

**ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**



CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1193378



Castle View Accounting Ltd
Ground Floor Offices
53 High Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AJ

WHISPERS OF HOPE

CONTENTS

Page 3	Legal and Administrative Information
Page 4	Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees
Page 5 to 17	Trustees' Report
Page 18	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 19	Balance Sheet
Pages 20 to 25	Notes to the Financial Statements

WHISPERS OF HOPE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1193378
DATE OF REGISTRATION	2nd February 2021
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2023
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2024
TRUSTEES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	Deana Korwin-Kochanowski Paula Hodgson Rowan Meade Geraldine Sweeney

The existing trustees appoint any new trustees following the provisions laid out in the organisation's governing instrument.

LEGAL STATUS	Unincorporated Charity
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GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	Constitution Adopted 2nd October 2019 as Amended on 23rd January 2021.
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OBJECTS

To preserve and protect health and relieve the needs of women in the UK which are victims of domestic abuse or sexual trafficking who also have immigration issues and no recourse to public funds.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	192 Grove Road Fenton Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST4 4LE
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PRIMARY BANKERS	HSBC Bank Plc Crown Bank Hanley Stoke-On-Trent Staffordshire ST1 1DA
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	Castle View Accounting Ltd Ground Floor Offices 53 High Street Arundel West Sussex BN18 9AJ
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WHISPERS OF HOPE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees/ members of Whispers of Hope on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 set out on pages 18 to 25.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

K. Collaku MAAT
Castle View Accounting Ltd
Ground Floor Offices
53 High Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AJ



Date: 17th December 2024

WHISPERS OF HOPE
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Summary

This past year has been exciting as we have seen demand for our service grow and go from strength to strength. We now have experience of applying for funds, of producing a comprehensive business plan, placed greater importance of walking with our beneficiaries in their recovery and have established core values to go along with our vision, these are:

Holistic – consider the wellbeing and needs of the whole person;

Collaboration – through peer support and relationship building with other organisations;

Recovery – we walk with people throughout their journey to recovery;

Empowerment – empower women to take control of their own lives and manage future challenges;

Aspiration – encourage women to dream of new future for them and their children. One that may previously have been unimaginable;

Stewardship – responsible care for, and management of, our resources and people.

Vision Statement

To preserve and protect health and relieve the needs of women in the UK who are victims of domestic abuse or sexual trafficking who also have immigration issues and no recourse to public funds.

Introduction

Back in 2019 we started Whispers of Hope with our Friday morning SafeSpace providing health and well-being sessions . Here our women were able to meet safely at a secret location to receive help and support from our volunteers. We continue to use this location to this day.

In November 2019 we opened Avan House, our safe house where we are currently able to accommodate 3 women at a time. Having this house for women with no recourse to public funds is crucial, especially when we know that statistically 66% of women fleeing domestic abuse will find themselves homeless.

Each woman is dealing with the trauma of being a victim of domestic abuse, but this often includes being forced into an abusive marriage, being at serious risk of honour based violence, some have also been trafficked and come under the label of 'modern day slaves' and many others have been sexually violated.

Our main priority is their safety and many of our volunteers will go the extra mile to ensure this happens.

The major part of our work focuses on the women's recovery once we have ensured their physical safety . This includes being away from the perpetrator(s), sorting out their immigration status, access to funds, GP, mental health support, food, clothing , housing and anything else required. Much of this is overseen by our admin support worker. The safety planning and risk assessment is currently provided and overseen by our founder.

The Extent of the Problem

We reported last year that approximately 32,000 domestic abuse survivors had no recourse to public funds (London School of Economics and the Oxford Migration Observatory). Just over 7,700 need some form of accommodation.

The Report commissioned by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner Safety before status stated that "no victim or survivor of domestic abuse should ever be prevented from accessing the support and protection they need. Migrant survivors are left desperate and often destitute with nowhere to turn."

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The unmet need for this 'non-status' group is such that Whispers of Hope regularly receives referrals from a growing list of agencies including:

- Police
- NHS teams; community nurses, mental health professionals, drug & alcohol services, social prescribers
- Housing dept
- Social workers
- The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- Other Domestic Abuse services: New Era, Glow, Women's Aid
- Asylum charities
- Probation Services
- Harplands Hospital and Community Cafe
- Early Intervention Team (NHS)
- Local charities: WOJA, Gingerbread, ASHA, Cultural Zebra etc.
- Local churches
- Social Prescribers
- Out of area agencies

We also receive self-referrals from women who have heard about us from others in the same position.

Whispers of Hope at a Glance

Statistics

Total no. of women referred during this year: 47

- Supported in the house: 8
- Supported in the community: 22 new (36 women altogether)
- No. of children supported: 16
- Unable to establish contact: 8
- Declined support: 3
- Did not meet our criteria: 6

Support Provided

- Financial support: e.g. subsistence (House), travel costs, emergency food/living costs, topping up phone, PPE etc.

As required

- Befriending
- Getting to and from SafeSpace
- Opportunity to attend SafeSpace
- Accessing UC, opening a bank account, signing up with a GP
- Moving into independent accommodation, providing furniture, liaising with services, acting as support worker for first

3 months

- Accessing donations of clothes, toiletries, toys, food
- Advocacy
- Bi-weekly cultural food (15 families)
- Safety planning
- Responding in a crisis
- Supporting them to get their British Passport
- A shoulder to cry on
- People to celebrate their healing with

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Type of Abuse Experienced

- Honour based violence
- Physical
- Verbal
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Stalking & Harassment
- Financial
- Abandonment
- Modern day slavery/domestic servitude
- Forced marriage
- Attempted abduction
- Threats to kill

Nationality of Women supported

- Kurdish Iraqi
- Iraqi
- Pakistani
- Chinese
- Albanian
- Malawian
- Malian
- Indian
- Iranian
- Ghanaian
- Mauritian
- Bangladeshi
- Afghani
- Thai
- Australian
- Rumanian
- Namibian
- Filipino
- American
- Slovakian
- Cameroonian
- Arabic

Achievements: 2022/2023

- Continued growth in SafeSpace attendance averaging 11 women per week.
- Steady occupation of Avan House.
- Continued access to a consultant (financed by Blue Thread) to develop and implement our fundraising plan to support our strategic development.
- Volunteers trained in trauma informed principles.
- Regular prayer meetings.
- Able to claim gift aid.
- Publishing of annual accounts.
- Recruitment and training of volunteers.
- Liaising with and developing links with organisations who refer to Whispers of Hope.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Achievements: 2022/2023 (Continued)

- Befriending of beneficiaries, we are receiving more requests from referrers for this support. This is unique to Whispers of Hope in the Domestic Abuse provision in Stoke on Trent.
- Robust safeguarding procedures in place.
- Resourcing homes when women get leave to remain. This has been extended by developing strong reciprocal links with Emmaus Trust and Glow Domestic Abuse Housing Advocate.
- Advocating with services on an individual's behalf.
- Developing a stronger Recovery offer.
- Linking in with private training providers.
- Health and Well-being sessions.
- Budgeting awareness.
- Partnership working.

Finance Report

Finance Report 2022-23

The Accounts to be presented, and accepted by, the forthcoming AGM are the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023. These were finalised October 2023 and the full report is available on Teams. A copy of the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities), which is the financial report prepared by Castle View Accountants and signed is available on the charity commission site.

The Statement of Financial Activities

WHISPERS OF HOPE					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023					
	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 2022/23 £	TOTAL 2021/22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations, Grants & Legacies	3a	20,516	10,000	30,516	21,287
TOTAL INCOME		20,516	10,000	30,516	21,287
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable Activities	4a	16,745	6,575	23,320	16,899
Governance Costs	4b	925	-	925	600
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		17,670	6,575	24,245	17,499
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,846	3,425	6,271	3,788
Total Funds Brought Forward		13,052	5,875	18,927	15,139
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		15,898	9,300	25,198	18,927

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 19 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The Balance Sheet

WHISPERS OF HOPE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-23 £	Total 31-Mar-22 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and in Hand	7	16,598	9,300	25,898	19,527
Debtors & Prepayments	8	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets		16,598	9,300	25,898	19,527
Creditors: Due within one year	9	700	-	700	600
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		15,898	9,300	25,198	18,927
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		15,898	9,300	25,198	18,927
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		15,898	9,300	25,198	18,927
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		15,898	-	15,898	13,052
Restricted Funds	6	-	9,300	9,300	5,875
Total Funds		15,898	9,300	25,198	18,927

Approved by the Trustees on 3.11.23

Signed on their behalf by Trustee 

Printed Name:

DEANA ELZABETH KORWIN-KOCHANOWSKI

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Avan House

Avan House has continued to offer safety and shelter to women who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) who are fleeing very abusive, sometimes life-threatening situations. There has been a greater demand for all our services this year and we have been unable to offer accommodation support to all those who have been referred to us. Over the last year we were unable to accommodate eleven women who were referred to us for housing due to Avan House being fully occupied. Fortunately we have been able to signpost them to other charities such as Black Sisters, Southall who have some funding to support women with NRPF. Over the last year Avan House has welcomed guests from the local area but also from further afield. The house has been occupied to full capacity 94.8% of the time which demonstrates the need for the

Avan House offers accommodation and practical, financial and emotional support to women who are victims of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation. They also have the added complication of complex immigration issues. Many of the women who come to us for help are in the UK on a spouse visa. Every year thousands of vulnerable women are brought to the UK on spouse visas, many of these are forced or arranged marriages. When the women arrive, they are reliant on their husbands and their families. Many women are subjected to violence and abuse. They have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) meaning they cannot access any benefits, housing or medical support from the government and must pay for this themselves. With no independent right to remain, these women don't know how to access justice or protection in the UK.

Without the help we offer them to regularise their immigration status, thereby enabling them to access benefits, they would be in danger of homelessness and all the dangers this entails. We can offer accommodation for up to three women at a time and there is a host who sleeps in twice a week. The host and other volunteers support the women as they embark on the difficult journey of overcoming trauma and starting a new, independent life.

Avan House is named in memory of a beautiful lady who lived in Stoke as an asylum seeker with her four children. She was a victim of domestic abuse and honour-based violence who was killed by her husband when he tracked her down. All of the volunteers of Whispers of Hope, and in particular those who work directly in supporting Avan House, honour her memory as they support women in their journeys from fear and danger to freedom and new life.

From April 2023 to March 2024, we have accommodated eight women, making a total of twenty-seven ladies since Avan House opened in November 2019. We have seen a greater demand for our services and in total have given 1,041 nights accommodation from April 2023- March 2024. This year some of our guests have stayed with us longer than is usual due to more complex immigration issues and delays from the Home Office.

Avan House is currently full, hosting three ladies.

The table below shows how many nights' accommodation each guest was given from February 2022- March 2023. One of the guests who stayed for two nights was not a victim of domestic abuse but could not be given emergency accommodation by local housing or a refuge as she had NRPF and the Police contacted us to ask if we could support her. Another of the guests who stayed for two nights is a UK citizen and was therefore eligible to access refuge support.

Guest	Number of Nights Accommodation
1	73
2	178
3	366
4	38
5	19
6	140
7	149
8	78

Some of the ladies have come with very complex immigration issues but by working in partnership with a local immigration solicitor or the immigration advisors at Citizen's Advice Bureau, they have been supported to regularize their immigration status. All of the ladies are also given emotional, financial and practical help. Once they have been granted the domestic violence concession or leave to remain, they are assisted to look for suitable housing for the next stage in their journey. For some ladies this will mean refuge accommodation where there is more support available for them or for others it could be local authority housing. We have been greatly assisted by the local Housing Advocate to find suitable accommodation for our ladies.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Some of the women arrive at Avan House with only the things they are wearing. They have no documents such as a passport with them and no extra clothing. In these cases, we provide pyjamas and underwear as well as the welcome pack of toiletries and towels. We also try to source clothing and other things such as phone chargers.

All of the ladies who come to Avan House have experienced trauma and we try to support them through the weeks and months as they build new lives for themselves. One lady (aged 19) was not collected by her husband from the airport on her arrival in the UK. She was left abandoned and rejected in a strange country. Family members living in the UK and her own family in Pakistan refused to help as her husband had rejected her. If she returned to her home country she was in danger due to threats of honour-based violence. Many women who come to us have never been allowed to make decisions for themselves or have any control in their lives. We encourage and support them to become independent in order to adapt to life in the UK.

Volunteers offer practical support such as accompaniment to medical and immigration appointments and also help to complete forms. Some ladies have never had a bank account or know how to use debit cards, so help is given with this.

Some of the things we have shared with or supported our guests with this year:

- Weekly house meetings.
- Weekly subsistence of £50.00 per guest.
- Celebrating Christmas- decorating the tree and hosting a mince pie evening for volunteers.
- Access to medical and immigration support- completing forms/ accompanying to appointments.
- Gathering and sending evidence to legal/immigration representatives.
- Liaising with solicitors/immigration advisors.
- Completing online/paper forms to access benefits/housing support.
- Liaising with the police.
- Working in partnership with the Early Intervention Mental Health team to support one lady.
- Visits to local places e.g. Trentham Gardens/local parks.
- Support to set up bank accounts.
- Celebrating birthdays.
- Shopping trips.
- Support to find accommodation when moving on.
- Donations of household things and furniture.
- Support with moving to new accommodation.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Avan House with their donations of household goods and money. Thanks also to those who have volunteered as a translator or befriender and to the immigration solicitor, the advisors at Citizen's Advice Bureau and the local authority Housing Advocate, who we work in partnership with.

The courage, resilience and capacity to move forward with their lives that each woman shows is truly inspirational. The waiting for weeks, sometimes months for news of visa decisions can be extremely difficult but we hope that the holistic approach offered by Whispers of Hope helps to ease that burden.

In Avan House there is a plaque with a quote from Martin Luther King - "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just to take the first step"

At Whispers of Hope we encourage and empower the women who come to us to make those first steps to a happy and fulfilled life.

Report by Geraldine Sweeney – Trustee and Avan House Lead Support.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

SafeSpace

I am pleased to say that SafeSpace has gone from strength to strength during this year. We have had new volunteers join us with cars so we have been able to transport more women each Friday to this bespoke session for them.

Our weekly SafeSpace meetings provide an opportunity for our women and children to come together, spend time with us and each other, feel validated because they are with women who understand what they have been through, have fun and times to rejoice with each other when they have good news, cry and grieve with each other when times are hard, have cupcakes specially made for them, take part in a wide range of activities to help with their mental health well being and to grow in their self belief and confidence, participate in the 'Why Men Hurt Women' programme, meet with their befriender, make new friends, improve their knowledge and understanding of English and the community around them and so much more! Our activities have included the following. This is not an exclusive list, just here to give you a flavour:

- Pamper sessions
- Keeping Ourselves Safe and Well
- Cake Decorating
- Jewellery Making
- Ceramics Painting
- Tealight Holder Decorating
- Meeting our local community policing team
- Celebrating International Women's Day
- Knitting & Crochet
- Christmas Party
- Eid Party
- Easter Party
- Maggie's 70th Birthday Party
- Sharing about our different cultures
- Mental Health Check Ins
- Meeting professional from other Domestic Abuse Services
- Ballet Dancing (yes you are reading this correctly!)

We were also successful in receiving a £10,000 grant from Awards for all which has meant we have been able to provide cultural food bi-weekly to 15 families being supported by Whispers of Hope. This has made such a difference to these families in these difficult times.

Each week we are able to bring along, clothing, homeware, toiletries, toys, baby equipment and lots of other interesting things which they can look through.

We consult the women on what they would like to do in the sessions and we provide the programme resources to make this happen. This has meant that our beneficiaries have the opportunity to try new things, learn new skills, have the space to focus on an activity that takes their thoughts away from the situation they are in as their minds are focused on something else.

During this year we have had 473 attendances at SafeSpace from 10 different countries.

Shout Out to our amazing SafeSpace volunteers: Anita, Jane, Sister Bridget, Chris, Andy, Zarina, Rowan, Paula, Zee, Maggie. You all play a valuable role each week to make SafeSpace happen.

SafeSpace is an essential part of the recovery work we provide for our families.

SafeSpace Report produced by Deana Korwin-Kochanowski

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Our Wonderful Volunteers for 23/24

Nothing would be achieved if we didn't have this wonderful family of Whispers volunteers. I want to honour every one of them:

Alex
Andy C
Andy O
Anita
Bushra
Chris O
Deana
Geraldine
Jane
Janet
Klodiana
Maggie
Paula
Robin
Rowan
Shima
Shirrin
Tony
Zarina
Zee

Honorary mentions go out to our Friends of Whispers of Hope:

Katie and Steve Kenyon
Seema Kazmi
Bobby Buckley (courtesy of his mum Sarah Buckley)
Karen Williams

There are currently 25 volunteers and between us we provide the following support:

- Volunteer host of Avan House.
- Befriending.
- Preparing the house for occupancy.
- Advocacy.
- Transportation.
- Arranging transport for SafeSpace sessions.
- Administration, policies, procedures, newsletters, prayer letters.
- Trustee, finance support, chairperson, secretary.
- Website Oversight and maintenance.
- Teaching English.
- Fundraising and bid writing.
- Translation.
- Developing Health and Well-being sessions.
- Safeguarding and risk assessments.
- Publicising the work, social media, networking, speaking engagements.
- Helping women set up in their new homes once they obtain ILR (Indefinite Leave to Remain).
- Financial management.
- Emotional support and safety planning. Our volunteers are trauma informed trained.
- Project Management.
- Receiving donations, bedding clothes, toiletries and distributing them.
- Training and training development.
- Links to useful agencies and groups, networking.
- Co-ordinating SafeSpace activities, planning etc.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Social Media Achievements:

- We're thrilled to report that the £1,000 grant from "Awards for All" was strategically invested in acquiring a laptop and Canva subscription, which has demonstrably improved our online presence.
- This investment has significantly improved our social media presence, allowing us to create more engaging and visually appealing content in a frequent and timely manner.
- Frequent updates have resulted in seeing positive results! There's an increase in awareness of Whispers of Hope and the important work we do.
- In the future, we intend to build a bigger and better team which will help us focus on impact, by sharing stories of success without revealing identifying details.
- Talk about the number of women helped, the types of services provided, and the overall impact on their lives.
- Feature our volunteers and staff (with their permission) who can talk about their experiences and the positive change they see.
- Create posts around themes related to our cause. This could be self-care tips, inspirational quotes, information about relevant laws, or statistics on the issues we address.
- Promote upcoming events like fundraising galas or awareness campaigns.
- Offer glimpses into the work we do without compromising confidentiality. This could be photos of staff packing care packages, food parcels or preparing workshops (with faces blurred if needed).
- Collaborate with relevant influencers who can spread awareness about our cause without revealing details about the specific women we support.
- Organize online challenges or contests that raise awareness for our cause (e.g., a photo challenge related to a theme etc).
- Host informative livestreams with experts or advocates discussing our cause especially on tips on how to recover after Traumatic experiences.
- Gratitude post, by thanking our supporters for their donations and comments.
- Post that briefly explain how donations are used to support the women we serve.
- Share anonymous testimonials from women we've helped (with their permission). This will be done through text or quotes with identifying details removed.
- By posting consistently, we intend to stay active on all social media platforms to build and keep our audience engaged.

At the moment we don't cross-promote across platforms. We plan to promote our social media handles on our website and in any printed materials.

Report produced by Ann Odita

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Highlights

- All of the women we have supported in applying for leave to remain have obtained it.
- All of the women we have housed have been able to move on safely to either a refuge or their own home. They have been able to attend college, open a bank account, get a job and most importantly of all begin a life free from the abuse and their abuser(s).
- Beneficiaries becoming volunteers.
- All volunteers attending Professional Boundaries training.
- All volunteers attending Trauma Informed Training.
- Strong working partnership with MH Solicitors.
- Christmas presents provided by Sisters of Mercy, Eltham.
- Selection boxes provided by Vinyard Church.
- Easter eggs provided by Vinyard Church
- Continued partnership with CAB which ensures the women housed by us are able to have their settled status applications made by a recognised case worker.
- Continued development of our relationship with Vast.
- Production of a concise business plan which demonstrates our need, our achievements and our plans for continued growth of the charity.
- Beginning the application process of becoming a CIO.
- We have continued to enable women to access mental health support by being persistent with health providers and advocating on our beneficiaries behalf.
- Funding received from Blue Thread which continues to support our development strategy.
- A stronger profile which is reflected in the increased referrals we now receive.
- Hearing from outside agencies how much they value the service we provide.
- We have more than proved the need for Whispers of Hope.
- Having enough funding to keep our service going in this time of uncertainty is encouraging.
- The growth in the numbers of women being able to access SafeSpace due to the commitment of our team of volunteers.

Achieving a steady income and funding to expand are one of our greatest challenges that we are currently seeking to address with the help of a consultant.

Finding funding which would enable us to employ people for our continued and professional development and which would ease pressure on current volunteer roles.

Not having a dedicated office space for meetings, one to ones, referrals and safe storage of confidential information.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Highlights

We have proved the need for our safe house and also that the house is not big enough to meet the full need. We are seeking funding so that we can successfully manage our plan for growth which includes obtaining funds for an office premises and a paid deputy role for Deana.

Lack of time. Most of us are volunteers who also have jobs and many other commitments. This often means that we have to extend strategic deadlines because we are caught up in dealing with crisis and operational requirements.

Health of volunteers. A number of volunteers have ongoing or chronic health issues and this makes our charity

Space for donations. We have a garage space which we pay rent for but are aware that Andy and Chris's garage operates as the overflow.

To 'future proof' the charity we need to attract more people who would be prepared to make a regular monthly donation, be that £5 per month or £50 per month. This helps us to be able to plan ahead and make meaningful projections of what we should be doing.

Looking ahead

- We are actively wanting to recruit more trustees, in particular someone who could take on the role of treasurer.
- Development of our prospect list to ensure financial sustainability in order to achieve our growth objectives.
- Continued networking and building of links across the city to ensure sharing of resources and expertise, no duplication and a holistic approach to the women we are supporting.
- Continued expansion of our Website and social media presence to raise awareness.
- Attendance at events, speaking engagements to raise our profile.
- Working smarter to best utilise the precious volunteer time we have.
- Ensure our front facing volunteers are all trauma informed trained and updated on a regular basis.
- Continued expansion and development of our training programme for our volunteers.

Conclusion

As we take the time to look back at the last year the trustees are truly grateful for all that has been achieved and for the reputation we have gained, both with our beneficiaries and those who refer into and work alongside us. We are immensely proud of all we have been able to achieve and are in complete awe of the women we have supported. Their resilience is their strength. Helping them to recover is our privilege.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Trustees' Responsibilities

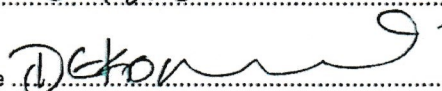
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice GAAP).

The Law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Governing Document requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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 Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Governing Document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 13.12.24

Signed on their behalf by Trustee 

Printed Name: DEANA KORWIN-KOCHANOWSKI

WHISPERS OF HOPE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 2023/24 £	TOTAL 2022/23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations, Grants & Legacies	3a	18,003	23,495	41,498	30,516
TOTAL INCOME		18,003	23,495	41,498	30,516
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable Activities	4a	13,700	18,646	32,346	23,320
Governance Costs	4b	1,690	-	1,690	925
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		15,390	18,646	34,036	24,245
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,613	4,849	7,462	6,271
Total Funds Brought Forward		15,898	9,300	25,198	18,927
Transfer Between Funds		(936)	936	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		17,575	15,085	32,660	25,198

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 20 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and in Hand	7	18,415	15,085	33,500	25,898
Debtors & Prepayments	8	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets		18,415	15,085	33,500	25,898
Creditors: Amount due within one year	9	840	-	840	700
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		17,575	15,085	32,660	25,198
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		17,575	15,085	32,660	25,198
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		17,575	15,085	32,660	25,198
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		17,575	-	17,575	15,898
Restricted Funds	6	-	15,085	15,085	9,300
Total Funds		17,575	15,085	32,660	25,198

Approved by the Trustees on 13.12.24.

Signed on their behalf by Trustee DEKORWIN

Printed Name: DEANA KORWIN - KOCHANONSKI

WHISPERS OF HOPE

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1st January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants Payable without Performance Conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in control of the charity.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Incoming Resources (Continued)

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Unrestricted Funds

These funds can be used for the general objectives of the charity as set out in the trustees report. The movements of the unrestricted funds are given in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Restricted Funds

These funds are where the donor has specified a purpose for the donation made. These restrictions often arise as a result of the regular appeals for special offerings.

Designated Funds

These funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives. The rates applied per annum are as follows:

General Equipment	25% - Reducing Balance Basis
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2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Charity held no fixed assets during this or the previous financial year.

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2024 : None

31st March 2023 : None

WHISPERS OF HOPE

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

3. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 2023/24 £	TOTAL 2022/23 £
a) Donations, Grants & Legacies					
Gift Aid Tax		3,068	-	3,068	1,375
Gifts & Donations	6	14,935	18,595	33,530	19,141
Grants Received	6	-	4,900	4,900	10,000
		18,003	23,495	41,498	30,516

4. EXPENDITURE ON:

		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	TOTAL 2023/24 £	TOTAL 2022/23 £
a) Charitable Activities					
Administrative Costs	6	-	4,241	4,241	1,761
Community Support	6	-	7,051	7,051	4,325
Insurance Costs		549	-	549	515
Office Costs		475	-	475	390
Rent & Rates	6	4,159	4,200	8,359	8,327
Safe Space	6	624	840	1,464	702
Sundry Expenses		808	-	808	369
Travel & Subsistence	6	4,050	810	4,860	2,708
Utility Costs	6	406	1,504	1,910	3,371
Volunteers Expenses		1,750	-	1,750	260
Website Costs		880	-	880	594
		13,700	18,646	32,346	23,320

b) Governance Costs

Independent Examiner's Fee	9	840	-	840	700
Legal & Professional Fees		850	-	850	225
		1,690	-	1,690	925

WHISPERS OF HOPE

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

5. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Charity held no designated funds during this or the previous financial year.

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS

CURRENT FINANCIAL PERIOD

	Balance 01-Apr-23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31-Mar-24 £
Administrative Fund	3,425	-	4,361	936	-
Stoke on Trent Council - Grant	5,775	4,900	4,900	-	5,775
Furniture Fund	100	-	-	-	100
Douglas Foundation	-	10,435	5,040	-	5,395
Lottery Awards for All Grant	-	8,160	4,345	-	3,815
	9,300	23,495	18,646	936	15,085

PREVIOUS FINANCIAL PERIOD

	Balance 01-Apr-22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31-Mar-23 £
Administrative Fund	-	10,000	6,575	-	3,425
Stoke on Trent Council - Grant	5,775	-	-	-	5,775
Furniture Fund	100	-	-	-	100
	5,875	10,000	6,575	-	9,300

The restricted funds held are wholly represented by the Charity's cash reserves.

WHISPERS OF HOPE

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

7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Cash at Bank and in Hand	18,415	15,085	33,500	25,898
	18,415	15,085	33,500	25,898

8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Sundry Debtors	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

9. CREDITORS ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Independent Examiner's Fee	840	-	840	700
	840	-	840	700

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The Charity held no long term liabilities during this or the previous financial year.

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets	17,575	15,085	32,660	25,198
Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	17,575	15,085	32,660	25,198

WHISPERS OF HOPE

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

12. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

The Charity employed no members of staff during this or the previous financial year.

13. PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No payments were made to trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them.

14. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant

15. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the Charity's needs. This is based on the Charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the Charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The Trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

16. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.