		388	7,143	7,531	5,899
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		5,792	14,029	19,821	7,531

All activities are classified as continuing. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		31 March		31 March	
		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand			24,845		13,436
Debtors	9		2,516		2,053
			<u>27,361</u>		<u>15,489</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10		(7,540)		(7,958)
Net current assets			<u>19,821</u>		<u>7,531</u>
Total net assets			<u>19,821</u>		<u>7,531</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	11		14,029		7,143
Unrestricted funds			5,792		388
			<u>19,821</u>		<u>7,531</u>

The accounts were approved by the Board on30/11/2024.....



 Felicity Purchase
 Chair

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1.0 Statutory information

Release Counselling and Therapy for Women is an incorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. Further details regarding the charity are shown on the Legal and Administrative page.

2.0 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Release Counselling and Therapy for Women meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Release Counselling and Therapy for Women's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

2.2 Income

All income is accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Income from donations is accounted for as received by the Charity. The income from fund raising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fund raising costs. The value of voluntary work is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the year in which they are receivable and the charity is entitled to the income.

Other income is recorded on an accruals basis.

2.3 Expenditure

Costs are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis inclusive of irrecoverable VAT. All costs are allocated between expenditure categories and departments on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

Where possible, costs have been allocated directly to the activity to which they relate. However, there are also central support costs that enable the Charity's charitable income generating and administrative activities to be undertaken.

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2.4 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short and medium term deposits where possible to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

2.5 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.6 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions 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.

2.7 Accumulated funds

Funds held by the Charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds – Donations, bequests or incoming resources for which the donor has earmarked for a specific purpose are treated as restricted funds.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2.8 Taxation

As a charity, Release Counselling and Therapy for Women is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations	32,342	-	32,342	18,088
	<u>32,342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,342</u>	<u>18,088</u>

4 Income from grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Arnold Clark	-	-	-	1,000
Allen Lane Foundation	-	6,277	6,277	-
Brighton & Hove Council	-	-	-	13,330
Brighton & Sussex Medical School	1,872	-	1,872	-
BUPA	-	-	-	6,000
Chalk Cliffe Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Early Birth Association	4,657	-	4,657	-
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	-	-	-	1,500
Forrester Family Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Heads On	-	18,059	18,059	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	48,200	48,200	-
Mid Sussex District	-	4,998	4,998	-
Movement For Good	1,000	-	1,000	-
National Lottery	-	-	-	17,500
Peacehaven Town Council	-	-	-	500
Postcode Lottery Trust	-	-	-	500
Postcode Society Trust	-	-	-	24,938
Sompting Big Local	-	-	-	900
Sport England	-	6,700	6,700	-
Sussex Community Foundation	-	5,750	5,750	21,667
The House Project	-	-	-	2,000
	<u>7,529</u>	<u>89,984</u>	<u>97,513</u>	<u>99,835</u>

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Counselling	12,091	-	12,091	7,204
	<u>12,091</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,091</u>	<u>7,204</u>

6 Total expenditure

	Staff costs	Other Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds				
Fundraising activities	-	1,296	1,296	1,106
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,296</u>	<u>1,296</u>	<u>1,106</u>
Charitable activities				
Salaries	82,890	-	82,890	78,063
Programme costs	-	34,561	34,561	31,888
Support costs	-	10,909	10,909	12,438
	<u>82,890</u>	<u>45,470</u>	<u>128,360</u>	<u>122,389</u>
Total expenditure	<u>82,890</u>	<u>46,766</u>	<u>129,656</u>	<u>123,495</u>

7 Support costs

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Bank fees	9	86
Independent examiner	1,500	1,190
Legal & Professional Fees	3,456	3,108
Administrative costs	4,499	6,054
Staff training	1,445	2,000
	<u>10,909</u>	<u>12,438</u>

These costs include amounts payable to the independent examiners of £1,500 (2023: £1,190) for independent examination and other services.

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. Staff cost

The total average monthly number of employees (number of staff employed) during the reporting period was 9 (2023:4).

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	79,638	62,175
Employers National Insurance	-	11,284
Staffing costs	552	-
Pension costs	2,700	4,604
	82,890	78,063

No employee received remuneration above £60k.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprised the Chief Executive. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £43,036 (2023: £29,577).

9. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	880	703
Other debtors	76	-
Accrued Income	1,560	1,350
	2,516	2,053

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	4,484	4,484
NIC payable	-	374
PAYE payable	-	1,115
Pension payable	580	547
Trade creditors	2,476	1,438
	7,540	7,958

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants for specific purposes:

	Balance at 31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2024
Core infrastructure fund	-	48,200	(48,200)	-
Maternal mental health fund	476	-	(476)	-
Women's wellbeing fund	6,667	41,784	(34,422)	14,029
	<u>7,143</u>	<u>89,984</u>	<u>(83,098)</u>	<u>14,029</u>

Core infrastructure fund - The core infrastructure fund comprises grant funding restricted to investment in the central management of the charity.

Maternal mental health fund - The maternal mental health fund comprises grant funding restricted to the support of new mums mental health and wellbeing. Funders include the Foyle Foundation and the National Lottery.

Women's wellbeing fund - The women's mental health fund comprises grant funding restricted to improving the mental health and wellbeing of women within Sussex.

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:			
Current assets	20,058	14,029	34,087
Creditors	(14,266)	-	(14,266)
	<u>5,792</u>	<u>14,029</u>	<u>19,821</u>
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:			
Current assets	8,346	7,143	15,489
Creditors	(7,958)	-	(7,958)
	<u>388</u>	<u>7,143</u>	<u>7,531</u>

RELEASE COUNSELLING AND THERAPY FOR WOMEN CIO
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. Control

No one member has overall control of the Charity.

