



## **Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

*Registered company number: 01338724*

*Registered charity number: 276883*



### Philosophy Statement

#### ***Domestic Abuse is Unacceptable***

People who have experienced domestic abuse have been hurt and traumatised.

Children and Young People who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse have been hurt and traumatised.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse does not discriminate by gender, age, ability, financial status, sexuality, race or religion. Those affected by domestic abuse can find themselves existing in a world where they are isolated often frightened or hurt, their confidence and self-esteem have been undermined, where they lack control over who they see, where they go, what they do and their own money.

We recognise that every person has their own story and their own individual needs. When people are ready to reach out for help, we will work with them in partnership in a holistic, non-judgemental, caring and friendly way. We will take the time to listen as people tell us their stories. We will let them see that they have been not only listened to but heard.

We understand that to work with a person who has experienced domestic abuse we will need to provide a range of services to meet the needs of the whole person. Particularly support with their mental health and to rebuild their self-esteem. Where the person has needs that are complex, we will work in partnership with other organisations to provide individual person-centred packages of care and support.

We will work with a person, at their own pace. We recognise that not everyone is at the point where they are ready to leave an abusive relationship when they first make contact with us. We understand and support people who are terrified to stay, yet terrified to leave.

We understand that children and young people who have been victims of or who have witnessed domestic violence have been significantly damaged by their experiences. We will listen to children and young people, as we do to adults with empathy and sensitivity. We will make an individual package of care for each child which recognises their individual needs.

Where the risk of harm to a child or adult is high, we will work in partnership with the statutory agencies to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.

We provide a safe space for women and their children, who need to flee domestic violence, to live while we support them to rebuild their lives. We recognise the need to hold these women and children in a nurturing and friendly environment provided by a skilled staff team. We aim to support these women and children to recognise their strengths and to slowly enable them to re-build their self-esteem and confidence.

We understand some people do not need a place in a refuge when they leave an abusive relationship. They need support to enable them to stay safe, to understand what has happened to them and support to help them to begin to come to terms with these experiences. We also understand that they need a wide range of practical, housing and legal advice. Our aim is to work with the person to make a support plan and provide services which are right for them.

We support children and young people who have been abused or who have witnessed abuse to understand and talk about these experiences, to rebuild nurturing relationships with their parents or carers, to experience all kinds of play and to feel safe and secure. We understand how traumatic childhood events can have a lifelong impact on a person's feelings of self-worth and mental health.

We believe that individuals coming together with a shared understanding of what domestic abuse is, can work together to keep people safe and to advocate for the individual and for changes in society.

<b>Status</b>	Charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales Registered company number 01338724	
<b>Trustees and Directors</b>	Mrs M G Byrne Mrs C B Dye Mrs E A Larcombe Mrs F Harbron Mrs R Sayed Ms J A Burnett Mrs P J Leach Mrs S G Coe  Mrs H R Stammers Cllr D E Higgins Cllr N Iannelli-Popham	Chair person Vice-Chair person Treasurer Company Secretary <i>(Resigned 22 September 2022)</i>  <i>(Appointed 12 July 2021)</i> <i>(Resigned 14 February 2022)</i> <i>(Appointed 12 July 2021)</i> <i>(Appointed 12 July 2021)</i> <i>(Appointed 12 July 2021)</i>
<b>Governing document</b>	Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 14 November 1977 (amended in 2020)	
<b>Registered office address</b>	Eldo House Kempson Way Suffolk Business Park Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP32 7AR	
<b>Independent auditors</b>	Knights Lowe Limited Eldo House Kempson Way Suffolk Business Park Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP32 7AR	
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC Plc 54 Abbeygate Street Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1LJ	

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Philosophy Statement</b>	i
<b>Charity information</b>	ii
<b>Trustees Annual Report</b>	
Public benefit: Aims, objectives and functions	5
Our Patron - Jeannie Bloomfield	7
Chairperson's report	8
Principal Operations Manager's report	9
Service Manager's report	10
Finance report	11
Activities and services	13
Structure, governance and management	21
Statement of trustees responsibilities	22
<b>Report of the Independent Auditors</b>	23
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	26
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	27
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	29

The Trustees who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)."

## **Aims, objectives and public benefit**

### **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charities aims and objectives.

## **Aims and functions of Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid**

Bury St Edmund's Women's Aid Centre Ltd is both a Registered charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. There are currently nine Trustees of the Charity, who are also Directors of the Company. The Trustees, who are all volunteers with differing areas of experience and expertise, form a Management Committee that oversees the operation of the organisation.

Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre is a caring organisation that offers advice and support to anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse.

### **We Offer**

- We operate in the community from our Outreach Centre. At the Centre we offer both group and individual support. We offer a crèche so that children can be cared for while adults are having one to one support, counselling or attend groups. We also work one to one and with groups of children who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse. Our work with young people can take place at the Outreach Centre or in the community. Our Outreach Centre also operates a drop-in service and is a hub for our helpline service.
- We also offer Refuge accommodation to women\* and their children who are at a high risk of suffering harm as a result of domestic abuse. The Refuge is designed to offer a supportive friendly environment which will allow women and their children a safe space in which they can take time to begin the process of coming to terms with their experiences. We have space for up to 8 women and up to 15 children at any one time. A newly developed garden as a space to just be and experience the healing properties being in contact with what nature can provide.
- Family work with women to accept and move on from some of the children's more challenging behaviour. Intensive work with children to support them to rebuild nurturing relationships with their mothers. Support for younger children to 'catch up' with developmental milestones they may have missed. Support for young people who are feeling 'lost' having left behind their schools, friends, home and sometimes beloved pets.
- For all the people who use our service there are skilled workers who will listen and understand what people have experienced. Practical advice and support also signposting to financial, housing and legal services. We provide access to groups to enable people to be in a supportive environment as they explore their experiences. We provide access to counselling. A worker who will support the individual to make and work through a plan to keep themselves and any children they may have safe. We offer children and young people a safe space in which, as part of a group or one to one, they can talk about how they feel and their experiences.

## Aims and functions of Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid cont.

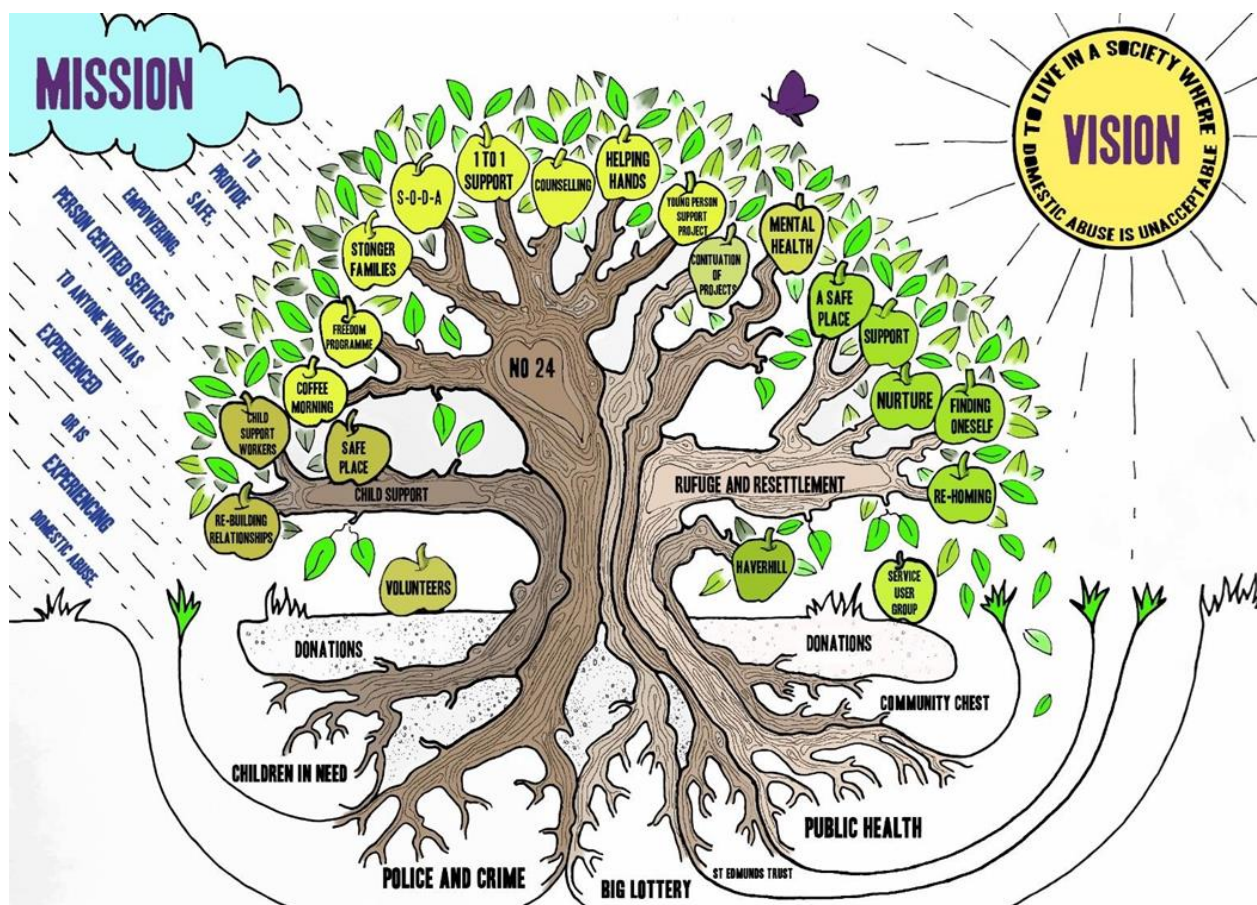
### We Seek

- In all the services we provide, to offer a high-quality service to everyone we work with. To remain aware that every person, who uses our service, is a unique individual and that it is our role to support and enable that person to begin to come to terms with experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse.
- To work in partnership with other statutory and voluntary organisations to provide the best possible service to all the people who are in contact or receiving a service from us. Also, we seek to build closer working relationships, after the period of Covid19, with these organisations.

### We Aim

- To remain a flexible, responsive organisation focused on the needs of the people, children and young people who use our service. We aim to learn from everything that has happened in the time of the pandemic to provide services in smart and innovative ways.

*\*The refuge is a service for females only, and males up to the age of 16, as is legislated for under the Equality Act 2010, Part 7, Paragraph 27 on single-sex spaces.*



**Vision:** To live in a society where domestic abuse is unacceptable.

**Mission:** To provide a safe, empowering and person centred service to anyone who has experienced or is experiencing domestic abuse.

**Values:** To work alongside people who have experienced domestic abuse with honesty, respect, trust and fairness.

## **Jeannie Bloomfield, Patron**



I have thought long and hard about my review this year, because there were so many things that I was impressed by.

The work at No. 24 never ceases to amaze me. It is such a hive of activity by so many caring staff and volunteers, especially on Thursday mornings, which I remember only too well when Tracy encourages everyone to make something. I still have this feathery creation hanging on my wardrobe door!

I have enjoyed giving talks and tea parties, to help spread the word about the invaluable work we do to raise awareness of survivors of domestic abuse. I have met many lovely people who have promised donations and offers of help.

I have written many letters seeking funding towards our much-needed laptops and other things. If you know of anyone who can help in this regard, please let me know.

Sue, our Principal Operations Manager, very kindly gave me a tour of the refuge, and to say I was impressed is an understatement. What an amazing place it is for victims and their children to come and know they will be safe and secure.

The last thing I would like to say is a very big thank you to each and every one of you. I see the look of dedication on the face of every staff member and volunteer, which shows it's not a job but a vocation. I have also seen the relief on our residents' faces knowing they are safe now, not merely in the refuge but in our care afterwards, for as long as they need it. As someone who has the T-shirt, I can tell you what this means, so thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

**Jeannie Bloomfield**  
**Patron**

## **Chairperson's report**



### **Friends, Colleagues, Donors and all associated with Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid**

I am going to take this opportunity to share with you an overview of our business aims and aspirations for the coming years.

Our Centre is a leading provider of Domestic Abuse support services in West and Mid Suffolk.

The organisation manages the only Women's Refuge and only Domestic Abuse Outreach Centre in West Suffolk. We provide high quality support services to people affected by Domestic Abuse, focusing on empowering Service Users and supporting them to make the changes which mean they can move on to live independent, safe and fulfilling lives free from Domestic Abuse.

We have positive and progressive relationships with our commissioners, service users, volunteers, funders, staff, statutory agencies and partner organisations.

We will ensure the sustainability of our organisation. This will be done through a review of the organisational milestones from the 2019-2021 Business Plan. Then setting the new milestones for the next 3 years. Our primary aims will be securing funding to:

- > Employ a mental health social worker.
- > Enable us to offer group work in Haverhill.
- > Offer a resettlement service for children and young people who are leaving the Refuge - ongoing project provided by the Refuge Team
- > continue to offer support to young people.

Longer term, the organisation will seek to build up a preventative approach, over several years, to reduce the number of people being assessed as at high risk. We will do this by raising awareness of domestic abuse throughout West and Mid Suffolk, offering more support to people to understand what a healthy relationship is.

We will focus on succession planning to ensure as a number of very experienced Trustees retire, their knowledge and experience is passed on to our new Trustees.

We will ensure our staff are supported to develop new skills they can offer the organisation. Also developing their confidence and competence as the organisation faces new challenges. In the future that all tasks are shared amongst the staff team so there is always cover for sickness, annual leave or unforeseen circumstances.

We are aware that we live in an uncertain world and to thrive as an organisation, now more than ever, we need be responsive and flexible to meet the challenges that are ahead.

We have a legal responsibility to keep up with current legislation and regulation on; immigration issues, safeguarding, equal opportunities, domestic abuse and data protection and GDPR requirements, ensuring compliance with all relevant aspects.

I hope you find this overview gives you an insight into our skills, knowledge and responsibilities to safeguard our families.

My sincere thanks for the tremendous work carried out by our team and the support provided by our Board of Trustees.

**Maureen Byrne**  
**Chair of Board of Trustees**

### **Principal Operations Manager's report**

Since I joined the team at Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid in November 2021 time has just flown by. I have welcomed the support and assistance from Hayley Pettitt our Support Services Manager.

This year has seen a rise in demand for our Outreach Services in Bury St Edmunds, with the numbers in Freedom Programme and Coffee Mornings growing. We have also been able to re-start SODA, Stronger Families, and Helping Hands, following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

In early March 2022 we received notification of our successful grant application to West Suffolk Community Chest to the sum of £16,225 to work, in conjunction with Haverhill Town Council and others working locally in Haverhill, to deliver the Freedom Programme, provide a weekly coffee morning, provide creche facilities and run a Stronger Families Programme. The funding has been approved for the financial year 2022/2023 and commenced on 1st April 2022.

In September we will be starting the new VOICE (Victims of Intimate Coercive Experience) Programme.

In the coming year we plan to look at new funding opportunities to help us promote the Refuge and our Outreach and Support Services, and get the message out to the wider community.

**Sue Ling**

**Principal Operations Manager's report**

### **Service Manager's report**

The past year has been a busy and productive time supporting our service users and engaging with partners and other stakeholders as we emerged from COVID restrictions. For our support services, we have been able to fully re-open our 8-bedroom refuge and have maintained a good occupancy rate. Our outreach centre has been utilised positively and we have some important changes coming up to develop its use further in the future.

A vital part of our work is safeguarding adults and children who access our support services. As the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the management team, I have attended refresher training and continued to support the staff team with supervision, reflection, review, and training opportunities. The staff team have taken up training opportunities in mental health, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), stalking awareness, updates to the new non-fatal strangulation law, working with male victims of Domestic Abuse, Freedom Programme and VOICE, trauma informed practice and Signs of Safety. We also have a record amount of staff and volunteers who have completed the Domestic Abuse Champions training and are able to proudly wear their lanyard to support, signpost and advise. Over this time, we have also established a monthly safeguarding meeting with local schools to ensure continuity of safeguarding for our children.

We have continued to build on our multi-agency working in both statutory and voluntary sectors. Partnership working with West Suffolk Council, Havebury, Suffolk Constabulary, Public Health, The Police & Crime Commissioner and Social care departments across various local authorities as some examples. We have also held a range of meetings with local charities and services including Suffolk MIND, Bury Drop-In, Gatehouse, Suffolk Survivors Network and Families Together to name a few.

The staff team have reviewed and contributed to reviews of our internal processes and we have undertaken consultation with service users to continually aim to improve our services to them. The development of information sharing boards via an app called PADLET, has meant we have been able to keep services users of our programmes such as the Freedom Programme, Helping Hands, Stronger Families and our Youth Project up-to-date in a secure way.

Volunteers have been an essential part of building our support services and I wish to thank every volunteer who has assisted us with fundraising events, running our coffee mornings, tidying and managing our donations centre and buddying with families who move to the refuge from out of area. We are so grateful and have an exciting training and events plan coming up in the future in order to support all volunteers and show them how valued their contribution is to our charity.

We look forward to continuing to develop our support services to reach a wider and more diverse sector of survivors/victims of domestic abuse in West and mid-Suffolk.

**Hayley Pettitt**  
**Service Manager**

## Finance report

During the year, 2021/22, the Charity's finances have been affected both negatively, by ongoing challenges posed by Covid-19 restrictions and higher levels of infection, and latterly, positively with success in accessing new sources of grant income to help fund new outreach and service initiatives being delivered in the coming months.

Whilst refuge funding was significantly lower in the first quarter due to reduced levels of occupancy before covid restrictions were eased, that recovered from July as occupancy returned to a more normal operational level. Outreach work was similarly affected at times during the year although access to covid recovery funding allowed for additional support programmes to help reduce waiting lists.

We remain very grateful for the fantastic support received from our main funders, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk County Council Public Health as well as Suffolk Community Foundation, West Suffolk and Bury St Edmunds Town Councils, BBC Children in Need, and the incredible generosity of other grantors, many members of the public and local companies.

Due to that support and careful cost management, the result for the year shows an overall modest surplus of £5,817 much better than expected earlier in the year. In addition, and again due to the wonderful support of local companies, we have had installed in the garden a new cabin - a chill zone specifically for teenagers staying at the refuge, and a brand new charity website .

Income and expenditure for the 12 months to 31st March 2022 amounted to:

Income	<b>£404,266</b>	(2021: £380,445)
Expenditure	<b>£398,449</b>	(2021: £358,451)

In the main Refuge accommodation is funded from Housing Benefit which for 2021/22 amounted to £109,483 on an occupancy rate for the year of 75.9%, well below budget. In addition, Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre continues to receive financial support from Suffolk County Council Public Health Directorate for our Refuge services by way of a support grant of £81,368.

Our outreach services and project work are mostly funded by grants and donations. Grant income amounted to £155,362 and comprised:

<b>Grants</b>	<b>£</b>
BBC Children in Need - Children's support workers staff costs	29,140
Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner - Resource centre outreach funding	72,500
St Edmunds Trust - Mental Health Support	22,315
Anglia Care Trust - Hidden Groups grants	4,000
Covid-19 emergency funding from the following:	
Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner Covid-19 funding and Critical Support recovery grants	5,407
Funding for projects - Replacement vehicle :	
Bury St Edmunds Town Council	9,000
Bury St Edmunds Rotary Club	1,000
Funding for Child and Young persons Support Project	
West Suffolk Council - Community Chest Grant	12,000
	<b>£ 155,362</b>

## Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre Limited

Registered company number: 01338724

### Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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Donations received throughout the year amounted to £46,270 including Gift Aid. These are broken down as follows;

	£
Restricted Donations	23,448
Unrestricted Donations	21,021
Gift Aid	1,801
	<hr/>
	<b>£ 46,270</b>

### Gifts in kind

During the year the Charity received two very generous gifts in kind which have been valued and included in the financial statements as part of restricted donations as follows:

	£
Belway Homes Ltd supplied and installed a wood cabin in the refuge garden	6,000
Toolbox Marketing Group designed and commissioned our new website	2,500
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	<b>£ 8,500</b>

### Intangible income - Voluntary staff

The charity remains dependent on services provided by volunteers. Without these volunteers, wage costs would be much higher and we are very thankful for the time volunteers give to the Charity.

The value provided by volunteers is not costed for the purposes of these financial statements.

### Reserves Policy

The Charity's reserve policy is to hold unrestricted net current asset reserves equivalent to four to six months of projected operating costs to cover any temporary shortfall in cash flow that may occur due to the timing of receipts.

Unrestricted net current assets at the end of the financial year were £187,857 (2021: £201,265).

As of 31 March 2022, reserves cover was 5.2 months. This is down from that in 2021 (6.3 months) which was unusually high due to unexpected and generous discretionary income received very close to the year end which pushed closing reserves just over the policy threshold.

### Auditor

Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid's accounts are audited by Knights Lowe of Bury St Edmunds and I propose that the Refuge continues to use their service as our charity auditor.

### Future Plans

The primary aims are to ensure current services are fully funded, and we are able to increase our capacity to deliver those services. Specific to that, funding has been secured to start delivering outreach services in Haverhill from May 2022 and to recruit a support worker with mental health experience to enhance our adult services. We also continue to look for opportunities to increase our work with teenagers and young adults looking to secure additional funding in the current year.

As always, we thank all who have supported the Refuge in helping us meet our financial commitments. This year has been no exception with generous cash donations, Christmas gifts, toys, toiletries, clothes and Easter eggs. We have been overwhelmed by people's generosity.

Finally, I wish to thank my colleagues and our trustees who have supported me in my role this year.

**Derek Gadd**  
**Finance Officer**

## Activities and services

### Refuge Support Service

Our role as refuge support workers is to provide support to the women as they come into refuge and during their stay with us.

A house meeting is run every Wednesday morning enabling our residents to discuss any issues, arrange support appointments with us, and to enjoy a cup of tea and biscuit! We have weekly one to one support sessions with each resident to support with topics like finances, benefits, GP registrations, legal issues and health and wellbeing. We support residents to explore the local area by providing maps of the local parks, local shops and things to do.

We also support with making links within the community, for example accessing courses at West Suffolk College.

An important part of our role is to be available to speak to our residents whenever they need us.

### Lauren and Victoria Refuge Support Workers

### Outreach Service

#### Outreach Support

The most effective change we have made this year is implementing a new triage system, so now when referrals are taken or a helpline call comes directly from the client they are booked in to see an outreach worker for either a face to face appointment or a phone call. We are then able to assess their immediate support needs; this could be anything from housing, legal assistance, reporting to the police, emotional support or referring to a outside agency.

We have also been able to support many of the outreach clients with our cold weather scheme and the Household Support Grant this year, which has been a great help with the rise in the cost of living.

In the spring of 2022 we welcomed new member of staff, Bea, to the outreach team . She will be working with clients and residents in the Refuge, specialising in mental health support.

#### Coffee Morning

Our coffee morning is run to reduce isolation for women and to make their own friendship groups. The coffee morning has gradually built back to pre-COVID levels. This is now run as a hybrid session online and in the room. The coffee morning presents a safe place for mums to talk about their experiences without being judged. Also allowing them to have a chance to talk with other adults as their children are looked after by the child support workers. We have cake made for us by Tina each week.

We have topics of conversation each week. The topics of conversation vary from week to week. Topics which have been covered recently are hairy legs, weak bladders, gas lighting, hoovering, tree of life, grieving and domestic abuse and many more topics.

### **Freedom Programme**

We are run two Freedom Programmes here at number 24. We have worked hard as a team to make sure that the Freedom Programme has continued to be accessible to all; we have introduced hybrid programs, so the clients can either attend in person at the centre or online via Zoom. We have worked on updating the Freedom Programme, adding power points to help us present using relevant up to date examples of domestic abuse whilst still educating the women on the core subject of living with the dominator and what the early warning signs of abuse are.

We have also constructed a Freedom Padlet. This enables the women to re-cap at any time any of the subjects we have covered; it is filled with useful information and videos that relate to each topic that is covered. The ladies receive a link to the Freedom Padlet at the beginning of the course and are still able to access it after they have completed, enabling them to look back at any time.

I have enjoyed the last year of facilitating the Freedom Programme, my favourite is always the last one when we ask how to spot an early warning sign of each personality trait and they really ace it. The feeling of knowing you are helping women to make more informed choices is priceless.

### **Healthy relationships (Hidden Groups)**

I started a group for ladies with learning difficulties within the last year. It is a small select group and we meet every week for a 90 minute session. Each session is very lively, I have adapted to their unique needs. No participant in this group learns the same way as another, it can be challenging and repetitive but the change in the clients is amazing.

We have covered many subjects around boundaries and how to set them, looked at what is a healthy relationship, how to stay safe in your own home, and how to say no.

The group has mixed well together and now openly talk through subjects with my guidance. They can now make positive life choices when in scary situations. We often chat through scenarios of how they would respond if an ex-partner was to be outside their home shouting at them and over the weeks the response has improved.

This is a unique group and I really enjoy my Thursday afternoons with them, I am very proud of the art work that has been displayed in the upstairs education room that was completed by the group.

I hope to expand this group this year and continue to work towards helping all women to make safer choices.

**Tracy Harvey**

**Outreach Support Worker**

### **Young Person's Support**

This last year has been busy one for our Young Persons Programme and has seen Louise Mullan come on board to support me with our Young Persons Outreach. Coming out of the pandemic, we have taken several referrals from schools and colleges across West Suffolk and Haverhill which have resulted in us offering more one to one support within schools, as well as small group programmes around healthy and unhealthy relationships. As part of this process, we have developed some great working relationships with school staff and have been liaising with the Mental Health in Schools team in order support those with needs that can't be met by the PHSE curriculum.

Alongside this I have spent much time networking and connecting with agencies to promote our organisation and the services we offer. Over the last 12 months I have been working closely with Student Welfare at West Suffolk College and have been on site on many occasions to talk to students about healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent. This has received very positive feedback and further work within the college is being discussed. Earlier this year I teamed up with Terence Higgins Trust to deliver some workshops around healthy sexual relationships and as a result have built up a good partnership and an opportunity for further joint working.

One of the biggest achievements this year and one I am most proud of is our role within the new Multi-Agency Road Show (MARS) headed up by the Early Help Team as part of the Local Authority. Despite the pandemic and other obstacles that have often come our way, I have been determined to carve a space for our Young Person's Project, within a larger arena, one which can support our work but also aid future funding bids for us to continue this much needed education and prevention. At this point I am pleased to say, this hard work has finally paid off, and we now have our first secondary school 'Enrichment' day to attend, alongside Terence Higgins Trust, Criminal Exploitation, Cyber Crime Unit, Turning Point, and the School Nursing Team. Whilst the first event will be very much a 'finding our feet' exercise, the plan moving forward is for Women's Aid, as part of this team to offer every secondary school across West Suffolk, Haverhill, and Forest Heath a roadshow experience day and following this, a referral system for targeted work, small group work and one to one support, as and when required.

Although I am incredibly sad to be leaving the team this summer, I believe the most challenging part has been achieved. I have established a good foundation in which to develop the role even further and I am confident, moving forward, I am leaving the project in good hands.

**Rachael**

**Young Person's Support Worker**

## **Children's Service**

Wow! Another year has passed us and as always, the Child Support Workers have been busy!

Our aim is to make the children's stay as enjoyable as possible, to build strong and secure bonds to restore the children's confidence, self-esteem and development through play and planned sessions whilst in our care.

Our usual sessions of After School Club, Well-being Wednesdays, Talking and Drawing ,1:1 sessions and Freedom, SODA and Coffee Morning childcare are all ongoing.

This year we ran a Stronger Families Programme for children aged 9-11 years. The feedback we had from the mothers states the children are more confident in dealing with their emotions and feelings. The mothers also said they gained knowledge from the weekly meetings that they engaged in. We also ran a Helping Hands group, an alternative to Stronger Families, for younger children.

From running the two courses over the year we have felt that, as the child support workers, we would like to have more time with outreach and resettlement of children. Our new plan is to start drop-in art craft sessions at No. 24 half termly which can be accessed by all resettlement and outreach children.



**Jabba The Hut-** we now have an older children's room in the garden, this will help the older children to have space in the busy house, also a space to have quiet time or space to do their homework.



During the long school summer holidays we have planned for all the families a trip to the beach, family cook days with Outdoor Explore, an art session with Crafty Foxes, ten pin bowling, cinema, and the splash park too.

**Sarah and Louise**  
**Child Support Workers**

## Resettlement Service

The Resettlement Service supports women and children living in the Refuge with their housing needs both past and present. The service aims to empower the women and children as they prepare for their new beginning.

While the women are living at the refuge they have access to the resettlement service and the support will continue when they move on for as long as they need it, which is usually up to a year after they leave. The Resettlement Worker will work with the women to assess each woman's wishes for when she leaves the Refuge – does she wish to return to the area she has fled, or settle elsewhere? If she wishes to return to her property the Resettlement Worker will put her in contact with a local solicitor so that appropriate legal steps can be taken to allow the woman and her children to return safely. If she wishes to move to a new property the Resettlement Worker will support the woman to apply for housing in the area she wishes to restart her life.

The Resettlement Worker will then work with the woman on the practicalities of leaving one location and moving to another. The Resettlement Worker will begin this process by looking at any debts the woman may have incurred that may prevent her moving forward – for example rent arrears. She will support the woman to set up utilities and source household furniture and goods when required, she also organises safe collection of her belongings from her property if appropriate. Once the resident has found a new home the Resettlement Worker will ensure appropriate safety measures are in place and that they are in touch with services in the community – for example both the woman and her children are registered with the local GP. The resettlement service will offer on-going emotional support, advice and guidance until such time that it is no longer needed.

The Resettlement Worker facilitates a drop-in Coffee morning that all of the women are invited to attend; this provides peer support and reduces isolation and promotes confidence and well-being. As COVID restrictions are being lifted the isolation of clients moving out of the refuge is being reduced.

### Case study, M

M moved to the area from another refuge. M moved to a new area with no connections and no furniture. When I met M for the first time, she had just a blow-up mattress, kettle and a microwave for herself and her son.

I used the store cupboard at No. 24 to obtain items for M. I applied to the local LWA (Living Without Abuse) to get white goods. Also sourcing furniture from local churches in the area she had moved to. Within three weeks we had to manage to source beds, white goods and sofas for the family.

The next step was to reduce M and her child's isolation in the area. I linked in with the local children's Centre, also help mum find a local nursery.

Once we had her son in nursery and she was familiar with the area, we looked at what job she would like to do. M wanted to work in a nursery setting. We spoke with the local nursery and got her some volunteer work, which has led to a job.

**Kay**  
**Resettlement Support Worker**

## Highlights

- \* Another amazing Christmas Dinner cooked by Jess at Samu Kitchen
- \* Christmas lights at Ickworth – just beautiful! It was lovely to see the wonder on the children's faces!
- \* Our Teen Hut was delivered, wired up, and prepared for use.
- \* Covid restrictions have been lifted, enabling us all to work together again, and open our Outreach Centre once more.
- \* Our children have been on some lovely trips, funded by some of our regular supporters and donors.
- \* Our website was updated by the lovely Kim at Toolbox, it now has a much more modern, fresh feel!

## Feedback from Clients

I am forever grateful to you because you took me from such a dark place

Lauren you are a star.

I love all the staff you have been like my family while I'm here.

You have helped me from getting a bank account to benefits. Thank you Lauren you have been a star xx

Thank you all so much for everything you have done for me and my children, you have all been amazing, caring and friendly. I appreciate you all from the bottom of my heart, I wouldn't know where I would be without you.

This is just to say a huge thank you for all the care and support you have given my daughter and grandchildren. Due to this she has been able to move on and start a new life.

I am unable to put into words just how grateful I am for all your ongoing support, help and advice. Thank you for all your love and understanding. We think the world of you.

You've changed every single one of our lives for the better, the days out are such an unexpected bonus. The community created is simply beautiful.

You have given us the opportunity to have a joyful, fun exciting Christmas with no worries or fear.

Sarah and Louise, thank you for all your time, patience and understanding, also helping me be my best so I can be a good mum.

I'm free to be me.

Thank you for all the nice trips and helping us get a house.

I feel I am a million miles away from the woman who walked in here.

This is the place that brings me the most joy and peace.

## Acknowledgements

A huge Thank You to all of our supporters, big and small, local and further afield, who have donated money, time and many lovely items!

Our Volunteers	Rickshaw Riders
Aquarius Singers	Round Table
Belway Homes	Tesco
Bury Lions	The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal (BEFA)
Bury Rotary	Theatre Royal
Cook (frozen food)	Toolbox
Field of Dreams	Tostock Animal Park
Gatehouse	Unite the Union
Green Light Trust	Vineyard Church
HC3	Waitrose
Ickworth House	Wooster's Bakery
Jess at Samu Kitchen	
Kids Out	
Lloyds Bank Foundation	

We particularly wish to thank our major funders:



We would also like to thank our donors who choose to remain anonymous. Without the continued support of our donors, we would not be able to offer the high level of services and support to the people that need them.

If you would like to donate in any way, please visit our website

[www.burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk](http://www.burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk)  
<https://www.justgiving.com/bse-womensaid/>

or call us on 0330 551 9495

## **Volunteers needed**

If you'd like to volunteer with our organisation please have a look at our Padlet:  
<https://padlet.com/BSEWomensAid/Volunteers>

## **Website**

Stay up to date with our news and events at: [www.burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk](http://www.burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk)

[Twitter:](#)



[Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BSEwomensaid](https://www.facebook.com/BSEwomensaid)

## **Speaking engagements**

Interested in hearing more about our work? We are happy to provide a speaker for your organisation or group, please email at [admin@burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk)

## **Current services**

We provide many services which are accessed by women (and some men) from the local community and from outside Suffolk:

**23-bed Refuge**  
**Telephone Advice Helpline**  
**Outreach Service**  
**12-week Freedom Programme**  
**Survivors of Domestic Abuse (SODA)**

**Male Victim Support**  
**Resettlement Support**  
**Child Therapy Service**  
**Counselling Service**  
**Weekly Coffee and Craft Morning**

## **Future plans**

The issue of Domestic Abuse has received a great deal of publicity during the past few years and our organisation, together with the sector in general, will need to be responsive to potential significant change in the way services are delivered.

The Domestic Abuse Act has now passed into law. This Act places new responsibilities on Local Authorities and Housing Organisations and we are assessing how best we flex our services to respond effectively to the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Support Strategy recently produced by Suffolk County Council, under which we shall tender in Autumn 2022.

Key elements to the Support Strategy include an integrated approach to support delivery across the local sector and collaborative working, and we continue to reach out to our partner organisations, statutory and voluntary, to rebuild the links we have within the sector and more widely with the community to move forward as an organisation which is embedded in the community it serves.

We recognise the value that volunteers bring to an organisation and also the life changing effect volunteering can provide for individuals and we continue to pursue our volunteering programme.

## **Structure, governance and management**

### **Governing document**

The company is registered with the Charity Commission (no. 276883) and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 14 November 1977 (amended in 2020).

It is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. The liability of the Members on a winding up is limited to £1.

The Company's Council of Management (Trustees) appoints staff who look after the day to day running of the organisation.

### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

It is policy that all Members of the Council of Management shall be both Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Company.

Trustees retire in rotation and may offer themselves for re-election by the charity's members at the Annual General Meeting. The Council may appoint a member to serve on the Council of Trustees to fill a casual vacancy or to add to their number. The minimum and maximum number of Trustees is determined by the members at General Meeting and is currently 7 and 12 respectively.

There are currently 9 Trustees.

Trustees who served during the year and since are shown on the charity's information page (page ii).

### **Induction and training of new Trustees**

Potential new Trustees are invited to attend monthly Trustee meetings before they are appointed in order to familiarise them with the overall operation and oversight of the charity. Induction includes at least one visit to the Refuge and such support as is required depending on experience.

### **Remuneration policy**

The Trustees review scale point progression and hence remuneration of all staff on at least an annual basis. Scale structure and pay rates are aligned with those published by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

### **Statement of trustees responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

*M G Byrne*

.....

**Mrs M G Byrne - Trustee**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

### **In our opinion the financial statements:**

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAS (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAS (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### **Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements ; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the companies operating sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;

- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias;
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions; and
- investigated the company's apportionment of housing income, grants, and other main sources of income.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators [Charity Commission] and the company's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

KNIGHTS LOWE

### **Knights Lowe Limited**

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Eldo House

Kempson Way

Suffolk Business Park

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

IP32 7AR

Date: 30 . 9. 2022

**Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre Limited**

Registered company number: 01338724

**Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**

**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	2022			2021		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>							
Donations and legacies		21,611	24,659	46,270	36,178	11,779	47,957
Fund raising events		1,196	-	1,196	365	-	365
<b>Charitable activities</b>	3						
Operation of the Centre		120,021	-	120,021	94,445	-	94,445
Support services		81,368	155,362	236,730	84,663	152,790	237,453
<b>Investment income</b>							
Bank deposit interest		49	-	49	225	-	225
<b>Total income</b>		<b>224,245</b>	<b>180,021</b>	<b>404,266</b>	<b>215,876</b>	<b>164,569</b>	<b>380,445</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4						
Provision of short-term accommodation		105,537	26,030	131,567	89,953	27,300	117,253
Support services for residents		143,460	123,422	266,882	117,866	123,332	241,198
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>248,997</b>	<b>149,452</b>	<b>398,449</b>	<b>207,819</b>	<b>150,632</b>	<b>358,451</b>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME</b>	6	<b>(24,752)</b>	<b>30,569</b>	<b>5,817</b>	<b>8,057</b>	<b>13,937</b>	<b>21,994</b>
Transfer between funds	16	9,467	(9,467)	-	16,657	(16,657)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(15,285)</b>	<b>21,102</b>	<b>5,817</b>	<b>24,714</b>	<b>(2,720)</b>	<b>21,994</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>							
	16						
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>269,837</b>	<b>47,350</b>	<b>317,187</b>	<b>245,123</b>	<b>50,070</b>	<b>295,193</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>254,552</b>	<b>68,452</b>	<b>323,004</b>	<b>269,837</b>	<b>47,350</b>	<b>317,187</b>

**CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 29 to 39 form part of these financial statements

**Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre Limited**

Registered company number: 01338724

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022**

		2022			2021		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>							
Intangible assets	12	2,240	-	2,240	-	-	-
Tangible assets	13	64,455	-	64,455	68,572	-	68,572
		66,695	-	66,695	68,572	-	68,572
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>							
Stocks	14	-	1,570	1,570	-	2,770	2,770
Debtors	14	6,022	30,980	37,002	7,424	22,923	30,347
Cash at bank and in hand		190,547	45,237	235,784	207,148	22,992	230,140
		196,569	77,787	274,356	214,572	48,685	263,257
<b>CREDITORS</b>							
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(8,712)	(9,335)	(18,047)	(13,307)	(1,335)	(14,642)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		187,857	68,452	256,309	201,265	47,350	248,615
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		254,552	68,452	323,004	269,837	47,350	317,187
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	16	254,552	68,452	323,004	269,837	47,350	317,187

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and,

preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes on pages 29 to 39 form part of these financial statements

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 22 September 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

*M G Byrne*

.....

**Mrs M G Byrne -Chair**

## **1 LEGAL FORM**

The Charity is a private charitable company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is shown in the Trustees Report (Directors Report). Due to the nature of the Charity's operations, exemption has been taken on disclosing the principle operating address.

## **2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are reported in GBP Sterling.

### Significant judgements and estimates

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, which are described below, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimated and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revision to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

### Critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in applying the Company's accounting policies

The following are critical judgements including those involving estimations, that the Directors have made in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

### Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are recognised at cost and depreciated on the basis appropriate to charge to the income statement the economic consumption of those assets during the accounting period. The charge is calculated as described below and is based on the Directors knowledge of the reduction in the residual value of each class of asset. The rates of depreciation are kept under review such that assets are written down to their residual value at the end of their economic lives.

### **Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions**

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

### **Incoming resources**

#### Donations and gifts

All monetary donations and gifts are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable, provided that there are no donor-imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the pre-condition has been met.

#### Gifts in kind

Non-monetary gifts with an estimated value of over £200 and donated to the Charity for use by our beneficiaries or for administering and promoting our work are valued and included in the Statement of Financial Activities at the in use value to the charity. Such gifts are recorded as restricted donations and capitalised or included as a revenue expense as appropriate.

#### Intangible income

Intangible income is valued and included in income to the extent that it represents goods or services that would otherwise be purchased. An equivalent amount is charged as expenditure. Voluntary help is not included as income.

#### Grants receivable

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with, unless relating to a specified future period, in which case income is deferred accordingly.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. When projects are completed fixed assets are transferred to the general fund and depreciation is charged as stated below.

### **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred and allocated between:

- expenditure incurred on charitable activities being mainly the costs associated with running the refuge and Resources Centre including direct and support costs;
- governance costs in overseeing the charity and safeguarding its assets and primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and comprise the audit fee;
- support costs being indirect expenditure which is allocated to central functions on a basis consistent with the use of those resources.

The apportionment of charitable expenditure between the main activities of provision of short-term accommodation and client and residents support services, is made according to the underlying use of the resources and shown in detail under note 4 to the financial statements.

### **Tangible and intangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Security and outdoor equipment	- 10% on cost
Office equipment	- 25% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 33% on reducing balance
Household equipment	- 33% on cost

Assets costing more than £200 are capitalised.

Intangible fixed assets are amortised over the estimated useful life of those assets being five years or 20% on cost.

### **Stocks**

Goods held to assist the resettlement of residents moving on from refuge accommodation, and provided as part of charitable activities free of charge, are measured at net realisable value based on the service potential provided by items of stock. In practice this means stock is held at cost less any impairment necessary to write down to net realisable value provided to beneficiaries.

### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

### **Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Pension costs are analysed across activities and funds, both restricted and unrestricted, pro rata to that of the underlying staff costs in accordance with the purpose of, and restrictions on each activity and fund.

### **Financial assets and liabilities**

All financial assets and liabilities are basic short term financial instruments and accounted for at cost less provision for non-recovery where applicable. These comprise non-trade debtors and creditors realisable within one year.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises short term bank and cash deposits none of which have restricted access terms.

### **Going concern**

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Charity will continue to operate in accordance with its Objects for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

As disclosed in note 11, uncertainty exists regarding Resources Centre funding - our core grant for outreach services has been reduced significantly, albeit our grantor has given an undertaking to provide such funding until 31 March 2025 - and a key grant providing about a third of the finance for refuge services. The latter is opening for tender for service provision for the 3 years from April 2023.

Continuity of service provision depends on the availability of sufficient funding, and this has yet to be fully established for the ensuing year. Reserves are sufficient to finance the potential shortfall during and for over six months beyond the current funded period and, given the continuing need for the Charity's services, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will secure funding and remain a going concern for at least the next 12 months.

**3 INCOME FORM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accommodation charges:			
- Housing benefit	Operation of the Centre	<b>109,483</b>	84,095
- Residents rent and household income	Operation of the Centre	<b>10,092</b>	8,426
Sundry income	Operation of the Centre	<b>446</b>	1,924
		<b>120,021</b>	94,445
Public Health & Protection grants	Support services	<b>81,368</b>	84,772
Other grants	Support services	<b>155,362</b>	152,681
		<b>236,730</b>	237,453
		<b>356,751</b>	331,898

**Grants received, included above, are as follows:**

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
BBC Children in Need - Children's support workers staff costs		<b>29,140</b>	30,461
Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner - Resource centre outreach funding		<b>72,500</b>	60,000
St Edmunds Trust - Mental Health Support	Refuge & outreach	<b>22,315</b>	-
Anglia Care Trust - Hidden Groups grants	Outreach	<b>4,000</b>	-
<u>Covid-19 emergency funding from the following:</u>			
Suffolk Community Foundation through the following funds:			
Suffolk Coronavirus Community Fund	Outreach	-	5,000
Hopkins Charitable Fund	Outreach	-	4,500
Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner Covid-19 funding and Critical Support recovery grants	Outreach	<b>5,407</b>	18,920
Arco (Bury St Edmunds) Coronavirus Community Grant	Outreach	-	1,000
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Covid-19 Emergency Support Fund	Refuge & resettlement	-	11,140
Tesco's Bags of Help	PPE	-	500
National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund	Child support	-	2,000
<u>Funding for projects - New vehicle (2021: Garden refurbishment):</u>			
Bury St Edmunds Town Council		<b>9,000</b>	5,000
Bury St Edmunds Rotary Club		<b>1,000</b>	-
West Suffolk Council - Councillors Locality budgets		-	2,250
Suffolk County Council Cllr's D Roach and K Soons		-	2,250
Lord Belstead Charitable Settlement		-	2,000
<u>Funding for Child and Young persons Support Project</u>			
West Suffolk Council - Community Chest Grant		<b>12,000</b>	-
Suffolk Community Foundation through the following funds:			
East Anglian Co-operative Community Cares Fund		-	4,600
Other grant received		-	1,000
Bury St Edmunds Town Council Cllr's D Higgins and N Iannelli -Popham		-	2,060
		<b>155,362</b>	152,681

#### 4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURE

The charity undertakes direct charitable activities only and does not make grants.

	Provision of short-term accommodation	Support services	Total
	£	£	£
Rent and rates	21,779	29,369	51,148
Utilities	10,948	3,454	14,402
Household expenses, furnishings and equipment	10,861	2,673	13,534
Motor expenses	3,185	1,592	4,777
Clients, support, recreation and hospitality	7,114	7,114	14,228
Depreciation / amortisation (excluding office equipment)	7,710	3,855	11,565
Support costs (see note 5)	69,970	218,825	288,795
<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>131,567</b>	<b>266,882</b>	<b>398,449</b>
Total 2021	117,253	241,198	358,451

##### Apportionment of costs to support services

Rent, rates, utilities, household expenses and furnishings and equipment are apportioned on an actual basis. Those relating to the Resources Centre are wholly for support services.

Other costs are apportioned on the best estimate of the use of the underlying resources as follows:

Motor expenses and depreciation/amortisation (excluding office equipment)	33%
Clients and residents support, recreation and hospitality	50%
All indirect support costs shown in note 5 (excluding audit fee)	75%
Audit and legal fees	100%

## 5 SUPPORT COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	236,327	216,276
Administrative costs	18,418	16,097
Insurances	4,550	4,578
Telephone	6,884	6,639
Staff recruitment, welfare and training costs	6,964	4,929
Subscriptions and affiliation fees	683	636
Office equipment depreciation	4,986	3,880
Fund raising, publicity and promotion	771	216
Bank and finance charges	297	64
Auditors remuneration	3,015	2,978
Legal fees	5,900	-
	<b>288,795</b>	<b>256,293</b>

## 6 NET INCOME

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amount expended on stock	1,200	4,140
Auditors' remuneration	3,015	2,978
Other non-audit services	-	-
Depreciation - owned assets	16,284	15,873
Operating leases - land and buildings	46,175	44,794
Operating lease - other	2,387	2,387
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	7	168
Amortisation of website	260	360

## 7 STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries	219,647	201,414
Social security costs	12,703	11,048
Pension contributions	3,977	3,814
	<b>236,327</b>	<b>216,276</b>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The aggregate remuneration of key management personnel was £23,383 (2021: £37,437).

The charity employed on average 11 staff, being 9 on a full-time equivalent basis (FTE) to run the Refuge and provide support services (2021: 11 and 8 FTE). A small proportion of time is related to governance matters.

## 8 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

### Trustees' expenses

Administrative and support expenses of £115 were reimbursed to 1 Trustee during the year; all incurred in the running of the charity (2021: 2 trustees; £328).

## 9 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022 (2021: nil).

## 10 LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2022	2021 - Restated
	£	£
<b>Land and buildings</b>		
Within one year	46,231	27,500
Between one and five years	33,131	37,996
In more than five years	-	-
	<b>79,362</b>	<b>65,496</b>

In consultation with the Charity's auditor, the commitment on the Resources Centre operating lease has been re-assessed such that the commitment is stated for the period up to the date of the next break clause, being 18 August 2023, as opposed to the remaining term of the lease. Prior year figures have been restated on a comparable basis.

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Other leases</b>		
Within one year	2,387	2,387
Between one and five years	4,178	6,565
	<b>6,565</b>	<b>8,952</b>

## 11 FUTURE FUNDING UNCERTAINTIES

The Resources Centre is substantially financed by an annual grant of £50,000 from Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner under an agreement that has been extended to 31 March 2025. That amount is a substantial reduction of the grant hitherto received and supplementary funding is being sought to finance outreach activities. To date an additional £50,000 has been secured over 2 years.

Whilst refuge occupancy, and hence Housing Benefit receipts, have returned to a normal operating level post-Covid, Suffolk County Council Public Health funding for refuge services for the 3 years from April 2023 will be shortly open for tender. Currently the charity receives an annual grant of £83,809. The result of this process is of course uncertain, however the trustees and charity officers will submit a robust tender and they are reasonably confident of continuity of service.

Trustees and Charity's Officers continue to actively assess operational risks and, where necessary, any persistent funding shortfall will be mitigated by way of emergency grant funding. In the trustees opinion, the Charity has sufficient reserves to finance operations in the short to medium term whilst such funding arrangements are negotiated, if required.

**12 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Website £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 April 2021	1,800
Addition	2,500
Disposal	1,800
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,500</u>
<b>AMORTISATION</b>	
At 1 April 2021	1,800
Charge for the year	260
Disposal	1,800
At 31 March 2022	<u>260</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>2,240</u></u>
At 31 March 2021	<u><u>-</u></u>

**13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Security & outdoor equipment £	Office, IT and other equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Household equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>					
At 1 April 2021	93,734	46,688	13,310	43,748	197,480
Additions	6,708	4,824		642	12,174
Disposals	1,190	3,712	-	1,428	6,330
At 31 March 2022	<u>99,252</u>	<u>47,800</u>	<u>13,310</u>	<u>42,962</u>	<u>203,324</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1 April 2021	44,557	34,204	12,805	37,342	128,908
Charge for year	7,454	4,986	168	3,676	16,284
Disposals	1,190	3,709		1,424	6,323
At 31 March 2022	<u>50,821</u>	<u>35,481</u>	<u>12,973</u>	<u>39,594</u>	<u>138,869</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>48,431</u></u>	<u><u>12,319</u></u>	<u><u>337</u></u>	<u><u>3,368</u></u>	<u><u>64,455</u></u>
At 31 March 2021	<u><u>49,177</u></u>	<u><u>12,484</u></u>	<u><u>505</u></u>	<u><u>6,406</u></u>	<u><u>68,572</u></u>

All tangible fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

#### 14 STOCK AND DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>STOCK</b>		
Stock for resident resettlement	<u>1,570</u>	<u>2,770</u>
		.
<b>DEBTORS</b>		
Other debtors	1,801	745
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>35,201</u>	<u>29,602</u>
	<u>37,002</u>	<u>30,347</u>

Accrued income includes £18,125 (2021: £15,000) grant income from Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 and a grant of £3,337 from the Ministry of Justice via the PCC (2021:£5,000 from Suffolk County Council) invoiced and due at the year end but received post year end.

#### 15 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Payments on account	4,184	540
Accruals and deferred income	<u>13,863</u>	<u>14,102</u>
	<u>18,047</u>	<u>14,642</u>

There is no deferred income in the reporting or comparative years.

**16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 01.04.21	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	At 31.03.22
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	218,380	223,856	238,214	(11,537)	192,485
Resources Centre running costs	27,251	-	669	-	26,582
Group outreach and support workers	8,308	-	4,360	6,000	9,948
Child support programme (child therapy)	1,067	389	136	4,700	6,020
Teenage Support Programmes	9,319	-	518	-	8,801
Client counselling	835	-	4,872	5,300	1,263
Refuge refurbishment (external works)	4,677	-	224	-	4,453
Office IT upgrade and equipment	-	-	4	4	-
Vehicle replacement fund	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
	<b>269,837</b>	<b>224,245</b>	<b>248,997</b>	<b>9,467</b>	<b>254,552</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Resources Centre running costs including a proportion of staffing costs	14,970	74,000	79,593	-	9,377
Adult support (counselling, group and creative therapies, Theatre as Therapy and a proportion of staffing costs)	15,285	11,007	16,589	-	9,703
Mental Health Support	-	22,315	-	-	22,315
Child support programme (child therapy, outings, recreation)	3,497	5,483	5,742	-	3,238
Child support staff costs	3,537	29,140	33,917	-	(1,240)
Teenage Support Programmes	1,457	12,000	12,541	-	916
Refuge refurbishment - internal and external works	7,938	6,615	701	(6,967)	6,885
Fund raising - Concert activities, Just Giving	511	177	214	-	474
Publicity and promotion	155	2,500	155	(2,500)	-
Vehicle replacement fund	-	16,784	-	-	16,784
	<b>47,350</b>	<b>180,021</b>	<b>149,452</b>	<b>(9,467)</b>	<b>68,452</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>317,187</b>	<b>404,266</b>	<b>398,449</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>323,004</b>

Restricted fund in temporary deficit

At 31 March 2022, the child support staff costs restricted fund was temporarily in deficit. The whole of the associated costs are funded under a three year grant agreement terminating on 30 June 2023. Over the period of the agreement it is expected costs will be fully funded.

**16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS cont.**

**Transfers between funds 2022**

Movements between funds comprise:

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted
	General	Designated	Funds
	£	£	£
i) Capital assets financed by restricted giving transferred to general fund upon completion	9,467		(9,467)
ii) Capital assets financed by designated funding transferred to general fund upon completion	3,396	(3,396)	
iii) Designation of unrestricted income for particular purposes	(24,400)	24,400	
	<b>(11,537)</b>	<b>21,004</b>	<b>(9,467)</b>
General fund		<b>(11,537)</b>	-
<b>Total transfers during the year</b>		<b>9,467</b>	<b>(9,467)</b>



**Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre Ltd**



**Advice Helpline:**

**0330 551 9495 or 01284 783085**

**E-mail: [admin@burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk](http://www.burystedmundswomensaid.org.uk)**

**Post: PO Box 715, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 9HQ**

This provides victims of Domestic Abuse with the opportunity to speak to us anonymously and to seek support and advice.

Advice is also available via an Outreach appointment which is a chance to meet friendly staff at the Refuge and to discuss all possible options to help with your individual needs and circumstances.

