



opoka

PROTECT, EMPOWER, THRIVE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Legal and Administrative Details	1
Trustee Report	
Structure governance and management	2
Our Values and Mission	2
Opoka and its Charitable objects	3
Introduction from the Chair	4
Message from Opoka's CEO	5
Our Patron Board of Trustees	6-7
Programs We Deliver in the Polish Language	8
Our Activities	8-11
Internal Activities	11
Our Volunteers	12-13
Our Solution	14
Client feedback	15
Our Work Recognised	16
Accreditations	17
Staff Training	18
Our Re-brand	19
Our Outcomes	20-22
Our Reach	23
Opoka Funders	24
ESG Policy	25
Other Challenges and Risks	26
Financial Statements	
Financial Review	27
Report of the Independent Auditors	29-33
Statement of Financial Activities	34
Statement of Financial Position	35
Statement of Cash Flows	36
Notes from the Financial Statements	37-43

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Legal and Administrative Details for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

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)

Sylvia 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.

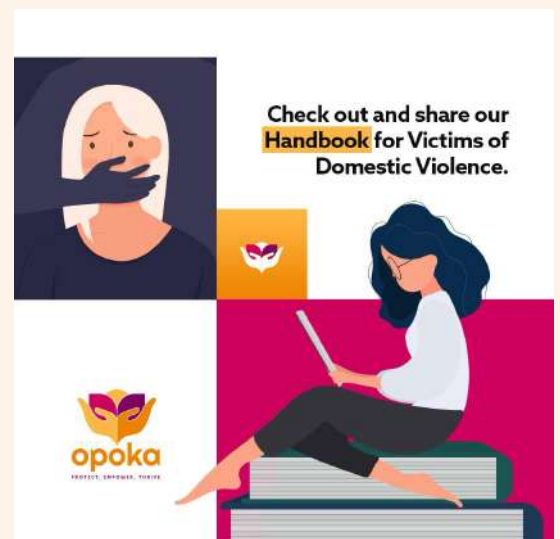
Existing trustees undertake a selection process to ensure the broad mix of skills provided by the trustees is maintained and a full induction is provided. All trustees have personal knowledge of domestic abuse.

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 Jatzak, 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

22 Safe House Process Groups

10 Community Support Groups

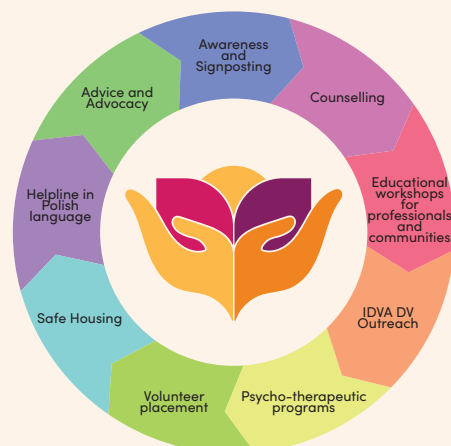
24 Freedom Programme – Support Groups

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:

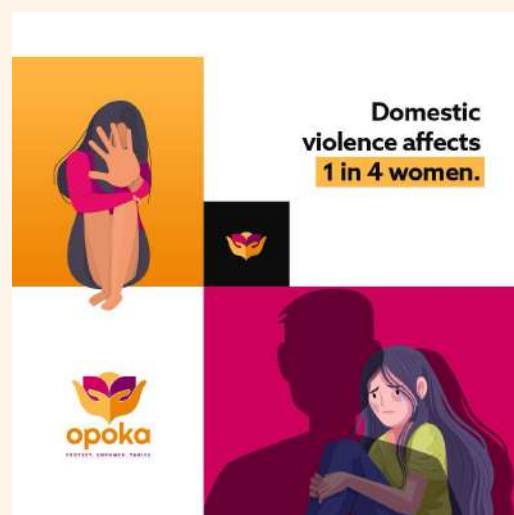
- **Language Barriers:** Continued efforts are needed to address language barriers, ensuring all victims can access services comfortably.
- **Awareness Gaps:** There remains a significant gap in awareness about domestic abuse within some segments of the Polish community, necessitating ongoing outreach 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.

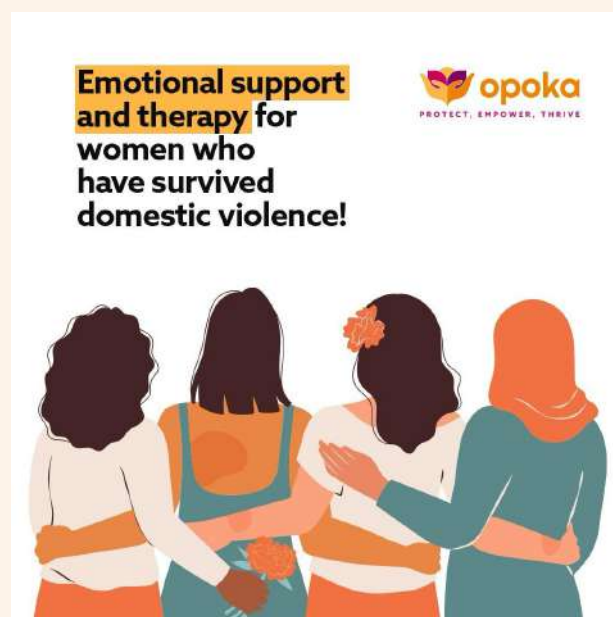


We extend our heartfelt thanks to Beata Kubiak who dressed as Santa, and joined our founder Aneta Mackell, and manager, Anna Barnett, to visit children and their mothers during the holiday season. Together, they delivered Christmas presents, spreading joy and warmth to everyone. The happiness and excitement 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.



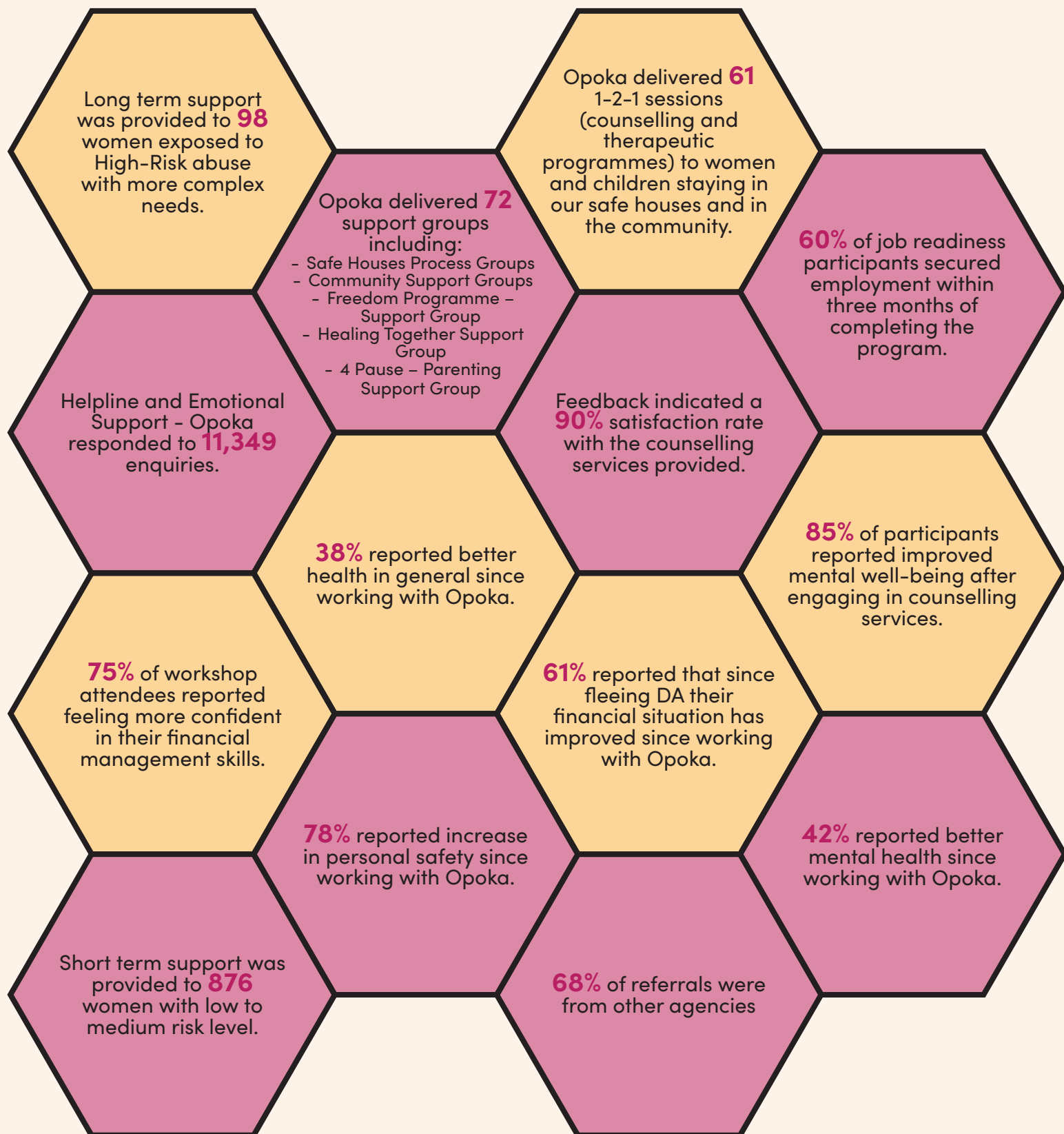
PROTECT, EMPOWER, THRIVE



PROTECT, EMPOWER, THRIVE



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

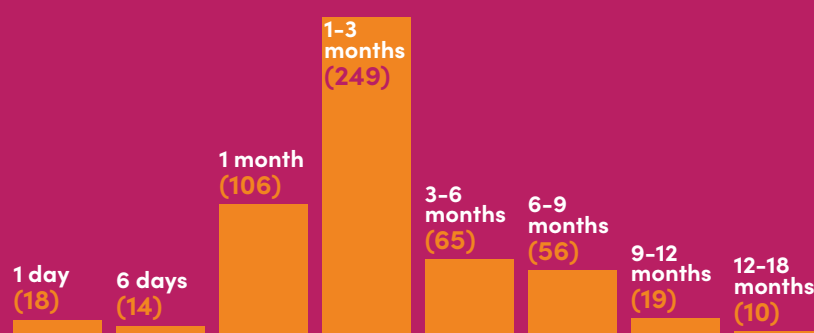
512

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)

referrals

Received (211)

Accepted (107)

Rejected (24)

Pending (74)

Waiting (345)

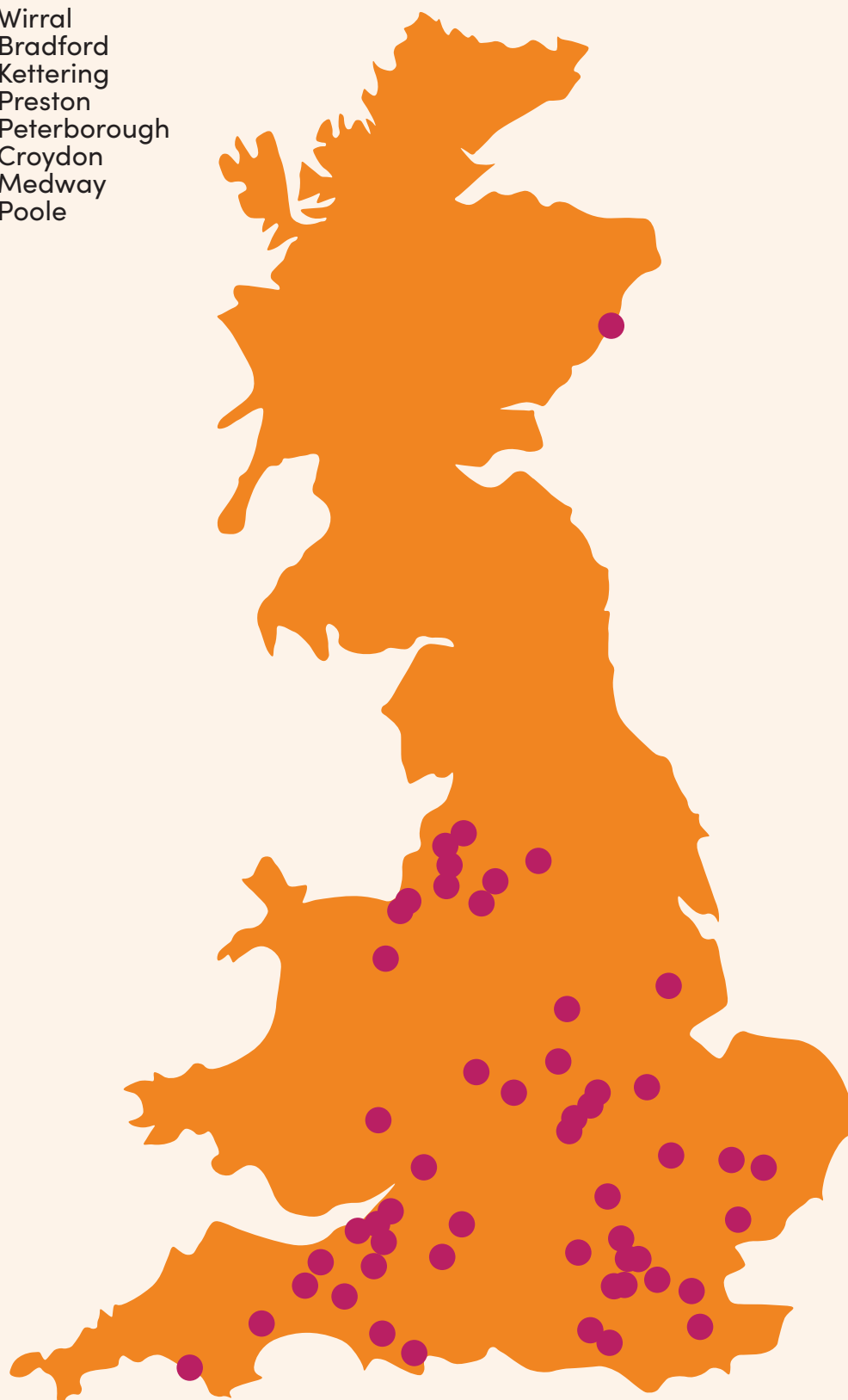
114

cases with mental
health support needs

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



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

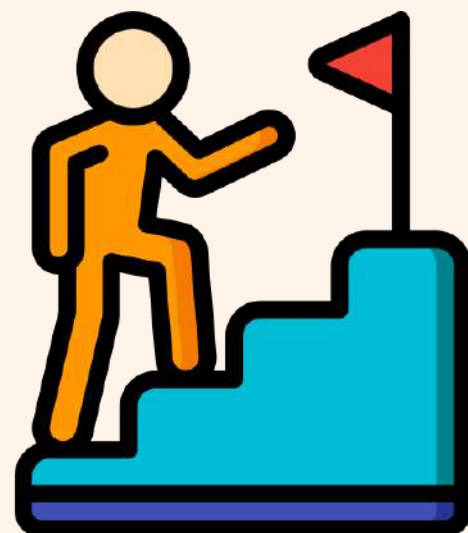
OPOKA is facing an increasing demand for its services and support. However, an uncertain economic environment and rising operational costs, including rent and staff salaries, threaten our financial sustainability and our ability to continue supporting the women who rely on us. This challenge makes it 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

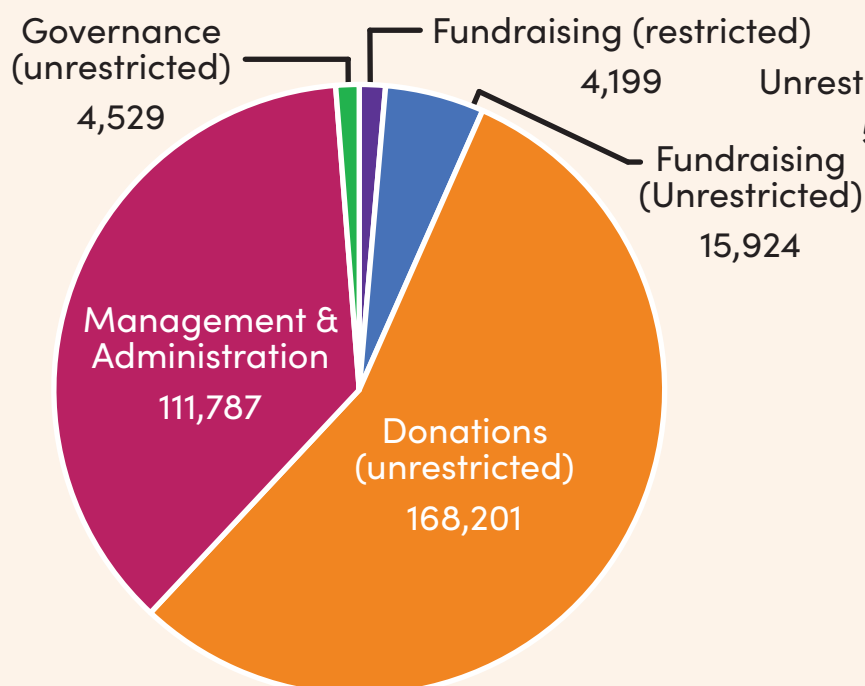
The charity's total incoming resources for the year amounted to £333,255 (2023:£273,118), of which £166,837 (2023:£168,850) was restricted. Of the remaining unrestricted £166,418 (2023 £104,268), £40,000 related to a Tudor Trust unrestricted grant that on so it has been recognised on receipt although 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.

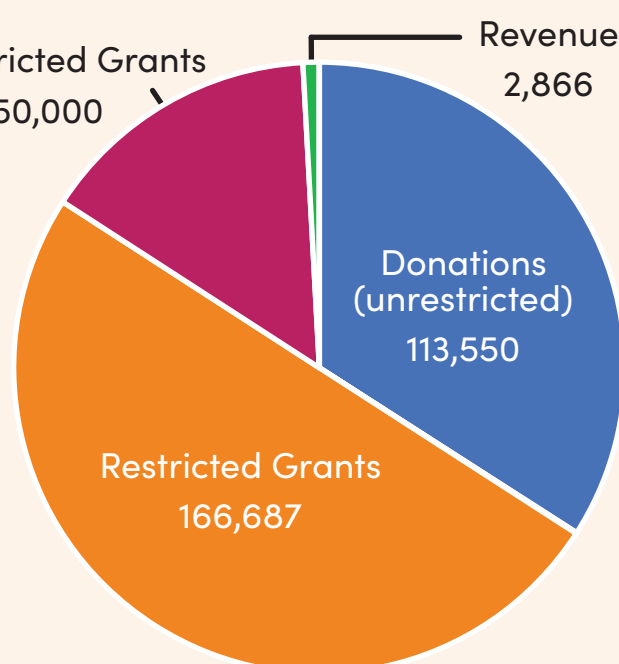
None the less due to strong financial management and the ongoing support of the parent company the balance sheet has strengthened by £28,614 allowing further designations to mitigate risks.

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.


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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

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
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><u>143,664</u></u>		<u><u>114,270</u></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><u>143,664</u></u>		<u><u>114,270</u></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:

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

Note 3 - Grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
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
	50,000	166,687	216,687	208,850

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Report for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

Note 4 - Donated Services an Goods

	£
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
	105,212

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	-
	148,217	19,985	168,201	177,243

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	-
	28,782	139,419	168,201	177,243

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
	136,285	130,912

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

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Report for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

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	6,821	6,821
Amortisation:		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
Charge for the year	426	426
On disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2024	426	426
Net book values:		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
At 31 December 2024	6,395	6,395

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	2,248	9,624	1,842	13,713
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	760	3,408	522	4,690
Net book values:				
At 1 January 2024	1,207	8,622	1,688	11,517
At 31 December 2024	1,488	6,215	1,320	9,023

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>

Opoka Charitable Inc. Organisation

Financial Report for the year ended 31 Dec 2024

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.

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Opoka CIO

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Registered Charity Number: 1195206

Company Number: CE026183



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