

PROJECT PEARL

Report and unaudited Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2023



Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered number: 1203506 (from 12 June 2023)

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Organisation Details

Name:	Project Pearl
Address:	Saint Philips Chapel Street 2 Wilton Place Salford M3 6FR
Telephone Number:	0161 8399709 (Saint Philips church office) 07902 449283 (Lizzy Robinson)
Email:	contact@projectpearl.org.uk
Website:	www.projectpearl.org.uk
Charity status:	The Charity Commission approved Project Pearl as a charity and it was entered onto the Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1203506 on 12 June 2023
Bankers:	Co-operative Bank Plc, Community Direct Plus account opened September 2023
Independent Examiner:	Knight Goodhead Limited 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 3DA

Trustees Report

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objects and purpose

The charity's Objects are: The relief of women involved in the sex industry who are in need by reason of financial hardship, ill-health, poverty and other disadvantage, through the provision of accommodation, counselling, advice and pastoral care, in partnership with other agencies, such as local authorities, local churches, and other charitable bodies. To advance the Christian faith by way of offering a Christian chaplaincy service to people affected by the sex industry and offering spiritual support by invitation; and to advance the education of the public in the issues surrounding women and the sex industry.

Project Pearl is a charitable project working alongside Saint Philips Chapel Street (Church of England), Wilton Place, Salford M3 6FR. The Project Pearl vision has grown out of several years of outreach work, led by the founder and Chair of Trustees, Lizzy Robinson, team co-leader at Saint Philips Chapel Street, along with volunteers from the church. They work with women who are involved in sex work and partner with organisations who also support women on the streets.

Overall vision

Our vision is to see women who feel trapped in the sex industry set free to step into their full potential for their future purpose in life in a world where sexual exploitation has been eradicated from both streets and screens.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a first step Christian-led 'home from home' sanctuary, a trauma-informed holistic support programme and a specialist chaplaincy outreach service, all providing practical and spiritual care for women who are working in and affected by the sex industry.

Our Aspirations

- To see women who feel trapped in the sex industry set free to step into their full potential.
- To provide compassionate care in an environment where the women can experience rest, recovery, restoration and reconnection.
- To enable and support the women to feel safe, valued, loved, supported, equipped, and empowered to rebuild their lives for the next step of independent living, free from constraints such as homelessness and substance abuse.
- To be a centre of excellence that draws on the experience, knowledge and expertise of recognised specialists and organisations in this complex field of work.
- To show Christian love, kindness, and justice in everything we do. We want the women to know they are loved by God and that they have a future purpose in life. We believe everyone is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

Our Ethos

Project Pearl is a charity founded on a Christian vision and driven by Christian values. The theologian Miroslav Volf writes that 'Christian faith will be an active faith, engaged in the world in a noncoercive way... To be engaged in the world well, Christians will have to keep one thing at the forefront of their attention: the relationship between God and a vision of human flourishing'. This Christian vision of human flourishing in an invitational, noncoercive way is the heart of Project Pearl.

The Christian values of love and compassion for the most marginalised in our society were the underlying principles of Jesus' ministry, and have been practised by many organisations throughout history. We are continuing this work, by aiming to assist in the relief of poverty of women wanting to leave the sex industry. As Jesus did, we will treat every woman as well as staff and volunteers with care and compassion, understanding that each one of them is loved unconditionally by their heavenly father.

Statement on Public Benefit

Project Pearl Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit throughout the process of establishing the organisation and also in planning the future activities. Project Pearl will bring benefits beyond the lives of individuals who progress through the programme by providing specialist services and accommodation which will ultimately reduce pressure on already stretched statutory services including the Police, the NHS and local homelessness services.

Activities during the year

There have been three main elements to our activities during the year: Governance; Research, particularly regarding sources of funding and providing accommodation for the women; and ongoing Outreach.

In terms of governance, the activities built on the work started previously by Elizabeth (Lizzy) Robinson, setting out her vision and organising a Core Group of professional Christian women with a range of skills and occupations that involve general education, safeguarding, partnership working, sexual health, and experience of working with sex workers. The group met three times this year to develop the Project. In addition, a board of Trustees was then recruited who also brought a wide range of skills including financial management, homelessness and housing experience, project management, safeguarding and more. The Trustees held three full Trustees' meetings during the year.

During the first half of the year, Trustee activity focussed on responding to queries from the Charity Commission relating to our application for charity registration which had been submitted in late December 2022. The application to become a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation was approved on 12 June 2023. There was a pause in Trustee activity and a reduction in outreach sessions during Summer 2023 due to Lizzy and Gareth Robinson being on sabbatical until September. Activity restarted on their return, and a bank account was opened with Co-op Bank in October 2023.

In 2023 the Trustees continued their research into possible options for acquiring a house to accommodate the women, meeting with a number of possible partners and funding organisations. Throughout the year, the Trustees met with organisations who are already supporting vulnerable adults around Greater Manchester, as well as individuals and

organisations who may be able to support financially. During the year, our Outreach has continued, with details in our Impact Report below.

Impact Report¹

In 2023 we engaged with more than 50 women working in the sex industry through our outreach work and pamper sessions. A team of 28 volunteers have supported the work in different ways, including 10 team members who have been recruited in line with safer recruitment guidance (in order to reduce the chance of recruiting people who may not be suitable to work alongside women at risk of harm). As well as initial training for our outreach team members, throughout the year we ran 3 further team training sessions including trauma informed working and good practice.

Outreach Sessions

In 2023 Project Pearl volunteers delivered a total of 51 outreach sessions. This included 26 street outreach sessions, 21 sauna/ parlour outreach visits and 4 centre-based drop-in pamper sessions. Trained outreach volunteers were able to identify and directly engage with sex workers in 'hotspot' areas in three boroughs of Greater Manchester. In total the team made 207 individual points of contact with women working in the sex industry.

Project Pearl volunteers provide responsive and effective support and signpost the women to appropriate partners when necessary (e.g. Police, health, local authority safeguarding teams). They quickly identify any immediate needs of the women they are working with, which are then assessed and dealt with as appropriate. They ensure compliance with appropriate Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

During the four pamper sessions delivered in 2023, women could have their hair cut, their nails done, or feet and hands massaged. These sessions provide a place of refuge, safety and peace where they can be pampered and talk with members of our team.

Bags of Hope and Basic Essentials

Bags of Hope is an initiative run by St Philip's Church offering a bag of 10 items including shampoo, shower gel and other hygiene products. For sex workers these Bags of Hope also include condoms. Bags of Hope offer dignity and are a practical way for the church and wider community to show care and compassion. In 2023, 411 Bags of Hope were distributed mainly through our Outreach sessions and through partner agencies such as MASH. Women supported by Project Pearl can also collect Bags of Hope and other supplies directly through the Foodbank and Drop-In operated by Saint Philip's Chapel Street once a week.

SIM Cards

Through the generosity of Vodafone we have received free SIM cards which offer 40GB of data for 6 months at no charge to the women. During 2023 we gave out 45 SIM cards to women through Project Pearl. These SIM cards mean the women are able to communicate more readily and consistently with support workers and agencies, increasing digital inclusion

¹ Please note that specific areas within Greater Manchester and the names of women have not been referenced in the report at this time given the sensitive nature of our work, the intelligence sharing with partner agencies and to protect our outreach workers, the women we work with and the communities they work and live in.

and access to information and help the women to feel safe as they are able to maintain regular contact with others.

Emergency Funds

Project Pearl has partnered with two organisations which have provided cash and purchased specific items when individual women have faced an immediate need. Project Pearl signposted 4 sex workers and between them St Philips Church and the charity Acts435 provided a total of £550 for the women to purchase items of need, including furniture and clothes.

Chaplaincy and Spiritual Wellbeing

This is an integral part of our outreach work, to offer chaplaincy and pastoral support to the women in a way that is open and accessible, inviting their engagement without coercion or obligation. This might mean spending time with women on street outreach, listening to the challenges and concerns shared and then offering to pray for them (and only pray if they are happy to do so); offering tea lights for the women to light as a prayer during the pamper sessions; and sharing about our Christian faith if and when the women ask questions about our personal motivations or the origins of Project Pearl.

Through these conversations, we have seen some of the women start to open up to us and begin to explore faith for themselves, with a small number of them starting to find support and community through local churches.

Partnerships

We have continued to build on our multi agency working and partnerships through this year to allow us to effectively signpost the women to agencies and organisations with whom we have an established relationship. This gives confidence to the women as well as the volunteers creating the connection.

Our partner agencies to whom we signpost women include those helping offer financial and debt advice; sexual health; drugs and alcohol; asylum; homelessness; modern slavery; mental health; and spiritual wellbeing. We have partnered with 9 different agencies to help connect and support women working as sex workers in 3 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Some words from a Project Pearl Outreach and Support Team Member

Over the past 2 years we have been working alongside M. When we first started to support her she was homeless and [her] relationships were very dysfunctional. M was also constantly on and off drugs and she was being exploited by males.

We referred M to Turning Point to help her with her drug and alcohol addiction. At first M would only engage with us [Project Pearl volunteers] and then disappear, she would call us or turn up at our Church Connect Group sporadically asking for a Bag of Hope. She loved being part of the group when she was there. Two years on she is now a regular member of the Church Connect Group and was baptised at Easter 2023.

Project Pearl- Trustees Report (cont'd)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

M now trusts other agencies and is in regular contact with Turning Point to help support her with her drug addiction. Through working with us and the other agencies she is now in sheltered accommodation for women. M is no longer working in the sex industry. She is now on a script and is getting the help she needs from Turning Point to get off the drugs. We are waiting to hear back from a drug rehab she wants to go into. M is also growing in her faith and says she is starting to love her life. At Christmas we did a pamper day for the sex workers, where she did voluntary work serving behind the café counter and loved every minute of it. We continue to support M. If Project Pearl was to have the house this would be the next perfect step for M.

Future Plans

The work from 2023 will continue, and we aim to recruit more volunteers and improve our training for effective practice.

Priorities for 2024 are to pilot a new drop-in for sex workers, meet once a term with a focus group of women with lived experience of the sex industry and to employ a part-time outreach worker, fundraiser and project manager.

Drop-ins

Our work has identified an additional area in Greater Manchester as a key geographical space where many of the women we have met either live or work. We aim to pilot a drop-in/ pamper session for sex workers there to develop and improve our one-to-one support for the women we meet on foot whilst on outreach. This will also be an excellent space to signpost the women and connect them with partner agencies – we are working with sexual health nurses and a drug and alcohol support charity so they can also be present at the Drop-In to support the women.

Focus Groups

The aim of these focus groups is to empower and hear from female sex workers with lived experience so that their thoughts and opinions can inform the development of the Project Pearl home. It will be important to hear their perspective so that the home can offer a safe place for those who want to leave the sex industry and function as an effective first step home-from-home. This is so that the work is done with the women, not just for them. We aim to meet alongside the women in this focus group every few months.

Identify and Purchase a House

A key part of our vision is to run this home-from-home, and work will continue to identify an appropriate house and partner charity with whom we can work. The intention is not for Project Pearl to own the house outright, but to lease a house from a partner charity. Finding the right house is important to allow the women to feel safe and close to the volunteer team who will be helping to run it.

Employment

This work described above has ratified the need for Project Pearl to be spun out into a separate, properly resourced charitable organisation, and looking forwards in 2024 we are seeking to take over this activity from St Philips by employing a part-time paid outreach worker.

For the house to be successful, funding needs to be secured so we are aiming to contract a fundraiser to help identify grant making bodies and develop a fundraising strategy for the charity.

Finally, to ensure smooth running and operational oversight we aim to use the fundraising strategy to help us employ a project manager.

Specific areas within Greater Manchester and the names of women have not been referenced in the report at this time given the sensitive nature of our work, the intelligence sharing with partner agencies and to protect our Outreach workers, the women we work with and the communities they work and live in.

Financial Review

During the year, we received small regular donations from two people, plus a one-off donation of £5,000 and two of £1,000. Several other donations and fundraising events took place during the year.

At the start of the year, all donations and any expenditure were held and transacted through a Restricted Fund in the bank account of St Philips, Chapel Street. Once our own bank account was set up, funds were transacted through that as far as possible although some transactions continue to go through St Philip's accounts.

Towards the end of the year, the Trustees agreed to hire an experienced fundraiser to help compile a Case for Support and Theory of Change documents, and to conduct Prospect Research. Should that be successful, then we have the option of asking this individual to make funding applications to some or all of the identified prospects. The Trustees consider this a valid use of reserves as significant, regular funding is required if we are to fulfil the Vision.

During the year, a volunteer updated our website www.projectpearl.org.uk at no cost to the organisation, although we incurred cost for the domain and hosting.

Net unrestricted income exceeded expenditure by £7,318 and at the end of the year we had £30,009 held in the General unrestricted fund.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have adopted a policy of having reserves no less than 3 months' worth of regular outgoings. As there are no regular outgoings at the moment, this has been maintained throughout the year under review.

Project Pearl- Trustees Report (cont'd)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Trustee information

The Trustees who have served at any time during the year are:

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Anne Robinson	Chair	21 October 2021
Rosalind Claire Holland	Trustee	21 October 2021
Donna Allen	Trustee	21 October 2021
Rev. Gareth Robinson	Trustee	21 October 2021
Stuart Robinson	Trustee	21 October 2021
Claire Otto	Trustee	8 February 2022

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The 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 state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

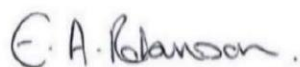
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed 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 operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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.

Accountants and Independent Examiner

The Trustees appointed Chris Goodhead FCA of Knight Goodhead Limited, 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 3DA as independent examiner.

Approved by the Trustees on 8th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Elizabeth (Lizzy) Robinson

Chair of Trustees

Project Pearl

Independent Examiner's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Project Pearl

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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. 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed



Chris Goodhead FCA

Knight Goodhead Limited
7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 3DA

7 May 2024

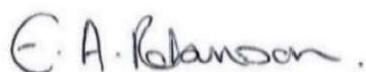
Project Pearl
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming Resources						
Regular giving		172			172	-
One off giving		7,485			7,485	23,816
Gift Aid receivable		279			279	-
Grant income		-			-	-
Events income		329			329	-
Total Income		8,265	-	-	8,265	23,816
Resources expended	2					
Raising funds		-			-	-
Charitable activities		257			257	-
Administrative costs		690			690	1,065
Other		-			-	60
Total expenditure		947	-	-	947	1,125
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		7,318	-	-	7,318	22,691
Transfer between Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		7,318	-	-	7,318	22,691
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		22,691	-	-	22,691	-
Total funds carried forward		30,009	-	-	30,009	22,691

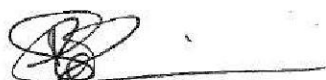
Project Pearl
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2023

	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	6	-			-	-
Investments		-			-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-	-
Current Assets						
Debtors and accrued income	7	618			618	22,691
Cash at bank and in hand		29,871			29,871	-
Total Current Assets		30,489	-	-	30,489	22,691
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(480)			(480)	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		30,009	-	-	30,009	22,691
Total assets less current liabilities		30,009	-	-	30,009	22,691
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		-			-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-			-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		30,009	-	-	30,009	22,691
Funds of the Charity						
General Funds		30,009			30,009	22,691
Designated Funds			-		-	-
Restricted Funds				-	-	-
Total funds		30,009	-	-	30,009	22,691

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Elizabeth (Lizzy) Robinson
Chair of Trustees



Stuart Robinson
Treasurer

1 Accounting Policies

a General

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

b Going concern

The Trustees have no reason to believe that Project Pearl will not continue to operate for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. Accordingly, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

c Fund accounting

General income funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

d Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided donations is accrued for on the donation date.

Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor has specified otherwise.

The Trustees operate a policy that any donations greater than £5,000 or where there is some doubt as to the source of funds will be subject to a Know Your Donor documented review. This was not needed during the year under review (2022: once).

e Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

f Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2 Analysis of Expenditure

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure Raising Funds					
Raising funds	-			-	-
Expenditure delivering the charitable activities					
Charity: Staff costs	-			-	-
Charity: Premises	-			-	-
Charity: Outreach	257			257	-
Administrative costs running the charity					
Admin costs	690			690	1,065
Other	-			-	60
Bank/ card charges	-			-	-
	947	-	-	947	1,125
Prior year fund split:	1,125	-	-		1,125

3 Staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages		
Social security costs		
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)		
Other employee benefits		
Total staff costs	-	-
Average number of employees	-	-

The charity did not have any employees during the year under review. No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more in the current or preceding accounting period.

Trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits in their capacity as Trustees in the year (2022: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses in their capacity as Trustees during the year (2022: £nil).

4 Related Party Transactions

During the year, one gift of £10 was received from one of the Trustees/ the Trustees' families (2022: £0).

During the period, the following expenses were reimbursed to Trustees out of General Funds:

	2023 £	2022 £
Elizabeth Robinson	60	115

At the start of this financial year the organisation was not a charity and, consequently, was not able to open a bank account. Following charity registration, a bank account was opened and funds that had previously been held on behalf of Project Pearl by the PCC of St Philip's, Chapel Street, Salford were received from them. Gareth Robinson (Trustee) is Rector and Lizzy Robinson (Chair) is Team Leader at St Philip's. Some donations are still being received into St Philip's bank account and are held in a Restricted Fund. They are transferred to Project Pearl's bank account on a regular basis. At the end of the year, funds due to Project Pearl from St Philip's were £113 (2022: £22,691).

Project Pearl
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

5 Independent Examination Fee

During the year, Project Pearl was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. Despite receiving gross income of £25,000 or less, the Trustees decided to carry out an independent examination of these financial statements even though by law it is not required.

A fee of £480 for Independent Examination was accrued. No other fees were paid for accountancy services during the year.

6 Fixed Assets

The organisation did not own any Tangible Fixed Assets or Investments at the year end.

7 Debtors and Accrued Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stock of donations	-	-
Accrued income	250	-
Amounts due from St Philips	113	22,691
Prepayments	255	-
Other Debtors	-	-
	618	22,691

8 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade Creditors	-	-
Accruals	480	-
	480	-

9 Post Balance Sheet events

There were no events between the year end and the date of approving these accounts that the Trustees consider would have a material impact on the reader's understanding of the performance and position of the charity.