

OPOKA CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1195206

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-07-19

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

Contact

Address Opoka CIO
3 Brook Office Park
Folly Brook Road
Emerson Green
Bristol
BS16 7FL

Phone 01174270012

Email info@opoka.org.uk

Website <https://www.opoka.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC:3.1 TO PROMOTE THE RELIEF OF WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN OR OTHER PERSONS (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SUCH WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OTHER PERSONS FROM WITHIN THE POLISH COMMUNITY) WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO DOMESTIC ABUSE, INCLUDING PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE; EMOTIONAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL OR, COERCIVE CONTROL: STALKING; AND/OR MISOGYNISTIC OR OTHER PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE WITHIN AN INTIMATE OR 'FAMILY' RELATIONSHIP THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM, INCLUDING BY (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):(A) THE PROVISION OF SPECIALIST SUPPORTED HOUSING AND SOCIAL HOUSING AND ANY ASSOCIATED AMENITIES AND SERVICES; AND(B) THE ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON THE ISSUES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Activities: Opoka offers a safe, confidential, non-judgmental service provided by bilingual professionals for those that have been subject to domestic abuse. Opoka strives to empower its clients to become more independent and our objectives are to help the most isolated and vulnerable to benefit from greater care, support, and justice and with our support will improve their lives and integrate in society.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£333,255	£304,640	-	-
2023-12-31	£273,118	£281,015	-	-
2022-12-31	£341,486	£219,319	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Joanna Szuryn	Chair	2023-07-26
Anna Wozniak		2025-08-01
Elzbieta Wassell		2024-06-18
Margo Field		2025-08-01

OPOKA CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1195206

Accounts



opoka

PROTECT, EMPOWER, THRIVE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Status

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with Charity Commission for England Wales under its Governing Document.

Trustees of the Charity

Joanna Szuryn - Chair of the Trustees Board

Aneta Mackell - Trustee (resigned 23/1/24)

Milena Zepp-Suwara - Trustee (appointed 18/6/24)

Elzbieta Wassell - Trustee (appointed 18/6/24)

Sandra Paslawska - Trustee (appointed 26/7/23, resigned 2/12/24)

Aneta Wrzos-Porada - (appointed 26/7/23, resigned 12/9/24)

Sylwia Jatczak - (resigned 27/7/24)

Registered Charity Number

1195206 (company number CE026183)

Registered and Trading Address

3 Brook Office Park

Folly Brook Road

Emersons Green

Bristol

BS16 7FL

Independent Auditors

Fawcetts LLP

Chartered Accountants and registered auditors Windover House

St Ann Street

Salisbury

SP1 2DR

Principle Banker

Barclays Bank,

4th Floor, Bridgewater House,

Counterslip,

Finzels Reach,

Bristol,

BS1 6BX

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and registered with the Charity Commission. It was established on 19 July 2021 under its governing document. It is a charitable subsidiary of its member, Chrysalis Supported Association Limited.

Trustees

The Trustees are as shown on page 1.

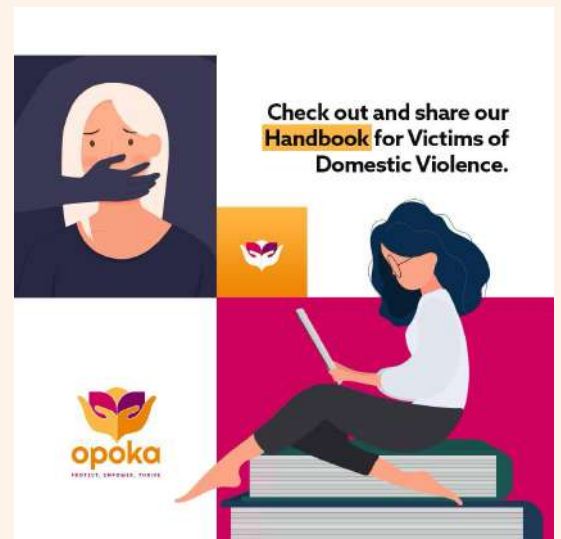
Existing trustees undertake a selection process to ensure the broad mix of skills provided by the trustees is maintained and a full induction is provided. All trustees have personal knowledge of domestic abuse.

A full trustee development programme based on the charity code of conduct was implemented in Q4 to develop the organisation, the board and individual trustees filling knowledge gaps and improving governance. This programme will continue in 2025.

Our Vision and Mission

OPOKA CIO has a vision of a world where women and children live free from all forms of violence and abuse and create a safer world for all women and children, regardless of their nationality or ethnicity.

OPOKA CIO's mission is to support and empower Polish women and their children who are experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence in their intimate relationships by providing client-centered support for women and children, by women. They also aim to prevent violence against women and their children in the Polish community by increasing awareness, education, and understanding.



Opoka and its Charitable objects

Opoka is a specialist Domestic Abuse Service for Polish women and children in the UK, working to stop domestic violence and abuse in the Polish community with a focus in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset. Since its inception in May 2012 Opoka has come a long way and has grown and expanded to meet the needs of the Polish community reaching thousands of vulnerable and isolated women and children.

Opoka's aim is for women and their children to have greater freedom from all forms of domestic violence and abuse and for those who do experience domestic violence and abuse to benefit from greater access to care, support, justice, and other recovery services needed to ensure physical & mental health, social wellbeing, and financial security.

Public Benefit

When planning their charity's activities, the charity trustees have regarded the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Opoka's charitable objects are:

To promote the relief of women and children or other persons who have been subject to domestic abuse, including physical or sexual violence, emotional, economic, financial, or coercive control, stalking and/or misogynistic or other psychological abuse with an intimate or family relationship throughout the United Kingdom, including by (but not limited to):

- a. The provision of specialist supported housing and social housing and associated amenities and services.
- b. The advancement of public education, research, and training on the issues of domestic violence and gender-based violence throughout the United Kingdom.



OUTCOMES

We will achieve this aim through the following five outcomes:

1

Improve the immediate safety, health, and wellbeing of women and children and help them to feel safer and more empowered to seek help.

2

Reduce disadvantage and inequality by helping women to improve their financial and economic security by supporting them to develop life and employment skills, and helping them to access work.

3

Raise community awareness and reaching the most vulnerable, isolated, and marginalised families who need our support.

4

Strengthen the local community's capacity to support women and children by training and working with local professionals who work with and support them.

5

Ensure the longevity of our support by improving the sustainability of funding for our services.

Introduction from Opoka's Chair

I am delighted to present this annual report to you, which showcases our work and achievements in 2024. I would like to dedicate it to Opoka's clients and their families, as well as our staff and volunteers. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Opoka's CEO, Aneta Mackell, for her exceptional leadership in navigating the charity through another challenging year for the UK domestic abuse sector. Aneta's journey from a domestic abuse survivor to the founder of an innovative charity is truly inspiring. Her compassion and leadership keep Polish women and children at the heart of Opoka's work. I also wish to thank Chrysalis for their operational support. My gratitude extends to my predecessor, Sylwia Jaczak, for her significant contributions during her tenure as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Lastly, I express my deepest appreciation to Opoka's team of specialist support workers and their manager, who go above and beyond every day, saving countless lives. This year, Opoka celebrated its 12th anniversary, a milestone that allowed us to reflect on our journey, from a support group for Polish women to the charity we are today. Throughout the year, we have refined our focus on governance by recruiting three new Trustees and investing in comprehensive development training for the Board.



Joanna Szuryn
Opoka Chair

We also marked the second year of Oaza, Opoka's innovative safe housing for Polish women and children fleeing domestic abuse. Oaza, meaning "Oasis" in Polish, provides a safe and culturally sensitive environment in which its residents can start their recovery from trauma. First of its kind in the UK since the 1970s, when the refuge movement began, Opoka's safe houses have maintained full occupancy and a steady flow of referrals in 2024.

Opoka's work received national recognition this year but the problems we are addressing are big, and so are Opoka's ambitions for 2025 and beyond. We aim to strengthen our sustainability and increase our capacity so that more Polish women and children can access our services. We want to eliminate the postcode lottery for everyone who needs our help. We plan to expand our safe housing. We want to be bolder in our efforts to influence national policymakers and make the needs of Polish women and children visible to them. Over the past 12 years, Opoka has laid foundations for an urgent national conversation about making its culturally appropriate support available to all Polish women and children. I hope that our efforts will secure the funding needed to make this happen, so that we can come one step closer to a world in which Polish women and children can live their lives free from domestic abuse.

Message from Opoka's CEO

What a year it has been! We faced a lot of challenges, but we also had some great successes and rewards. In September, Opoka made it to the finals of the Third Sector Awards, and on Friday the 4th of October Opoka won a National Diversity Award! We had the incredible opportunity to join hundreds of community organisations from across the UK at Liverpool Cathedral for a spectacular award ceremony. It was a truly unforgettable night where we witnessed the nation's 2024 winners being crowned the best of British diversity! It is incredible success that Opoka was chosen from a field of eight other amazing organisations working to improve gender equality – we're so proud to be among them! In a record-breaking year, over 90,000 nominations with many nominees being recognised for their various achievements nationwide. We were absolutely delighted to have been nominated, and extremely grateful to all the people who voted for Opoka. This award is a testament to the amazing efforts of our entire team, who work tirelessly to keep people safe from abuse and violence. We really hope this award helps to shine a light on domestic abuse and encourages people to support charities like ours so that we can continue to be there for anyone subjected to abuse.



Aneta Mackell
Opoka CEO

I was invited by the Chief Executive of Women's Aid Federation of England Farah Nazeer to attend a special event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Women's Aid on Thursday 5 December at One Birdcage Walk, Westminster in London. During the event I was introduced to Her Majesty Queen Camilla and given the opportunity to talk about Opoka's life-saving work and as a survivor to use my own experiences and voice to help campaign Women's Aid for a safer world for women and children, free from violence and abuse. It was so wonderful to showcase Opoka's work to Queen Camilla who is a big supporter of Domestic Abuse charities across the country. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to all the remarkable individuals we have had the privilege of working with during this year. Our staff, volunteers, trustees, supporters, sponsors, partners, and our parent organization, Chrysalis, have all played a crucial role in our success. We would like to thank all of you for your invaluable support and hard work, without which Opoka would not have been able to achieve these milestones!

Our Board of Trustees



Joanna Szuryn, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Joanna has worked in the field of Gender-Based Violence in the UK for over a decade and brings in unique expertise in designing, implementing, and leading interventions for families experiencing domestic abuse and domestic abuse perpetrators. Joanna is a qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisor and a Domestic Homicide Review Chair. Joanna holds level 2 certification in Narrative Practice and has been trained to deliver the Recovery Toolkit Programmes. Joanna also is an experienced educator and has created and delivered training sessions to a wide variety of professional audiences. Joanna's previous professional background is in teaching, training, project management and international business development. Joanna is a passionate advocate for the rights of all women and children and believes that by working together we will eradicate domestic abuse in our lifetime. As a Trustee of Opoka Joanna is proud to champion the right of Polish women and children living in the UK to safety, freedom from abuse, and happiness.



Ela Wassell, Trustee

Ela is a mum of two, a coach, facilitator, and trainer. After graduating with her master's degree in politics and social sciences, she studied and followed a career in teaching English as a foreign language. She presented at international conferences sharing the stage with the best-known methodologists in the field of English teaching and worked at a language school in Oxford. Since having children, women's empowerment has become Ela's passion and mission. Since 2018 she has been a qualified and regulated coach and has continued her professional development at the University of Oxford. She is a member of the International Coaching Federation with more than 500 hours of coaching practice. Ela helps her clients to discover their natural female strengths and use them to achieve their boldest intentions. Among them, you will find busy mothers, teachers, corporate senior leaders, NHS workers, and founders of NGOs and charities.



Milena Zepp-Suwara, Trustee

Milena - a woman of many talents, akin to a one-woman orchestra! Over the past four years, Milena has been actively engaged in promoting the well-being of Polish women in Northamptonshire. This has entailed the organisation of networking events and the promotion of healthy lifestyles through the organisation of activities that facilitate socialising and physical activity, as well as social events. It is not uncommon for women to feel isolated and lonely due to the numerous responsibilities they shoulder, particularly when time constraints are a factor. In response to this, she established a group in Corby three years ago, called 'The Corby Babiniec'. Her group is currently experiencing a period of significant growth and activity across Northamptonshire. Milena is a Community Champion with an unwavering commitment to achieving her goals, by joining Opoka, she aims to disseminate and advocate for the principles of healthy relationships and provide assistance to women affected by domestic violence. Her conviction that collective action is more impactful than individual initiatives enable her to transcend the limitations of conventional approaches. Milena is a highly compassionate individual, consistently demonstrating a willingness to assist those in need. Her contribution is of significant value across the spectrum of women's lives. She serves as a role model for many women whose beliefs and lives are undergoing a gradual transformation, largely due to her influence.



Aneta Mackell, CEO

Aneta is an expert in and holds a Diploma in Domestic Violence Prevention and Early Intervention with experience in a variety of roles within the Victim Support and Domestic Abuse sector such as specialist IDVA ISVA, DV Outreach, and Young Persons Violence Advisor, bringing a range of skills and knowledge as a professional offering emotional support and information to victims of violence and abuse. Aneta is a certified international life coach and empowerment coach, specialising in

solution-focused coaching, neuro-linguistic programming, and timeline coaching. She offers mentoring, training, and consultancy to professionals and organisations who work with victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

Aneta is the CEO and founder of OPOKA CIO, an award-winning organisation providing bilingual specialist services for Polish women and children who are fleeing or affected by domestic violence and abuse in the UK. With over 10 years of experience as a bi-lingual victims' advocate, she has a thorough knowledge of the dynamics, challenges, and solutions for this vulnerable group. Opoka also offers Safe Houses with specialist and structured support for Polish women and their children.



Sandra Paslawska, Board Secretary

Sandra is an aspiring barrister, dedicated to the pursuit of justice and the provision of support to vulnerable individuals. She recently completed her law degree and Bar Practice Course and has recently completed a Master's in Pro Bono. Sandra has a keen interest in family law, with a particular focus on care proceedings. She is profoundly dedicated to confronting the intricate issues surrounding domestic violence. During her academic pursuits, Sandra also served as a clerk for a team of

family law barristers. This practical experience bestowed upon Sandra an understanding of the nuances of family law and the pivotal role played in this domain. Witnessing the commitment and expertise required to navigate complex cases has motivated Sandra to contribute her own efforts toward supporting those affected by domestic violence.

Sandra resigned as a trustee of Opoka to allow her to pursue other opportunities within the Chrysalis Group but continues her support of Opoka as a volunteer Board Secretary.

Programs we Deliver in the Polish Language

OPOKA STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE!

OPOKA CIO's mission to support Polish women and their children remains unwavering. With a focus on providing a comprehensive and high-quality domestic abuse and sexual violence support service, we continue to make a difference in the lives of those affected.

The role of language in this context is indisputable. At Opoka, we recognise the significance of language in facilitating communication and engagement, and as such, we have devised programmes that are offered in the clients' mother tongue. Notably, we stand as the sole provider in the UK to offer such programmes in Polish.



The Freedom Programme

Power of Change

You and Me, Mum

Healing Together Programme

Our Activities

Short-term support to **876** women with low to medium risk levels

Responded to **11,349** helpline calls and offered practical and emotional support

Long-term support to **98** women exposed to high-risk abuse with complex needs

61 1-to-1 counselling and psycho-therapeutic sessions to women and children staying in our safe houses and in the community

10 Community Support Groups

24 Freedom Programme – Support Groups

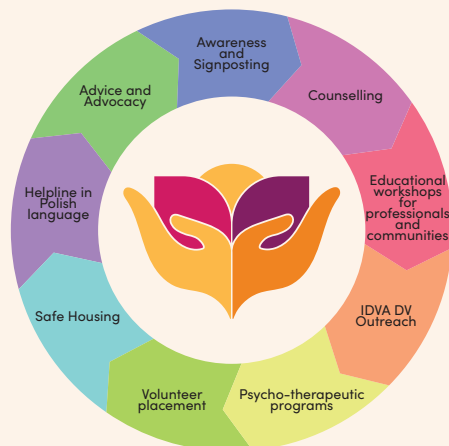
22 Safe House Process Groups

2 Healing Together Support Groups

4 Pause – Parenting Support Groups

HELPLINE SERVICES:

- **Call Volume:** The helpline received a substantial increase in calls compared to the previous year, reflecting growing awareness and trust within the Polish community.
- **Support Provided:** Trained bilingual advocates offered immediate support, crisis intervention, and information on available resources, including refuge and legal assistance.
- **Feedback:** Service users reported feeling more empowered and informed about their rights and options.



DV OUTREACH AND AWARENESS RAISING:

- **Community Engagement:** We conducted over 15 outreach events in various Polish communities, including workshops, information sessions, and participatory discussions aimed at educating families about domestic abuse and available resources.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborated with local organisations and authorities to enhance outreach efforts and ensure culturally sensitive support.
- **Educational Materials:** Distributed flyers, brochures, and digital content in Polish, addressing the signs of domestic abuse and steps to seek help.

SAFEHOUSES:

- **Client Group:** This service is for survivors of domestic abuse with up to two children struggling with finding housing, getting support or accessing services due to language barriers of knowledge. These clients are often isolated, vulnerable and have limited financial independence.

Impact of Safe House Service:

Since the establishment of our safe house service, we have been able to provide critical support and safety for numerous women and their children who are escaping domestic violence. The feedback we have received from our clients and professionals has been overwhelmingly positive, and it is heartening to see the transformations that take place when individuals find a safe space. We offer safe accommodation for 9 women and their children. We must say that during the period from January 24 to December 24 our safe houses have been full which highlights the importance of our service as an essential lifeline for many Polish Women and Children.

However, we continue to face significant challenges, particularly in relation to social housing and our interactions with local authorities. The demand for safe housing far exceeds the available resources, and many women and children still struggle to find secure and permanent accommodation after leaving our safe house. Local authorities often have long waiting lists and limited options, which can leave our residents in a precarious position even after they have taken the brave step to seek help.

We have noticed that the demand for our safe house service remains high.

We believe that with additional funding and resources, we can scale our services to offer more comprehensive support and create a greater impact. Our goal is to ensure that no woman or child has to face the challenges of domestic violence alone and that they have access to safe housing and a support system.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- **Policy Influence:** Engaged with policymakers to advocate for the specific needs of Polish victims of domestic abuse, pushing for improved access to services and culturally appropriate support.
- **Training Programs:** Implemented training for professionals working with Polish families to better understand the cultural nuances and barriers faced by victims of domestic abuse.
- **Success Stories:** Highlighted individual success stories to illustrate the positive impact of advocacy and support, fostering a sense of community resilience.

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

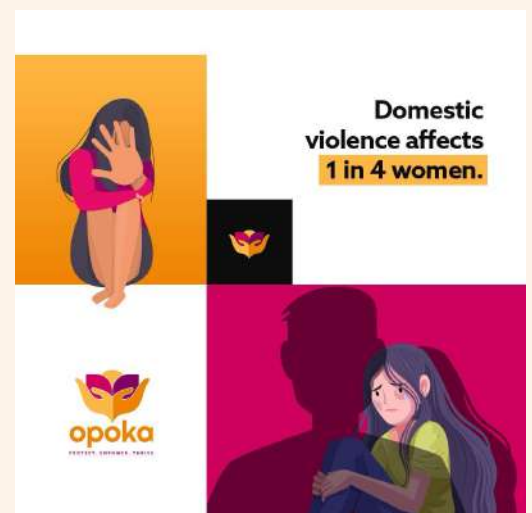
- **Language Barriers:** Continued efforts are needed to address language barriers, ensuring all victims can access services comfortably.
- **Awareness Gaps:** There remains a significant gap in awareness about domestic abuse within some segments of the Polish community, necessitating ongoing outreach and education.
- **Future Goals:** Plans for the upcoming year include continuing helpline service, increasing the number of outreach events, and developing targeted strategies in line with Opoka's needs and vision.

Another matter of great importance that we are working assiduously to resolve is how a data is collected and recorded. Data is a crucial element in understanding and addressing the needs of any community. However, the current methods of data collection at the national and local levels result in Polish families in the UK being invisible. This significant lack of visibility has a significant impact on the ability of support systems to recognize and respond to the needs of survivors of domestic abuse. In 2021, Polish was the most common non-British nationality in the UK. However, there are currently no government-funded services tailored to supporting Polish families, women or girls in a sensitive manner, which results in systemic injustice and a cascade of inequalities.

There are significant deficiencies in the support currently available. Polish survivors of domestic violence encounter numerous obstacles. Due to funding criteria and insufficient space, many are unable to access refuges. The majority of support organizations lack Polish-speaking staff and access to translators, which significantly hinders their ability to assist Polish women and girls in need of safety from domestic abuse or those facing intersecting issues such as mental health challenges, depression, or addictions. Polish women and girls face difficulties in accessing social protection systems due to language barriers. This presents a significant challenge for survivors of domestic abuse, who may be unfamiliar with UK service provision and the protection they can access. For Polish women and girls suffering domestic abuse, this may be a matter of life or death. Our objective is to influence, in particular, national policymakers, including the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, and Members of Parliament as well as believing that our campaign may also resonate with local decision makers such as local authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners.

In 2025, we aim to undertake two key activities, should we secure a grant. The first is to lobby and campaign and the second is to raise the issue in Parliament to establish a foundation for future campaigns and influence. Our objective is to produce a report for policymakers that will demonstrate the absence of data collection at the national and local levels sharing lived experience of Polish women and girls who have been materially affected by this issue, especially when trying to escape domestic abuse. It is our hope that this initiative will yield positive results, leading to acknowledgment by the government of the need for change in this area. This will hopefully also create opportunities for Opoka to support this group and to secure government funding. We take great pride in our achievements, having made significant strides, accomplished a great deal, and made a meaningful impact within our community.

It is evident that our society is still grappling with the scourge of domestic violence and other tragic incidents, and that a change in approach is required. To effectively address this issue, it is essential to recognize the distinctive needs of families from minority communities. This includes language and cultural barriers, as well as a lack of understanding of support systems. Failing to address these barriers risks perpetuating a culture of hopelessness that encourages individuals to commit horrific acts.



Financial Restraints:

Unfortunately, however, the past year has presented significant challenges for our organization. At the beginning of the new year, we were informed that an anticipated multi-year funding would not be forthcoming. Consequently, at the start of 2024, we are faced with a substantial budgetary shortfall of £150K.

In order to maintain financial stability, we have had to let some staff go. Fundraising has proven to be a significant challenge as some trusts and foundations have taken a step back and postponed or closed their funding until "better times." Opoka like many other specialist women's organizations will experience a significant reduction in funding. We have only secured short-term funding in 2024, which will end in the first half of 2025 to support existing multi-year grants secured in 2021 and 2023 ending in 2026. It is challenging to plan ahead with this uncertainty.

Internal Activities

We invested in a Salesforce system to help with our fundraising!



The investment in a Salesforce system was made for two principal reasons. Firstly, it was expected that the system would assist with fundraising, and secondly, it was anticipated that it would collect all relevant data and store it in one place, thus ensuring that all information was accessible with ease. The preference for innovative solutions is well-founded, and it is anticipated that the implementation of the Salesforce system will affect significant improvements in the charity's daily fundraising activities.

Our Volunteers

Volunteers:

Opoka benefits from the commitment of 12 loyal volunteers around the country. All our volunteers are DBS checked, trained, and supervised. Volunteers are supported by the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) which keeps us up-to-date and committed to volunteering best practice. Opoka's volunteers are in the heart of our service and the delivery process, they are:

AMBASSADORS

COMMUNITY
CHAMPIONS

PEER-MENTORS

EMOTIONAL
SUPPORT
BUDDIES

SUPPORT-GROUP
BEFRIENDERS

FUNDRAISERS

HELPLINE
ADVISORS

Our peer mentors are individuals with lived experience who provide longer term support to our clients helping them to gain confidence and become more secure and independent. Our community champions help us to reach our community by raising awareness.

They help us to reach the most isolated and vulnerable people who need help. Our ambassadors and patrons help us to raise awareness, influence and fundraise. I am proud to say that Opoka has a dedicated team of which some of them have been with us for over 10 years. In our team we have people who have been volunteering for us, professionally trained by us and even offered employment with us.

We also have people who came to us as a victim of domestic violence and abuse, went through our support services as a client, became a volunteer and then an Opoka employee. In the essence Opoka not only creates a safe space for very vulnerable, isolated and marginalised women from the Polish community, but also creates an opportunity for them to learn new skills, feel valued and empowered to make a positive change in theirs and their children's lives.

Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner (DPCC) had the chance to see first-hand the important work being done by Opoka. DPCC also visited The Bridge SARC, which offers medical care, emotional and psychological support, and practical help to rape and sexual assault victims. We appreciate DPCC's commitment to supporting the community in Bristol.



Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Trustee Report for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

During the year, we had the privilege of engaging with Victor, Remi, and Martha from the University of Bristol Slavonic Society, who exemplified outstanding organizational and community-building skills. Their successful fundraising event for OPOKA CIO demonstrated their integrity and commitment to making a positive impact. In recognition of their efforts, we presented them with Certificates of Appreciation and Excellence. Their actions inspire others to unite for meaningful causes, showcasing the power of young leaders in driving community support and cohesion.



The project 'Sponsoring Children Christmas Presents' was a great success and parcels came in from all over the UK! We would like to thank each individual for their donations, this would not be possible without your generosity.

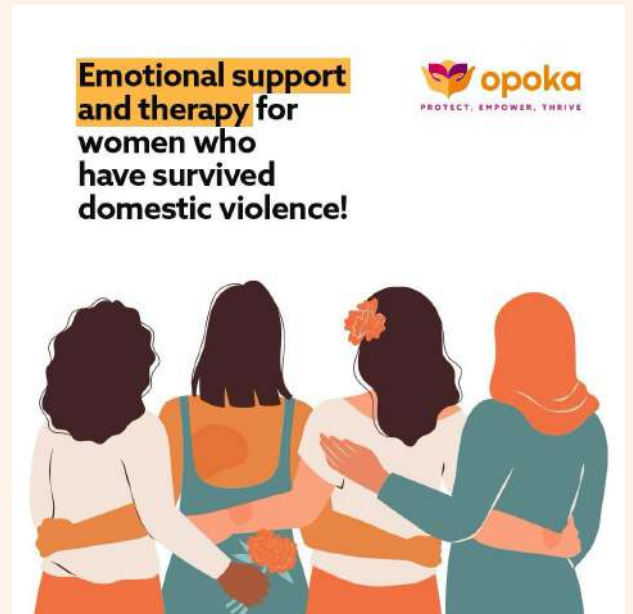


We extend our heartfelt thanks to Beata Kubiak who dressed as Santa, and joined our founder Aneta Mackell, and manager, Anna Barnett, to visit children and their mothers during the holiday season. Together, they delivered Christmas presents, spreading joy and warmth to everyone. The happiness and excitement they brought were truly unforgettable, making the holiday season even more special for the families we support.



Our Solution

The OPOKA Outreach & Education Programme is dedicated to increasing awareness and providing education on domestic violence and abuse within Polish families residing in the UK, as well as among professionals in statutory organizations. Our team of specialists provides reliable information and resources to assist professionals supporting Polish communities affected by domestic abuse in identifying potential signs and indicators of victimization and accessing appropriate support. The objective of our program is to assist professionals in gaining a deeper comprehension of the dynamics of domestic violence within Polish families and to equip them with the tools to provide tailored support to Polish women and children experiencing abuse. Additionally, our education and outreach team provide presentations at educational institutions, workplaces, community groups, churches, and events on a range of domestic violence and abuse affecting Polish families residing in the UK.



It is imperative that local and national governments and organizations recognize the risks faced by this largest minority group in England and Wales and address the needs of Polish people who experience domestic abuse and mental health problems. Domestic violence and abuse are a societal epidemic that requires a collective effort, education and prevention.



opoka

PROTECT, EMPOWER, THRIVE

Client Feedback

"(...) I had been in communication with OPOKA last year when we discussed options for collaboration with Wiltshire Police and received a positive response from yourselves. (...)

Thank you very much on behalf of myself and Wiltshire Police for your help and cooperation. This is especially important for us and for each victim, especially in this case, where our victim does not speak English well, and has been disappointed with people who couldn't provide good translations and couldn't offer help. (...) I am deeply obliged to you."

- **Local Crime Investigator Wiltshire Police**

"I am very grateful for the access to therapy, as a victim of domestic violence it was essential for me to get therapeutic support and try to rebuild my life. I can't thank Opoka enough for all the support."

- **Therapy Service User**

"Thank you very much for your help, the organization helped me a lot."

- **Therapy Service User**

"Safe House - and exactly as the name suggests, this is how I feel in it together with my daughter. Safe and taken care of. The equipment in the house for women and children exceeded my expectations, we feel happy and safe as much as we can in our situation. The house is large, well-maintained and functional."

- **Client from the Safe House**

"I would like to thank you very much for being here and for helping women like me. You were the first organization I turned to for help and you did not disappoint me. Thanks to you, my life and that of my children is now free from domestic violence, we finally have our own peaceful place on earth, and we enjoy freedom. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

- **Freedom Programme Service User**

"Thank you for the conversation and support. On your advice, I reported the matter to the police. The police intervened very quickly, and the perpetrator was taken away and got a restraining order. I was very afraid to do it, but I love my daughter, and I want peace for her, and she gave me this strength. Thank you again."

- **Therapy Service User**

Our Work Recognised



Opoka CIO has made meaningful progress in supporting Polish families affected by domestic violence. As we move forward, our commitment to providing compassionate, culturally sensitive support remains unwavering, and we aim to continue enhancing our services to meet the evolving needs of our community.

The year 2024 has been a transformative period for OPOKA, marked by significant progress in our mission to support vulnerable individuals and families within our community. This report outlines our activities, the services we provided, the number of people we worked with, and the impact of our strategies and approaches. We identify challenges faced and solutions implemented, along with insights from service users and professionals that illustrate the effectiveness of our initiatives.

In September, we were finalists in the Third Sector Awards, standing alongside large national charities, which highlighted our transformative impact. In October, we won the National Diversity Award, celebrating our commitment to promoting diversity, inspiring change, and championing equality.

We also had numerous opportunities to showcase Opoka and raise our profile with funders and policymakers. In December, our CEO shared her story and presented Opoka to Queen Camilla, a domestic abuse campaigner herself. This unique opportunity amplified the voices of Polish women and children at the highest level.



Memberships



Accreditations



Women's Aid

Women's Aid is the national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children. As a federation we provide life-saving services across England while building a future where domestic abuse is not tolerated.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®

We invest in people Silver

Investors in People

All Chrysalis Group companies are provided with HR services by the parent company Chrysalis Group Services Limited centrally and therefore retains consistency while remaining efficient. We value our staff and are proud to have the IIP Silver accreditation to demonstrate our commitment to support our staff.

During 2024 we continued to offer support to our staff in the following areas:

- Providing staff benefits including private health insurance and life insurance
- Updating the staff handbook
- Expanding staff training options including professional qualifications for managers and added an additional online training provider for all staff
- Continuing to develop the induction process
- Expanding the Board development programme
- Expanding volunteer opportunities including support

2025 will be our re-assessment year by IIP. We look forward to using this opportunity to improve further our development and support for staff.

Staff Training

It is evident that the organisation places a significant value on its human resources, namely its staff and volunteers. The notion that a well-trained team is characterised by heightened levels of confidence and a sense of empowerment within their professional roles is one that is acknowledged by the organisation. Consequently, the organisation is committed to the identification of avenues through which it can provide support to its staff, facilitating their access to professional training and the attainment of relevant certificates and accreditations.



Skills for
Service Managers
Level 4



Award in Tackling
and Preventing
Domestic and Sexual
Violence / Abuse
Level 3

women's aid
until women & children are safe

Our Re-Brand

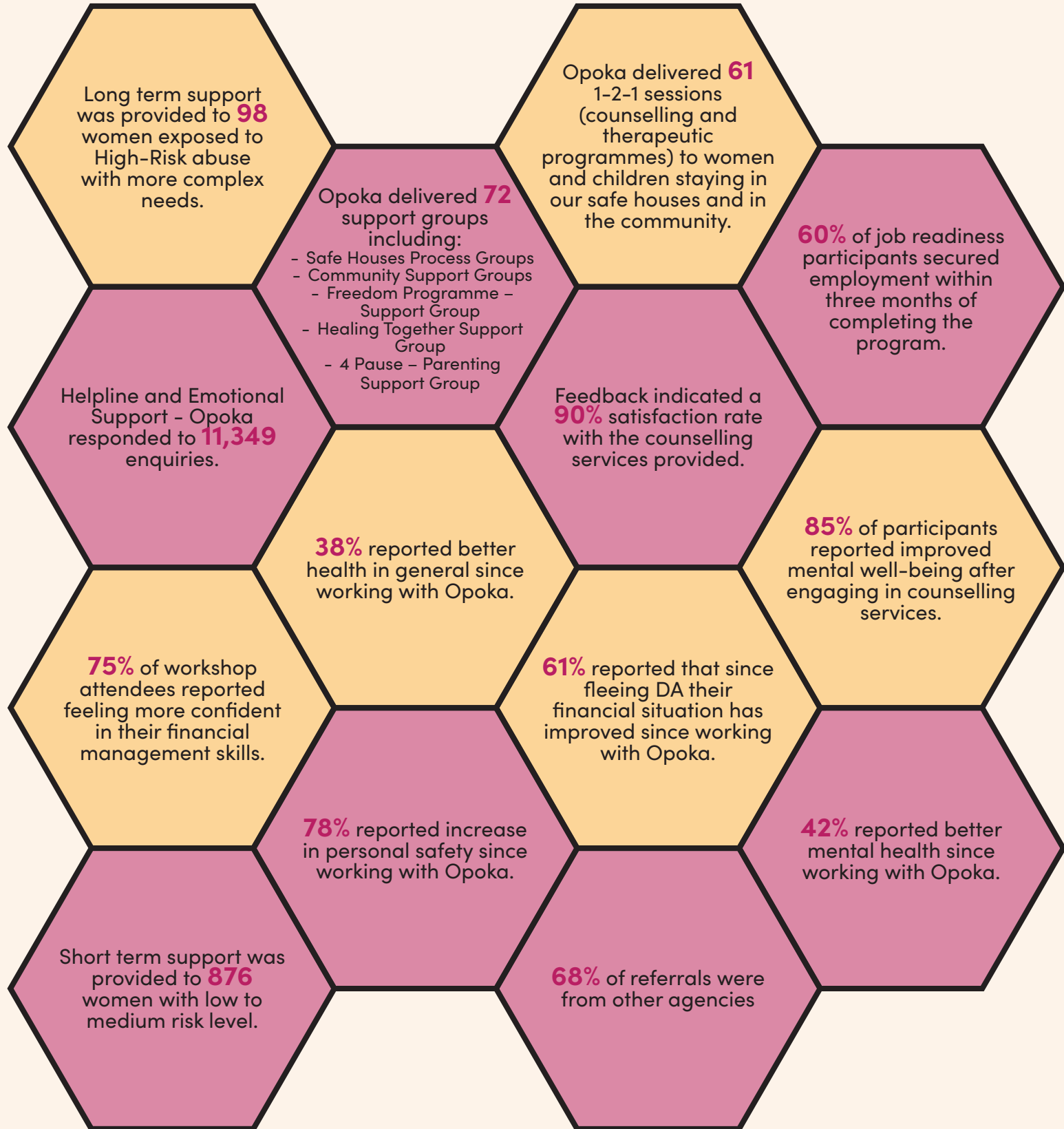


'Refreshing the visual identity of our branding without losing recognition'

In the present year, a comprehensive rebranding initiative was initiated. This undertaking has entailed the creation of a new logo, the production of literature, and the redesign of the organisation's website, thereby signifying a commitment to enhance the organisation's visual identity and online presence.



Support Outcomes - 2024



Short Term Support Outcomes - 2024

We provided support to

8055

people in
2024

Clients reported from

England (4879)

Wales (280)

Scotland (66)



We supported

7785

women



270

men



Long Term Support Outcomes - 2024

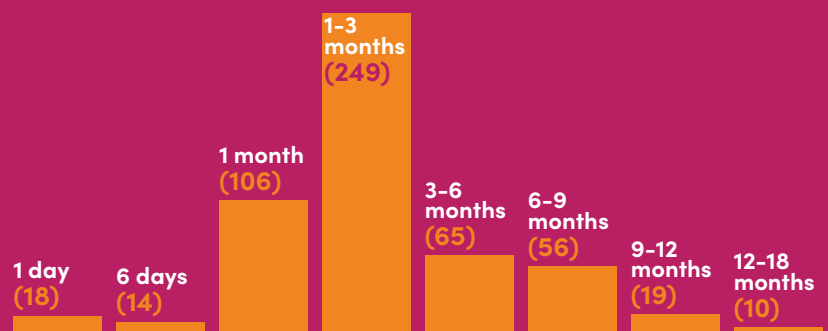
512

cases with children

24

cases without children

service length



service type

- Counselling & Therapy (63)
- Freedom Programme (205)
- Healing Together Program (48)
- Safe House Support Group (102)
- DV Outreach (118)

114

cases with mental health support needs

referrals

Received (211)

Accepted (107)

Rejected (24)

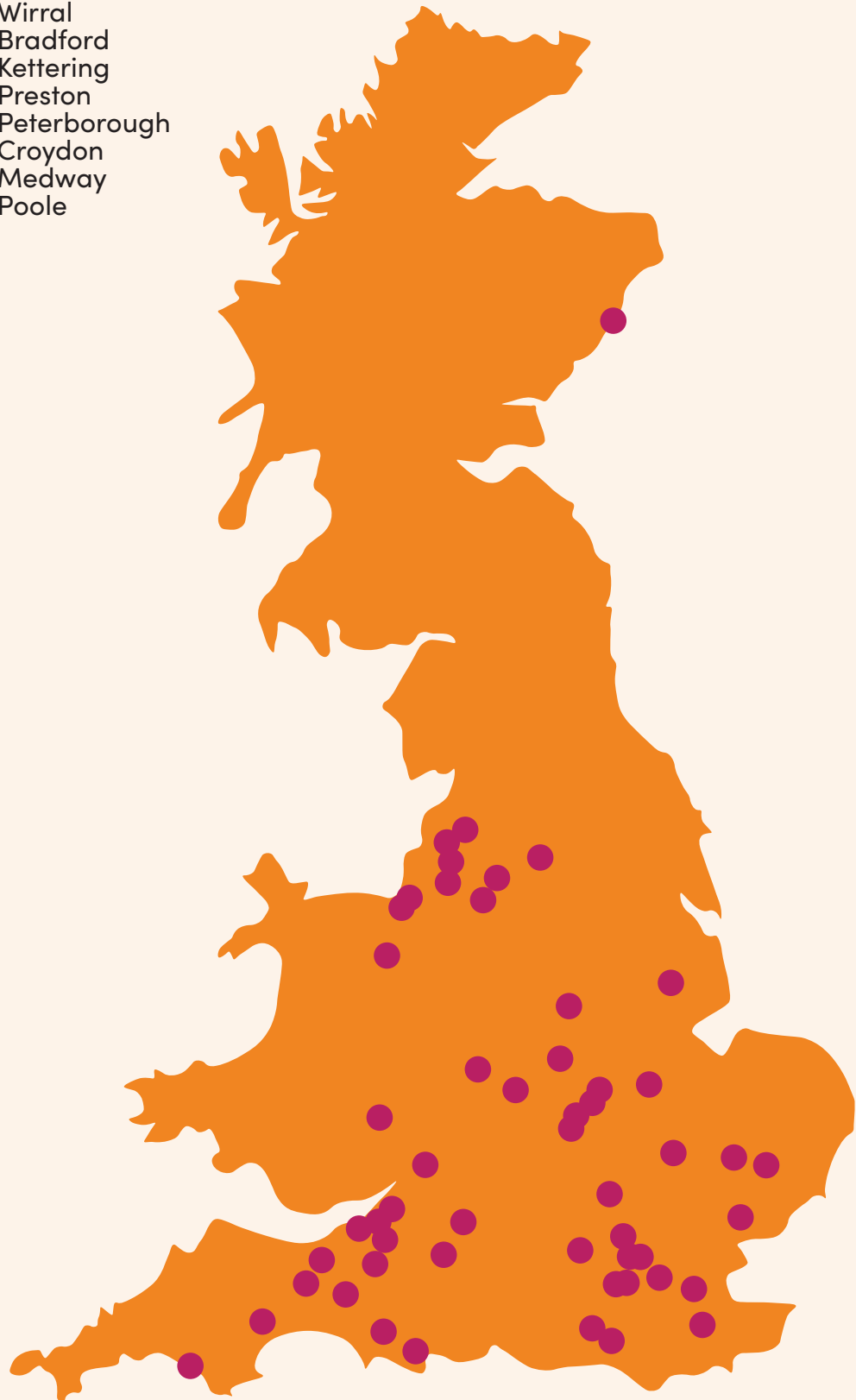
Pending (74)

Waiting (345)

Our Support Reach

We Support Women Across:

- Bristol
- South Gloucestershire
- Liverpool
- Somerset
- City of London
- Gloucester
- North Somerset
- Taunton Deane
- Cambridge
- South Somerset
- Northamptonshire
- Dartford
- Exeter
- Boston
- Corby
- New-Castle-Under-Lime
- Kent
- Worthing Borough
- Mid Sussex
- Lincolnshire
- Chorley
- Northampton
- Colchester
- Nottingham
- Birmingham
- Mendip
- Coventry
- Manchester
- Leicester
- Bury
- Wiltshire
- Aberdeen
- Barnet
- Swindon
- East Somerset
- Luton
- Herefordshire
- Dorset
- Plymouth
- Wrexham
- Sutton
- Lancashire
- Wigan
- Horsham
- Rochdale
- Slough
- Suffolk
- Wirral
- Bradford
- Kettering
- Preston
- Peterborough
- Croydon
- Medway
- Poole



Opoka Funders



Individual Supporters

We have had wonderful support from some organisations we would like to share. Marketing and social media management is essential to share our work with others but rates start at £500 per month and can reach a maximum of £1,500 per month, depending on the number of social media accounts. In Opoka's case, the financial outlay for managing four social media accounts, including content creation and graphic design, can be significantly higher, reaching up to £5,000 per month.

Receiving the offer of professional assistance from **SLT Media Ltd.** was a significant advantage and really appreciated by Opoka.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to SLT Media Ltd. in particular to Paulina Patrykowska (Managing Director), Damian Banaś (Project Advisor), Natalia Wilson (UX & UI Designer), Krystian Hnitecki (Fullstack Developer) and Patrycja Kinal (Social Media Coordinator) for their management of Opoka's social media accounts. The team behind this project has made an invaluable contribution to our social media posts, significantly enhancing our visibility and helping us gain engagement, improve the quality of our content and increase the number of followers and supporters. This highly skilled team provides invaluable support to Opoka, offering a level of service that would otherwise require a monthly fee of a minimum of £500.

We are also immensely grateful to Gordon Brownrigg the Sustainability Manager at **Nurture Landscapes, Nursery Court in Windlesham** for providing much-needed and significant financial contribution, donating £800 to fund supplies for families residing at Opoka's houses for the Christmas period. There was also a fantastic contribution from the Polish community who came together and sponsored Christmas gifts for all Mothers and their Children residing in our Safe Houses.

ESG Policy

The Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) policy is to ensure so far as it is applicable and reasonably practicable that our operations will be carried out with a commitment to:

- protecting and enhancing the environment by minimising negative impact and maximising positive impact on the environment;
- ensuring appropriate conduct towards, positive impact on and good relationships with employees, customers/service users, suppliers, subcontractors, and the community in which it operates; and
- conducting our business with integrity and high standards of business ethics, through appropriate structures, systems, processes and procedures.

In fulfilling the ESG Commitment we Group seek to:

- comply with all applicable local and national laws, rules, regulations and other measures having the force of law that are relevant to any aspects of our ESG Commitment; and
- where it is practicable and appropriate to do so, establish and meet standards relevant to any aspects of our ESG Commitment which are higher than the standards imposed by law.

All employees must, in carrying out their duties, adhere to the principles and objectives of the Group ESG Policy. Training will be given to employees to ensure that they are familiar with, and work in accordance with, the ESG Policy. We expect suppliers of goods and services to adopt and implement the ESG Commitment in their own businesses.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



	1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Opoka supports women to become financially independent	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Opoka support service users to get benefits and the food they need.	✓	✓									
Opoka helps women access healthcare.			✓								
Opoka provides appropriate housing, improving social confidence, interactions with family & general wellbeing.			✓					✓			
Opoka advocates to ensure the appropriate care is in place to support individuals according to their needs.			✓				✓				✓
Opoka helps remove children and pregnant women from high risk situations so they can live in a safe environment.			✓								
Opoka supports mothers in getting their children into school.				✓							
Opoka provides employment for women at every level of the organisation.					✓		✓				
Opoka provides modern properties with fresh flowing water and monthly legionella checks.						✓					
Opoka's safehouses are energy efficient by using efficient boilers and insulation, ensuring a minimum EPC of C.						✓		✓			
Opoka offers training to support women find employment and access further education.	✓				✓	✓	✓				
Opoka gives stability to tenants allowing them to seek employment.						✓	✓	✓			
Opoka provides supported high quality adapted accommodation for vulnerable people so they are safe.	✓						✓	✓			
Recycling bins in head office and reducing printing being paperless where possible.									✓		
Opoka ensures recycling provisions are in place in the safehouses and educate tenants in their use.									✓		
Opoka's safehouse maintenance services use minimal chemicals for carrying out tasks.									✓	✓	
Opoka safehouses have natural gardens to support a local ecosystem.										✓	
Opoka assists women in taking their abusers to court to get justice.							✓				✓
Opoka advocates on behalf of women suffering domestic violence with the police and politicians.							✓				✓

Our Other Challenges and Risks

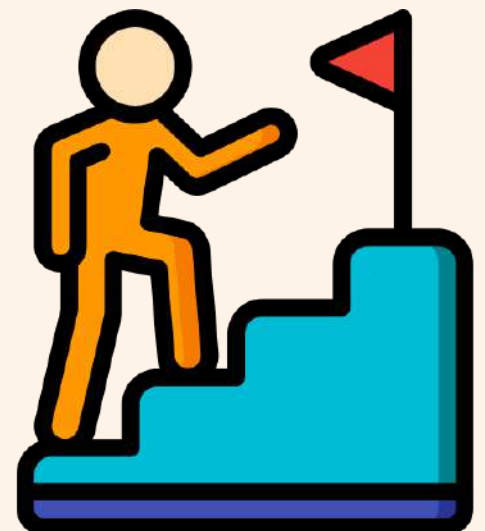
OPOKA is facing an increasing demand for its services and support. However, an uncertain economic environment and rising operational costs, including rent and staff salaries, threaten our financial sustainability and our ability to continue supporting the women who rely on us. This challenge makes it harder for OPOKA, along with other service providers, to secure the resources needed to meet this demand.

Contributing Factors:

- Funding shortages – Reduction of available funding in the sector as a whole has directly impacted the income available to deliver existing services and expand those offered.
- Government cuts and service closures – The reduction or closure of support agencies has placed additional strain on OPOKA.
- Overwhelmed frontline services – Staff are extending their support beyond core functions, including debt advice, social security assistance, and crisis loan applications, particularly for women facing language barriers.
- Staff well-being concerns – The emotionally demanding nature of our work can place significant psychological strain on employees.
- Recruitment struggles – A lack of financial resources and competition from statutory, private, and local authority organisations for similar roles prevent us from hiring additional staff, forcing existing employees to take on excessive workloads.

Our Response to These Challenges Includes:

- Advocating for funding and policy change – We are actively seeking sustainable funding sources and highlighting the need for greater financial support for our services.
- Supporting staff – Raising resources to help staff manage the emotional demands of their work.
- Exploring additional funding opportunities – Identifying new ways to secure the resources needed to sustain our services and support our staff.



Financial Review

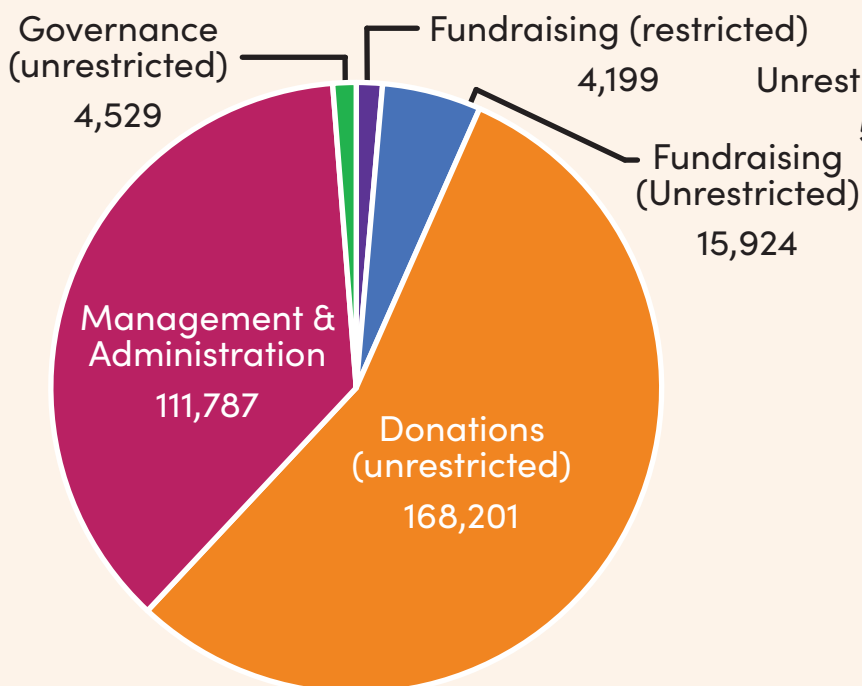
The charity's total incoming resources for the year amounted to £333,255 (2023:£273,118), of which £166,837 (2023:£168,850) was restricted. Of the remaining unrestricted £166,418 (2023 £104,268), £40,000 related to a Tudor Trust unrestricted grant that on so it has been recognised on receipt although the majority (£38,000 approx) is for 2025 costs and £105,212 (2023:£36,335) consisted of donations of services and infrastructure costs from Chrysalis Supported Association as the parent company. This high level of support may not be possible on an ongoing basis , without which the charity could not have operated. Therefore there will be a focus on getting funding for these costs as well as costs for delivery activities during 2025.

The total expenditure for the period was £304,640 (2023: £281,015) leaving a recorded surplus overall of £28,615 (2023: £7,897 deficit) which represents to carried forwards Tudor Trust grant. The restricted funds balance for the year was carried at the end of 2024 as £10,368 (2023: £2,097). The unrestricted funds have been increased by £20,344 to £132,517 (2023: £112,173) but as mentioned above, this includes the £38,000 of Tudor Trust funding earmarked for 2025 costs. Getting long term sustainable funding has continued to be a real challenge during the period and therefore some of the activities carried out by Opoka have had to be reduced or stopped and staff made redundant until additional funding can be secured.

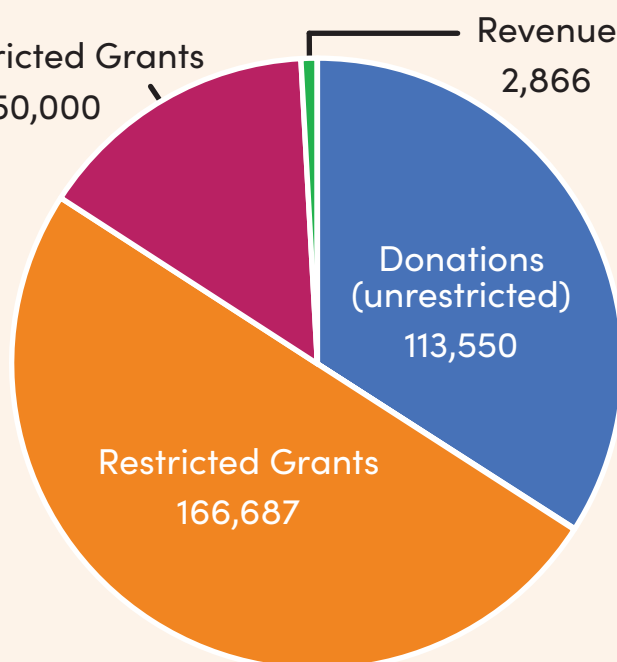
None the less due to strong financial management and the ongoing support of the parent company the balance sheet has strengthened by £28,614 allowing further designations to mitigate risks.

The Sources of Income & Expenditure are shown below:

Expended



Income



Reserves Policy

The charity updated its reserves policy in detail at the end of 2023 to reflect the risks it faces with a lack of funding for support costs as well as some activities. The trustees also reviewed whether it had sufficient funds to meet its legal obligations if it ever had to close. The trustees agreed that as well as designating some specific amounts to cover the risks around a lack of funding security there should also aim to retain 20% of overall resources expended in free reserves for other risks and eventualities.

The specific costs covered have been transferred to a designated fund as follows:

- Unfunded Education and Therapeutic programmes £20,000
- Unfunded safehouse equipment £15,000
- Emergency response fund £10,000
- Unfunded Management and governance costs £25,000
- Other unfunded office expenses £15,000

The total £85,000 designated above includes £38,000 provided by the Tudor Trust in 2024 as unrestricted. The remaining £50,907 (2023:£43,963) free reserves represents 17% (2023: 15.6%) of resources expended towards the target of 20%.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing those financial statements;

- the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any 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 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 applicable law and regulations. 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 28th May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

J Szuryn

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Joanna Szuryn
Chair of Trustees

Report of the Independent Auditors

Opinion:

We have audited the financial statements of Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the period ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion:

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

Conclusions relating to going concern:

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information:

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception:

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees:

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements:

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Basis for opinion:

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities:

Irregularities, including fraud, are non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures, in line with our responsibilities, as set out in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which are procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below. In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we consider the following:

- the nature of the charity sector, control environment and financial performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following area: revenue and resource recognition. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We have also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Charities Act and related legislation.

Audit response to risks identified:

As a result of performing the above, we identified revenue and resource recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of fraud. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documents on to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- understanding the charity's revenue recognition policies and how they are applied, including the relevant financial controls;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to compare revenue recognised against expectations and based on past experiences and management forecasts and investigated material divergencies by obtaining corroborative evidence;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; applying parameters designed to identify entries that were not within our expectations. This included analysing and selecting journals for testing which appeared unusual in nature, either due to size, preparer or date of posting. To test their validity, we verified the journals to originating documentation.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect noncompliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

Use of our report:

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
Nicholas Jones FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Windover House, St Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

Date: 28th May 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

Incoming resources	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
From generated funds:					
Donations		113,550	150	113,700	64,268
Grants	3	50,000	166,687	216,687	208,850
Revenue		2,866	-	2,866	-
Interest Income		2	-	2	-
		166,418	166,837	333,255	273,118
Resources expended					
Fundraising costs		15,924	4,199	20,123	33,323
Cost of charitable activities	5/6	28,782	139,419	168,201	177,242
Management and administration	8	96,839	14,948	111,787	64,565
Governance costs	9	4,529	-	4,529	5,885
Total resources expended		146,074	158,566	304,640	281,015
Net Movement in funds		20,344	8,271	28,615	(7,897)
Total funds b/f		112,173	2,097	114,270	122,167
Net movement in funds for the year		20,344	8,271	28,615	(7,897)
Total Funds at 31 December		132,517	10,368	142,885	114,270

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Intangible	11		6,395		-
Tangible	12		9,023		11,517
Current Assets					
Debtors	13	12,419		905	
Cash at bank and in hand		168,237		138,016	
		<u>180,656</u>		<u>138,921</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(52,410)</u>		<u>(36,168)</u>	
Net current assets			128,246		102,753
Net assets	15		<u>143,664</u>		<u>114,270</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	16		135,906		112,173
Restricted funds	17		7,758		2,097
Total Funds			<u>143,664</u>		<u>114,270</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 28th May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

J Szuryn

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 Joanna Szuryn
 Chair of Trustees

Statement of Cash Flow

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net Income	28,615	(7,897)
Add depreciation	3,909	2,123
Investment in intangible fixed assets	(6,821)	-
Investment in tangible fixed assets	(1,413)	(11,466)
Proceeds on disposal of assets	425	140
Changes in:		
Accrued income and other debtors	(11,516)	26,003
Trade and other creditors	17,022	(31,669)
Cash generated from operations	30,221	(22,766)
Interest received	-	-
Net cash from operating activities	30,221	(22,766)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	30,221	(22,766)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	138,016	160,782
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	168,237	138,016

Financial Report Notes

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The company is dependent upon the support of a loan from a group company who has indicated that it will not call on the loan until the company has sufficient reserves. The director therefore considers that the going concern basis is appropriate. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that might be necessary were the going concern basis to be no longer appropriate.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£) which is the functional currency of the company. The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Depreciation policies:

Buildings	0.25%	Reducing Balance
Fixtures and Fittings	4 years	Straight line
IT Equipment	3 years	Straight line
Leasehold Improvements	Lease Term	Straight line
Vehicles	5 years	Straight line
White Goods & Furniture	4 years	Straight line

Taxation

Taxation for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Report for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the period end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Creditors and provisions

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

Note 2 - Net Outgoing Resources for the period

This is stated after charging:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Accountancy Fee	-	2,285
Audit Fee	4,529	3,600
Depreciation and Amortisation	3,909	2,123

Note 3 - Grants

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Avon & Somerset: MOJ	-	19,655	19,655	22,162
Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund	-	-	-	8,667
Bristol City Council - Social Action Grant	-	4,869	4,869	4,932
Clothworkers	-	-	-	10,000
Co-op Local Community Fund	-	-	-	2,097
Comic Relief: Community Fund (England)	-	-	-	7,135
John James	-	-	-	6,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	-
King Charles III Community fund	-	2,000	2,000	-
Leeds Building Society	-	-	-	1,900
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	-	63,505	63,505	45,160
The National Lottery: Funds For All	-	18,307	18,307	-
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	-	1,250	1,250	3,750
Nurture Landscape	-	800	800	-
Quartet Community Foundation: Wesleyan Foundation	-	-	-	1,548
ROSA Fund: Stand with Us	-	-	-	22,613
Tesco Comm Fund	-	375	375	1,125
The Big Give	-	799	799	-
Anonymous Donor	10,000	-	10,000	-
Tudor Trust: DV Service	40,000	-	40,000	66,551
Tudor Trust: Staff wellbeing	-	597	597	210
Wesleyan Foundation	-	5,205	5,205	-
Women's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	-	19,325	19,325	-
Women's Aid	-	-	-	5,000
	<u>50,000</u>	<u>166,687</u>	<u>216,687</u>	<u>208,850</u>

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Report for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

Note 4 - Donated Services an Goods

	<u>£</u>
Rent and Utilities	9,196
Management Fees	63,026
HR & Staff Costs	4,225
Fundraising Costs	16,833
Insurance and Operational Costs	4,416
Salesforce CRM System	6,821
Laptop	695
	<u><u>105,212</u></u>

Note 5 - Analysis of total Res

	Activities undertaken		2024	2023
	directly	Support		
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Community Outreach	3,750	1,332	5,082	5,695
DV Outreach & Helpline Costs	73,675	6,662	80,337	95,938
Safe House	27,606	6,662	34,268	38,973
Emotional & Counselling Service	42,246	5,329	47,576	36,637
Education	939	-	939	-
	<u>148,217</u>	<u>19,985</u>	<u>168,201</u>	<u>177,243</u>

Note 6 - Charitable Activities Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Community Outreach	-	5,082	5,082	5,695
DV Outreach & Helpline Costs	20,848	59,489	80,337	95,938
Safe House	7,390	26,878	34,268	38,973
Emotional & Counselling Service	545	47,031	47,576	36,637
Education	-	939	939	-
	<u>28,782</u>	<u>139,419</u>	<u>168,201</u>	<u>177,243</u>

Note 7 - Employees

	January - December	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	121,793	118,171
Social security costs	11,626	10,389
Pension costs	2,866	2,353
	<u>136,285</u>	<u>130,912</u>

*The average monthly number of employees (including the executive directors), expressed in full-time equivalent of seven hours per day are 4 (2023: 4).

Note 8 - Management and Administration

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Computer expenses	2,702	2,765	5,467	1,056
Consultancy, legal and professional fees	180	330	510	169
Fixed asset depreciation	1,134	-	1,134	967
Group Management Fee and Labour	63,026	2,391	65,417	35,998
Insurance	1,213	-	1,213	1,215
Light and heat	344	-	344	1,327
Marketing, publicity and website	17,696	241	17,937	-
Printing, postage and stationery	5	276	281	169
Rent and rates	10,738	-	10,738	16,681
Staff welfare	369	4,374	4,743	1,250
Subscriptions	214	419	633	349
Telephone and communications	(734)	889	155	926
Training and education	(10)	719	709	2,967
Travel and subsistence	1,111	234	1,345	1,043
Other office costs	(1,149)	2,310	1,161	448
	96,839	14,948	111,787	64,565

Note 9 - Governance Costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Accounting and audit fees	4,529	-	4,529	5,885
	4,529	-	4,529	5,885

Note 10 - Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities per sections 521 to 536 of ITA 2007. Because of its current activities Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation is not registered for VAT and therefore cannot recover VAT on its expenses.

Note 11 - Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

Ms A Mackell, the founder and CEO, was a trustee of the charity until she resigned on 23rd January 2024. While she received no salary as a trustee during the year, she received a gross salary of £4,583 (2023: £32,999) and the charity paid employers NI of £841 (2023: £2,848) and employers pension contributions of £110 (2023: £803) for her role of CEO and to deliver frontline services. In addition, she received £764 (2023: £644) in expenses. Janusz Kilch received £0 (2023: £85) in expenses. A Mackell / J Szuryn / A Wrzos - Porada / S Jatczak were reimbursed for travel and accommodation expenses.

Note 12 - Intangible Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment £	Total £
Cost:		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
Additions	6,821	6,821
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>6,821</u>	<u>6,821</u>
Amortisation:		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
Charge for the year	426	426
On disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>426</u>	<u>426</u>
Net book values:		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>6,395</u>	<u>6,395</u>

Note 13 - Tangible Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment £	White Goods £	Leasehold £	Total £
Cost:				
At 1 January 2024	2,797	9,624	1,842	14,263
Additions	1,414	-	-	1,414
Disposals	(1,963)	-	-	(1,963)
At 31 December 2024	<u>2,248</u>	<u>9,624</u>	<u>1,842</u>	<u>13,713</u>
Amortisation:				
At 1 January 2024	1,590	1,002	154	2,746
Charge for the year	708	2,406	368	3,483
On disposals	(1,538)	-	-	(1,538)
At 31 December 2024	<u>760</u>	<u>3,408</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>4,690</u>
Net book values:				
At 1 January 2024	1,207	8,622	1,688	11,517
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,488</u>	<u>6,215</u>	<u>1,320</u>	<u>9,023</u>

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Report for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

Note 14 - Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accounts receivable	10,513	-
Other debtors	1,907	905
	<u>12,419</u>	<u>905</u>

Note 15 - Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accounts payable	775	6,252
PAYE, Social security & other tax	1,838	5,913
Accruals and deferred income	49,732	10,665
Amount owed to group undertakings	-	13,338
Other Creditors	844	-
	<u>53,189</u>	<u>36,168</u>

Note 16 - Analysis of Net Assets

	Fixed assets	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
31 December 2024			
Restricted funds	-	10,368	10,368
Unrestricted funds	15,418	117,099	132,517
Net assets at the end of the period	<u>15,418</u>	<u>127,467</u>	<u>142,885</u>
31 December 2023			
Restricted funds	-	2,097	2,097
Unrestricted funds	11,517	100,656	112,173
Net assets at the end of the period	<u>11,517</u>	<u>102,753</u>	<u>114,270</u>

Note 17 - Unrestricted Funds

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Total
	£	£	£
January - December 2024			
Balance at 1 January 2024	42,173	70,000	112,173
Surplus/(loss) for the year	20,344	-	20,344
Transfer between funds	(15,000)	15,000	-
Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>47,517</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>132,517</u>
January - December 2023			
Balance at 1 January 2023	29,698	56,000	85,698
Surplus/(loss) for the year	26,475	-	26,475
Transfer between funds	(14,000)	14,000	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>42,173</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>112,173</u>

Note 18 - Restricted Funds

	Balance at Dec-23 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at Dec-24 £
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift	-	19,656	(19,656)	-
Bristol City Council: Social Action Grant	-	4,869	(4,869)	-
Co-op Local Community Fund - Safehouse Activity	2,097	-	(2,097)	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
King Charles III Community fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	-	63,505	(60,894)	2,611
The National Lottery: Funds For All	-	18,307	(16,512)	1,795
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	-	1,250	(1,250)	-
Nurture Landscape	-	800	(753)	47
ROSA Fund	-	150	-	150
Tesco Comm Fund - Supporting Children's Mental Health	-	375	(375)	-
The Big Give	-	799	(799)	-
Tudor Trust: Staff Wellbeing	-	597	(71)	526
Wesleyan Foundation	-	5,205	(5,205)	-
Women's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	-	19,325	(14,085)	5,240
	2,097	166,837	(158,566)	10,368

Purpose of funds:

Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift	Community DV Advisors
Bristol City Council: Social Action Grant	Community engagement worker - Polish community
Co-op Local Community Fund - Safehouse Activity	Core costs, overheads and running costs as well as management and supervision costs
Garfield Weston Foundation	Safe house activity
King Charles III Community fund	Workshop for survivors of domestic violence and abuse
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	DA Outreach and helpline
The National Lottery: Funds For All	Safe house activity
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	Outreach & Drop-in Sessions
Nurture Landscape	Gifts and supplies for safe house residents
ROSA Fund	Staff costs for supporting survivors of domestic violence
Tesco Community Fund	Supporting Children's Mental Health
The Big Give	Mental health support for domestic abuse survivors
Tudor Trust: Staff Wellbeing	Staff wellbeing
Wesleyan Foundation	Outreach and education programmes
Women's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	CAF Tech & Impact Bursary.

CONTACT

Polish helpline: 0300 365 1700

Tel: 0117 427 0012

E-mail: info@opoka.org.uk

Web: www.opoka.org.uk

Opoka CIO

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Registered Charity Number: 1195206

Company Number: CE026183



OPOKA CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1195206

Accounts



opoka

PROTECT, EMPOWER, THRIVE



2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

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Status

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with Charity Commission for England Wales under its Governing Document.

Trustees of the Charity

Aneta Mackell – Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer

Sylwia Jatczak – Opoka Chair

Anna Osowska – Trustee (resigned 20/6/2023)

Janusz Klich – Trustee (resigned 26/7/2023)

Joanna Szuryn – (appointed 26/7/2023)

Aneta Wrzos-Porada – (appointed 26/7/2023)

Registered Charity Number

1195206

(company number CE026183)

Registered and Trading Address

3 Brook Office Park

Folly Brook Road

Emersons Green

Bristol

BS16 7FL

Independent Auditors

Fawcetts LLP

Chartered Accountants and registered auditors Windover House

St Ann Street

Salisbury

SP1 2DR

Banks

Barclays Bank,

4th Floor, Bridgewater House,

Counterslip,

Finzels Reach,

Bristol

BS1 6BX

Metro Bank,

40-46 Broadmead,

Bristol

BS1 3HB

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and registered with the Charity Commission. It was established on 19 July 2021 under its governing document. It is a charitable subsidiary of its member, Chrysalis Supported Association Limited.

Public Benefit

When planning their charity's activities, the charity trustees have regarded the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Trustees

The Trustees are as shown on page 1.

Existing trustees undertake a selection process to ensure the broad mix of skills provided by the trustees is maintained and a full induction is provided. All trustees have personal knowledge of domestic abuse.

A full trustee development program based on the charity code of conduct is planned for 2024 to identify any development gaps for the organisation or the board of trustees and address these.

Our Vision and Mission

OPOKA CIO has a vision of a world where women and children live free from all forms of violence and abuse and create a safer world for all women and children, regardless of their nationality or ethnicity. OPOKA CIO mission is to support and empower Polish women and their children who are experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence in their intimate relationships by providing client-centered support for women and children, by women. They also aim to prevent violence against women and their children in the Polish community by increasing awareness, education, and understanding.

Opoka and its Charitable objects

Opoka is a specialist Domestic Abuse Service for Polish women and children in the UK, working to stop domestic violence and abuse in the Polish community with a prevalence in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset. Since its inception in May 2012 Opoka has come a long way and has grown and expanded to meet the needs of the Polish community reaching thousands of vulnerable and isolated women and children.

Opoka's aim is for women and their children to have greater freedom from all forms of domestic violence and abuse and for those who do experience domestic violence and abuse to benefit from greater access to care, support, justice, and other recovery services needed to ensure physical & mental health, social wellbeing, and financial security.

Opoka's charitable objects are to:

Promote the relief of women and children or other persons who have been subject to domestic abuse, including physical or sexual violence, emotional, economic, financial, or coercive control, stalking and/or misogynistic or other psychological abuse with an intimate or family relationship throughout the United Kingdom, including by (but not limited to):

- a. The provision of specialist supported housing and social housing and associated amenities and services.
- b. The advancement of public education, research, and training on the issues of domestic violence and gender-based violence throughout the United Kingdom.



OUTCOMES

We will achieve this aim by achieving five outcomes:

1

Improve the immediate safety, health, and wellbeing of women and children and help them to feel safer and more empowered to seek help.

2

Reduce disadvantage and inequality by helping women to improve their financial and economic security by supporting them to develop life and employment skills, and helping them to access work.

3

Raise community awareness and reaching the most vulnerable, isolated, and marginalised families who need our support.

4

Strengthen local capacity to support women and children by training and working with local professionals who work with and support them.

5

Improve the sustainability of funding for our services.

Introduction from Opoka's Chair

I am delighted as Chair to present this 2023 Annual Report to you which sets out the incredible work Opoka has been doing as an independent organisation. 2023 has brought some challenges, but it was also a year of many achievements and accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the trustees, staff, volunteers and those within our parent organisation for making Opoka shine brighter each year.

In particular, I would like to thank our CEO, Aneta, who not only co-founded Opoka but also nurtured and nourished it over the years to create a safe place for those who need safety the most vulnerable women and children affected by domestic abuse. Throughout 2023, Aneta worked tirelessly to exceed everyone's expectations, to set excellent standards of work, to develop her staff and to provide more comprehensive service to those who need it.

In 2023 Opoka celebrated its 11 years anniversary. A celebratory gathering which took place in Kettering in February 2023 was attended by many of Opoka supporters, including the Vice Consul of Poland. The event was a great opportunity to reflect of how far Opoka has come over the last 11 years, from an idea in Aneta's head to an independent organisation known not only in Bristol, but also across the country.

Another noteworthy achievement was the opening of Opoka's first safe houses. It took many months of preparation and effort to turn these houses into safe homes for their new residents, all of which was carefully managed by Aneta. The idea was to make the houses as cosy and welcoming as possible, so the residents feel instantly like home. I am pleased to say that this idea flourished beautifully into something very special. I had an opportunity to visit the houses before they were occupied and the design, décor and attention to detail simply took my breath away. However, it was only when I visited the houses again later in the year to meet the occupants, when I realised the impact Aneta's hard work, determination and drive have had on these most vulnerable people in our community. It was an

unforgettable experience to witness a young child come back from school to a quiet and safe space, happy and cheerful, sit down to dinner with the other residents, all of them connected by similar experience but grateful they have been given a chance to rebuild their lives in a safe environment. The warmth, the calmness and the happiness I witnessed that day will forever stay in my memory.

Unfortunately, in the shadows of these amazing achievements, there has always been a worry – will Opoka have sufficient financial support to keep going? Will there be enough funds to continue making these positive changes to other peoples' live? Will we be able to see more children rediscovering a life without abuse in a calm and safe environment?

It has been clear that the need for the work we do is growing. For example, Opoka has regularly been contacted by partner agencies from various parts of the country asking for assistance to vulnerable women who



Sylwia Jatczak
Opoka Chair

live outside of Opoka's main area of focus. Whilst these referrals rarely come with funding, Opoka's mission is to support those in need, even though it will inevitably result in depleting Opoka's financial resources. The lack of funding has meant that Opoka had to limit its offering and reduce its workforce in 2023 – both very difficult and disappointing decisions for all of us involved.

Therefore, a key focus for the future will need to be on increasing funding or we will not be able to continue to deliver, let alone expand, our services to meet the huge need that unfortunately exists. Opoka has everything it needs to deliver the best quality service: dedicated, committed and hard-working staff, unlimited amounts of empathy and compassion, understanding of the complexities of domestic abuse and fresh, forward-thinking ideas for further development. All that is lacking is the funding to make all these amazing and ambitious plans come true. I sincerely hope that in year 2024 we will see more funding, and as a result, more achievements and fewer challenges.

Message from the Opoka Co-founder and CEO

Domestic violence and tragic incidents continue to plague our society, and it's clear that something needs to change. To truly address this issue, we must recognise the unique needs of families from minority communities. This includes language and cultural barriers, and a lack of understanding of support systems. Without addressing these barriers, we risk perpetuating a culture of hopelessness that draws individuals to commit horrific acts. By implementing our Outreach & Education Programme we are committed to spreading awareness and providing education on domestic violence and abuse within Polish families living in the UK.

Opoka CIO's annual report sheds light on the shocking level of domestic violence against Polish women and children in the UK. The report provides insight into the emotional, physical, economic, and sexual abuse of women and their children at the hands of current and former partners. In just one year, Opoka CIO received over 5,000 reports of abuse, and we know that these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. Opoka CIO's helpline service responded to over 11,000 calls, our team works tirelessly to listen, support, and empower women to speak out and get the support they deserve. We are committed to reducing the stigma and creating better conditions for victims to come forward.

The impact of abuse is horrific and long-lasting, and survivors must also navigate family and criminal law systems that are creaking at the seams, leading to lengthy and traumatising delays. The lack of appropriate specialist accommodation provision for survivors of abuse limits safe housing options, while economic abuse and inflation further exacerbate already frightening situations. As a society, we need to come together to address these challenges and provide support to survivors. With global and economic challenges making life harder for many, it's important to remember that one in four women in this country will suffer abuse from a current or former partner.



Aneta Mackell
Opoka CEO & Co-founder

Our Patron



Kasia Madera is a BBC World News journalist and presenter, a household name and an active member of the London Polish community and has been honored for her work in promoting Polish culture with the coveted Maciej Płazynski International Journalism Award. The Polish Embassy in London has also awarded Kasia Madera as an Honorary Ambassador of Polish Women to the United Kingdom.

Our Ambassadors

Marta Klubowicz is a Polish theatre and film actress, a poet, and a writer. She is well known for her roles in films and theatre. Marta works with young people, directs performances, as well as conducts theatre and literary workshops. Marta is the author of the study on the bestseller Kato-Tata which raises an important social issue (Child Abuse).



Monika Walsh is an Irish model, influencer, and domestic violence campaigner. She has authored a book about the scourge of domestic violence. 'Take Me Out Of This Hell'

Sue Dymond is CEO of Bazooka Bunny Ltd, an international award-winning film and television company based in Bristol and is a recognised broadcast editor and voice over artist. Sue is also involved with graphic design work for promotional merchandise and production-related skills photography.



Slawomir Adam Fejfer originally is from the northeast of Poland but has been living and working in the UK for over 17 years. For many years he has worked as a volunteer in the Polish Centre Shrewsbury/Shropshire European organisation, promoting the Polish community and helps to organise many cultural and historical events and community meetings. After graduating from Medical College as an emergency paramedic, he now works in private health care and is also a volunteer in the NHS and the local police.

Renata Durda - is a head of the Polish National Referral Service for Victims of Family Violence "Blue Line" IPZ, certified supervisor and specialist in family violence prevention. She is editor-in-chief of the magazine "Blue Line" and author of a range of publications in the field of creating interdisciplinary solutions for family violence prevention. She has contributed to a number of committees including the Monitoring Team for Family Violence Prevention at the Minister of Family, the Minister of Family Affairs, social advisor to the Children's Rights Ombudsman, the Women's Council at the President of the City of Warsaw and the Family Violence Prevention Council at the National Violence Prevention Centre.



Our Activities

OPOKA STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE!

OPOKA CIO's mission to support Polish women and their children remains unwavering. With a focus on providing a comprehensive and high-quality domestic abuse and sexual violence support service, we continue to make a difference in the lives of those affected.

OUR SERVICES:

The OPOKA CIO is making a difference in the lives of Polish women and their children who are experiencing sexual and domestic violence. The organisation strives to provide culturally sensitive support and empowerment to those in need. The Trustees regularly review the objectives and activities of OPOKA CIO to ensure that the organisation is achieving its goals. This report highlights the success of each key activity against measurable targets. We are proud to work towards positive outcomes, all while maintaining our strongly held values. We offer the following services:



We offer a confidential helpline and self-referral route via our website, providing women with the support they need in a way that best suits them.

We are grateful for the support of our generous donors, which allows us to continue providing these essential services to those who need it most. Our staff attends a broad range of meetings across the breadth of the community and sector to drive referrals, and we are dedicated to advocating for those who need it most. We've given presentations to the police and domestic abuse services to further our mission and support those who need our services. Thank you to everyone who supports us and helps us continue our critical work.

Our Safe Houses

Specialist and structured support for Polish Women with Children!

Opoka CIO, the first specialist bilingual domestic abuse service in the UK, has achieved a huge milestone! We are thrilled to announce the opening of the first Safe Structured Supported Accommodation in the UK for Polish Women who are single or with children up to 10 years old. We recently held a successful and memorable opening ceremony, and we want to thank everyone who attended. We couldn't have done it without the amazing support of our communities, professional partnerships, Trusts, Funders, and our Parent Organisation Chrysalis Supported Association Ltd.

A special thanks goes out to our staff and volunteers, sponsors, funders, ambassadors, our patron Kasia Madera, and our special guests Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Children's Services, Education and Equalities Asher Craig, Member of Parliament for Bristol West Shadow Leader of the House of Commons Thangam Debbonaire, Dr Simon Selby - Honorary Consul Republic of Poland, Tomasz Balcerowski - Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland in London, Polish Embassy, London, Katy Taylor from Bristol Women's Voice, Judith Jackson from Taunton Women's Aid.

We are proud to offer a safe house for Polish mothers and children in the UK, and we will continue to work towards our mission of ending domestic abuse.

Who is the service for?

The service will be for Polish women who:

- Are survivors of domestic violence.
- Have up to two children.
- Find it difficult to find support and suitable housing.
- Struggle to access services because of language barriers or knowledge.
- Are isolated, vulnerable and have limited financial independence.
- Who are unable to access safety and culturally sensitive support in Polish elsewhere.



Why are we Best Placed to Help?

Opoka has over 11 years' experience in supporting Polish women who have suffered domestic violence to transform their lives. Opoka's services are delivered by Polish women with life experience of domestic violence. Since 2012, Opoka has come a long way and has grown and expanded to meet the needs of the Polish community reaching thousands of vulnerable and isolated women and children.

OAZA - Safe Housing for Polish Women A 1–2 year specialist structured supported accommodation program for vulnerable Polish women with children who are survivors of domestic violence.

Opoka CIO has maintained and innovated their key services to ensure a positive impact, and is committed to continue, but there is still much work to be done. Shockingly, one in five women experience abuse by the young age of 22, with over half experiencing it before age 16. Recent events have highlighted the ongoing issues of misogyny and structural gender inequality, which are both causes and consequences of male violence against women. Domestic violence is unfortunately rampant, but public and political awareness of its harmful effects has never been greater. To truly address this issue, we must recognise the unique needs of families from minority communities. The most dangerous place for women statistically is their own home, with violence and abuse most commonly occurring at the hands of a current or former intimate male partner. This presents us with an opportunity to be brave and ambitious in tackling the problem. Let's continue the public conversation on how women, male allies, and others can work together to create a better future for everyone in the UK. Now is the time to be bold and ambitious.

The difference and outcomes our work is making:

- Improve the immediate safety, health, and wellbeing of women and children and help them to feel safe and more empowered to seek help.
- Reduce disadvantage and inequality by helping women to improve their financial and economic security by supporting them to develop life and employment skills and helping them to access work.
- Raise community awareness and reach the most vulnerable, isolated, and marginalised families who need support.
- Strengthen local capacity to support women and children by training and working with local professionals who work with and support them.
- Improve the sustainability of funding for services.

We are achieving the above by:

- Reducing domestic abuse, sexual and physical violence within Polish community and improving the lives of women and children by helping to prevent and to improve early interventions of domestic abuse, sexual and physical violence.
- Reducing discrimination against Polish people in the UK, particularly when trying to access work and social protection and improving awareness of UK rights, support, and social protection systems to empower Polish women and children to improve their equality.
- Reducing depression and suicide among Polish families in the UK by improving access to mental health support for Polish families and overcoming mental health stigma and barriers to seeking help.

Outreach and Prevention Services

OPOKA CIO is committed to outreach and prevention activities in the community, aimed at increasing awareness and understanding to prevent violence against women and their children. Since November 2022, the Polish Community Hub has been working tirelessly to align outreach activities and develop a cohesive strategy with clear objectives and KPIs. Our efforts have resulted in 19 workshops and awareness sessions delivered across Bristol, South Gloucestershire North Somerset, and Somerset, covering crucial topics like healthy relationships, identifying red flags, and consent. These workshops also addressed social and cultural influences, power dynamics, and bystander skills. In addition to the workshops, OPOKA CIO delivered 11 talks and information sessions to 289 attendees in a wide range of settings, with reach into the community. They were also represented at multiple stakeholder events such as sector and community events, panels, and workshops.

Our Outreach & Education Programme is committed to spreading awareness and education on domestic violence and abuse within Polish families living in the UK. Our team of specialists provides reliable information and resources to help professionals supporting Polish communities impacted by domestic abuse. Through community outreach events, workshops, training, and all our social media channels, we reached over 12K individuals across the United Kingdom last year alone. OPOKA CIO is dedicated to creating a culture that is supportive and safe for women and generating open discussions about abuse in the community. Our programme is making a difference in the combat against domestic violence within Polish families. Our tailored support for Polish women and children experiencing gender-based violence is designed to provide the help they need.

We believe that education is key in promoting a culture of consent and healthy relationships. That's why we offer training and educational programs aimed at raising awareness of domestic and sexual abuse. Our programs are tailored to different community settings, including events at the Polish Community Hub. We also provide training for professionals, giving them the tools to support women in our community affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. Our skilled professional team holds sector qualifications, models best practice in its field, and participates in ongoing training. We are proud to meet the Women's Aid Quality Standards and work with other organisations across and beyond the Polish community. Our team is supported by a dedicated and well-run team of staff and volunteers.

Our education and outreach team are also committed to raising awareness of the wide variety of domestic violence and abuse affecting Polish families living in the UK. From speaking at schools and in the workplace, to community groups, churches, and events, we're dedicated to making a positive impact.

Our IDVA Outreach service helps women plan for their long-term safety and gives them access to advice on welfare, legal, and housing issues. We also offer a specialist therapeutic service for women and their children/young adults. Our flexible counselling service empowers women with a choice of how they would like to access this service, either face-to-face or via telephone or video link, reaching women across the UK.

Our team at OPOKA is proud to offer a wide range of services to every woman who reaches out to us. We provide counselling, children's therapy, safety planning, risk reduction, emotional support, legal options, benefits, and advice to support our community. As the cost-of-living crisis continues, we are fully committed to meeting the inevitable increased need from our community.

Client Feedback

"I am so grateful for having the opportunity to participate in therapy. I knew I needed professional support, but I could never afford it. Thanks to the therapist I can now understand my situation better and cope with difficult emotions and thoughts. I feel that my future is in my hands, and I am the one who decides what my life will look like."

- **Therapy Client**

"Through Opoka DV Outreach service I was able to understand that I am not responsible for my ex-partner's actions, and I shouldn't blame myself for what happened to me."

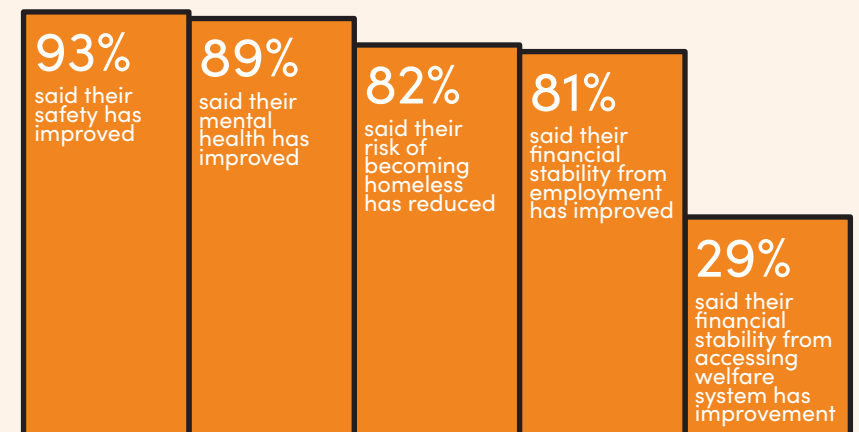
- **Community Outreach session attendee**

"I am not sure what I would have done without Opoka. I was listened to; the staff were patient and understanding. They were always available to answer any questions I had. The person on the other side of the phone offered me support and directions as I still tried to process what has happened to me. Without Opoka I would still be in abusive relationship."

- **Helpline Service User**

"Thanks to Opoka I have a roof over my head. I was nearly homeless due to domestic violence, but Opoka acted quickly and made sure that I arrive to the Safe House before I end up on the streets. I can't express my gratitude and happiness. Opoka's workers have been supporting me a lot and helped me make all the necessary application to rebuild my life. I also received emotional support, as well as professional therapy that I really needed. Now I am more confident, and I believe that I still have a chance for a better life."

- **Client from the Safe House**



*2023 - Total number of individual assessments carried out: 254



Our Programs

Children who received counselling and other support:

Our children's and young people counsellor delivered a 1-2-1 'Healing Together' program to 8 children in primary schools across Bristol. The children have experienced significant trauma through their exposure to domestic abuse in the home, and these weekly sessions are crucial in their recovery process. In addition to the 8 children receiving 1-2-1 program, a further 366 children of the women working with Opoka's DA Outreach staff benefitted from the safety advice and ongoing support provided to their mothers.

The Healing Together Program:

Is the newest project to deliver mental health support for children and young people – 'Healing Together Program'. This program has been created to provide specialist mental health support for children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse at home as well as stress or anxiety which could be caused by several factors. It was delivered by a trained and accredited Opoka specialist who is also a Children and Young People Counsellor.



Parental guidance:

During our psycho-educational programs we included a parental guidance and managed to positively engage 174 mothers to better support their children through this difficult time in their lives.



Memberships



Women's Aid

Women's Aid is the national charity working to end domestic abuse against women and children. As a federation we provide life-saving services across England while building a future where domestic abuse is not tolerated.



Our Volunteers

Volunteers:

Opoka benefits from the commitment of 12 loyal volunteers around the country. All our volunteers are DBS checked, trained, and supervised. Volunteers are supported by the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) which keeps us up-to-date and committed to volunteering best practice. Opoka's volunteers are in the heart of our service and the delivery process, they are:

AMBASSADORS

COMMUNITY
CHAMPIONS

EMOTIONAL
SUPPORT BUDDIES

PEER-MENTORS

FUNDRAISERS

SUPPORT-GROUP
BEFRIENDERS

HELPLINE
ADVISORS

Our peer mentors are individuals with lived experience who provide longer term support to our clients helping them to gain confidence and become more secure and independent. Our community champions help us to reach our community by raising awareness.

They help us to reach the most isolated and vulnerable people who need help. Our ambassadors and patrons help us to raise awareness, influence and fundraise. I am proud to say that Opoka has a dedicated team of which some of them have been with us for over 10 years. In our team we have people who have been volunteering for us, professionally trained by us and even offered employment with us.

We also have people who came to us as a victim of domestic violence and abuse, went through our support services as a client, became a volunteer and then an Opoka employee. In the essence Opoka not only creates a safe space for very vulnerable isolated and marginalised women from the Polish community, but also creates an opportunity for them to learn new skills, feel valued and empowered to make a positive change in theirs and their children's lives.



Our Work Recognised



NQS Award!

On the 12th of July 2023 in Birmingham During the Women's Aid National Conference 2023 'Transforming the Future for Survivors Together' the Women's Aid Federation of England presented OPOKA with the National Quality Standard Award! It was such a fantastic event, and we feel so privileged to be part of this amazing sisterhood!

In the photos below OPOKA's representatives with Farah Nazeer - the CEO of Women's Aid, Nicole Jacobs the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Sarah Hill the Chair of Women's Aid & CEO of Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS), Lucy Hadley the Head of Policy & Campaigns at Women's Aid, Daniella Rickells the Quality Assurance Officer at Women's Aid Federation of England, and Rehailla Sharif the Head of Member Support Services at Women's Aid Federation of England.



OPOKA at 10 Downing Street!

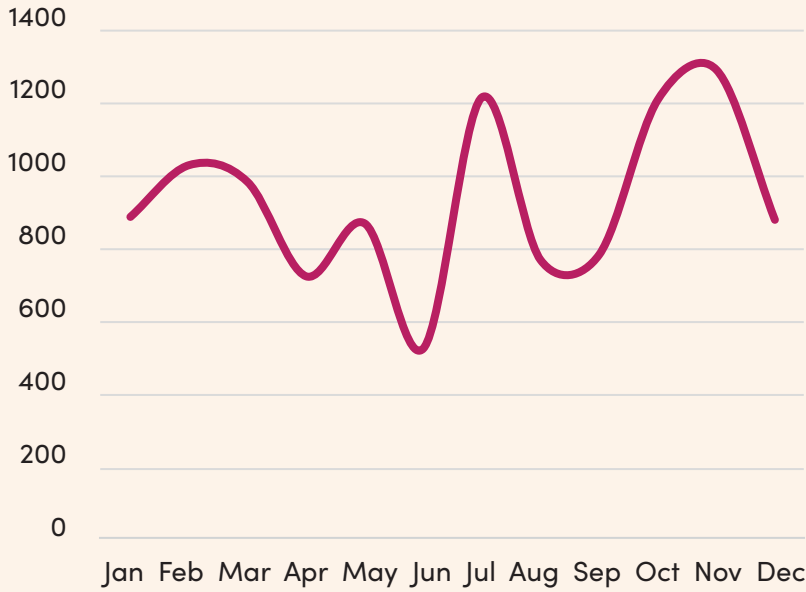
The beginning of Opoka's collaboration with the Home Office dates to 2016 when Opoka received its first government funding. Since 2020, together with other organisations, Opoka has been taking an active part in the preparation of government campaigns, and this has happened in many joint meetings and workshops where we all develop scenarios that are then made available for government campaigns. This year, all the organisations that have taken an active part in preparing past campaigns were invited by Under-Secretary of State Laura Farris to an event held at the First Minister's office at 10 Downing Street. The event was designed to highlight the importance and recognition of the ENOUGH campaign and was also a great opportunity to make new professional contacts. We don't yet have an official photo but as soon as it is made available to us then we will share it with you here.

For more information on how you can help if you see worrying behaviour or need help go to: enough.campaign.gov.uk. We hope that this campaign is the start of a long-term and thoughtful strategy that will bring about positive change in the way violence is viewed so that violent behaviour will not be tolerated and future generations will live in a safe and violence-free world.

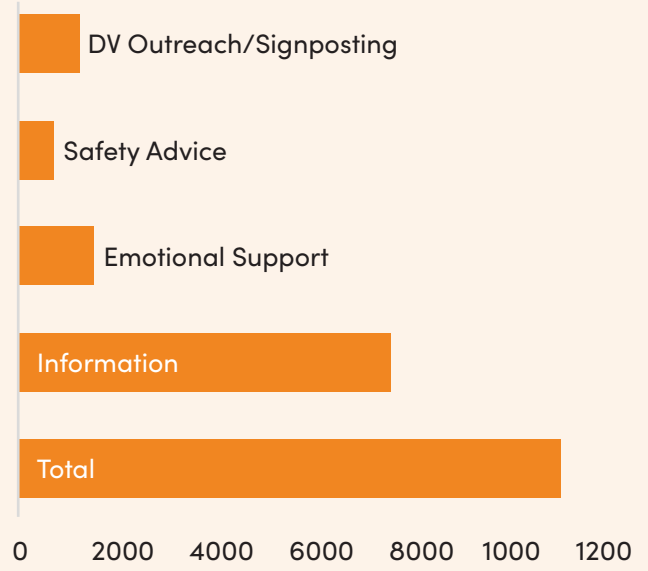


Short Term Support Outcomes - 2023

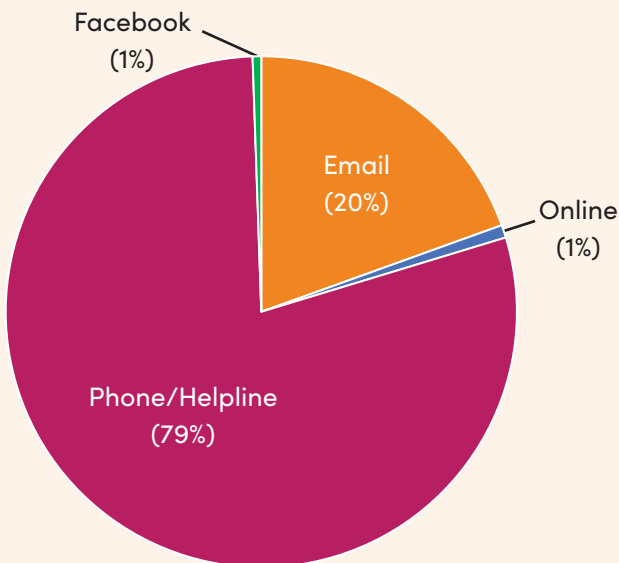
Helpline Contact by Month



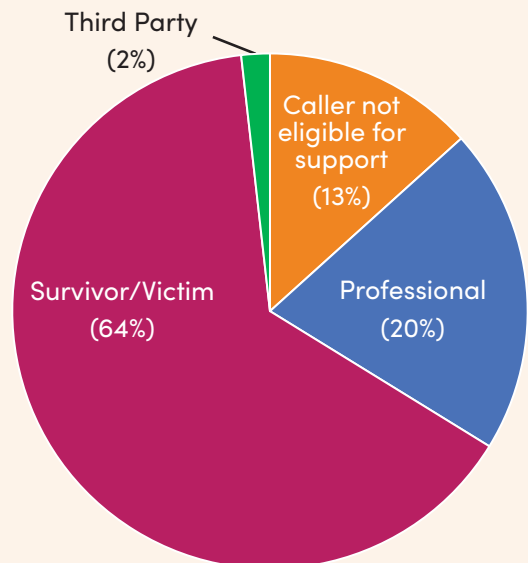
Helpline and Enquiries by Service



Contact Type

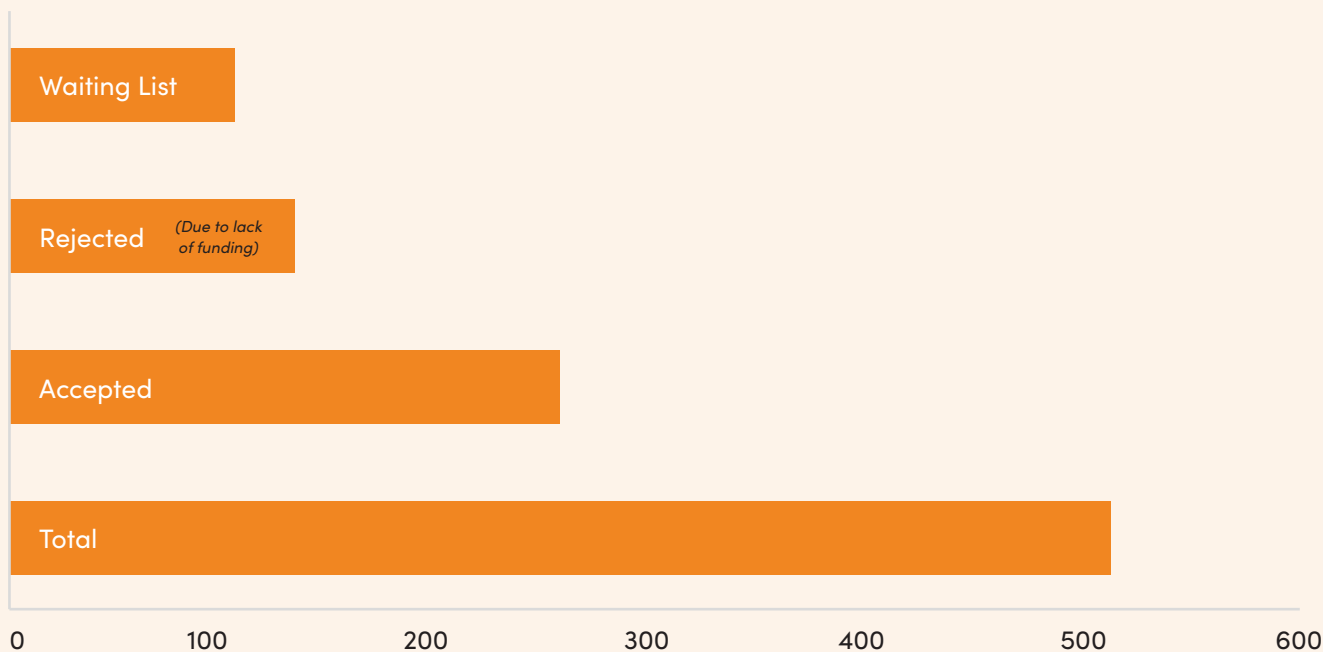


Support Provided To

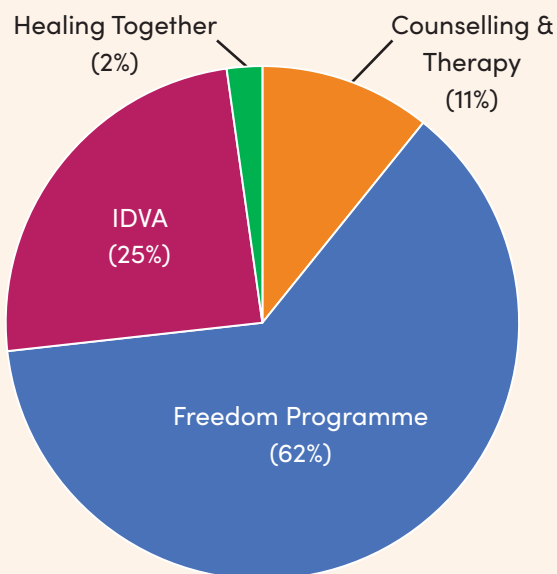


Long Term Support Outcomes - 2023

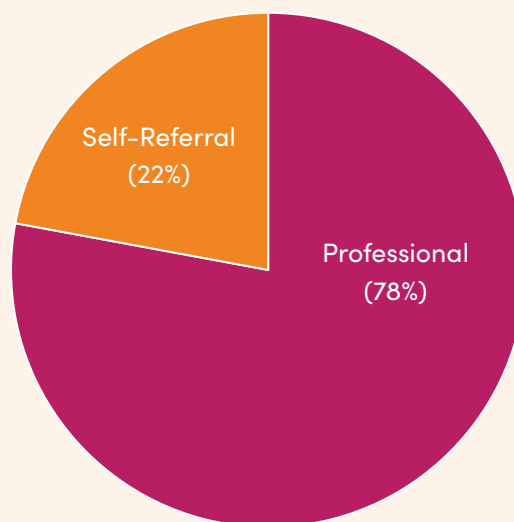
Referral to Service



Service Type



Referred by



Opoka Funders



Fundraising

Our fundraising team continued to develop new sources of income, including reaching out to new potential trusts and donors and developing relationships with individual donors to obtain more multi-year pledges. Several of our donors raised money for OPOKA CIO by organising challenges and asking friends and family to contribute on birthdays or anniversaries.

OPOKA CIO was featured in online and offline media, with 9 articles appearing in all major media, covering all aspects of our work. A social media strategy was implemented to increase OPOKA CIO's reach on various platforms and by building relationships with organisations and individuals to raise our profile. During the year, our social media interactions increased on all platforms. We gained observers, some of whom have public profiles, and the number of shares of our posts increased. Newsletters are regularly sent to all stakeholders, keeping them up to date on OPOKA CIO news.

Our CEO promotes a culture of continuous professional development among employees, who are encouraged to learn through training and teaching throughout the year.

To say that the year 2023 has been a tumultuous time is quite an understatement. The financial impact post COVID-19, rising inflation, and the cost-of-living crisis have made it increasingly difficult for small organisations like Opoka to secure resources. Despite our best efforts, we were disappointed with the multi-year grant applications we submitted this year. We had hoped to expand our range of support, but unfortunately, we received a few decisions just before the end of the year that the funds we had hoped for would not be provided to include in our already very small budget. This is a challenging time for many organisations like ours. Small organisations are being swept away and pushed into a corner by larger established organisations that already have the infrastructure and processes in place and win tenders all the time. It's becoming increasingly difficult to plan ahead not knowing if we will be able to secure funds to provide essential, often lifesaving, services.

At the end of 2023, we managed to secure £120K over 3 years for other posts in organisation but was unsuccessful on the other multi-year funding applications.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to our mission of providing support to those who need it most. We will continue to work tirelessly to identify new fundraising opportunities and secure resources to ensure that we can provide essential services to those who need them.



'A special episode featuring news presenters in the 'Pointless Celebrities'

Kasia Madera won and chose to donate to the charity she is a Patron of (Opoka).

Dear Kasia, thank you so much for your ongoing support! Donated funds will go towards our first safe house OAZA 1.



Our Other Challenges and Risks

OPOKA can't compete with salaries of generic/statutory/ private organisations with what local authorities pay for similar roles.

With competitive tendering and uncivil and/ or forced partnerships, we can't compete with commissioned services in terms of salaries for our specialist recruitment creating structural inequalities. Difficulty recruiting bilingual experienced staff for a specialist role and to cover the salary for senior management staff due to being underfunded is a major risk. Staff suffering from the cost-of-living crisis and moving to the commercial sector because of better pay adds to this issue.

Frontline services are overwhelmed as they also have to undertake work for women accessing other services i.e., debt advice, access to social security, and applying for crisis loans as they were unable to communicate in English themselves.

There has been a reduction in support from volunteers and unfortunately, this force has shrunk by 70% as most of our volunteers needed to find paid jobs to cover their living costs.

The following risk factors have been identified and are being actively managed:

- Increased demand is the top concern contributed by:
 - the cost of living crisis following on from the pandemic.
 - additional pressure transferred to Opoka because of government cuts and the reduction of services or closure of several agencies in the last 18 months.
 - frontline services are overwhelmed as they are undertaking other services for women such as debt advice, access to social security, and applying for crisis loans where women are unable to communicate in English themselves.
- Rising costs, notably the ability to cover core costs, such as rent bills and staff salaries has become a significant concern contributed to by:
 - the cost of living crisis following on from the pandemic.
 - recruiting and training new specialist members of staff is expensive and time-consuming.
 - competitive tendering and other funding practices undermine our sustainability as there is a cost to applying in effort and resource and many fail.
- Diminished staff wellbeing and burnout is the third main concern caused by:
 - Increased and more complex workload.
 - Work being inherently traumatic.
 - No capacity to take on new staff due to lack of funding means our existing staff have an excessive workload and need to cover other roles in order to meet demand and provide required services.
 - Recruitment challenges due to inability to compete with salaries of generic/statutory/ private organisations with what local authorities pay for similar roles.
 - Difficulty recruiting bilingual, experienced staff for a specialist role.
 - Funding issues to cover the salary for senior management leading to unfunded work hours.
 - Retention challenges due to the insecurity of jobs and the inability to increase salaries in line with inflation due to short-term contracts, often with no inflationary uplifts in funding.
 - The volunteer force has shrunk by 70% as most of our volunteers needed to find paid jobs to cover their living costs.

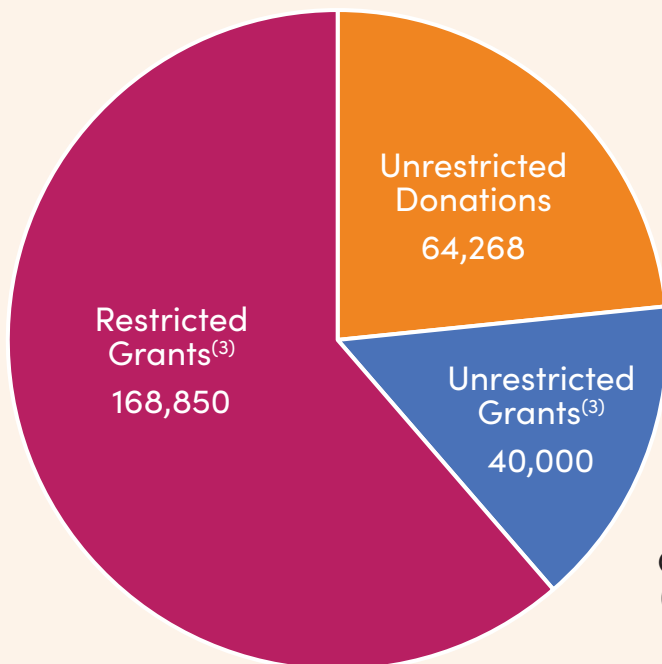
Financial Review

The charity's total incoming resources for the year amounted to £273,118, of which £168,850 was restricted. Of the remaining unrestricted £104,268, £40,000 related to the Tudor Trust that on renewing the funding offered altered the grant they provided to unrestricted so it has been recognised on receipt although the majority (£30,000) is for 2024 costs and £36,335 consisted of donations from Chrysalis Supported Association as the parent company.

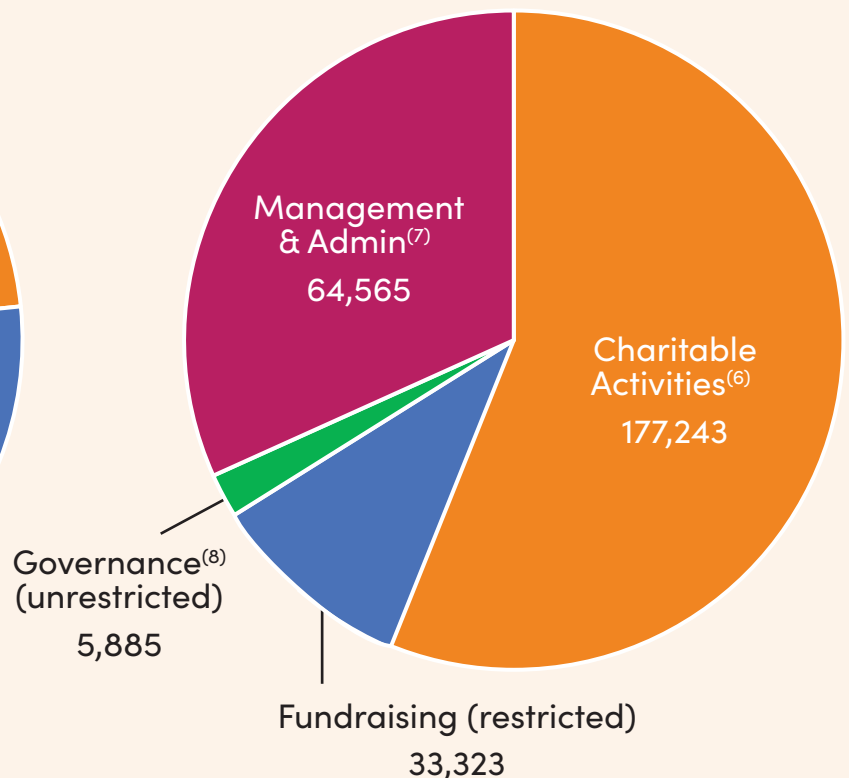
The total expenditure for the period was £281,016 leaving a recorded deficit overall of £7,897. The restricted funds brought forward from 2022 of £36,469 were spent during 2023 with only £2,097 being carried forward. The unrestricted funds have been increased by £26,465 to £112,173 but this includes £30,000 of Tudor Trust funding earmarked for 2025 costs. Getting long term sustainable funding has been a real challenge during the period and therefore some of the activities carried out by Opoka have had to be reduced or stopped until additional funding can be secured.

The sources of Income and expenditure are shown below:

Income



Expended



Reserves Policy

The charity updated its reserves policy in detail at the end of 2023 to reflect the risks it faces with a lack of funding for support costs as well as some activities. The trustees also reviewed whether it had sufficient funds to meet its legal obligations if it ever had to close. The trustees agreed that as well as designating some specific amounts to cover the risks around a lack of funding security there should also aim to retain 20% of overall resources expended in free reserves for other risks and eventualities.

The specific costs covered have been transferred to a designated fund as follows:

- Unfunded Education and Therapeutic programmes £20,000
- Emergency response fund £10,000
- Unfunded Management and governance costs £25,000
- Other unfunded office expenses £15,000
- The total £70,000 designated above includes £30,000 provided by the Tudor Trust in 2023 as unrestricted. The remaining £43,963 free reserves represents 15.6% of resources expended towards the target of 20%

Responsibilities of the Trustees

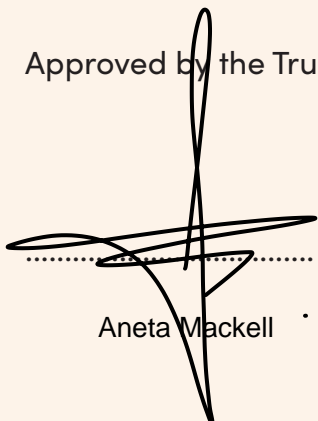
Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing those financial statements;

- the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any 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 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 applicable law and regulations. 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 29 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Aneta Mackell

Report of the Independent Auditors

Opinion:

We have audited the financial statements of Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the period ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion:

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

Conclusions relating to going concern:

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information:

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception:

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees:

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements:

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Basis for opinion:

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities:

Irregularities, including fraud, are non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures, in line with our responsibilities, as set out in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which are procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below. In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we consider the following:

- the nature of the charity sector, control environment and financial performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following area: revenue and resource recognition. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We have also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Charities Act and related legislation.

Audit response to risks identified:

As a result of performing the above, we identified revenue and resource recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of fraud. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documents on to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- understanding the charity's revenue recognition policies and how they are applied, including the relevant financial controls.
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to compare revenue recognised against expectations and based on past experiences and management forecasts and investigated material divergencies by obtaining corroborative evidence.
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; applying parameters designed to identify entries that were not within our expectations. This included analysing and selecting journals for testing which appeared unusual in nature, either due to size, preparer or date of posting. To test their validity, we verified the journals to originating documentation.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect noncompliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

Use of our report:

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nicholas Jones FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Fawcetts LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Windover House, St Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

Date: 29 April 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

Opoka Statement of Financial Activities

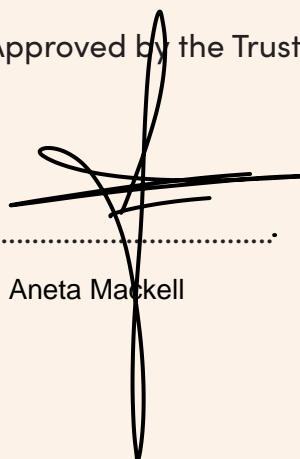
Incoming resources	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	18 months to 2022 £
From generated funds:					
Voluntary income		-	-	-	-
Donations		64,268	-	64,268	4,339
Grants	3	40,000	168,850	208,850	188,450
Transfer of grants from CSA	3	-	-	-	37,901
Transfer of assets from CSA		-	-	-	110,796
		<u>104,268</u>	<u>168,850</u>	<u>273,118</u>	<u>341,486</u>
Resources expended					
Fundraising costs		-	33,323	33,323	26,135
Cost of charitable activities	5/6	9,696	167,546	177,242	152,664
Management and administration	7	62,212	2,353	64,565	36,298
Governance costs	8	5,885	-	5,885	4,222
Total resources expended		<u>77,793</u>	<u>203,222</u>	<u>281,015</u>	<u>219,319</u>
Net Movement in funds		<u>26,475</u>	<u>(34,372)</u>	<u>(7,897)</u>	<u>122,167</u>
Total funds b/f		85,698	36,469	122,167	-
Net movement in funds for the year		26,475	(34,372)	(7,897)	122,167
Total Funds at 31 December		<u>112,173</u>	<u>2,097</u>	<u>114,270</u>	<u>122,167</u>

Statement of Financial Position

Opoka Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible	11		11,517		2,314
Current Assets					
Debtors	12	905		26,907	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>138,016</u>		<u>160,782</u>	
		138,921		187,689	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(36,168)</u>		<u>(67,836)</u>	
Net current assets			102,753		119,853
Net assets	14		<u>114,270</u>		<u>122,167</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	15		112,173		85,698
Restricted funds	16		2,097		36,469
Total Funds			<u>114,270</u>		<u>122,167</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 29 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Aneta Mackell

Statement of Cash Flows

Opoka Statement of Cash Flow

	2023 £	18 months ending 2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net Income	(7,897)	122,167
Add depreciation	2,123	
Investment in tangible fixed assets	(11,466)	(2,314)
Proceeds on disposal of assets	140	-
Changes in:		
Accrued income and other debtors	26,003	(26,907)
Trade and other creditors	(31,669)	67,836
Cash generated from operations	<u>(22,766)</u>	<u>160,782</u>
Interest received	-	-
Net cash from operating activities	<u>(22,766)</u>	<u>160,782</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(22,766)	160,782
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	160,782	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	<u><u>138,016</u></u>	<u><u>160,782</u></u>

Notes of the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies

(a) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Incoming resources are included in the statement of financial affairs when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

(c) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Donations are made only when they meet the objects of the charity. Support costs are deemed to be attributable to Charitable Expenditure only.

(d) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds - These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - These are funds to be used for specific purposes at the request of the donor.

2. Net outgoing resources for the period

	12 months to 31.12.23 £	18 months to 31.12.22 £
This is stated after charging:		
Accountancy Fee	2,285	3,642
Audit Fee	3,600	-
Depreciation	2,123	566

3. Grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	12 months to 31.12.23 £	18 months to 31.12.22 £
Avon & Somerset: MOJ	-	22,162	22,162	-
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: DA Support	-	-	-	22,625
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift	-	-	-	34,693
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: Critical Support	-	-	-	3,600
Tudor Trust: DV Service	-	-	-	59,740
Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund	-	8,667	8,667	5,975
Bristol City Council - Social Action Grant	-	4,932	4,932	-
Clothworkers	-	10,000	10,000	-
Co-op Local Community Fund	-	2,097	2,097	-
John James	-	6,184	6,184	-
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	-	3,750	3,750	8,626
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	-	45,160	45,160	45,160
Quartet Community Foundation: Wesleyan Foundation	-	1,548	1,548	5,148
Quartet Community Foundation: Resilience Grant	-	-	-	8,086
Women's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	-	5,000	5,000	1,500
NSF Innovation: Open Community Grant	-	-	-	1,996

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 Dec 2023

The Albert Hunt Trust: Admin Core Cost	-	-	-	2,000
AVA: Kite Mark 'In Safe Hands'	-	-	-	20,000
Comic Relief: Community Fund (England)	-	6,951	6,951	3,318
Commissioners Crime Prevention Fund	-	-	-	2,000
ROSA Fund: Stand with Us	-	22,613	22,613	1,884
Tudor Trust: DV Service	40,000	26,551	66,551	-
Leeds Building Society	-	1,900	1,900	-
Tesco Comm Fund	-	1,125	1,125	-
Tudor Trust: Staff wellbeing	-	210	210	-
	<u>40,000</u>	<u>168,850</u>	<u>208,850</u>	<u>226,351</u>

4. Donated services and goods

	£
Rent and Utilities	10,376
Management Fees	35,998
	<u>46,374</u>

The above were donated as services by the parent company Crystals Supported Association and recognised in the accounts at the above values and as a donation.

Additionally there was a range of goods for beneficiaries donated including books, toys, nappies and toiletries valued at about £3,000 which have not been recognised in the accounts.

There were about 50 volunteers who gave time which is estimated to be about 500 hours which is also not recognised in the accounts.

5. Analysis of total resources expended

	Activities undertaken directly	Support	12 months to 31.12.23	18 months to 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities:				
Community Outreach	5,695	-	5,695	-
DV Outreach & Helpline Costs	79,595	16,343	95,938	136,290
Safe House	38,973	-	38,973	-
Emotional & Counselling Service	36,637	-	36,637	16,374
	<u>160,900</u>	<u>16,343</u>	<u>177,243</u>	<u>152,664</u>

6. Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	12 months to 31.12.23	18 months to 31.12.22
	£	£	£	£
Community Outreach	-	5,695	5,695	-
DV Outreach & Helpline Costs	2,544	93,394	95,938	136,290
Safe House	6,945	32,028	38,973	-
Emotional & Counselling Service	207	36,430	36,637	16,374
	<u>9,696</u>	<u>167,547</u>	<u>177,243</u>	<u>152,664</u>

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 Dec 2023

7. Management and administration

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	12 months to 31.12.23 £	18 months to 31.12.23 £
Rent and Rates	16,681	-	16,681	15,121
Light and Heat	1,328	-	1,328	455
Telephone and Communications	889	37	926	594
Insurance	1,215	-	1,215	910
Printing, Postage and Stationery	169	-	169	286
Marketing, Publicity and Website	-	-	-	6,673
Training and Education	1,664	1,303	2,967	1,952
Staff Welfare	1,040	209	1,249	1,500
Travel and Subsistence	1,043	-	1,043	1,806
Computer Expenses	696	360	1,056	4,951
Consultancy, Legal and Professional Fees	169	-	169	157
Subscriptions	349	-	349	219
Fixed asset Depreciation	967	-	967	566
Group Management Fee and Labour	35,998	-	35,998	-
Other Office Costs	4	444	448	1,108
	<u>62,212</u>	<u>2,353</u>	<u>64,565</u>	<u>36,298</u>

8. Governance cost

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	12 months to 31.12.23 £	18 months to 31.12.23 £
Training	-	-	-	580
Accounting and Audit Fees	5,885	-	5,885	3,642
	<u>5,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,885</u>	<u>4,222</u>

9. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Ms A Mackell, the founder and CEO, is a trustee of the charity. While she received no salary as a trustee during the year, she received a gross salary of £32,999 (2022: £55,092) and the charity paid Employers NI of £2,848 (2022: £6,396) and employers pension contributions of £803 (2022: £1,263) for her role of CEO and to deliver frontline services. In addition, she received £644 (2022: £0) in expenses. Janusz Kilch received £85 (2022: £0) in expenses. A Mackell was reimbursed for travel and accommodation expenses, and Janusz received for travel expenses. No other trustees received remuneration or expenses.

10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities per sections 521 to 536 of ITA 2007. Because of its current activities Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation is not registered for VAT and therefore cannot recover VAT on its expenses.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	IT Equipment £	White Goods £	Leasehold £	Total £
Cost:				
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,880</u>
Additions	-	9,624	1,842	11,466
Adjustment	163	-	-	163
Disposals	(246)	-	-	(246)
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,797</u>	<u>9,624</u>	<u>1,842</u>	<u>14,263</u>

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 Dec 2023

Depreciation:				
At 31 December 2022	566	-	-	566
Charge for the year	967	1,002	154	2,123
Adjustment	163	-	-	163
Disposals	(106)	-	-	(106)
At 31 December 2023	1,590	1,002	154	2,746
Net book values:				
At 1 December 2022	2,314	-	-	2,314
At 31 December 2023	1,207	8,622	1,688	11,517

12. Debtors

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
	£	£
Accounts Receivable	-	-
Accrued Income	-	8,288
Other Debtors	905	18,619
	<u>905</u>	<u>26,907</u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
	£	£
Accounts Payable	6,252	6,464
Social Security & Other Tax	5,913	-
Accruals & Deferred Income	10,665	61,372
Intercompany Loans	13,338	-
	<u>36,168</u>	<u>67,836</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Fixed assets	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
31/12/2023:			
Restricted Funds	-	2,097	2,097
Unrestricted Funds	11,517	100,656	112,173
Net Assets at the end of the Period	<u>11,517</u>	<u>102,753</u>	<u>114,270</u>
31/12/2022:			
Restricted Funds	-	36,469	36,469
Unrestricted Funds	2,314	83,384	85,698
Net Assets at the end of the Period	<u>2,314</u>	<u>119,853</u>	<u>122,167</u>

15. Unrestricted funds

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Total
	£	£	£
31/12/2023:			
Balance at 31 December 2022	29,698	56,000	85,698
Surplus/(loss) for the Year	26,475	-	26,475
Transfer Between Funds	(14,000)	14,000	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>42,173</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>112,173</u>
31/12/2022:			
Surplus/(loss) for the Year	85,698	-	85,698
Transfer Between Funds	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>29,698</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>85,698</u>

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 Dec 2023

16. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following balances of grants held on trust to be applied for specific purposes:

	Balance at 31.12.22 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31.12.23 £
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: MOJ - Domestic violence advisor post	-	22,162	(22,162)	-
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift	-	-	-	-
Tudor Trust: DV Service	28,610	26,551	(55,161)	-
Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund	5,975	8,667	(14,642)	-
Clothworkers	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
John James Bristol Foundation: Capital works	-	6,184	(6,184)	-
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	-	3,750	(3,750)	-
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	-	45,160	(45,160)	-
Quartet Community Foundation: Wesleyan Foundation	-	1,548	(1,548)	-
Women's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Comic Relief: Community Fund (England)	-	6,951	(6,951)	-
ROSA Fund: Stand with Us	1,884	22,613	(20,729)	-
Bristol City Council - Social Action Grant - Wellbeing workshops for vulnerable polish women and children	-	4,932	(4,932)	-
Co-op Local Community Fund - Safe House activity	-	2,097	-	2,097
Leeds Building Society - Security system safehouse	-	1,900	(1,900)	-
Tesco Community Fund - Supporting childrens Mental Health	-	1,125	(1,125)	-
Tudor Trust: Staff wellbeing	-	210	(210)	-
	36,469	168,850	(203,223)	2,097

Purpose of funds:

Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: DA Support	Community and DV Outreach, educational programs
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplif	Community DV / advisors
Tudor Trust: DV Service	Community Champion program and peer support
Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund	Community engagement worker-Polish community
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	Outreach and drop-in sessions
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	Outreach and helpline-DA
Quartet Community Foundation: Wesleyan Foundation	Awareness raising in Bristol
Woman's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	CBT training
Comic Relief: Community Fund (England)	Community outreach DV
ROSA Fund: Stand with Us	Campaigning, lobbying and fundrasing
John James Bristol Foundation: Capital works	License IT system
Bristol City Council - Social Action Grant	Wellbeing workshops for vulnerable Polish women and children
Co-op Local Community Fund	Safe House activity
Leeds Building Society	Security System Safe house
Tesco Community Fund	Supporting childrens Mental Health

17. Parent undertaking and controlling party

The parent undertaking and controlling party of the charity is Chrysalis Supported Association Limited, a Provident Mutual Society registered with the FCA (reg IP29818R).

CONTACT

Polish helpline: 0300 365 1700

Tel: 0117 427 0012

E-mail: info@opoka.org.uk

Web: www.opoka.org.uk

Opoka CIO

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Registered Charity Number: 1195206

Company Number: CE026183



OPOKA CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1195206

Accounts



Annual Review 2022

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Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Legal and Administrative Details For the period ended 31 December 2022

STATUS

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with Charity Commission for England Wales under its Governing Document.

TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY

Aneta Mackell – Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer (appointed 19/7/2021)

Sylwia Jatczak – Chairperson (appointed 19/7/2021)

Anna Osowska – Trustee (appointed 19/7/2021 & resigned 20/6/2023)

Janusz Klich - Trustee (appointed 19/7/2021 & resigned 26/7/2023)

Joanna Szuryn (appointed 26/7/2023)

Aneta Wrzos-Porada (appointed 26/7/2023)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1195206

OPERATIONAL ADDRESS AND REGISTERED OFFICE

3 Brook Office Park

Bristol

BS16 7FL

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Fawcetts LLP

Chartered Accountants and registered auditors

Windover House

St Ann Street

Salisbury

SP1 2DR

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Report of the Trustees For the period ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2022..

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and registered with the Charity Commission. It was established on 19 July 2021 under its governing document. It is a charitable subsidiary of its member, Chrysalis Supported Association Limited (see note 16).

The Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are as shown on page 3.

Existing trustees undertake a selection process to ensure the broad mix of skills provided by the trustees is maintained. All trustees have personal knowledge of domestic abuse.

Risk

The charity regularly reviews and assesses the risks it faces in all areas of its work and plans for the management of those risks. Public benefit

When planning their charity's activities, the charity trustees have regarded the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The following risk factors have been identified and are being actively managed:

Risk factors

- Increased demand is the top concern for Opoka two years after it was highlighted as the top issue during the pandemic
- Rising costs, notably the ability to cover core costs, such as rent bills and staff salaries have become the second biggest concern contributed to by:
- Diminished staff wellbeing and burnout is the third biggest concern caused by
 - o Increased and more complex workload.
 - o Work is already inherently traumatic.
 - o No capacity to take on new staff to help manage the workload means that our existing staff works often helping each other, performing double roles in order to meet the demand.
 - o Additional pressure is being transferred to Opoka because of government cuts and the reduction of services or closure of several agencies in the last 18 months.
 - o Recruitment challenges due to inability to compete with salaries of generic/statutory/ or private organisations with what local authorities pay for similar roles.

- o Difficulty recruiting bilingual experienced staff for a specialist role
- o Funding issues to cover the salary for senior management leading to unfunded work hours.
- o Taking on and training new specialist members of staff is expensive and time-consuming.
- o Retention challenges due to the insecurity of the jobs at Opoka, the short-term funding contracts, and OPOKA is not able to increase salaries in line with inflation (lack of inflationary uplifts in funding).
- o The volunteer force has shrunk by 70% as most of our volunteers needed to find paid jobs to cover their living costs so they left.
- o Frontline services are overwhelmed as they are doing other work for women accessing services i.e., debt advice, access to social security, and applying for crisis loans where women are unable to communicate in English themselves.

In addition competitive tendering and other funding practices undermine our sustainability.

In 2021, small organisations such as Opoka which support the most marginalised women and children impacted by poverty received less than 2% of the UK grants/ funding available.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

About Opoka and its Charitable objects

Opoka is a specialist Domestic Abuse Service for Polish women and children in the UK, working to stop domestic violence and abuse in the Polish community with a prevalence in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset. Since its inception in May 2012 Opoka has come a long way and has grown and expanded to meet the needs of the Polish community reaching thousands of vulnerable and isolated women and children. Opoka's aim is for women and their children to have greater freedom from all forms of domestic violence and abuse and for those who do experience domestic violence and abuse to benefit from greater access to care, support, justice, and other recovery services needed to ensure physical & mental health, social wellbeing, and financial security.



We will achieve this aim by achieving five outcomes

Outcome 1

Improve the immediate safety, health, and wellbeing of women and children and help them to feel safer and more empowered to seek help

Outcome 2

Reduce disadvantage and inequality by helping women to improve their financial and economic security by supporting them to develop life and employment skills, and helping them to access work

Outcome 3

Raise community awareness and reaching the most vulnerable, isolated, and marginalised families who need our support

Outcome 4

Strengthen local capacity to support women and children by training and working with local professionals who work with and support them.

Outcome 5

Improve the sustainability of funding for our services

Opoka's charitable objects are to:

Promote the relief of women and children or other persons who have been subject to domestic abuse, including physical or sexual violence, emotional economic, financial, or coercive control, stalking and/or misogynistic or other psychological abuse with an intimate or family relationship throughout the United Kingdom, including by (but not limited to):

-
- a. The provision of specialist supported housing and social housing and associated amenities and services; and
 - b. The advancement of public education, research, and training on the issues of domestic violence and gender-based violence throughout the United Kingdom
-

In July 2021, after being managed as a project by Chrysalis Supported Association and achieving many milestones.


During 2021, the trustees of Chrysalis Supported Association Limited agreed to set up Opoka as an independent charity to enable Opoka to enhance its ability to fulfil its charitable objectives. The new charitable status was approved on the 19 July 2021 and during December 2021 those net assets pertaining to the Opoka activities were transferred out of Chrysalis to the new independent charity under its own constitution with the charity number: 1195206. Therefore these financial statements reflect a period of 13 months of charitable activity.



Timeline



Timeline

- 
- August 2019**
OPOKA receives funding from John James Foundation to deliver psychological support.
 - October 2019**
OPOKA received a 3-year grant from the Nisbet Trust to provide drop-in sessions to raise awareness within the Polish community.
 - January 2020**
Bristol Impact Fund granted OPOKA with funding for 2 years to support Polish women in Bristol.
 - May 2020**
OPOKA receives 3-year grant from Tudor Trust to provide a specialist services.
 - July 2020**
The Ministry of Justice on behalf of Avon & Somerset police grant funding to OPOKA to provide vital support to Polish women during the pandemic.
 - August 2020**
OPOKA become a member of the Helplines Partnerships and professionally train its Helpline & Crisis Response Team.
 - August 2020**
Comic Relief on behalf of Women's Aid funded OPOKA with COVID emergency grant to help maintain specialist support.
 - September 2020**
OPOKA achieved a Innovation Mind accreditation to deliver 'Healing Together' program for children in primary schools across Bristol.
 - September 2020**
OPOKA receives The National Lottery Community Fund 5 years contract to provide helpline Crisis Response, DV Outreach and other essential emotional and psychological support to Polish women and their families.
 - November 2020**
'THRIVE' granted OPOKA funding to provide mental health support to children impacted by domestic abuse during pandemic.
 - July 2021**
OPOKA achieved a registration with Charity Commission and has its own independent Board of Trustees and Governance.
 - April 2021**
OPOKA was nominated by medical team from Bristol Children Hospital to the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.
 - May 2023**
OPOKA opens its first Safe House 'OAZA', which is the first UK safe house with specialist, bilingual and structured support for Polish women with children.
 - December 2022**
OPOKA was awarded by Women's Aid Federation of England the National Quality Standard.

Introduction from Opoka's Chair-Sylwia Jaczak



I am delighted as Chair to present this 2022 Annual Report to you which gives some indication of the enormously beneficial work Opoka has done and the fantastic outcomes it has achieved during its initial 13-month period as an independent organisation. I am proud to be the Chair of such a successful organisation bringing benefit to so many people, something that is now being rightfully recognised, by service users, stakeholders and external and accrediting bodies and partner organisations. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the trustees, staff, volunteers and those within our parent organisation, without which none of this would be possible.

In particular, I would like to thank our CEO, Aneta who set up the initial project and continues to develop it to meet the exacting standards demanded from this type of work. Aneta has tirelessly toiled to work towards the vision she long held of the urgent and ultimate necessity to continue to provide accessible and easy to reach services and solutions to help polish women and children escape domestic abuse and to begin new lives free from the effects of domestic abuse and free from the fear that inhibits and prevents flourishing and independent life's thereafter. All of this has been essential and necessary in order to bring us to where we are today. As well as volunteering her time as a trustee, she works many hours over and above those that the charity is able to pay to deliver OPOKA's vision and without her none of these achievements would have happened.

In addition we would like to thank our Parent organisation Chrysalis Supported Association Limited. Opoka would not have been able to exist without the amazing support from its Parent organisation Chrysalis Supported Association. They have continuously year after year offered our staff and volunteers a place to provide our services and most importantly our Opoka clients a safe space to seek refuge, providing us with the capacity to help our service users build a new life away from and free from violence and abuse. Chrysalis continues to provide much needed and valuable financial, advisory, governance and operational support to Opoka.

This does unfortunately bring me onto the main point that is still our main challenge. Unfortunately, the need for the work we do is growing as, in particular, after the pandemic we have now got a cost-of-living crisis and both these factors have caused an increase in domestic abuse cases. Funding available has been significantly less than the need and overhead costs to effectively manage the service with the correct safeguards in place, in particular core funding has continued to be difficult to get in order to address this. Although many of our staff and volunteers go beyond what should be expected of them or are paid for, particularly our CEO, the fact remains we have to think of their welfare as well as those we so need to help. This lack of funding has also meant the charity has been unable to employ or retain some of the essential skills the service requires, and we will never compromise on our quality, yet look to deliver services in ways that are still effective but perhaps more flexible in terms of the ways they are delivered such as enhancing web functionality and organically signposted functions embedded into our service and helpline response resource.

Therefore, a key focus for the future will need to be on increasing funding or we will not be able to continue to deliver, let alone expand, our services to meet the huge need that unfortunately exists. This for the Opoka team is a really difficult issue as none of us want to leave women at risk when we know we have a solution that just needs the extra funding to bring about the important transformation that we all know everyone in our communities where we operate across the U.K. desires.

Message from the Opoka Co-founder and CEO



Welcome to our first report since we became a separate organisation, covering the period 1 December 2021 to 31 December 2022.

This review shows how Opoka has grown and developed to continue our support to the women and children who ask for our help. We have seen an expansion in all areas of our work, and we are extremely proud that all our services are professionally managed by our highly trained, committed and expertly focused team.

The last two years have shown us the extent of the problem of domestic violence, and how Polish families have suffered. This has been evident through reports, to our helpline and referrals, to our service. The risk of victimisation for Polish families is much higher than we think as they are less likely to be aware of available support services.

Like 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic ("BAME") individuals, Polish victims have lower levels of trust and confidence in the criminal justice system, possibly due to adverse experiences and negative outcomes of previous engagement, which is more likely to reflect their attitudes to victims' services. The same goes for perpetrators who are not able to understand the impact of their behaviour and not seeking the help before tragedy strikes which is more likely caused by isolation, stress, depression, anger management problems and addiction, both seen and hidden.

Opoka's front-line client support team continue to work hand-in-hand with our helpline staff to ensure that women who contact us are well supported, and that theirs and their children's safety is prioritised.

We have developed a partnership with legal firms Chris Alexander Solicitors and Osborne & Clarke Immigration Officers to help our clients navigate their way through the court system and we have seen some amazing results. Our counselling provision has gone from strength to strength and managed to secure further funding.

The children of our clients have benefitted from sessions from our Children and Young people Counsellor of which the feedback is excellent. We continue to educate about domestic abuse, from sessions in schools, social media, training and awareness sessions for professionals, and community members. These, together with newsletters aim to inform communities about what domestic abuse is, and how to support and signpost women who have experienced violence and abuse within family settings.

Next year Opoka will focus on work within the Polish communities across the Avon & Somerset area to provide more information, more awareness and more education on Domestic Violence and Abuse as well as other social issues such as: hate crime, racial discrimination, mental health stigma, depression, and addiction. We want to prevent this happening in the first place but unfortunately, it happens too often. Education and prevention is definitely key!

Due to the cultural and language barriers, Polish white victims are the same as members of BAME communities in that they are often underrepresented with the problem hidden and significantly under reported.

Opoka wants to take a step forward and offer a range of educational programs and workshops which relies totally on funding. We believe that using this initiative we will reach more Polish families who are struggling with other issues due to Domestic Abuse, isolation and the lack of knowledge about the support available to them.

We are on the way to establish the BACP registered Counselling and Therapeutic services as well as many educational workshops and programs for Polish families which is a natural progression for our existing service. This will help Polish families understand, recognise, and respond better to the domestic violence and abuse problem in our community.

We are particularly proud our new Awareness Raising, Community Champion and Peer-mentoring group as well as a Community Outreach that helped recognising, preventing, and responding to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. Through our intervention and educational workshops, we reached out to hundreds of Polish families across the communities in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Southwest of England and beyond.

Over the last three years we have been meeting community needs by providing them with immediate access to information, guidance, signposting, or practical support through our Bilingual IDVA service, Helpline Service, emotional and psychological support, drop-in sessions, educational workshops and awareness raising.

During Covid we had to tailor and develop our strategies to deliver our services and as to how we managed our work, caseloads and mental wellbeing of our specialist team and volunteers. It was an extremely challenging time and we needed to take a more holistic approach to be able to cope with the demand for our services as well to look after ourselves.

Our work is hard, at times heart-wrenching, but often, surprisingly, uplifting. We are deeply grateful to the dedicated staff and volunteers who continually drive Opoka and who are there to support and empower the Polish women and children who have lived with domestic abuse and who have been brave enough to seek support.

All these above successes wouldn't happen if it wasn't for the hard work, determination, and clear vision of all the individuals involved with Opoka along with all our supporters, trustees and funding partners.

With our sincere gratitude to all of you.

Aneta Maryla Mackell CEO



Our services

- Helpline & Crisis Response in Polish
- Information & Awareness Sessions in Polish to help raise awareness and empower people to access services across Avon & Somerset area with prevalence of Polish communities.
- Dropping Sessions – Advice & Signposting
- Advocacy and support with navigation through Criminal Justice Process
- Community outreach to help people in their homes and safe local community settings.
- Emotional and psychological support and professional therapy to improve mental health.
- Awareness and capacity development through community champions and professional training
- Peer mentoring to support women over the longer term.
- Volunteer and placement programs

Educational workshops & Programmes in the year ahead!

- 1 "The Freedom Programme",
- 2 "You and Me, Mum",
- 3 "Power of Change",
- 4 Understanding, Recognising and Addressing Domestic Abuse - Educational Workshops for Polish Families as whole family holistic approach.
- 5 Educational Programme for anyone who might struggle with addiction,
- 6 Educational Programme for Young People: Child to Parent abuse.
- 7 "Healing Together" a program for Children and Young people impacted by Domestic Abuse within Family settings.

With a great support from Avon & Somerset Police Crime Commissioner Mark Shelford Opoka will focus on educational workshops and programs.

Overview of client support



In 2022, OPOKA continued its core work of supporting Polish women and their children, with a holistic and high-quality domestic abuse support service. This work is supported by our highly trained bilingual staff and volunteers whose roles include staffing the helpline, practical support, outreach, and crisis response as well as providing counselling in Polish language. Our staff has been restructured at the beginning of 2022 strengthened our outreach and prevention work. As the cost-of-living crisis bites harder, we remain fully committed to meeting the increased need from our community, with support from our generous donors.

Helpline & Crisis Response in Polish language

Opoka provides information, advocacy, and emotional support in Polish language nationally.

Our helpline team responded to 6612 calls playing a key role in helping them understand their experiences and empowering them to make their own decisions about how they want to move forward in light of the trauma and abuse suffered.

Our outreach and advocacy team worked with a total of 413 women in 2022. Following an assessment to identify the women's needs, the professional staff team offered a range of services, including counselling, children's mental health program, safety planning, risk reduction, emotional support, access to legal options, benefits advice, counselling, and psycho-educational workshops such as i.e., The Freedom Programme and Power of Change. These avenues of support are a core feature of what we offer Polish women: a confidential space to tell us what's happening to them and be heard. Educational workshops delivered in Polish language has been a crucial step for many women to start recovery and sustaining self-sufficient lives.

Feedback

'I didn't think I would be able to find help in my mother language. At Opoka I was listened to without judgement and supported well to start the process of recovery. The helpline worker explained all the options available for me and provided emotional support throughout. I am so grateful for the patience and understanding I received. I started a new chapter in my life and now I live independently with my daughters.'

Counselling and Therapy in Polish language

Since 2016 Opoka continues offering Polish Women up to 6 CBT therapy sessions as well as a range of therapy and group support programs in Polish, similarly with children and young people we offer a mental health support for C&YP who have been affected by violence and abuse in the family home, above is a list of group-support and programs Opoka is able to deliver when funded. Polish women and their children, apart from going through a massive change, do not have access to professional mental health care in the Polish language, very often the therapies or counselling offered to them are in English and through an Interpreter, but even then, the waiting time for therapy is very long it can take up to 2 years. Opoka has highly trained and accredited professionals who provide psychological support, counselling as well as support groups for both the mother and her children. We have been able to offer Counselling/Psychological therapy sessions in Polish only when funded, nevertheless Opoka was providing continuous emotional support through our helpline service.



Feedback

„I was able to understand the issue better and after attending the Freedom Programme and counselling I was able to make independent decision.“

“It helps me talk through all my issues and understand better my current situation, it empowered me”

“I was also given the amazing opportunity to take part in the Freedom Programme which changed my way of thinking and gave me a safe place to return to each Tuesday. I have joined the first series for 3 meetings, and it was the best thing that have happened to me at that point of my life.

The reassuring and calm voice of Anna made me feel welcomed and safe in the short space of 2 hours every Tuesday. I couldn't wait for the next week to come. The meetings were run in a friendly, honest and a very supportive manner. Although the subjects discussed in the meetings are very sensitive and many times, they were tears, she always knew what to say to make me feel better.

Since joining the Freedom program, I have learned a lot of different types of behaviors.

I have also learned how to deal with my emotions. Listening to other girls' stories have given me a hope for a better future and reassurance that I am not alone in my experience and unfortunately there are many women who are a victim of abuse.

I feel like I have been given " new lungs " to start living my life again. I am richer in the knowledge I have received during the completion of the program."

“I am so happy with the help I received since attending Freedom Programme. Anna who was leading the group is an angel. She is so competent, professional, and committed to the work she does. I will be recommending the program, but I hope I won't need to.”

Children who received counselling and other support

Our children's and young people counsellor delivered a 1-2-1 'Healing Together' program to 8 children in primary schools across Bristol. The children have experienced significant trauma through their exposure to domestic abuse in the home, and these weekly sessions are crucial in their recovery process. In addition to the 8 children receiving 1-2-1 program, a further 366 children of the women working with Opoka's DA Outreach staff - benefitted from the safety advice and ongoing support provided to their mothers.

The Healing Together Program

Is the newest project to deliver mental health support for children and young people - 'Healing Together Program'. This program has been created to provide specialist mental health support for children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse at home as well as stress or anxiety which could be caused by several factors. It was delivered by a trained and accredited Opoka specialist who is also a Children and Young People Counsellor.



Feedback



"My child is so much calmer and doesn't have outburst of anger anymore. Healing Together has help my son to understand how his brain works and he can now talk about his emotions. Thank you, Alicja, Grateful parent"

"I am so happy my daughter had accessed Healing Together Programme. It helped her a lot. Mum"

"I was losing hope to access help for my son then the school told me about Healing Together Programme. It was a life-changing experienced for my son and myself. He benefitted so much from seeing Anna. He is more confident and in control of his feelings and emotions. Mum."

"The children highlighted purple have all met Anna today in Thrive for a "Meet and Greet" discussion on how she will be working with them. They all seem happy and excited to work alongside Anna.

School Learning Mentor & Mental Health Lead'.



Parental guidance

During our psycho-educational programs we included a parental guidance and managed to positively engage 174 mothers to better support their children through this difficult time in their lives.

Bilingual IDVA service

We worked with 154 women who had experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence. Our Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) supported 20 women to explore their options around the criminal justice system and continued supporting those who chose to proceed on the journey from reporting to the police through to court, 47 women were able to receive specialist counselling through our Polish counselling service helping them work through their trauma.

Overview of education and outreach

We were proud to launch our new Awareness Raising and Community Outreach Approach to recognising, preventing, and responding to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence workshops for Polish community in Bristol reaching out hundreds of Polish families across our community in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

In 2022, we were able to deliver a number of professional trainings which focused on raising awareness of the issue of domestic violence within the Polish community.

- 1 • Face to face training on: 'Recognising and Responding to Domestic Abuse'
- 2 • Online webinars on Domestic Abuse run by two of our specialist IDVAs together with Next Link which was organised by Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership
- 3 • 5 information and awareness sessions on ZOOM which highlighted the importance of providing the right support for children who are often disregarded in the entire process.

In September Opoka started working with UWE students as a part of Communication Action Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) Student Consultancy Project Scheme. The aim of the project was to develop an interactive multiple trainings platform available for the wider audience which would focus on raising awareness of the issue of domestic violence and will be accessible in the year 2022.

Schools

Over the years we have worked with 10 primary schools across Bristol delivering 47 trauma informed sessions.

Since the start of the 2022 academic year, we also delivered 5 workshops for teachers and held a webinar for parents from 5 schools, with an attendance of 35.



Community engagement

Throughout the year we have been delivering drop-in sessions, educational workshops and awareness raising by creating a new project called 'Polish Community Hub'. The main idea of this project was to help some most vulnerable women in our City to reduce isolation and help them break the barriers and to speak out about domestic abuse in their families. Over the course of the year, we ran an additional 14 sessions for 98 people across a range of settings, institutions and community events.





Volunteers

Opoka benefits from the commitment of 12 loyal volunteers around the country. All our volunteers are DBS checked, trained, and supervised. Volunteers are supported by the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) which keeps us up-to-date and committed to volunteering best practice. Opoka's volunteers are in the heart of our service and the delivery process, they are:

Ambassadors

Community Champions

Peer-Mentors

Emotional Support Buddies

Support-Groups Befrienders

Helpline Advisors

Fundraisers

Our peer mentors are individuals with lived experience who provide longer term support to our clients helping them to gain confidence and become more secure and independent. Our community champions help us to reach our community by raising awareness.

They help us to reach the most isolated and vulnerable people who need help. Our ambassadors and patrons help us to raise awareness, influence and fundraise. I am proud to say that Opoka has a dedicated team of which some of them have been with us for over 10 years. In our team we have people who have been volunteering for us, professionally trained by us and even offered employment with us.

We also have people who came to us as a victim of domestic violence and abuse, went through our support services as a client, became a volunteer and then an Opoka employee. In the essence Opoka not only creates a safe space for very vulnerable isolated and marginalised women from the Polish community, but also creates an opportunity for them to learn new skills, feel valued and empowered to make a positive change in theirs and their children's lives.



What our Volunteers are saying?

"As a psychologist and psychotherapist, I joined the Opoka team at the end of 2016," says Joanna psychologist, and psychotherapist. "Initially, I was a volunteer for two years, becoming a formal Opoka therapist after that. I was constantly improving my skills and individual contact with Opoka's clients – women who experienced violence – allowing me to understand the scale of this phenomenon."

Joanna

"In Opoka we will not save the whole world, but every effort matters, and every action can really change someone's life" emphasises Ewa, who answers the helpline calls as a volunteer. "I wanted to help vulnerable women experiencing domestic violence who cannot find support elsewhere. Opoka welcomed me warmly, trusted me and gave me constructive feedback, which allowed me to develop my communication skills even more. This positive attitude on the part of Opoka employees made me feel important and appreciated during my work and activities for victims of violence and abuse"

Ewa.

Research

In Manchester in June 2022, the first ever conference 'Understanding and Responding to Polish Women's Experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse in the UK' took place during which a very important piece of research was published.

In 2020 Lincoln University invited Opoka to collaborate on this research, together with other organisations such as VESTA Family Support. Under the leadership of Dr Iwona Zielinska, Prof Sundari Anitha, Dr Michael Rasel, and Dr Ros Kane this research has become a hugely important step towards understanding how to support Polish women and their children who experience domestic violence and abuse in the UK.

There has been a significant amount of work and collaboration from the many Polish bilingual professionals and survivors who have contributed to this project by sharing their life experiences, expertise, and knowledge. OPOKA feels humbled and privileged to have been part of this project.

This report presents key findings of the first research project (2020-2022) to investigate Polish women's experiences of domestic violence and abuse, and service responses to Polish women in the UK. It seeks to understand why domestic abuse services receive few referrals from Polish women despite the Polish community constituting the second largest foreign-born group in the UK with over 700,000 residents. Migration is well-known to exacerbate the risk of domestic abuse and increase barriers to accessing support.

The report draws on data from 28 life history interviews with Polish survivors of domestic violence and 18 semi-structured interviews with practitioners from domestic abuse, statutory and voluntary services across the UK. Interviews were mostly online due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all transcripts were coded and analysed by two team members. Ethical approval was granted by the University of Lincoln Research Ethics Committee.

Recommendations for research

- Include Polish and East European communities in discussions about inequalities in welfare, violence and service responses in the UK driven by racialisation and othering.
- Expand research to consider factors and interventions that can work with perpetrators of domestic abuse within the Polish community.
- Seek to understand the experiences and service responses to cases of domestic abuse faced by Polish women arriving after the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Opoka Strives For Excellence!



At the end of 2022, after a very long and meticulous process, Opoka was awarded the National Quality Standard! In a letter from Women's Aid, we read:

"22nd December 2022,

Dear Aneta,

The Quality Assessment Panel met on 16th December 2022 and their conclusions are listed below. The Panel has great pleasure in announcing that Opoka has passed its assessment and has been awarded the Women's Aid National Quality Standards Stage One!

Panel Findings:

The Panel were impressed by Opoka's passion and commitment to providing a quality service for Polish women and their children through your ground-breaking work as the only Polish specialist domestic abuse organisation in the UK! The Panel heard that your services are delivered by highly trained specialist bilingual domestic violence experts who provide opportunities to help women and children to recover free from abuse by tailoring your services to meet their needs. The Panel heard that you have strong referral policies and procedures. The Panel heard that you have an informative and professional website, with an option for translation into Polish, and noted the striking statistics on your home page showing the impact of your work. The Panel commended the shop section of your website where you sell clothing for women and children as part of your fundraising work, and the empowering statements featured on these garments. The Panel heard that your biggest plan is to open a refuge provision. Opoka's bravery, commitment, and ambitious plans for the year ahead were commended by the Panel.

Well done!

Yours sincerely,

Pp Jess Street

Quality Assurance Officer

Rehaila Sharif Head of Membership & Chair of Quality Assessment Panel

Of course, our next step in 2023, will be to prepare for the new challenge of opening a new service 'Safe Accommodation with specialist support' for Polish women with children who are fleeing domestic violence and abuse. Opoka believes that no-one should have to live with domestic abuse and sexual violence. Especially those who have faced multiple barriers including discrimination and inequality because they need higher levels of support because of their language needs, status in the UK or nationality.

**Who is the service for?
The service will be for Polish women who:**

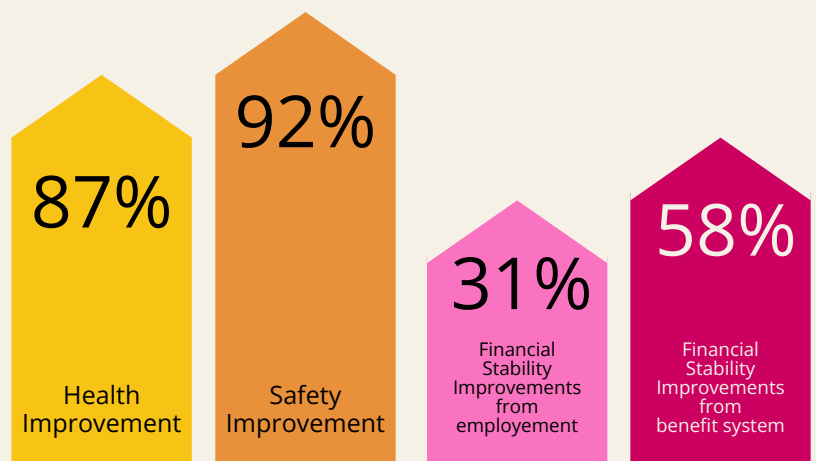
- Are survivors of domestic violence Have up to two children.
- Find it difficult to find support and suitable housing.
- Struggle to access services because of language barriers or knowledge.
- Are isolated, vulnerable and have limited financial independence.
- Who are unable to access safety and culturally sensitive support in Polish elsewhere.

Why are we best placed to help?

Opoka has over 11 years' experience in supporting Polish women who have suffered domestic violence to transform their lives. Opoka's services are delivered by Polish women with life experience of domestic violence. Since 2012, Opoka has come a long way and has grown and expanded to meet the needs of the Polish community reaching thousands of vulnerable and isolated women and children.

OAZA - Safe Housing for Polish Women A 1-2 year specialist structured supported accommodation program for vulnerable Polish women with children who are survivors of domestic violence.

Our support contributed to health, safety, and financial improvements of our beneficiaries and their children.



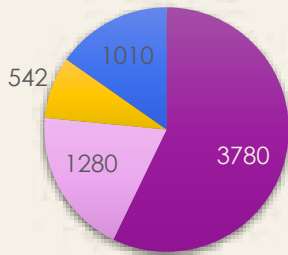
Feedback



"I got great help and support, the people who help me at Opoka did not hesitate to do anything, they helped me with everything I needed help, with such a great understanding, compassion, love, without judgment. With Opoka's support I was placed in safe home for mothers with children. Today I have my house just started furnishing it, I do not lack anything especially peace."

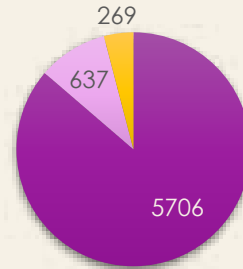
Short Term Support Outcomes - 2022

Service Provided



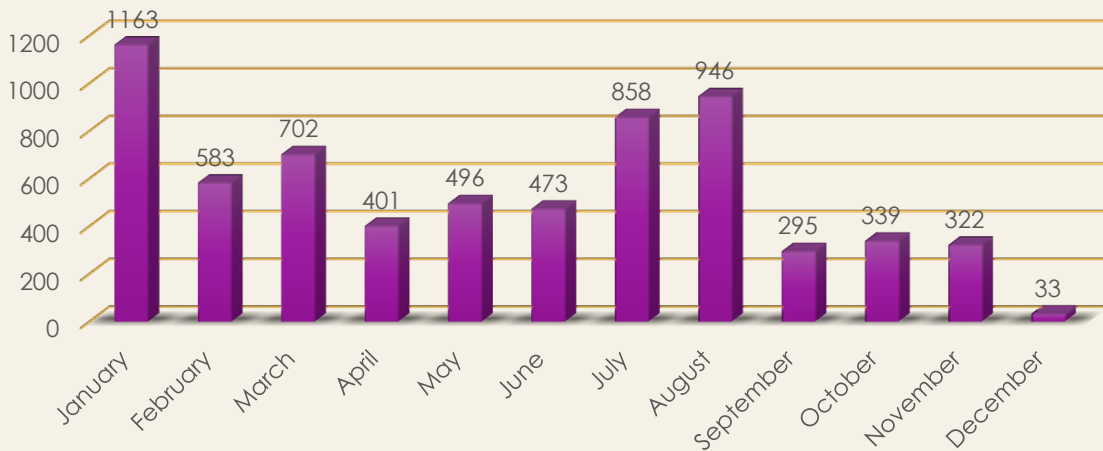
■ Information ■ Emotional Support
■ Safety Advice ■ DV Outreach

Contact by Reporting Area

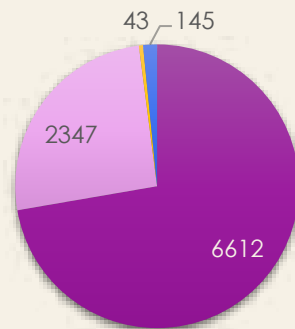


■ England ■ Scotland ■ Wales

Contact by Month



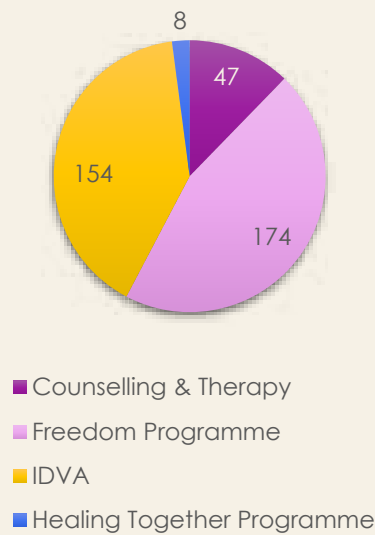
Contact Type



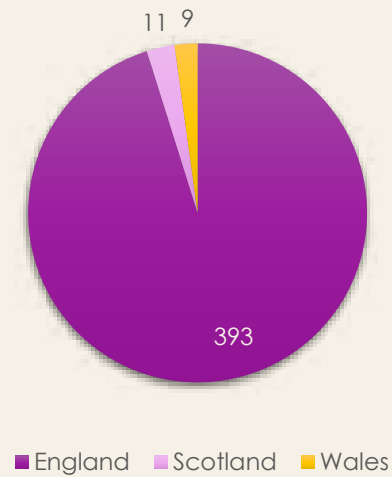
■ Telephone/Helpline ■ Email
■ Facebook (Messenger) ■ Online Chat

Long Term Support - 2022

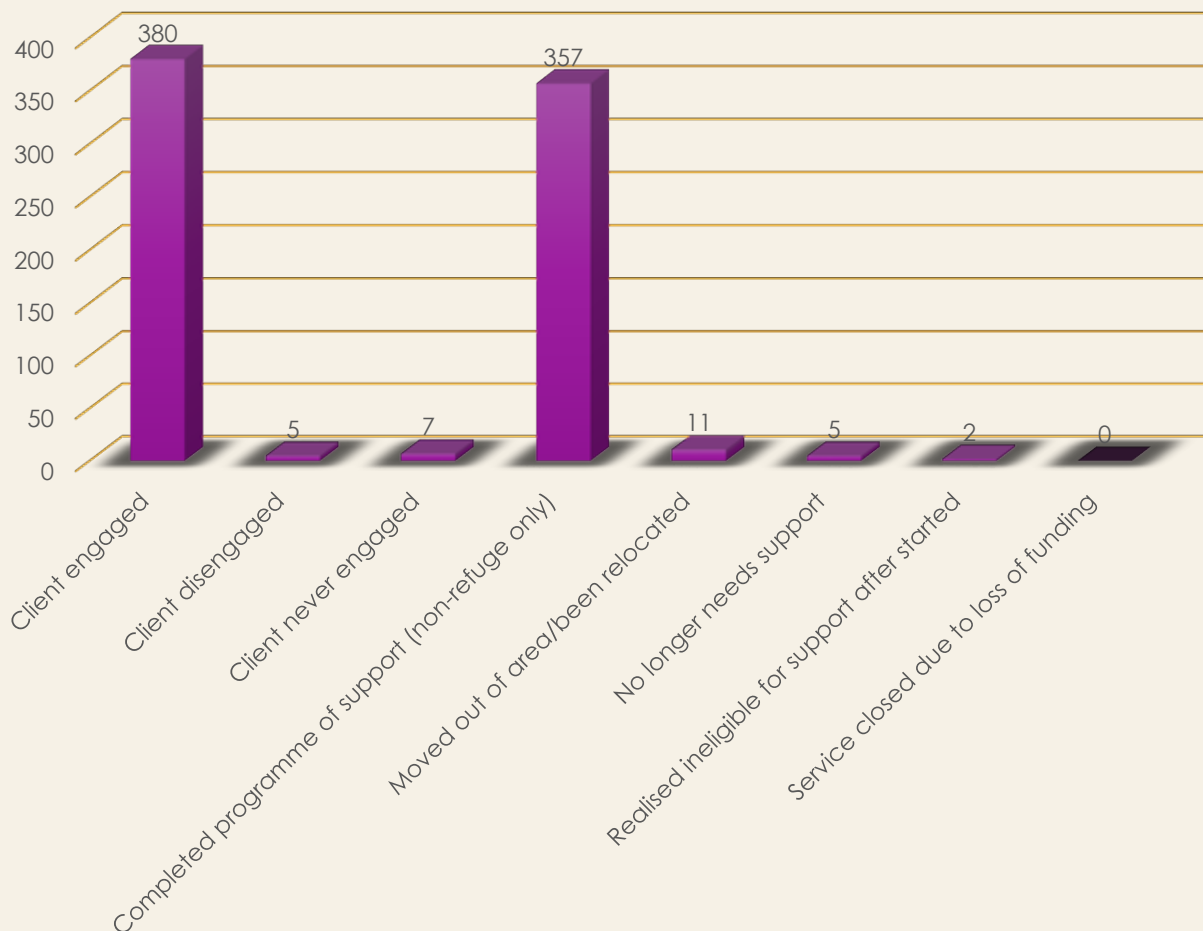
Service Provided



Cases by Reporting Area



Service Outcome





Our Patron Kasia Madera

Kasia Madera is a BBC World News journalist and presenter, a household name and is respected worldwide for her work. Kasia Madera is an active member of the London Polish community and has been honored for her work in promoting Polish culture with the coveted Maciej Płażynski International Journalism Award.

The Polish Embassy in London has also awarded Kasia Madera as an Honorary Ambassador of Polish Women to the United Kingdom. On Sunday evening of 11 November 2018, in one of the most prestigious concert halls in the world - the Royal Albert Hall in London - Kasia Madera, accompanied by Grażyna Torbicka, conducted a ceremonial concert "Sto Lat", dedicated to the one hundredth anniversary of Poland's independence.



Our Ambassadors Renata Durda

Renata Durda – is a head of the Polish National Referral Service for Victims of Family Violence "Blue Line" IPZ, certified supervisor and specialist in family violence prevention, editor-in-chief of the bimonthly magazine "Blue Line".

An author of many publications in the field of creating interdisciplinary solutions for family violence prevention, member of the Monitoring Team for Family Violence Prevention at the Minister of Family, Labor and Social Policy (2011-2020). She is a member of the Monitoring Team for Family Violence Prevention at the Minister of Family Affairs, Labor and Social Policy (2011-2020), social advisor to the Children's Rights Ombudsman (2010-2018), member of the Women's Council at the President of the City of Warsaw (from 2019), member of the Family Violence Prevention Council at the National Violence Prevention Centre (2022-2025).



Marta Klubowicz

Marta Klubowicz is a Polish Theater and film Actress, a poet, and a writer. She is well known for her roles in films and Theatre. She combines both her passions — acting and poetry — in original poetic performances, which brought her the Witold Hulewicz Award. Marta works with young people, directs performances, as well as conducts theatre and literary workshops. She held correspondence workshops for poets in the Anagram publishing house for several years. Together with Fred Apke, she cooperates with Eichendorff Centre in Łubowice.

Marta translates scenarios and acts in outdoor performances. She has been a member of the jury and co-organiser of Jerzy Kozarzewski poetic contest "Orzech" in Nysa for many years. She translated Joseph von Eichendorff's Poetry as well as all plays by Fred Apke into Polish (many performances and publications).

The comedy Letnisko (Summer Resort) translated by her received the third award in the second edition of "Komedio-pisanie" contest, and the play for children Adonis ma gościa (Adonis Has a Guest) obtained the leading award in the competition organised by Children's Art Centre in Poznań.

Marta Klubowicz is the author of the study on the bestseller Kato-Tata which raises an important social issue (Child Abuse). She appears there under the name of Maria Burzyńska (Santorski/second edition: Czarna Owca 2009 - 2013). She was awarded the Medal of Merit for Polish Culture.



Monica Walsh

A Polish woman who has won many titles: "Mrs Ireland" in 2014, a "Style Queen", "Mrs Dublin" in London 2014. Then "Mrs Ireland Europe" in the final in Bulgaria winning the title "Miss Personality" and Congeniality Award, in Minsk in 2015 Mrs Ireland Universe winning "Mrs Charisma sash" and "Mrs Ireland World" in China in 2016. Monika came to Ireland during her studies in 2004.

Monika Walsh is an Irish model, influencer, and domestic violence campaigner. She is a graduate of Silesian University and has various certifications from Cambridge University too. She also has been working with children since 2009. She just released her debut book, which is about the scourge of domestic violence. 'Take Me Out Of This Hell'



Sue Dymond

Sue Dymond is CEO of Bazooka Bunny Ltd, an international award-winning film and television company based in Bristol, UK. Alongside managing the day-to-day office environment and as a production manager on projects, she completes voice over work for advertising campaigns and is a recognized broadcast editor on TV series. Sue is also involved with graphic design work for promotional merchandise and production-related skills photography.

Over the years she has always been inspired with all that is visual and after 7 years in the art industry including picture framing and materials buying, 2 years performing arts at college where she won the Lydia and Charles Thompson award for the most committed student and as an adult, completed levels 1 – 6, Bronze, Silver and Gold tap dancing exams, all with honours, she has continued to express her optimism with her artwork of mainly watercolours and recently (inspired by her artistic Mum) with oil painting.

It doesn't matter who you are, what qualifications you have, what size of house or flat you live in, what language you speak, where you live in the world or how much money you have or don't have; you and the people that you love should be safe in your own home, to be yourself, without fear, without anxiety.

I am very lucky to be married to someone who I can trust completely and can let me be who I am. Unfortunately, we were not lucky enough to have any children in our lives, so I can only imagine a very small part of what these women's and children go through. So, if I can help Opoka in some capacity (although I do not speak Polish!), however small, I will. My only qualification being – just someone who cares.



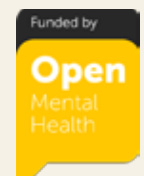
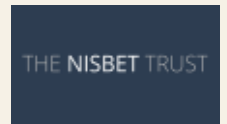
Slawomir Fejfer

Out of many thousands of Polish nationals living in the United Kingdom, just one man responded to our appeal! He deserves huge applause! Slawomir Adam Fejfer originally is from the northeast of Poland. He has been living and working in the UK for over 17 years, most of that time he spent in the picturesque town of Shrewsbury, Shropshire. For many years he has worked as a volunteer in the Polish Centre Shrewsbury / Shropshire European Organization.

Slawek helps to organise many cultural and historical events, as well as meetings for the local community. Sławek is actively involved in promoting the Polish community in the county and region. He is also a volunteer in the NHS and the local police. He graduated from Medical College as an emergency paramedic and works professionally in private health care.



Opoka Funders and Memberships



Opoka memberships



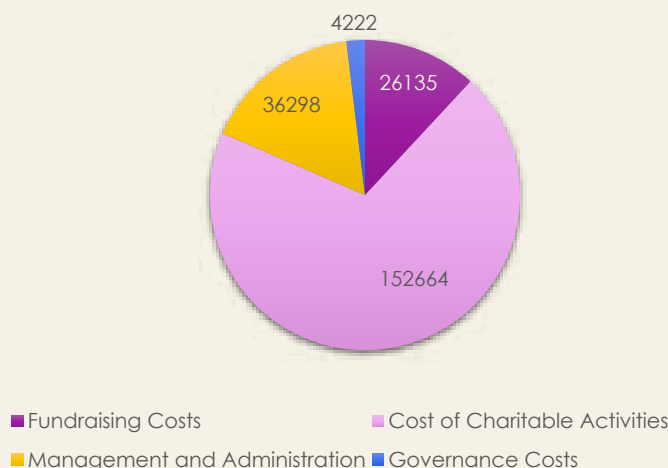
Where Opoka’s money came from in 2022 and how we put it to use.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

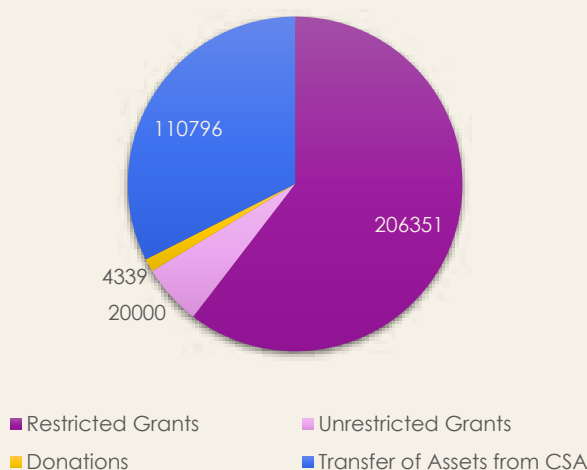
The charity's total incoming resources for the period amounted to £341,486, of which £148,697 related to a transfer of the net assets previously held by Chrysalis Supported Association Limited, the founding charity of the Opoka charitable operations. The total expended resources during the period was £219,319 as the charity started, and subsequently consolidated, independent operations across the operational period. The net surplus for the period is £122,167. The sources of income and how those funds were spent is summarised below:

Most funds received from external funders were restricted and most had very specific purposes within the charity’s objectives. These funds, totalling £206,351 including £37,901 transferred from the year before separation from the parent company Chrysalis Supported Association Limited, have been allocated to those activities for which they were contributed during the year. While we are indebted to those funders allowing Opoka to carry out essential activities there was still many activities not fully funded and only a limited contribution towards management and governance costs, essential in carrying out such a sensitive service. Unrestricted external funding totalled £24,339 and costs not covered by other external funding totalled £49,437, the shortfall was covered by the charities parent company as part of the asset transfer. In addition, staff costs were understated as many hours were contributed as unpaid.

Resources Expended



Voluntary Income



Reserves Policy

The charity has reserves split between two funds. The General Fund (unrestricted) can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees and finances the day-to-day running costs. The restricted funds are to be used for the sole purpose as defined by the donor of those funds. The trustees have designated some of the unrestricted general fund for specific purposes not funded currently.

The designated funds represent amounts committed by the Trustees across four separate areas. First £15,000 is ringfenced to unfunded therapeutic programmes. Secondly, the trustees look to ringfence £8,000 to cover the cost of providing an emergency response to an unfunded need. Thirdly, the trustees wish to designate £20,000 to fund the costs of managing and supervising the core activities of the charity. Lastly, the trustees wish to ringfence £13,000 to cover unfunded office running costs. Therefore a total of £56,000 has been transferred for designated purposes leaving free reserves of the charity at 31 December 2022 as £27,384.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing those financial statements;

- the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any 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 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 applicable law and regulations. 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 25th October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



A Mackell
Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors

To the Trustees of Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the period ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

Irregularities, including fraud, are non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures, in line with our responsibilities, as set out in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and

non-compliance with laws and regulations we consider the following:

- the nature of the charity sector, control environment and financial performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - o identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - o detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - o the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations
 - o the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following area: revenue and resource recognition. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We have also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Charities Act and related legislation.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified revenue and resource recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of fraud. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documents on to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- understanding the charity's revenue recognition policies and how they are applied, including the relevant financial controls.
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to compare revenue recognised against expectations and based on past experiences and management forecasts and investigated material divergencies by obtaining corroborative evidence.
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; applying parameters designed to identify entries that were not within our expectations. This included analysing and selecting journals for testing which appeared unusual in nature, either due to size, preparer or date of posting. To test their validity, we verified the journals to originating documentation.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect noncompliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nicholas Jones FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Fawcetts LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Windover House, St Ann Street
Salisbury
SP1 2DR

Date: 27 October 2023

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Statement of Financial Activities For the period ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Period to 31.12.22 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income				
Donations		4,339	-	4,339
Grants	4	20,000	168,450	188,450
Transfer of assets from CSA	4	110,796	37,901	148,697
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		135,135	206,351	341,486
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Fundraising costs		26,135	-	26,135
Cost of charitable activities	5	-	152,664	152,664
Management and Administration	6	19,660	16,638	36,298
Governance costs	7	3,642	580	4,222
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		49,437	169,882	219,319
Net Incoming Resources		85,698	36,469	122,167
Net movement in funds for the year		85,698	36,469	122,167
Total funds at 31 December 2022		85,698	36,469	122,167

There were no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

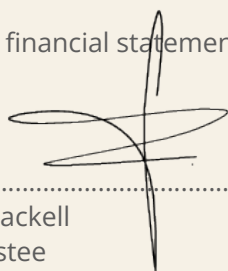
Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

(Charity number: 1195206)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2022

		2022	
		£	£
	Notes		
Fixed assets			
Tangible	10		2,314
Current assets			
Debtors	11	26,907	
Cash at bank & in hand		<u>160,782</u>	
		187,689	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(67,836)</u>	
Net current assets			119,853
Net assets			<u><u>122,167</u></u>
The Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds:			
General Fund	14		85,698
Restricted Funds	15		36,469
Total Funds			<u><u>122,167</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25th October 2023 and signed on their behalf by

.....
A Mackell
Trustee



Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

(Charity number: 1195206)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the period ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities	
Net Income	122,167
Investment in tangible fixed assets	(2,314)
<i>Changes in:</i>	
Accrued income and other debtors	(26,907)
Trade and other creditors	67,836
Cash generated from operations	160,782
Interest received	-
Net cash from operating activities	160,782
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	160,782
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	160,782

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies

(a) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Incoming resources are included in the statement of financial affairs when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

(c) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Donations are made only when they meet the objects of the charity. Support costs are deemed to be attributable to Charitable Expenditure only.

(d) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds - These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - These are funds to be used for specific purposes at the request of the donor.

2. Net outgoing resources for the period

	Period to 31.12.22
This is stated after charging:	£
Accountancy fee	3,642
Depreciation	566
	<u>4,208</u>

Trustees did not receive any remuneration, benefits in kind nor expenses for 2021.

3. Analysis of total resources expended

	Core services £	Restricted £	Support costs £	Total £
Fundraising costs	-	-	26,135	26,135
Charitable activities				
Direct costs	-	152,664	-	152,664
Management and administration	-	16,638	19,660	36,298
Governance costs	-	580	3,642	4,222
	<u>-</u>	<u>169,882</u>	<u>49,437</u>	<u>219,319</u>

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2022

4. Grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Period to 31.12.22 £
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: DA Support	-	22,625	22,625
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift	-	34,693	34,693
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: Critical Support	-	3,600	3,600
Tudor Trust: DV Service	-	59,740	59,740
Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund	-	5,975	5,975
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	-	8,626	8,626
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	-	45,160	45,160
Quartet Community Foundation: Wesleyan Foundation	-	5,148	5,148
Quartet Community Foundation: Resilience Grant	-	8,086	8,086
Woman's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	-	1,500	1,500
NSF Innovation: Open Community Grant	-	1,996	1,996
The Albert Hunt Trust: Admin Core cost	-	2,000	2,000
AVA: Kite mark 'In Safe Hands'	20,000	-	20,000
Comic Relief: Community Fund (England)	-	3,318	3,318
Commissioners Crime Prevention Fund	-	2,000	2,000
ROSA Fund: Stand with Us	-	1,884	1,884
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>206,351</u>	<u>226,351</u>

The above restricted fund analysis includes £37,901 relating to funds transferred from Chrysalis Supported Association Limited as noted on the face of the SOFA - additional analysis is shown below:

	£
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: DA Support	4,625
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift	8,417
Tudor Trust: DV Service	19,913
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	4,125
Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund	821
	<u>37,901</u>

5. Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Period to 31.12.22 £
Salaries	-	130,489	130,489
Social security	-	11,428	11,428
Pension contributions	-	2,536	2,536
DV outreach & helpline costs	-	7,336	7,336
Sessional therapy costs	-	875	875
	<u>-</u>	<u>152,664</u>	<u>152,664</u>

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2022

6. Management and Administration

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Period to 31.12.22
	£	£	£
Rent and rates	15,121	-	15,121
Light and heat	455	-	455
Telephone and communications	-	594	594
Insurance	910	-	910
Printing, postage and stationery	-	286	286
Other office costs	1,108	-	1,108
Marketing, publicity and website	-	6,673	6,673
Training and education	-	1,952	1,952
Staff welfare	1,500	-	1,500
Travel and subsistence	-	1,806	1,806
Computer expenses	-	4,951	4,951
Consultancy, legal and professional fees	-	157	157
Subscriptions	-	219	219
Fixed asset depreciation	566	-	566
	<u>19,660</u>	<u>16,638</u>	<u>36,298</u>

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Period to 31.12.22
	£	£	£
Training costs	-	580	580
Auditor's fees	3,642	-	3,642
	<u>3,642</u>	<u>580</u>	<u>4,222</u>

8. Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

Ms A Mackell, the founder and managing director, is a trustee of the charity. During the year Ms Mackell received a gross salary of £61,146 and the charity paid £1,373 in employer's pension contributions in relation to the management and delivery of the key services provided by Opoka. No other trustees received remuneration or expenses.

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities per sections 521 to 536 of ITA 2007. Because of its current activities Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation is not registered for VAT and therefore cannot recover VAT on its expenses.

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2022

10. Tangible fixed assets

	IT equipment £	Total £
Cost:		
At 1 December 2021	-	-
Additions	2,880	2,880
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,880</u>	<u>2,880</u>
Depreciation:		
At 1 December 2021	-	-
Charge for year	566	566
On disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2022	<u>566</u>	<u>566</u>
Net book values:		
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,314</u>	<u>2,314</u>

11. Debtors

	31.12.22 £
Accrued income	8,288
Other debtors	18,619
	<u>26,907</u>

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.22 £
Accounts payable	6,464
Social security & other tax	-
Accruals and deferred income	61,372
	<u>67,836</u>

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2022

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	-	36,469	36,469
Unrestricted funds	2,314	83,384	85,698
Net assets at the end of the period	<u>2,314</u>	<u>119,853</u>	<u>122,167</u>

14. Unrestricted funds

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total £
Surplus/(loss) for the year	85,698	-	85,698
Transfer between funds	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>29,698</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>85,698</u>

The designated funds represent amounts committed by the Trustees across four separate areas. First £15,000 is ringfenced to unfunded therapeutic programmes. Secondly, the trustees look to ringfence £8,000 to cover the cost of providing an emergency response to an unfunded need. Thirdly, the trustees wish to designate £20,000 to fund the costs of managing and supervising the core activities of the charity. Lastly, the trustees wish to ringfence £13,000 to cover unfunded office running costs.

Opoka Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2022

15. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following balances of grants held on trust to be applied for specific purposes:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31.12.2022
	£	£	
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: DA Support	22,625	(22,625)	-
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift	34,693	(34,693)	-
Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: Critical Support	3,600	(3,600)	-
Tudor Trust: DV Service	59,740	(31,130)	28,610
Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund	5,975	-	5,975
The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions	8,626	(8,626)	-
The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline	45,160	(45,160)	-
Quartet Community Foundation: Wesleyan Foundation	5,148	(5,148)	-
Quartet Community Foundation: Resilience Grant	8,086	(8,086)	-
Woman's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary	1,500	(1,500)	-
NSF Innovation: Open Community Grant	1,996	(1,996)	-
The Albert Hunt Trust: Admin Core cost	2,000	(2,000)	-
Comic Relief: Community Fund (England)	3,318	(3,318)	-
Commissioners Crime Prevention Fund	2,000	(2,000)	-
ROSA Fund: Stand with Us	1,884	-	1,884
	<u>206,351</u>	<u>(169,882)</u>	<u>36,469</u>

Purpose of funds:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: DA Support | - Community and DV Outreach, educational programs |
| • Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: IDVA Uplift | - Community DV / advisors |
| • Avon / Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner: Critical Support | - Community DV Therapy support |
| • Tudor Trust: DV Service | - Community Champion program and peer support |
| • Bristol City Council: Bristol Impact Fund | - Community engagement worker-polish community |
| • The Nisbet Trust: Outreach & Drop-in Sessions | - Outreach and drop-in sessions |
| • The National Lottery: DA Outreach & Helpline | - Outreach and helpline-DA |
| • Quartet Community Foundation: Wesleyan Foundation | - Awareness raising in Bristol |
| • Quartet Community Foundation: Resilience Grant | - Staff and trustee development & strategic/business planning |
| • Woman's Aid: CAF Tech & Impact Bursary | - License IT systems |
| • NSF Innovation: Open Community Grant | - CBT training |
| • The Albert Hunt Trust: Admin Core cost | - Admin support |
| • Comic Relief: Community Fund (England) | - Childrens mental health support |
| • Commissioners Crime Prevention Fund | - Community outreach DV |
| • ROSA Fund: Stand with Us | - Fundraising and Campaigning |
| • John James Bristol Foundation: Capital works | - Safehouse Capital |

16. Parent undertaking and controlling party

The parent undertaking and controlling party of the charity is Chrysalis Supported Association Limited, a Provident Mutual Society registered with the FCA (reg IP29818R).



Opoka CIO
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered Charity Number: 1195206
Company Number: CE026183



Helpline in Polish 0300 365 1700



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