

Charity registration number: 1194734

The Destitution Project

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Moffatts Partnership LLP
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The Destitution Project

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The Destitution Project

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	David Tomlinson, Chairman
	Sarah Niamh George
	Margaret Simpson
	Bernard Pele
	Ahmed Mohamed
	David Batchelor
Charity Registration Number	1194734
Principal Office	Victoria Hall
	Knowsley Street
	Bolton
	BL1 2AS
Independent Examiner	The Moffatts Partnership LLP
	Suite 1.1, First Floor
	Jackson House
	Sibson Road
	Sale M33 7RR

The Destitution Project

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

THE DESTITUTION PROJECT, otherwise known as DP, is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) providing support to refugees and asylum seekers, including destitute asylum seekers, living in Bolton UK. Its objects are: the relief of financial hardship and need by providing: 1. Information and practical support in particular, but not exclusively, to those with no recourse to public funds; 2. recreational facilities, friendship, food and practical help to promote wellbeing and help them to integrate into society in a safe environment.

Activities

Our support comes through two avenues of activity:

1. A Drop-in every Wednesday at the Victoria Hall in Bolton (10.00am and 3.00pm) for asylum seekers and refugees.
2. Casework services for asylum seekers living in Bolton, including refused asylum seekers and those who have no recourse to public funds or become destitute.

Our Drop-in provides:

- A social space where they can relax and meet others.
- Tea, coffee, and biscuits all day.
- A hot meal cooked on the premises.
- Clothes and bedding.
- Food support, e.g., a week's groceries and toiletries
- Table-top games, such as pool and table tennis.
- English lessons and other classes, such as arts and crafts.
- Access to a free barber.

Everything we offer our service users is provided free of charge. We are known for going 'the extra mile' to help our service users. Our Drop-in opened during 50 out of 52 weeks of the year.

During the reporting period we employed 2 part time staff: a Senior Caseworker - Shaheda Mangerah, and an Admin Assistant - Fiona Lomax who works part time for Casework support and part-time for DP admin support. Their part time hours total 1.2 full time equivalent. The rest of our team is made up of volunteers.

The Destitution Project

Trustees' Report

Public benefit

All of the charity's activities are undertaken for the benefit of the public. All asylum seekers and refugees are classed as vulnerable due to lived experience. Language barriers put them at risk of being exploited and mis-interpreted. Homelessness can place refused asylum seekers at risk of ill-health, crime and social isolation. DP either directly or via signposting to other organisations, provides access to essential needs (food, English classes, emergency funds, health care, counselling, and temporary accommodation). By providing English classes we help our service users assimilate into UK society. They can then go on to become productive and empowered, find employment, access education and can integrate into UK society. Many then reach out to support new arrivals within their local community. Others donate funds, time and talent to charitable causes in their communities. They become part of a culturally richer community which benefits us all.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Use of volunteers

The work of DP would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Many of our volunteers have been with us for over 5 years and some since the inception of DP as a registered charity in 2014.

For the period under review, DP volunteers provided 814 individual attendances giving an average of 17 per Drop-in session. In addition to hours volunteered by a number of team members outside of the Drop-in day, DP benefited from an estimated 6220 volunteer hours annually. We are particularly grateful for the very generous contribution made by our volunteers and dedicated employees to our wide range of provisions. Use of our services steadily increased post Covid Pandemic and has returned to pre-pandemic levels. During the period we had 3 new volunteers join our team, however 5 volunteers retired/ moved on. We started offering a 'helper' role which seems to suit our asylum seeker and refugee SUs and other 'friends of DP' who can give occasional help as part of the team as and when they can. Fifteen Helpers signed up during the year under review. Many are asylum seeker and refugee service users keen to lend a hand when attending the weekly Drop-in.

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Trustees' Report

Achievements and performance

Developments at the DP Drop-in

Service User (SU) attendance over the period has increased to pre-pandemic levels. We had 2957 attendances by asylum seekers and refugees, an average of 60 per session (a 13% increase over 2022-23 average of 52).

The Food Room team continued to work diligently to offer food parcels to any asylum seeker attending our Drop-in who requested one. This has been particularly appreciated in light of cost-of-living increases and that, of all groups in the community, asylum seekers receive the least support. We thank our loyal supporters including:

1. The Bolton Socialist Club: funds
2. SVP and Parish Members of St. Brendan's and St. Johns: large food donations.
3. St. Michael's Primary School: harvest gifts plus continued their Grub Tub collections through the year.
4. Oxford Grove Primary School: harvest Gifts.
5. Victoria Hall Sunday School: harvest Gifts.
6. Christ Church: hand knitted gifts.
7. St. Margaret's Church: hand knitted gifts.
8. Christ Embassy Church: large food and toiletry donations.
9. St. Andrew and St. George United Reform Church: regular food donations.
10. St Vincent de Paul: funds
11. Soroptimists: food and toiletries
12. Rotary groups: funds and general donations
13. Bolton Community Development Partnership (Bolton CDP) and the Love World Church: food and toiletries
14. Vegware: ecofriendly cups
15. The numerous individuals who faithfully donate gifts of food and money towards our Wednesday food parcels.

We do have to purchase food as well and for that we thank funders such as the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund (voucher and food parcel support); Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust (food parcel support); The Lottery Cost of Living Fund (voucher support); Keith and Gay Talbot Trust (food parcel support) for providing funds to enable this. Several of these funders also supported other aspects of our operations.

Our provision of clothes and household goods was under high demand throughout the year. We have a very well organised display room to provide items from and an additional room for holding stock. Each week at the Drop-in we also put out a well-stocked table with and set of rails to display clothes and household goods which anyone at the Drop-in can access with a limit of 5 items per person. We depend heavily on donated items (apart some purchases of essentials such as shoe, socks and underwear). Where necessary (e.g. stocks of certain items are limited), we prioritise destitute asylum seekers, then asylum seekers and then refugees. We congratulate all the Clothes Room volunteers and helpers for their sterling work in this area and thank the organisations and individuals whose donations of food and funds have made this provision possible.

The Destitution Project

Trustees' Report

The demand for English classes has increased and class size remains limited by the size of the teaching room. We were however able to increase double our teaching staff to 4 volunteers who offer classes throughout the day on Wednesdays. In addition to a wide range of topics covered for developing language skills, teachers use music and song in classes. We are grateful to our enthusiastic teaching team.

The Main Hall continues to be the central hub linking all areas. It provides a space for table games such as table tennis and snooker; an art table, all-day tea and coffee, a space for our barber to operate from and, also for a representative from BHA who come in several times a year to provide HIV advice and testing. We serve a hot meal at lunchtime prepared on site and served by Bolton Mutual Aid. We give a huge thanks to Alan Brown and his team who have provided this service since the inception of DP. We are also very grateful to all the Main Hall team for their hard work keeping the space vibrant and welcoming.

Another important team is that of the Main Reception whose role is to welcome and register each person as they enter to visit the weekly Drop-in and also signpost people to the Casework Team's reception desk if they need a food parcel ticket or to speak with the Caseworker. They also receive any donations of items if dropped off on a Wednesday and liaise with the Main Hall team as needed. A big thanks to this team of volunteers.

Developments in DP's Casework Services

Demand for casework support grew consistently during the period due to the increased number of asylum decisions by the Home Office (HO) on the many backlogged asylum claims and fresh claims due to the Covid pandemic. The Senior Caseworker held 109 face-to-face casework appointments, carried out 660 remote support sessions (on telephone) and was able to signpost/support 172 walk-in clients. Through the assessment of specific needs, £585 worth of emergency cash support and supermarket vouchers valued at £800 were provided. With the increased cost of living, DP continued to offer a weekly food parcel to any Bolton-based asylum seeker (including those who are destitute). We provided 2139 parcels.

A major reason for high demand was due to new refugees being faced with homelessness on receiving Leave to Remain. This was because of the raised level of Home Office decision-making on backlogged asylum cases, leading to evictions from asylum accommodation with inadequate onward provision in place and a serious lack of public housing. The private rental sector has also been difficult to access due to increased rents brought on by the financial crisis and short supply. At one point, the Home Office instituted a practice of giving only 7-day notice of eviction to asylum seekers newly granted Leave to Remain. After much protest and lobbying nationally, this was eventually overturned and is now back to 28 days. However, the asylum housing supplier in the Northwest - SERCO - has been enforcing the 28-day limit strictly as they are under pressure to house new asylum seekers who were being removed by Home Office from hotels.

Additionally, access to social housing/night shelters locally are generally only available for families with minors and those with serious medical conditions/doctor's medical reports giving them priority access. Some of our service users are unaware of these sorts of restrictions until they sought DP's assistance. Most single men cannot access night shelters locally, leading to rough sleeping within the town centre and elsewhere. They are then asked to move on by the Police leading to the risk of confrontation and arrests. One single, female refugee got into a Bolton shelter, but there was no separate room, so she was offered to share with single men. Due to her vulnerability, our caseworker helped to place her elsewhere.

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Trustees' Report

A severe shortage of legal aid support and immigration solicitors nationwide and an inability to afford solicitor fees leaves thousands of asylum seekers without a legal representative. This seriously jeopardises outcomes including the inability to submit an appeal due to lack of representation. All of this can and does lead to destitution. The impact at DP is that some service users demand urgent attention and challenge the fact that we cannot provide accommodation and cannot signpost to legal aid solicitors. This is an indication of their situation and vulnerability.

Casework continued to work closely with various agencies including but not limited to: NACCOM, Refugee Action, British Red Cross, Migrant Help, SWAP (Supporting Arrivals in Wigan Project), Bolton SERCO Housing, Mental health support, solicitors, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Bolton Council's Migrants Multi-agency Group, probation services and GP services.

During the period the casework team supported persons from 43 countries. We use professional interpretation and translation services. This has significantly increased the efficiency and accuracy of casework communications for many clients who have English as a second language. We have continued to secure specific funding to pay for this (thanks to Charles Plater Trust, Little Company of Mary, Society of the Holy Child of Jesus and Keith and Gay Talbot Trust for contributing to this important service).

Policies and Procedures

Trustees review DP policies and relevant procedures each year.

New policies we introduced based on advice from Populo HR and NCVO. These included:

- Equality and Diversity Policy (Oct 2023);
- Staff Recruitment & Selection Policy and Procedures (Mar 2024).

Other policies underwent review and updating, some substantial:

- Privacy Policy - now includes data protection and data breach aspects all as one policy and was simplified to be easier to understand and more closely aligned with DP activities (Nov 2023);
- Health & Safety Policy - visuals included which can be used in inductions with all team members including those who have English as a second language (Mar 2024);
- Performance Appraisal Policy (Nov 2023);
- Volunteer Induction Policy (Aug 2023).

The Destitution Project

Trustees' Report

Training and Capacity Development

Diana Khasa, Senior Development Officer of Bolton CVS, delivered Equality Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training for some of the team, tailoring it to DP's service, issues team members may face and factor into how we support service users and team members. This will be delivered to the wider team in the 2024- 25 period.

During the period a decision was made to hold all team training on a Wednesday afternoon to enable more team members to attend. We give service users advance notice of early closure but operate a 'skeleton' service so that anyone arriving in the afternoon can get help.

Individual Team members have undertaken training as and when needed such as: Safeguarding children; Safeguarding adults (1 Trustee); First aid Emergency at Work (2 Trustees & 1 Lead Volunteer).

As an OISC-registered advisor, the DP Senior Caseworker is required to undertake continued professional development each year. During the period the Caseworker undertook training and networked through the following events: Together with Refugees in Manchester; Greater Manchester Campaign Workshop; NACCOM Annual Conference; OISC Advisor Conference; Rwanda Legislation Training.

Health, Safety and Safeguarding

There were no major Health and Safety or Safeguarding incidents during this period; the Policies, Procedures and the General Risk Assessment were reviewed by Trustees.

As part of our induction process, we now include 'visuals' of key procedures re "Fire Safety", "Manual Handling", "Avoiding Trips, Slips and Falls", "Run, Hide and Tell". This is for the benefit of volunteers/helpers where English is not their first language. It is also a visual reminder of good practice.

The Team continued to follow Health and Safety Procedures regarding use of stairs and carriage of heavy items (food delivery and donations). Ian Trotman, our main hall volunteer, completed EFAW (Emergency First Aid at Work) training. This means we now have four qualified first aiders in regular attendance including our two members of staff, and two trustees.

We continue to observe Lone Working procedures: at the Drop-in ensuring that team members wear a panic alarm and are never work alone with service users; outside of the Drop-in by having contact procedures in place using our "Safety and Lone Working" group on WhatsApp.

We have further refined our secure support procedures (where team members are made aware of service users who may become easily stressed or frustrated) to include pastoral support. This is where a service user may be anxious but does not present a risk to others. We continue to review these on a six-monthly basis.

Volunteers continued to go through a Safer Recruitment Process (providing references, doing a DBS check and an induction which includes Safeguarding and Health and Safety). As already mentioned, we now have a number of "helpers" on the team; these are often service users who would like to volunteer but, due to their circumstances, cannot make a regular commitment. They receive the regular induction as described. A key aspect of this is how to respond if a service user asks for help. This is in order to maintain boundaries for the safety of team members and service users and to ensure we operate within the boundaries of our OISC registration. Where necessary we utilise professional interpretation to ensure our guidance is clear and properly understood.

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Trustees' Report

Information Sharing and Publicity

We issued Quarterly Impact Report that provide data on: the level of food support given (number and value of food parcels and vouchers given to asylum seekers and refugees including those who were destitute); emergency funds given; casework service figures (face to face appointments, walk-in assistance given, remote support sessions, newly registered casework clients, casework files closed); Drop-in attendance levels; key agencies DP collaborated with; notable key learning to take forward; case studies). These reports are sent to team members, partner organisations, our funders and is also displayed on our website. They are valuable snap shots of our work and help us provide quantitative data, including trends, for funding applications and reports both internal and external.

Neil Rickaby of Bolton Web Design manages our website (www.boltondp.org) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/boltondestitutionproject/>) . We thank him for his support and excellent service to us over the year.

Financial review

Incoming resources for the year amounted to £97,800 (2023 - £51,977). Expenditure for the year totalled £71,184 (2023 - £82,778).

The overall results for the year are a surplus of £26,616 (2023 - deficit £30,801).

The total reserves of the charity at 31 March 2024 are £140,163 (2023 - £113,547).

The unrestricted reserves are £88,461 (2023 - £74,704) and the restricted reserves are £51,702 (2023 - £38,843).

Policy on reserves

The aim of this Reserves Policy is to ensure that DP holds sufficient level of funds in reserve to enable its essential services and activities to be maintained, taking account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. To avoid closure of DP should funding difficulties arise, the Management Committee has agreed to keep a level of financial reserves such that the main operations of DP can continue for a period of at least 9 months average expenditure. This amount is currently approximately £60,000 to be held in reserve. The policy is reviewed at least annually.

Principal funding sources

Funding consists of donations from individuals, trusts and companies and grants received from other charities. During the latter part of the period under review, we obtained assistance from Mark Cowling who helped us prepare a range of funding applications aimed at supporting our growth as an organisation.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is governed by CIO - Foundation registered on the 8th June 2021 (Charity Number: 1194734). The charity previously operated as an unincorporated charity (Charity Number: 1109703), governed by a Constitution registered on the 14th May 2015.

The Destitution Project

Trustees' Report

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed to ensure there is an appropriate mix of skills required to manage the charity effectively.

All six DP trustees continued in the role during the period and no new trustees joined. We have two trustees who belong to an ethnic minority including one with lived experience as a Refugee.

There are no related bodies that are entitled to appoint trustees to the board.

Induction and training of trustees

Trustees are given the necessary guidance to enable them to understand how the charity works and their duties and responsibilities and the training necessary for them to be able to carry out these duties and responsibilities. We make use of 'The Essential Trustee' training provided by Bolton CVS as well as organisations such as NCVO which we joined during the period.

Major risks and management of those risks

General risks

The trustees actively review potential risks to the charity on a regular basis and have procedures in place to mitigate any risks the charity may face.

During the year under review, Trustees worked with the Cranfield Trust to carry out a strategic review. The review consulted with and then presented recommendation to the whole team. Recommendations were:

- Involve more service users at all levels of the organisation including as volunteers and trustees;
- Increase recruitment of volunteers and trustees to meet the needs of our growing organisation;
- Recruit an Operations Manager to run DP in line with its purpose, mission and values with the aim to enhance management capacity, improve effectiveness of service delivery and help to diversify and sustain income levels in response to service demand;
- Develop clear guidelines for how DP team members should relate to service users to ensure safety of volunteers, employees and service users;
- Consider if DP should amalgamate with another charity to help achieve its aims and whether a second Drop-in day can be added weekly, if sufficient resources and capacity would become available.

Trustees and the DP Coordinating Committee continue to work on these recommendations. Several funding bids have been sent out with the hope of attracting the necessary funding to recruit an operations manager and work on areas of development which came out of the review.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



David Tomlinson
Chairman and Trustee



Sarah Niamh George
Trustee

The Destitution Project

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, 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 accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 23 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



David Tomlinson
Chairman and Trustee



Sarah Niamh George
Trustee

The Destitution Project

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Destitution Project

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

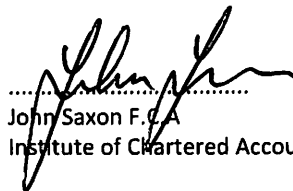
I report in respect of my examination of The Destitution Project's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Destitution Project 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 accounting 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.


.....
John Saxon F.C.A.
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

The Moffatts Partnership LLP
Suite 1.1, First Floor
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M33 7RR

23 May 2024

The Destitution Project

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	36,724	60,616	97,340	51,432
Investment income	3	460	-	460	545
Total income		<u>37,184</u>	<u>60,616</u>	<u>97,800</u>	<u>51,977</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	<u>(23,427)</u>	<u>(47,757)</u>	<u>(71,184)</u>	<u>(82,778)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(23,427)</u>	<u>(47,757)</u>	<u>(71,184)</u>	<u>(82,778)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>13,757</u>	<u>12,859</u>	<u>26,616</u>	<u>(30,801)</u>
Net movement in funds		13,757	12,859	26,616	(30,801)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>74,704</u>	<u>38,843</u>	<u>113,547</u>	<u>144,348</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>88,461</u>	<u>51,702</u>	<u>140,163</u>	<u>113,547</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.


The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 16.

The notes on pages 14 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Destitution Project
(Registration number: 1194734)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,031	1,154
Current assets			
Debtors	12	719	2,727
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>141,826</u>	<u>117,199</u>
		142,545	119,926
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(3,413)</u>	<u>(7,533)</u>
Net current assets		<u>139,132</u>	<u>112,393</u>
Net assets		<u>140,163</u>	<u>113,547</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	16	51,702	38,843
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>88,461</u>	<u>74,704</u>
Total funds	16	<u>140,163</u>	<u>113,547</u>

The financial statements on pages 12 to 26 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 23 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



 David Tomlinson
 Chairman and Trustee



 Sarah Niamh George
 Trustee

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Destitution Project meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (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.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £100.00 or more are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment	20% reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	20% reducing balance basis

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

These are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustee's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	3,170	-	3,170	7,850
Donations from individuals	9,203	1,060	10,263	7,099
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	24,351	59,556	83,907	36,483
	<u>36,724</u>	<u>60,616</u>	<u>97,340</u>	<u>51,432</u>

In the prior period £13,909 of the above income was attributable to unrestricted funds and £37,523 to restricted funds.

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	460	460	545

In the prior period all of the above income was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Food, clothing and other client supplies	75	15,341	15,416	16,641
Sleeping bags, rucksacks	-	10	10	74
Art	-	9	9	29
Translation costs	-	3,060	3,060	8,292
Salary costs, pensions and training	946	27,133	28,079	30,341
Rent and insurance	12,498	626	13,124	11,449
Printing, postage and stationery	794	38	832	1,586
Telephone and internet	1,293	-	1,293	1,077
IT Software and consumables and website design	286	175	461	910
Repairs and maintenance and office consumables	227	-	227	42
Caseworker expenses	-	817	817	1,161
Staff/volunteer expenses	340	324	664	1,613
General expenses	77	30	107	1,034
Office equipment and consumables	232	-	232	219
Governance costs	6,520	100	6,620	8,060
Depreciation	139	94	233	250
	<u>23,427</u>	<u>47,757</u>	<u>71,184</u>	<u>82,778</u>

In the prior period £25,128 of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £57,650 to restricted funds

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Independent examiner fees				
Examination of the financial statements	1,260	-	1,260	1,260
Other fees paid to examiners	2,160	-	2,160	2,160
Legal fees	850	100	950	1,288
Other governance costs	2,250	-	2,250	3,352
	<u>6,520</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>6,620</u>	<u>8,060</u>

In the prior period £7,460 of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £600 to restricted expenditure.

6 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>233</u>	<u>251</u>

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	26,690	29,869
Pension costs	443	359
Other staff costs	946	113
	<u>28,079</u>	<u>30,341</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Caseworker	1	1
Assistant Caseworker	1	1
Administration Assistant	1	-
Drop-in Coordinator	-	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

2 (2023 - 1) employee participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £443 (2023 - £359).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,260</u>	<u>1,260</u>
Other fees to examiners		
All other services	<u>2,160</u>	<u>2,160</u>

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	1,423	1,423
Additions	<u>110</u>	<u>110</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,533</u>	<u>1,533</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	269	269
Charge for the year	<u>233</u>	<u>233</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>502</u>	<u>502</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,031</u>	<u>1,031</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,154</u>	<u>1,154</u>

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	<u>719</u>	<u>2,727</u>

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash on hand	574	401
Cash at bank	134,752	116,118
Other cash and cash equivalents	<u>6,500</u>	<u>680</u>
	<u>141,826</u>	<u>117,199</u>

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	785	4,965
Other taxation and social security	185	150
Other creditors	98	78
Accruals	2,345	2,340
	<u>3,413</u>	<u>7,533</u>

15 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £443 (2023 - £359).

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General Funds	74,704	37,184	(23,427)	-	88,461
Restricted funds					
Food	2,278	6,560	(5,305)	-	3,533
Caseworker	3,535	27,678	(21,574)	-	9,639
Assistant Caseworker	18,528	-	(3,969)	-	14,559
Drop-In Coordinator	1,164	-	-	-	1,164
Building Kitchen	937	-	-	-	937
Client Emergencies	988	-	(85)	-	903
Sr Barbara's Emergency	3,835	-	(65)	-	3,770
Website	438	500	(100)	-	838
Art	181	-	(9)	-	172
Margaret Hayman - Aspen Cards	2,860	-	-	-	2,860
Sleeping Bags, Rucks, Toiletries	934	-	(10)	-	924
Interpretation Services	3,165	7,298	(3,060)	-	7,403
The Talbot Trust	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
The Community Lottery Fund	-	13,580	(13,580)	-	-
Total restricted funds	38,843	60,616	(47,757)	-	51,702
Total funds	113,547	97,800	(71,184)	-	140,163

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General Funds	85,378	14,454	(25,128)	74,704
Restricted				
Covid Food/Vouchers	5,418	960	(6,378)	-
Food	7,150	5,080	(9,952)	2,278
Caseworker	12,930	12,678	(22,073)	3,535
Assistant Caseworker	15,312	8,437	(5,221)	18,528
Drop-In Coordinator	7,850	-	(6,686)	1,164
Building Kitchen	937	-	-	937
Client Emergencies	988	-	-	988
Sr Barbara's Emergency	3,835	-	-	3,835
Website	438	-	-	438
Art	210	-	(29)	181
Margaret Hayman - Aspen Cards	2,860	-	-	2,860
Sleeping Bags, Rucks, Toiletries	1,042	-	(108)	934
Interpretation Services	-	10,368	(7,203)	3,165
Total restricted funds	58,970	37,523	(57,650)	38,843
Total funds	144,348	51,977	(82,778)	113,547

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Covid Food/Vouchers - donations have been received specifically for the charity to use to provide food during Covid.

Food - donations have been received specifically for the charity to use to provide food.

Caseworker - grants have been received specifically to fund the Caseworker and associated costs.

Assistant Caseworker - grants have been received specifically to fund the Caseworker and associated costs.

Drop-In coordinator - grants have been received specifically to fund the Caseworker and associated costs.

Building Kitchen - Donations have been received that are for the purpose of providing a kitchen.

Client Emergencies - These donations have been received to be used for those clients in need of emergency assistance.

Sr Barbara's Emergency Fund - Donations received to be used for those clients in need of emergency assistance.

Website Fund - donations given only to be used on maintaining the charity website.

Art - Donations received to provide art supplies.

Margaret Hayman -Aspen Cards - donations received that must be used to support SUs who have issues accessing their asylum allowance via their Aspen Cards.

Sleeping Bags/Ruck Sacks - donations received that must be used on providing sleeping bags and rucksacks for clients.

Interpretation Services- grants have been received specifically to fund Interpretation costs.

The National Lottery Community Fund - Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - grants received to assist with increased expenses due to the cost of living.

The Talbot Trust - grants received to fund either interpretation costs or provision of food.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
March 2024			
Tangible fixed assets	655	376	1,031
Current assets	90,846	51,699	142,545
Current liabilities	(3,040)	(373)	(3,413)
Total net assets	88,461	51,702	140,163
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
March 2023			
Tangible fixed assets	685	469	1,154
Current assets	76,367	43,559	119,926
Current liabilities	(2,348)	(5,185)	(7,533)
Total net assets	74,704	38,843	113,547

The Destitution Project

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

18 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

The Destitution Project

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	36,724	13,909
Investment income	<u>460</u>	<u>545</u>
Total income	<u>37,184</u>	<u>14,454</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	<u>(23,427)</u>	<u>(25,128)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(23,427)</u>	<u>(25,128)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>13,757</u>	<u>(10,674)</u>
Net movement in funds	13,757	(10,674)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>74,704</u>	<u>85,378</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>88,461</u></u>	<u><u>74,704</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

The Destitution Project

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Restricted Funds 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	<u>60,616</u>	<u>37,523</u>
Total income	<u>60,616</u>	<u>37,523</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	<u>(47,757)</u>	<u>(57,650)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(47,757)</u>	<u>(57,650)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>12,859</u>	<u>(20,127)</u>
Net movement in funds	12,859	(20,127)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>38,843</u>	<u>58,970</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>51,702</u></u>	<u><u>38,843</u></u>

The Destitution Project

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	97,340	51,432
Investment income (analysed below)	<u>460</u>	<u>545</u>
Total income	<u>97,800</u>	<u>51,977</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	<u>(71,184)</u>	<u>(82,778)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(71,184)</u>	<u>(82,778)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>26,616</u>	<u>(30,801)</u>
Net movement in funds	26,616	(30,801)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>113,547</u>	<u>144,348</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>140,163</u></u>	<u><u>113,547</u></u>

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