



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/4/23 Period start date To 31/3/24 Period end date

Charity name: Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service CIO

Charity registration number: 1201913

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The overall objective of CSASS is:</p> <p><i>“To preserve and protect the health and well-being, and relieve the distress and trauma, of anyone aged 18 years or over; who has experienced, or who is experiencing, any form of sexual abuse or sexual violence, through the provision of support, information and counselling, maintaining women-only services and space as a core offer.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To raise money, employ staff, manage volunteers and assets in order to fulfil our objective• To produce materials, conduct research and arrange events in order to fulfil our objectives.• To work in partnership with statutory and Voluntary Sector Organisations.• To support and facilitate the development of the rape crisis movement.• We will promote equal opportunities, and not be party political or sectarian.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>CSASS transforms the lives of adult survivors of sexual violence and abuse who have been assaulted at any time in their lives, through free specialist counselling, telephone supportline, and groupwork. In partnership with others, we reach survivors within under-represented communities, developing new ways of working. Our campaigns raise awareness and challenge the attitudes and behaviour that lead to sexual violence.</p> <p>Free unlimited confidential counselling is our core offer, and it is available for survivors and those affected by the impacts of rape and sexual abuse. Counsellors receive regular specialist training and clinical supervision, and are all BACP registered.</p>

		<p>The 121 Support Service and Emotional Support Calls offer a confidential listening service, with emotional support, information and signposting as needed, either to further support, or other specialist organisations. The CSASS team receive regular training, support and development opportunities.</p> <p>CSASS staff and volunteers also run groupwork, campaigns and outreach activities to empower and support survivors, raise awareness and challenge the behaviours and attitudes that lead to sexual violence. Outreach work includes training, work in partnership, development of new ways of working and promoting services. Our awareness raising and prevention work encompasses public stalls and distribution of posters, cards and stickers, use of online networks and social media, and targeted campaigns, aiming to reach survivors across all sections of our local community.</p> <p>As well as our membership of RCEW and BACP, CSASS is part of the third sector community in Cheshire, attends local business club events and participates in multi-agency work.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The trustees give due regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>CSASS relies on volunteers - our support line, LiveChat and awareness-raising work is entirely delivered by volunteers. Without our volunteers, our work for survivors would not happen.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>We work towards four goals, which encompass reaching and supporting survivors, challenging the causes of sexual violence, and ensuring our organization is well run and sustainable.</p> <p>Goal One: Survivors are making progress towards recovery.</p> <p>Our counselling clients this year have told us: <i>"I just want to say I really appreciate (my counsellor's) counselling support. She is a credit to you at CSASS. I didn't think I would be able to trust a health professional again, but (she) is really understanding, kind and caring. I know it's going to be a long, slow road but with (her) support I will get there. I just wanted to say thank you, as an organisation you all do an amazing job supporting people who have been through sexual abuse...."</i></p> <p><i>"I was really reluctant to start counselling with CSASS but I'm glad I did because it changed my life. I had spent so long trying to control everything and hating myself and after meeting my counsellor I realised what time I had wasted! She helped me rethink everything I told myself and she did it in such a gentle way... I can't thank her enough!.."</i></p> <p>Saturday Social: <i>"I feel less alone and isolated. It is a place where I feel accepted and can show up as I am and be myself. It has given me confidence to access more services. It's very relaxing and really interesting to learn new crafts/skills..."</i></p> <p><i>"Saturday socials have provided a space for me to be acknowledged and accepted as a survivor with shared experiences without having to discuss what happened to me. There are absolutely no other times in my daily life where this is the case - the power of being acknowledged is incredibly important to me as usually I feel silenced."</i></p> <p>Journaling groups: <i>"Journaling in a group has had a significant impact on my mental health, wellbeing and ability to feel 'normal'"</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of clients responding reported improvements after counselling. • 90% of attendees reported a positive impact as a result of groupwork sessions. (73% attendees of the SS and W&T sessions felt

	<p>their health and wellbeing improved, 60% rated the support as excellent.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing groups (including our monthly Saturday Social, Walk & Talk, Drop in and Journalling groups) continued to provide activities and strategies for survivors. <p>Groupwork hours drastically improved – 22 hours of Saturday Socials, 41 hours of Tomorrow's Women drop ins and 5 hours of journalling sessions.</p> <p>Support line numbers have dropped but due to us no longer promoting the service and instead making calls out to those who are waiting for counselling and have requested weekly check in's – feedback from them:</p> <p><i>"I'm not having a great week and am so grateful that you have called to check on me. Being able to get some things off my chest have helped".</i></p> <p><i>"I really appreciate you calling each week to check I am ok. I feel I have been just left by a lot of services and it has left me feeling low and anxious. Knowing that you call and really do care means so much"</i></p> <p>Goal 2: Survivors and supporters have the information and confidence to access support.</p> <p>We use a wide range of approaches to reach survivors with information, and also encourage survivors to feel safe, confident and deserving of support. Some examples this year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new partnership with Tomorrow's Women, increasing our visibility, working collaboratively and reaching new clients. • Progress on reaching economically disadvantaged communities via participation at events at Lache Larder, reaching out within community Facebook groups and focussed trustee recruitment. Target of reaching 75 survivors living in ED to provide service information – managed to reach 180 with 35 attending at least 1 counselling session. • Working on social media presence with the help of our new Communications Officer. We have significantly increased our reach numbers this year. We have also stepped up the distribution of our Newsletter emails, reaching over 500 people with information about the work that we do.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting a series of sessions at Live! Cheshire, Tomorrow's Women, Here & Now Blaen and On-Line Youth Federation, with learning disabled adults and young people. Engaging 79 people directly in activities. • Increased presence at Storyhouse Women festival, building awareness of our services amongst the local community. Clients from Saturday Social supported to attend and two CSASS volunteers were speakers and referred to their experience with us. • New International Women's Day projects, including Climbing Hut Women's lock-in evening and an interview with our new corporate sponsor/partner Women in Industry @ Encirc. • We continue to work with other organisations to improve their confidence in supporting and signposting survivors, 10 new organisations this year, estimated to have reached over 350 service-users. <p>Goal 3: The causes of sexual violence are challenged.</p> <p>Attitudes and behaviours that lead to sexual violence are widely understood and challenged in the area we serve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have continued working with students and staff at Blaen and Queens Park Schools on developing awareness of the causes of sexual violence, building confidence and skills to challenge the causes, and create culture change. Our Outreach Manager is also forging links with other local schools to extend this work. • We held our annual RECLAIM THE NIGHT march and vigil in November, building on the success of last year. Over 85 people participated in the march, workshops (with Tomorrow's Women, Saturday Social, Live! Cheshire, Queen's Park High School, Blaen High School) were extremely well attended. We managed to reach an estimated 4000 people including passersby's, workshops, social media post engagements and event responses. 71% of respondents said they felt safer in their life following participating in the pre-event workshops, which reached more people than anticipated. • We built on last year's work through the Purple Leaf program to deliver bystander training via CWVA, to staff and volunteers in the voluntary sector. We have also partnered with a local company, Encirc, to deliver bystander and disclosure training in a workforce of over 1000
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	<p>(mostly men) getting the message out to a wider local population.</p> <p>Goal 4 - We have the resources and knowledge we need to be effective, safe, sustainable and accountable.</p> <p>This includes all the work of staff, volunteers and trustees to run our organisation well. A few highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers carried out a Sponsored Walk to raise unrestricted funds. • Again, we sent five team members to the Rape Crisis England and Wales annual conference hearing about some inspiring work particularly around arts-based approaches to work with survivors, approaches to work with women with multiple disadvantage and strategies around setting up and running groups. • Our Centre Manager attends National Director and RCEW Trustee board meetings and Line managers attend specialist national forums. • RCEW National Service Standards – this process has begun and will run to August 2024. • We held our first staff away day in November, an invaluable opportunity for the team to have time to think ahead and share ideas. • The new charity (Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service CIO) Charity number: 1201913 became fully live in September 2023 and the old charity is now closed. The objects for the new CIO are substantively the same, with a small change to widen our remit in our education and prevention work. • We continue to look for suitable new premises, to improve the experience of the clients attending our office. <p>A few examples of improvements we have made in key areas.</p> <p>Health, Safety and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New higher, more substantial chairs/furniture for the counselling room, to support taller people • Extreme heat in the office continues to cause issues. Actions have included: purchase of a longer air con extractor tube and window sealer, ordering better quality office thermometers. <p>Environmental Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are engaged with our landlord, encouraging energy efficiency and a green energy supplier. • We have upgraded our IT and remote working systems to reduce unnecessary travel.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Co-Op for banking/goods buying as their environmental values align with CSASS • Recycling boxes and bins, lights and heating off when necessary. • Using public transport when appropriate. <p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompted by one of our clinical supervisors, we have reviewed our practice around contacting vulnerable clients who do not attend sessions. • We have reviewed our suicide policy, to help us identify specialist support needs earlier and worked on developing mutual training with Martin Gallier, a mental health charity, specialising in suicide. • Formal written policy with Tomorrow's Women after partnership formed around safeguarding and data protection. • Maintaining a positive and healthy relationship with CAB after a client reported being unpleasantly spoken to by a member of staff. • Ensuring all staff and volunteers are up to date with safeguarding training and providing support to make sure they're confident in this area. • We started a new pre-counselling emotional stabilisation service to help survivors manage challenging trauma counselling, and to make informed support choices. <p>Changes we have made in response to feedback from our clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new client attending the first session of the journalling group suggesting the theme/focus for the second session • Friendly lamps to make CAB counselling rooms more welcoming • Monthly drop-in service at TW in response to feedback from a partner organisation • Service users at Live! Cheshire asked for more fun/less educational type activities during their social times, which shaped future plans • Changes to initial assessment questions, to improve gathering access information • Responded to the needs of an autistic client, moving between face-to-face and online delivery to help manage regulation. • Providing fidget toys for the counselling room to better support neurodivergent clients • Feedback from volunteers prompted updating the office lock-up procedure, to improve safety and security • Reinstating the closed Facebook community group, as requested by survivors <p>Diversity work has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% trustees and workers engaged in EDI learning • We supported Chester Pride again, with a stall at this year's event.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating sickness policy to be specific for disabilities, making reasonable adjustments etc. • Successful sessions at Live! Cheshire, with learning disabled adults and young people • New website page on 'Support for all genders' to encourage contact from all survivors plus an EDI training focus have had some positive impact. A trans client attended group work, a regular client felt confident to come out as NB, and appreciation was received from a genderfluid volunteer • Counsellors now have remote phone systems allowing for clients to be contacted remotely, assisting any disabilities, LD, MH etc. • We are working on improving support for neurodivergent clients and workers, attending training and discussing in the service development group. External advice/training has mostly supported our existing practice and person-centred approach. • We vetoed several potential AGM venues due to poor accessibility • CSASS is a committed, feminist, women-led organisation but we aim to be inclusive all. We are proud of the varied age range and the gender diversification of our board of trustees. <p>We were nominated Chester Business Club Charity of the Year 2023 and University of Chester Volunteer Organisation of the Year 2023.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>CSASS was fully funded for the financial year 23/24.</p> <p>We spent the funding we received as planned and had no issues with our reporting to funders.</p> <p>It was a more complicated year from an accounting point of view, as we made the transition to a CIO. This involved closing down the old charity, opening new bank accounts and transferring all of this with our funders. By the end of March 2024, this has all been completed.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>Our Reserves Policy states:</p> <p>Purpose To minimise the risk of loss of ability to meet legal financial liabilities, such as service and employment contracts deliver planned services and activities wind up the charity responsibly, if needed</p> <p>CSASS will maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to employment costs related to staff notice periods, statutory redundancy entitlements and 6 months premises rental. In addition CSASS will maintain £6000 unrestricted reserves, to enable cash flow</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£37,787
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The principal source of funding for the year was the Ministry of Justice Rape Support Fund. Our National Lottery Community Fund grant continued to support outreach work throughout. We have continued to receive funding from the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner towards our counselling service, as well as some smaller grants from other funders.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Our main area of financial risk continues to be holding sufficient unrestricted funds as reserves. We have now employed a fundraising officer, who will help with this. And plan to focus more to increase the reserves in the coming year.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO (Since September 2023)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	By Application and Appointment. <i>...(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.</i> <i>(2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO...</i>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Trustees follow a structured induction program, which includes visits, reading, and online and in-person training covering governance and specialist knowledge and skills. We provide a trustee "Welcome Pack" outlining the above information. As a minimum for training, we require attendance at CSASS induction training (usually held twice a year), Annual Safeguarding and Bi-annual Equality & Diversity training.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	CSASS holds 4 meetings of the Board of Trustees per annum in addition to an annual AGM. Other meetings may be arranged according to organisational requirements. Reporting mechanisms are in place. At each board meeting the trustees are provided with impact, risk, activity, and financial information. The CSASS Centre Manager is accountable to the board and supports a team of seven further part-time staff members. The staff manage a team of around 20 volunteers, and together deliver services and activities. The staff consist of the Centre Manager, Core Service Manager, Outreach Manager, Office Manager, Clinical Supervisor, Counsellor, Supportline Manager and Communication and Community Fundraising Officer. CSASS is a member of Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW) and is proud to have met

		<p>RCEW national service standards, following a rigorous independently verification process. We are also an organisational member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP) and adhere to their ethical framework.</p> <p>CSASS has a risk management strategy. The organisational risk register is reviewed on a regular basis by the trustees, while operational risks are managed by staff.</p>
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service CIO
Other name the charity uses	Previously Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service (CSASS) Old Charity Number 1133564
Registered charity number	1201913
Charity's principal address	The Bluecoat Building Upper Northgate Street Chester CH1 4EE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Barbara Carter	Chair Trustee	1/4/23 – 12/7/23	
2	Dawn Llewellyn	Trustee Chair	12/7/23 – 31/3/24	
3	Rachel Forster		1/4/23 – 12/4/23	
4	Ann Dytor Walsh	Treasurer	1/4/23 – 12/4/23	
5	Jess Keady			
6	Lorraine Pate			
7	Hannah Georgious	Finance Committee		
8	David Clough	Finance Committee		
9	Joe Gavin	Safeguarding Lead	12/4/23 – 31/3/24	
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Alison Breadon, Centre Manager

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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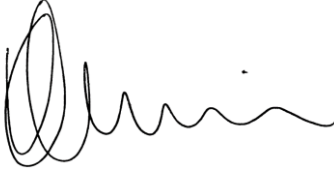
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dawn Llewellyn	Hannah Georgious
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees	Finance Committee Trustee
Date	08/01/25	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1st April 2023

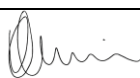

To

Period end date
31st March 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Rape Support Fund - Ministry of Justice		69,181.23	-	69,181.23	72,543.70
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	35,000.00	-	35,000.00	39,566.00
CWVA Community Grant	-		-	-	500.00
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-		-	-	1,000.00
Police and Crime Commissioner Cheshire	-	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	20,000.00
Tesco Golden Token Community Grant	-		-	-	10,000.00
Community Foundation Lancashire	-		-	-	5,000.00
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (NHS)		10,000.00		10,000.00	2,000.00
Coop Community Fund	-	3,361.85	-	3,361.85	
Comic Relief		9,500.00		9,500.00	
				-	
				-	
				-	
Earned income	4,230.00			4,230.00	
Donations, sponsorship and events	10,931.23		-	10,931.23	5,553.54
Bank Interest	422.35		-	422.35	39.15
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	15,583.58	147,043.08	-	162,626.66	156,202.39
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,583.58	147,043.08	-	162,626.66	156,202.39
A3 Payments					
Rent	-	5,578.04	-	5,578.04	4,477.52
Insurance	-	999.68	-	999.68	960.47
Marketing	-	195.19	-	195.19	2,342.99
Staffing costs and expenses	7,847.44	135,146.54	-	142,993.98	105,353.89
Freelance Supervision and Counselling		9,247.00		9,247.00	15,252.00
Training					
	1,250.00	987.50		2,237.50	2,232.68
Volunteer Expenses	58.80	2,191.54		2,250.34	2,485.29
Office expenses and misc	1,239.31	2,716.49		3,955.80	2,877.89
				-	
IT/phone and communications	1,910.88	14,948.95		16,859.83	12,780.81
Governance	-	50.00	-	50.00	197.19
Outreach Projects	-	2,771.98	-	2,771.98	2,774.10
Sub total	12,306.43	174,832.91	-	187,139.34	151,734.83
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-		-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,306.43	174,832.91	-	187,139.34	151,734.83
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,277.15	- 27,789.83	-	- 24,512.68	4,467.56
A5 Transfers between funds			-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,494.97	27,804.62	-	62,299.59	57,832.05
Cash funds this year end	37,772.12	14.79	-	37,786.91	62,299.61

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Current Account	3,193.85	14.79	-
	Bank Deposit Account	34,564.18	-	-
	Petty Cash	14.09	-	-
	Total cash funds	37,772.12	14.79	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	IT/Phone			1,358.00
	Furniture and Equipment			212.00
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Hannah Georgious	08/01/2025	
		Dawn Llewellyn	08/01/2025	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service CIO

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1201913

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

9th January 2025

Name:

Shirley Stacey

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCCA

Address:

35 Vincent Drive

Chester

CH4 7RQ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A