



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From March 2024
Period end date

Period start date To April 2025

Charity name: Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service

Charity registration number: 20260213

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>CSASS ceased operating January 31st 2025 and formally closed March 31st 2025.</p> <p>Prior to closures its objectives were:</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, conductor 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>Prior to its closure, CSASS' stated activities were as follows:</p> <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</p>

		<p>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	The trustees give due regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

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	
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>On 24th September 2024, the Board of Trustees support a proposal to undertake the closure of CSASS. In keeping with the 7 decision-making principles, the rationale for closure was as follows:</p> <p>In April, following the resignation of the long-standing Centre Manager and the appointment of a new Centre Manager, the Charity assessed its mission, remit, and practice, and the question of merger or closure was raised.</p> <p>The Board concluded that there were substantial duplications of CSASS' aims, objectives, and mission in Chester with two larger organisations (Tomorrow's Women, and Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RSASC) working with survivors and providing similar care, support, and services: counselling, support groups, ISVAs, drop-ins, with a physical presence in the city. In addition, given the uncertain financial landscape, this overlap potentially limited the capacity for these local organisations to secure the necessary funds to continue, operationally, and could put their service at risk. While the possibility of a merger was informally discussed with RSASC, they declined because of CSASS' premises and because they were not able or willing to absorb CSASS staff. They were willing to work with CSASS to support any clients, should CSASS close.</p> <p>In the same period, three core members of staff resigned, which posed a substantial risk to the organisation in the short to medium term.</p>

		<p>The Board also noted that CSASS had not been reaching new services uses in some aspects of its work. This is likely to be because potential clients were being referred to other organisations, rather than CSASS.</p> <p>In short, the Board suggested that more could be achieved in addressing the causes and effects of sexual violence, and in supporting the needs of survivors by closing and transferring assets to another organisation.</p> <p>Between this announcement suggesting the closure in September 2024 until January 2025 the CSASS board undertook the following steps to close the charity responsibly and to follow due process in line with their duties as charity trustees of an incorporated charity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - formal consultation and subsequent redundancy process; - reconciled awards with funders; - secured additional funding to cover the shortfall anticipated by closure costs (redundancy, data retention costs, ongoing staff costs required to oversee the closure, reconciliation of remaining debts and accounts); - liaised with two local organisations to arrange the transfer of clients to protect the charity's beneficiaries, thereby advancing the charity's objectives right to the end i.e. "to preserve and protect the health and well-being and relieve the distress and trauma of anyone who has experienced or who is experiencing any form of sexual abuse or sexual violence." <p>In addition, counsellors and volunteers worked with clients to support them and prepare and deliver transition plans for individual clients and outreach groups. This was a key part of the planning and work undertaken to ensure the minimum distress and disruption to our service users and staff.</p> <p>On 15 October 2024, the Board of Trustees appointed Dr Nicky Shaw of Birchtree Associates, a consultant and specialist in the closure of charities and third sector organisations, to oversee the consultation process and the closure. An insolvency practitioner was not appointed because the decision to close was made at a juncture when there was not enough funds to sustain and secure the charity beyond February 2025, but sufficient funds to ensure</p>
--	--	---

		<p>staff would receive severance pay, to cover the closures costs, to meet the costs for client transfer and data retention, and to fulfil obligations to funders.</p> <p>The charity officially ceased providing services on 31 January 2025. On 31st March 2025, in line with Charity Commission guidance (How to close a charity - GOV.UK), CSASS applied to the Commission to remove CSASS from the register of charities. The Commission confirmed receipt of required documents to initiate the dissolution of the CIO and gave the provisional date of removal as 30th June 2025.</p> <p>On 23rd April 2025, CSASS' Bank accounts were closed.</p> <p>The CIO received notification of a Employment Tribunal (6012492/2025) claim on Friday 6th June 2025 via email to the Chair's personal address from Thompsons LLP Solicitors with the Notice and Hearing Bundle.</p> <p>Following a request from Thompsons Solicitors, the Charity Commission informed CSASS on 9th July 2025 that the application to dissolve the CIO had been suspended.</p> <p>On the 25th November 2025, CSASS was notified that the Employment Tribunal found in favour of the claimant.</p> <p>At the time of writing (22nd February 2026) the claimant's solicitors (Bruce Henry, Thompsons Solicitors) are seeking financial reimbursement from the Redundancy Payment Services. CSASS have continued to cooperate in all aspects of this process.</p> <p>The delay to submitting the Annual Return is because on 18th February 2025, in a telephone call between Molly from the Charity Commission and Nicky Shaw (Birchtree Associates, the consultant the charity hired to oversee the charity's closure) CSASS was given the following advice: To close, we have to update returns information. Given that we submitted the latest set of returns in January 2025, that the next submission is not due until January 2026, and that we have closed prior to January, 2026, we do not have to submit any further annual accounting or returns data for the FY</p>
--	--	--

		<p>2024/25 in January, 2026.</p> <p>Due to the unexpected delays to the removal of the CIO from the Register and after correspondence with Irma Narváez, a Charity Commission's Case Officer, we were informed on February 13th 2026 that the TARA was required. We have endeavoured to complete this in good faith and as promptly as possible, given that there are no longer any employed staff nor resources to undertake this work.</p>
--	--	---

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	See above. The CSASS closed its financial accounts on March 31st 2025 with no assets.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	N/A
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	N/A
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	See above regarding pending confirmation of removal from the registry.

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	
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	
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	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
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	1201913

number	
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	Dawn Llewellyn	Chair		
	2	Lorraine Pate			
	3	Hannah Georgious	Finance Committee		
	4	David Clough	Finance Committee		
	5	Joe Gavin	Safeguarding Lead		
	6	Jess Keady		March 24 – May 24	
	7				
	8				
	9				
	10				
	11				
	12				
	13				
	14				
	15				
	16				
	17				
	18				
	19				
	20				

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

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)		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details


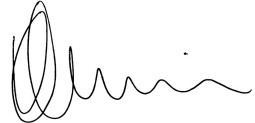
--

Other optional information

--

Declarations

Signature(s)

	
---	--

Full name(s)

Dawn Llewellyn	Hannah Georgious
----------------	------------------

**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair of Trustees	Finance Committee Trustee
-------------------	---------------------------

Date

22/03/26



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
4/1/2024


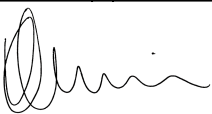
To

Period end date
3/31/2025

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	-	65,000	-	65,000	69,181
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	40,807	-	40,807	35,000
The National Lottery Awards for All	-	7,499	-	7,499	-
Police and Crime Commissioner Cheshire	-	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (NHS)	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Marjorie Boddy Trust	-	6,825	-	6,825	-
Co-Op Community Fund	-	-	-	-	3,362
Comic Relief	-	-	-	-	9,500
Earned Income	-	-	-	-	4,230
Donations, sponsorship and events	10,306	-	-	10,306	10931.23
Bank Interest	808	-	-	808	422.35
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,114	150,131	-	161,245	162,627
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,114	150,131	-	161,245	162,627
A3 Payments					
Rent	2,360	3,225	-	5,585	5,578
Insurance	-	1,075	-	1,075	1,000
Marketing	2,094	322	-	2,416	195
Staffing costs	20,163	97,801	-	117,964	142,994
Freelance Manager, Supervision and C	5,423	31,477	-	36,899	9,247
Training	1,020	480	-	1,500	2,238
Staff & Volunteer Expenses	583	1,802	-	2,385	2,250
Office expenses and misc	4,652	668	-	5,320	3,956
IT/phone and communications	989	13,171	-	14,160	16,860
Governance	1,011	125	-	1,136	50
Outreach Projects	-	-	-	-	2,772
Final Donations (TW and RASASC)	10,589	-	-	10,589	-
Sub total	48,886	150,146	-	199,032	187,139
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	48,886	150,146	-	199,032	187,139
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 37,772	- 15	-	- 37,787	- 24,513
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	37,772	15	-	37,787	62,300
Cash funds this year end	-	0	-	0	37,787

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	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Dawn Llewellyn	3/22/2026	
		Hannah Georgious	3/22/2026	



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 2025

**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 31/03/2025.

**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").

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.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. With the exception of the matters referred to in section B, 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 other 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:

22nd March 2026

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.

The charity formally closed on 31st March 2025. Prior to closure accounting records (including copies of invoices and other documents) were kept electronically using Xero online accounting software. Evidence of this was seen during the 2023/24 examination. Following closure there were no funds to maintain the online subscription and access was withdrawn. The charity attempted to obtain downloads of all the information held on Xero but were informed that this was not possible. The receipts and payments account has been re-created using bank statements and other available documents such as payroll records, but it has not been possible to verify payments to backing invoices etc. The trustees are happy that restricted funds are correctly accounted for as grant funding was reconciled, and where necessary approved by awarding bodies, prior to closure.