

Friends of SADA
Trustees' Annual Report
2024-2025



Bankers:
Natwest Bankline
12 High Street
Hitchin SG5 1BH

Charity contact information

Friends of SADA

Registered Charity Number: 1199030

Address: Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Postcode: SG1 1HN

Telephone number: 01438242666

Email address: friendsofsada@gmail.com

Website: [Friends of SADA \(Survivors Against Domestic Abuse\)](#)

Charity Trustees



Sarah Muncey



Sean Prendergast



Matt Ewan

Objectives and activities

Friends of SADA is a domestic abuse charity that supports the work of the SADA (Survivors Against Domestic Abuse) service. The SADA service provides support for women, men, children, and young people who have experienced, or are experiencing domestic abuse. It works closely with statutory, voluntary, and other organisations to relieve the distress suffered by victims, while collaborating with statutory agencies to prevent further abuse.

Originally established in Stevenage, the service has gradually expanded over the years and now supports authorities across Hertfordshire. It currently manages over 30 Safe Space properties to assist those fleeing domestic abuse from across the country, as well as SADA House, a refuge in Hertfordshire.

Structure, governance and management

Friends of SADA is governed by a Board of Trustees who are collectively responsible for the strategic direction, governance, and financial oversight of the charity. The day-to-day management of the charity is overseen by a Chair and supported by officers and volunteers, who work together to deliver the charity's objectives. Clear roles and responsibilities are in place to ensure effective decision-making, accountability, and compliance with regulatory requirements, enabling Friends of SADA to operate efficiently and in the best interests of its beneficiaries.

The objects of the Charity are:

1. To relieve the distress and suffering faced by women, men, children, and young people who have experienced, or are experiencing, domestic abuse, in association with statutory, voluntary and other organisations, this relief shall be provided in any manner which now is or may be deemed by law to be charitable.
2. To advance the education of voluntary and statutory agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic violence, including without limit, its causes and prevention and the relief of its consequences.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their powers and duties. In reviewing the charity's aims, activities, and future plans, the trustees have ensured that Friends of SADA operates for the public benefit, delivering clear and identifiable benefits to its beneficiaries. The trustees regularly review the charity's activities to ensure they further its charitable purposes and that any potential risks or barriers to access are appropriately managed.

Achievements and performance

ECHO'S Project



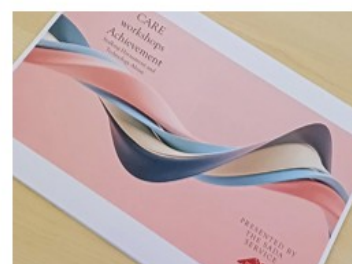
Friends of SADA supported awareness-raising activities across the year. On Monday 25 November 2024, the charity supported the launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. The Echo's Project revealed the hidden impact of domestic abuse through everyday objects and survivors' stories, with each object becoming a powerful symbol of survival. The images carried echoes of trauma, while the voices of survivors brought strength and truth to the silence.

The event was well attended by professionals and survivors alike, with many commenting on how poignant and impactful each image was. Friends of SADA's support helped ensure this important message reached a wide audience and contributed to greater understanding and awareness of domestic abuse.

North Herts Deprivation Project

Following the successful pilot project in North Hertfordshire, which supported clients from a local school and safe accommodation, we provided a range of assistance including food packages, supermarket vouchers, mobile phones and access to a safety app.

This work was made possible through funding from the Friends of SADA charity. We continue to work closely with partners in these areas to further develop and expand the project, ensuring that the support offered is appropriate and effective for victims and survivors, as well as partner agencies.



Grazed Creations for local families



Friends of SADA funded Paint at Home kits, kindly provided by Glazed Creations, to families affected by domestic abuse. The kits offered a creative and calming activity for children and parents alike, providing a positive way to spend time together and express themselves in a safe, supportive environment. Families reported that the activity brought moments of joy, connection, and respite during challenging times, highlighting the meaningful impact of this simple but thoughtful initiative.

North Herts Drop In

Friends of SADA has funded a dedicated space in North Hertfordshire to establish a fortnightly drop-in for victims of abuse. This initiative provides a safe, welcoming environment where individuals can access face-to-face support, guidance, and resources, helping to ensure that victims and survivors receive the assistance they need close to home.



SADA Drop-in Service

Food/Toiletry Bank and Security Provisions

Friends of SADA continues to fund and support food and toiletry banks for victims of domestic abuse, ensuring that essential items are readily available for those in need. In addition, the charity provides video doorbells to enhance the safety and security of victims in their homes. These initiatives offer immediate practical support, helping individuals and families regain a sense of dignity and stability while focusing on their safety and well-being. Through this ongoing funding, Friends of SADA makes a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by domestic abuse.



Fundraising

Friends of SADA continue to fundraise and raise awareness of the charity's vital work.

This year saw the first ever Friends of SADA Quiz Night, with tickets sold to raise much-needed funds. Prizes were kindly donated by local supporters, helping to make the event both engaging and successful.



The quiz night proved to be a fantastic evening, bringing people together while shining a spotlight on the important work SADA carries out in the community.

In addition to fundraising events, Friends of SADA have also attended partnership events throughout the year. These opportunities have helped raise awareness of the charity, strengthen relationships with partners, and encourage wider support for SADA and Friends of SADA's mission.



Financial review

Following the Independent Examiner's report on the financial records of SADA for the financial year ending 31 March 2024, the charity has implemented recommended improvements to strengthen its financial controls and governance. This included:

- A cloud-based accounting system (Xero) has been introduced, streamlining record-keeping through the automatic import of bank transactions and the attachment of supporting documentation to each entry.
- All income and expenditure are now appropriately categorised, with regular reconciliations undertaken.
- A Donations Policy has been implemented to guide the acceptance of significant gifts, ensuring that all fundraising and donations align with the charity's values and ethical standards.
- To further enhance financial oversight, an expenditure request and approval process has been introduced, requiring formal sign-off prior to any payment being made.

During the year, the charity's grant applications and fundraising efforts proved highly successful, resulting in significant funding secured to support future opportunities. This funding will be allocated and spent on a needs-based approach, ensuring resources are directed where they are most required, without a predetermined timeline.

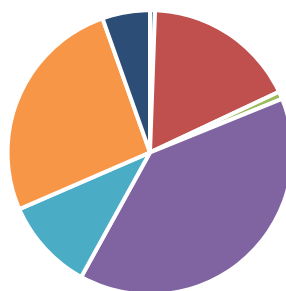
2024/2025

Income: £38,286.59

Expenditure: £8,243.35

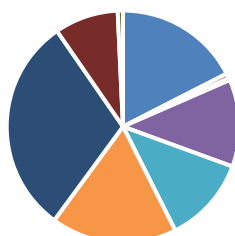
In line with the above, the Friends of SADA charity are able to carry over £30,043.24 into 2025/2026, in order to continue supporting the work of the SADA service and victims of domestic abuse.

Income



- Bank Interest Income
- Donations
- Fundraising events
- Grants
- Restricted grant - Groundworks
- Restricted grant - LSGHF
- Restricted grant LGCHF

Expenditure



- Audit & Accountancy Fees
- Bank Charges
- Funding support - Food/Utilities/Other
- Fundraising event costs
- Merchandise
- Rent
- Restricted expenditure - Groundworks
- Restricted grant expenditure LSGHF
- Staff Training and Welfare

Available funds:

£49,053.16

Restricted - £12,840.97

Un-Restricted - £36,212.19

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name

Designation

Date

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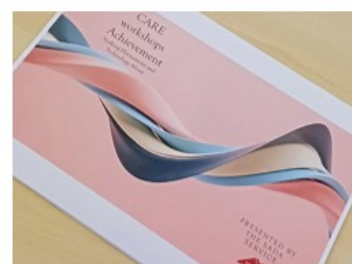
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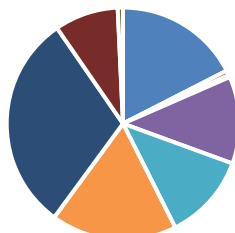
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Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name

Designation

Date

To the Trustees of SADA

Independent Examiner's Report

I have completed an independent examination of the financial records of SADA for the financial year ending 31/03/2025

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

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

Based on the records made available to me, I am satisfied that the income and expenditure, as well as the available funds, present a fair reflection of the charity's financial position.

As part of my review, I have identified areas where improvements could enhance transparency and financial management. I encourage the trustees to consider the following recommendations:

Recommendations

1. Policy

The charity should consider implementing a reserves policy. A charity needs a reserves policy to ensure financial stability, sustainability, and transparency by outlining how it manages funds held for unexpected financial challenges or future opportunities. This policy should justify the level of funds kept—rather than spent—to stakeholders which ensures legal compliance, and aids in strategic planning.

2. Internal Controls

Review on customers and suppliers is encouraged to ensure all transactions are valid. In particular, it has been identified that transactions are passing through the charity to aid SADA (a separate legal entity) and the trustees are encouraged to review the working relationship between Friends of SADA & SADA.

In conclusion, while the charity's current financial reporting appears reasonable, the adoption of the above measures would enhance governance, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarification on any of the points raised.

Yours sincerely,

R Gatward MICB PM.Dip

29th January 2026