

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 277927

Details

Other names	SOUTHWARK LAW PROJECT LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	01418763
Registered	1987-07-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	53 Addington Square Camberwell London SE5 7LB
Phone	02077322008
Email	enquiries@southwarklawcentre.org.uk
Website	www.southwarklawcentre.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ('OBJECTS') ARE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO:(1) THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: (I) THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY, (II) THE RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED BECAUSE OF YOUTH, AGE, ILL-HEALTH, DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR OTHER DISADVANTAGE, (III) THE ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH OR THE SAVING OF LIVES, (IV) THE ADVANCEMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND (V) THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY,(2) IN EACH CASE AMONG PERSONS LIVING, WORKING OR STUDYING IN THE CHARITY'S AREA, AND(3) IN EACH CASE BY PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES, LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND EDUCATION WHICH THOSE PERSONS COULD NOT OTHERWISE AFFORD THROUGH LACK OF MEANS, AND BY UNDERTAKING AND PROMOTING RESEARCH INTO THE ADVANCEMENT OR PREVENTION AND RELIEF (AS APPLICABLE) OF THE MATTERS STATED ABOVE WITHIN THE CHARITY'S AREA.

Activities: We give specialist advice, representation and training in Housing, Welfare Rights, Immigration and Employment Law. We are a referral agency.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,713,988	£2,517,777	£876,986	42
2024-03-31	£2,235,637	£2,161,878	£680,775	40
2023-03-31	£1,842,103	£1,873,855	£607,016	37
2022-03-31	£1,580,961	£1,644,157	£638,768	33
2021-03-31	£1,514,756	£1,409,288	£701,964	18

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexander Richard Polley		2015-11-10
Anthony Chandler		2022-12-14
Catriona Mary Moore		2025-12-09
John David McKinnon Rhodes		2015-10-14
Katrina Chantel Thomas		2021-11-30
Kimberly Natasha McIntosh		2024-11-13
Lisa Dawn Sinclair McGown		2021-01-26
Oliver James Persey		2018-11-10
Pamela Louise Noakes		2024-02-14
VICTORIA EGO OLISA		2016-06-14
Vicky Fewkes		2019-04-23

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01418763 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 277927

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

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SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
for the year ended 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES	V Fewkes S D O Lancashire L McGown V Olisa (Vice Chair) O J Persey A Polley (Chair) J Rhodes K C Thomas K N McIntosh (appointed 13.11.24) R S K Roberts (resigned 8.9.25) A Chandler (Treasurer) P Noakes S A Catten (resigned 13.11.24)
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COMPANY SECRETARY	S Edgar
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REGISTERED OFFICE	53 Addington Square Camberwell London SE5 7BL
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REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	01418763 (England and Wales)
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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 277927

AUDITORS	Berringers LLP Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley Kent BR1 3RA
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SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

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 2025. 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Southwark Law Centre was founded in 1976. Our main office is in Camberwell. In 2017 a branch office was developed in Lewisham which was recognised as Lewisham Law Centre by the Law Centres Network (LCN) in July 2020.

The Law Centre is a vital community resource, providing free, high-quality specialist legal advice and representation for people who could not otherwise afford legal support. It plays a central role in protecting rights and improving lives across Southwark, Lewisham, and beyond.

Our expert team works in asylum and immigration law, discrimination, education, housing, planning, public law, welfare rights, and through the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The Law Centre ensures that those most at risk of injustice - including people facing homelessness, destitution, discrimination, or breaches of human rights - are not left without a voice.

We also strengthen the local advice sector by providing training and second-tier support, and we campaign to improve law and policy through strategic litigation and advocacy.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

In 2024/25, the Law Centre took on 537 complex new cases, supported nearly 900 people through one-off advice and signposting, and delivered workshops to around 700 frontline workers and local residents.

Key Partnerships

The Law Centre's impact is amplified through collaboration. We are proud to play a leading role in local and London-wide networks that bring together charities, councils, community groups, and universities.

- Housing and Immigration Group: Coordinated by the Law Centre with Trust for London's support, this group strengthens practice across London and provides a lifeline for urgent referrals.

- Southwark Homelessness Forum: Chaired by our Executive Director, the Forum brings together the Council and voluntary sector to tackle homelessness and safeguard residents

- Southwark Exchequer Service Liaison Meetings: Facilitated by the Law Centre, these quarterly meetings help address the impact of the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis on tenants

- Equalities and Human Rights Panel (EHRP): Our Executive Director ensures local policy reflects equality, fairness, and community voices.

- Windrush Justice Clinic: As a founding partner, we work with community groups, universities, and law centres nationwide to deliver holistic support for victims of the Windrush scandal.

- Action on Education Rights: This community-led project challenges school exclusions and improves outcomes for Black and minority ethnic children.

- Southwark Borough of Sanctuary: Working with the Council and others, we ensure Southwark is a welcoming place for refugees and migrants.

Organisational Development

In November 2024 the Law Centre welcomed a new Executive Director, Stacey Edgar, following the retirement of Sally Causer. The trustees are confident that Stacey will sustain and build on the Law Centre's significant achievements during Sally's 10 years of leadership.

Just two months later, in January 2025, we began an exciting new chapter by moving from our long-standing home in Peckham to modern premises in Camberwell. The new office provides a brighter, more welcoming space for staff, volunteers, and the many local people who come to us for support.

In March 2025, we finalised a new five-year contract with Southwark Council. This long-term commitment strengthens our financial stability and ensures we can continue to deliver vital services for the community well into the future.

Public benefit

The trustees consider that the objectives and activities stated above of the Law Centre provide public benefit within the meaning and terms of the Charities Act 2011.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The Law Centre's work is rooted in casework and representation, but its influence reaches far wider. We advocate in tribunals, courts, and panels, while also empowering other advice agencies to resolve cases themselves. By linking people to the right support and sharing expertise, we multiply our impact across the community.

Areas of Law

Housing

Housing need in Southwark and Lewisham is acute. In 2024/25 the Law Centre opened 141 new cases, focusing on homelessness, eviction, disrepair, and temporary accommodation. The team also continues to work on a number of ongoing cases which can take several years to resolve.

Alongside legal aid, grant-funded projects allow us to meet unmet need, such as:

- An eviction hotline funded by Access to Justice Foundation.
- Holistic support for private tenants and families in temporary accommodation with Impact on Urban Health and Kineara.
- Tenant rights workshops with Citizens Advice Southwark.

We also share expertise across the sector through the Housing and Immigration Group.

Employment/Discrimination

With 75 cases supported in 2024/25, we provide a crucial safety net for workers facing discrimination, particularly through referrals from Citizens Advice Southwark. Despite gaps in legal aid funding, support from Southwark Council enables us to sustain this service.

Education

In response to identified need, the Law Centre works with local partners in Southwark to set up a model of education advice in areas such as school exclusion and access to Specialist Education and Disability Needs.

We continue to facilitate an advisory group, Action on Education Rights, for frontline agencies and local parents.

Our approach has been to build on the knowledge and expertise already present within the community. Over the last year we have provided training and advice in a number of areas to a range of local community groups. We have also been able to provide direct casework to two families and have brought public law challenges in relation to children out of school.

We are grateful to The Legal Education Fund who continue to fund Action on Education Rights.

Community Care

The Law Centre carries out community care work particularly in the areas of homelessness and 'Section 17' support for destitute families who have been given 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) status because of problems with their immigration status. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (S.17) gives local authorities the power to provide accommodation and financial support to families with 'children in need', even if they have no recourse to public funds. The Law Centre is also seeing an increasing number of vulnerable adults with NRPF who need Care Act assessments. This is linked to our immigration advice for homeless patients and the London Council funded immigration advice for rough sleepers.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

Asylum and Immigration

In the year 2024/25 Southwark and Lewisham Law Centres took on 264 new immigration and asylum cases. This figure does not include all the complex cases that have been active for several years, gathering evidence with pending Home Office appeals.

The Law Centre prioritises cases for vulnerable people such as children, young people, people at risk of gender violence and people with mental and physical health problems. Many of the clients are homeless and destitute.

In July 2022 we began a major new project funded by London Councils for 3 years to support street homeless individuals to rectify their status. The Law Centre is the South east London sub-regional lead and works in partnership with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network. We were pleased to receive additional funding to be able to continue this work for another year.

The Law Centre has received continued funding from Lewisham Council to take referrals for specialist immigration advice for families and individuals supported by Lewisham's NRPF team.

During 2024/5 the Law Centre has continued working with Action for Refugees in Lewisham, on a project funded by Trust for London. Additional partnership funding has been provided by Lewisham Council to support some of the most complex cases for people in initial asylum accommodation.

The Law Centre provides casework and representation for homeless patients in partnership with the homelessness teams at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals. As a result of the successful outcomes this project has demonstrated in terms not only of benefits for very vulnerable patients but also savings to the NHS, the project is being funded on a rolling basis by the GSTT Hospital Trust. A similar project funded by the SE London Integrated Care Service, taking referrals from hospitals in Lewisham, Bromley and Greenwich began on a pilot basis in 2022 and has since been extended for three years.

The Law Centre continues to work with the South London Refugee Association (SLRA), on the Justice Together funded programme taking referrals of complex immigration matters and providing targeted consultancy support for their staff.

In recognition of the increase in complex immigration matters in Southwark, the Law Centre is grateful to the United St Saviour's Charity for providing funding for an additional caseworker.

Windrush Compensation Scheme

The Law Centre has funding from AB Charitable Trust to provide casework to help victims of the Windrush scandal to access the compensation that they are entitled to and to deal with associated immigration advice. The Law Centre has funding from King's College London to provide support for law students volunteering with this project. We also have funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to employ a part time coordinator to work more widely across the Windrush Justice Partnership. The Law Centre is also grateful to Gowling WLG, Withers Worldwide and Norton Rose Fulbright solicitors for their contribution to the project.

The Law Centre is currently working on over 22 complex cases and is progressing a challenge to the Legal Aid Agency's blanket refusal to award Legal Aid for help with compensation claims.

Welfare Rights

In 2024/5 the Law Centre dealt with 27 welfare rights cases. It specialises in appeals to the First Tier Tribunal (Social Security and Asylum Support), Upper Tribunal, and Judicial Review cases. Legal Aid is rarely available for welfare rights cases and the Law Centre's casework was largely funded thanks to the important Southwark Council contract.

The Law Centre received funding from the Integrated Care Board to provide welfare benefits advice and representation for people across SE London with Sickle Cell.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

Planning Voice

The overall aim of this innovative project is to support and empower local people, particularly those from economically and socially disadvantaged communities, to be able to influence developments affecting the environment they live in.

The Law Centre has funding from the National Lottery Fund and the Oak Foundation to carry out this work, in particular exploring how planning intersects with homelessness and the need for affordable housing. The funding enables the Law Centre to employ a full-time planning solicitor supported by a paralegal.

Our planning work is informed by an advisory group consisting of local residents and representatives of community organisations.

Public Law

The Law Centre has a small, but growing, number of Legal Aid Matter Starts in this area. It is important that it maintains its ability to challenge unreasonable decisions made by public bodies.

In the year 2024/5 the Law Centre carried out 27 public law challenges, compared to 7 in the last financial year. These have been mainly in the area of Asylum Support. In 2024/25 the Law Centre is exploring public law cases in the area of education, and challenging conditions in initial asylum accommodation.

We have also been exploring strategic litigation, bringing strategic challenges in relation to the asylum hotels and e-visas.

Volunteers and pro bono support

The Law Centre nurtures the next generation of social welfare lawyers while extending its reach through volunteers and pro bono partnerships.

- In 2024/25, law students from King's College London supported our Windrush project
- We worked with a number of dedicated office volunteers, who supported our team with a range of administrative and legal tasks.
- Leading firms including Anthony Gold, Clifford Chance, Norton Rose Fulbright, Gowling WLG and Withers Worldwide provided pro bono assistance.
- We continue to train and mentor aspiring solicitors through apprenticeships, training contracts, and partnerships with organisations such as the Indo American Refugee and Migrant Organisation.

This investment not only supports individuals into legal careers but strengthens access to justice for the future

Financial review

Financial position

The Law Centre's gross income was higher this year at £2,713,099 against £2,235,637 last year, an increase of £477,462. Higher outlay on resources expended, up from £2,161,878 to £2,517,777 resulted in net incoming resources of £196,212 against net incoming resources of £73,759 for the previous year. At the year end restricted funds were £Nil (2024 - £nil), whilst unrestricted income funds amounted to £876,987 against £680,775 in the previous year, of which £200,000 (2024-£200,000) has been designated.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funding sources

Legal Aid funding accounts for around 25% of income. The contract with Southwark Council accounts for around 10%, and a further 10% from the London Council's grant for immigration advice for homeless people. The remainder comes from charitable grants, donations and a contract with Lewisham Council to provide immigration advice.

The Law Centre acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of those who give it grant funding and the support of Southwark and Lewisham Councils.

The total amount of funding received from Southwark Council in respect of the specialist advice contract was £167,388. The amount recorded in the financial statements is the net amount due to the Law Centre after payments made to Cambridge House Law Centre and Migrant Legal Action, which are partner organisations with the Law Centre in the specialist contract with the Borough.

The Law Centre holds Legal Aid contracts in housing, debt and welfare benefits, public law, discrimination, immigration and asylum law at Southwark Law Centre, with a separate housing contract at Lewisham Law Centre totalling £59,339 of income.

The Law Centre is also very grateful to all its other significant funders and supporters which are listed in note 4 of the financial statements. All of these, along with generous individual supporters, enable us to provide critical help to a wide range of disadvantaged and marginalised clients.

Reserves policy

The Law Centre's reserves have been set in accordance with the Law Centre's reserve policy, which is formulated pursuant to Charity Commission guidance. Best practice suggests that the Law Centre should have an appropriate proportion of its annual outgoings available by way of reserves, and the level of the Law Centre's reserves is regularly monitored by the Trustees.

As part of the Law Centre's Financial Management processes, the Board of Trustees has set a target of working towards accumulating and maintaining a reserve fund which represents 3 months' annual operating costs. This amount is reflective of general good practice in the charity sector. In the financial year 2024/5 this would amount to approximately £650,000. These reserves enable the Law Centre to deal with the following contingencies:

- Reductions in or withdrawal of grant funding;
- Reduction in Legal Aid earned income; and
- In the event of closure, 3 months' running costs to wind up the organisation and pay redundancies, leasehold and other liabilities.

In addition the Trustees wish to set aside the following amounts:

- £50,000 for unforeseen staffing issues; and
- £50,000 fund for replacing essential equipment such as telephones or IT.

The total amount of reserves the Trustees therefore wish to aim for, over the coming year, is £750,000.

This policy is reviewed at least annually when the Trustee Board considers the end of year projections and the audited accounts.

The Trustee Board reviews the overall financial position of the Law Centre at least every 3 months, with cashflow reports monthly, and records the outcome of its review in the minutes of its meetings.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

Key areas of work

The Law Centre will continue to build on its wide range of experience and deliver the highest quality legal advice to the population of South East London as far as resources allow.

The following priorities have been identified as part of our planning process which involves all members of staff, volunteers and trustees. The Trustee Board and staff met in March 2025 to discuss and review the Law Centre's business plan. The Law Centre also considers feedback from clients, partner organisations, funders and the wider community.

Key Objectives 2025/6

- Maintain and develop infrastructure to underpin all our work; and
- Ensure our service is responsive to the needs of our diverse community;
- Ensure we maintain a supportive atmosphere for all the team of staff and volunteers, encouraging development;
- Continue to develop the identity of Lewisham Law Centre;
- Maintain capacity to provide specialist casework and representation in all the areas of law the Law Centre currently covers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Law Centre is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

All the trustees live or work within the Law Centre's area of benefit. The recruitment of trustees is through advertising with volunteer support agencies, adverts on our website, contact with local community organisations, advice agencies and legal providers in the area of benefit. The Law Centre also encourages former clients and volunteers to be members of the charity and to consider joining the Trustee Board. Prospective trustees are invited to attend and observe at trustees' meetings and are recruited on the basis of relevant skills, experience and knowledge. The Board carries out an annual skills and attendance audit.

The trustees retire from office on a rotational basis (one third each year at the Annual General Meeting, based on length of service), but may stand for re-election.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board meets approximately every two months to oversee the strategic management of the organisation. The full Trustee Board met 7 times in 2024/5 including the AGM.

The Finance sub-committee meets at least quarterly with monthly cash flow projections provided to the Treasurer. The sub-committee reports to the Trustee Board.

The Human Resources sub-committee meets at least quarterly, and reports to the Trustee Board.

Day-to-day management of the Law Centre is delegated to the Executive Director, Stacey Edgar, who works full-time. The Law Centre has a Senior Management Team which includes the Senior Solicitors for Immigration, Housing, Planning and Employment. The Senior Solicitors are accountable to the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the conduct of legal cases, and provide day to day supervision of casework. Individual staff specialists provide legal supervision in their areas of specialisation: Housing, Employment, Immigration and Welfare Rights Law.

All members of the company, who include all the members of the Trustee Board, undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each in the event that the company is wound up while they are members, or within one year of cessation of membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have an induction meeting with the Executive Director to observe the work of the Law Centre. All trustees receive full details of the policies and procedures of the Law Centre.

Key management remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Key management compensation in year	<u>66,955</u>	<u>89,106</u>

The remuneration is the total sum of the salaries and social security contributions paid to the Executive Director. No payments were made to any Trustee.

Risk management

The Trustees are keenly aware that their responsibilities include the duty to plan for the future, and to prepare the Law Centre for the risks and opportunities they have identified beyond the current financial year.

The Law Centre reviews an annual operational risk assessment and a business continuity plan.

The Law Centre has developed a separate risk assessment for the Lewisham Law Centre.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Southwark Law Centre 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).

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

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

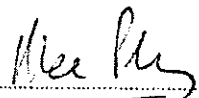
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed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

Report of the trustees, incorporating a Strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 21/10/2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:


.....
A Polley - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Law Centre (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Cash flow statement 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).

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 2025 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; 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; 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 independent 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and error, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- results of our enquiries to management about their own assessment of the risks of fraud and error;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud may occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

Our procedures to respond to risk include the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected areas that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error;

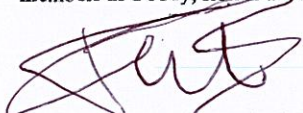
addressing the risk of fraud and error through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journals, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul Allan BSocSc/FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

Date: 21/10/25

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	30,082	-	-	30,082	32,797
Charitable activities	4					
Legal representation		968,553	-	1,714,446	2,682,999	2,202,046
Investment income	3	907	-	-	907	794
Total		<u>999,542</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,714,446</u>	<u>2,713,988</u>	<u>2,235,637</u>
EXPENDITURE ON						
Charitable activities	5					
Legal representation		<u>803,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,714,446</u>	<u>2,517,777</u>	<u>2,161,878</u>
NET INCOME		196,211	-	-	196,211	73,759
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		<u>480,775</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680,775</u>	<u>607,016</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>676,986</u></u>	<u><u>200,000</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>876,986</u></u>	<u><u>680,775</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	12	4,831	-	-	4,831	1,679
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	13	880,094	-	58,191	938,285	857,118
Cash at bank and in hand		129,694	200,000	419,010	748,704	682,801
		<u>1,009,788</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>477,201</u>	<u>1,686,989</u>	<u>1,539,919</u>
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(337,633)	-	(477,201)	(814,834)	(860,823)
		<u>672,155</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>872,155</u>	<u>679,096</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS						
		<u>672,155</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>872,155</u>	<u>679,096</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>676,986</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>876,986</u>	<u>680,775</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>676,986</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>876,986</u>	<u>680,775</u>
FUNDS	16					
Unrestricted funds					<u>876,986</u>	<u>680,775</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>876,986</u>	<u>680,775</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21/10/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


A Polley, Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>108,304</u>	<u>240,788</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>108,304</u>	<u>240,788</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,762)	(1,972)
Interest received		<u>907</u>	<u>794</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(3,855)</u>	<u>(1,178)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>104,449</u>	<u>239,610</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	<u>586,064</u>	<u>346,454</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	<u><u>690,513</u></u>	<u><u>586,064</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
	2025	2024	
	£	£	
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of financial activities)	196,211	73,759	
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges	1,610	2,532	
Interest received	(907)	(794)	
Increase in debtors	(81,167)	(195,490)	
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(7,443)	360,781	
	<u>108,304</u>	<u>240,788</u>	
Net cash provided by operations	108,304	240,788	
2. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
	2025	2024	
	£	£	
Cash in hand	(262)	(355)	
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	748,966	683,156	
Overdrafts included in bank loans and overdrafts falling due within one year	(58,191)	(96,737)	
	<u>690,513</u>	<u>586,064</u>	
Total cash and cash equivalents	690,513	586,064	
3. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS			
	At 1.4.24	Cash flow	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	682,801	65,903	748,704
Bank overdrafts	(96,737)	38,546	(58,191)
	<u>586,064</u>	<u>104,449</u>	<u>690,513</u>
Total	586,064	104,449	690,513

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. 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.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Work in progress is valued using a prudent estimation of the recoverability of on-going cases at the year end. Reference is made to the potential recoverability of the chargeable time recorded on the work in progress system, with consideration of fixed fees, irrecoverable time and unresolved cases. This is referred to in more detail in the work in progress and unbilled disbursements accounting policy.

Income

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

Such income is only deferred where the donor specifies that the grant or donation can be used in a future accounting period, or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to performance conditions is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support advice/performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contract and performance related grant income is deferred when received in advance of the performance of event to which they relate.

Turnover is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for services provided in the normal course of business, net of VAT.

Expenditure

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 a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure

Charitable activities include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. All support costs relate to unrestricted charitable activities.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Fixtures and fittings	-25% on reducing balance
Law library	-25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-100% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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 Note 14 on 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 Centre participates in a Local Authority pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. It is therefore not possible to identify the assets and liabilities for participating employees. The Centre expenses the value of pensions contributions to this pension scheme in the statement of financial activities.

Work in progress and unbilled disbursements

The recognition and valuation of the work in progress (WIP) for legal services and unbilled disbursements provided by the charity involves significant judgment under the Charities SORP (FRS 102). WIP represents the cost of services performed but not yet billed at the reporting date. Management must determine whether these amounts meet the criteria for income recognition, considering whether entitlement to the income exists, it can be measured reliably, and receipt is probable. For legal engagements, this assessment requires evaluating whether there is an enforceable right to payment for work completed to date and whether any restrictions or conditions affect recognition. Estimation uncertainty arises in determining recoverability, as some matters may depend on client approval, negotiated fees, or contingent outcomes. Additionally, the valuation of WIP may vary significantly by case type-for example, fixed-fee arrangements, hourly billing, or contingent cases-each requiring different assumptions about completion status and recoverability. Management applies judgment based on historical recovery rates, client-specific circumstances, and the likelihood of successful completion to ensure WIP is stated at its net realisable value. Changes in these assumptions could materially affect reported income and assets.

Going concern

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Work in progress and unbilled disbursements

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will remain a going concern and the accounts have been prepared on that basis. Currently, the Centre has stabilised the income from legal cases, additional grants have been secured to cover increasing costs. The trustees continue to monitor the situation.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	<u>30,082</u>	<u>32,797</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>907</u>	<u>794</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants		
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	1,865,672	1,402,445
Specialist contracts	582,077	527,758
Miscellaneous income	226,727	269,420
	8,523	2,423
	<u>2,682,999</u>	<u>2,202,046</u>

Southwark Law Centre is in partnership with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network in respect of the funds received from London Councils. The below details the specialist contracts Southwark Law Centre has entered into.

Southwark Law Centre is in partnership with two other charities. As the lead applicant they receive funds on behalf of the other charities and pass them on.

Specialist contract with Southwark Council

	2025	2024
	£	£
Contract monies received from Southwark Council	356,160	384,048
Grant partners paid	(188,772)	(192,649)
Income relevant to Southwark Law Centre acknowledged	<u>167,388</u>	<u>191,399</u>

	2024	2024
	£	£
Lewisham Immigration Specialist Contract	<u>59,339</u>	<u>78,021</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Charities Aid Foundation	5,000	25,000
National Lottery Community Fund	116,037	91,642
Trust for London Migrant Housing	45,376	45,375
The Baring Foundation	54,000	54,000
AB Charitable Trust	41,500	26,667
Kings Health Partnership Pathway	-	6,600
London Legal Support Trust	94,283	82,433
Project 17	20,064	35,233
United St Saviour's Charity	30,000	40,000
The Legal Education Foundation	55,735	5,000
Access to Justice Foundation	214,433	89,763
South London Refugee Association	44,660	42,581
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	73,484	91,855
The Indigo Trust	110,000	84,167
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	47,943	65,052
Southwark Immigration Advice	-	5,000
Southwark Council Immigration Advice	14,990	-
Strategic Legal Fund	-	12,230
King's College London	20,235	20,417
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	75,022	31,250
City Bridge Trust	58,375	49,725
London Councils	234,560	200,578
NHS England	159,382	44,035
The Legal Education Foundation Action for Education Rights	11,987	23,524
Oak Foundation	166,000	83,000
Norton Rose Fulbright	10,750	2,750
Indo-American Refugee and Migrant Organisation	30,541	12,636
Immigration Law Practitioners Association	11,717	-
Gowling WLG	10,962	9,728
John Ellerman Foundation	4,743	33,537
Impact on Urban Health	85,333	88,667
Clothworkers Foundation		
	6,060	-
Alan & Babette Sainsbury Charity Trust	12,500	-
	<u>1,865,672</u>	<u>1,402,445</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

5. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

	Direct Costs 2025 £	Support costs (see note 6) 2025 £	Totals 2025 £
Legal representation	<u>2,315,935</u>	<u>201,842</u>	<u>2,517,777</u>

Comparatives for provision of legal services

	Direct Costs 2024 £	Support costs (see note 6) 2024 £	Totals 2024 £
Legal representation	<u>1,994,099</u>	<u>167,779</u>	<u>2,161,878</u>

6. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2025 £	2024 £
Legal representation	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Governance costs 2025 £	Totals 2025 £
Legal representation	<u>4,073</u>	<u>188,432</u>	<u>9,337</u>	<u>201,842</u>

Comparatives for support costs

	Finance 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Governance costs 2024 £	Totals 2024 £
Legal representation	<u>4,265</u>	<u>154,487</u>	<u>9,027</u>	<u>167,779</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	8,650	8,400
Depreciation - owned assets	1,610	2,532
Other operating leases	4,073	4,265
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,574,027	1,412,894
Social security costs	168,721	149,240
Other pension costs	339,456	309,424
	<u>2,082,204</u>	<u>1,871,558</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Legal advice	33	31
Administration	9	8
	<u>42</u>	<u>39</u>

The number of employees who received emoluments in excess of £60,000 was 12 (2024: 12).

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

11. CLIENT BANK ACCOUNTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Monies held in client bank accounts	<u>295,108</u>	<u>162,563</u>
Monies due to clients	<u>295,108</u>	<u>162,563</u>

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Law library £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2024	34,310	8,650	52,685	95,645
Additions	4,762	-	-	4,762
At 31 March 2025	<u>39,072</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>52,685</u>	<u>100,407</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2024	32,631	8,650	52,685	93,966
Charge for year	1,610	-	-	1,610
At 31 March 2025	<u>34,241</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>52,685</u>	<u>95,576</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2025	<u>4,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,831</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,679</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,679</u>

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
WIP & unbilled disbursements	828,638	713,675
Other debtors	-	23,147
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>109,647</u>	<u>120,296</u>
	<u>938,285</u>	<u>857,118</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR - continued

The recognition and valuation of the work in progress (WIP) for legal services and unbilled disbursements provided by the charity involves significant judgment under the Charities SORP (FRS 102). WIP represents the cost of services performed but not yet billed at the reporting date. Management must determine whether these amounts meet the criteria for income recognition, considering whether entitlement to the income exists, it can be measured reliably, and receipt is probable. For legal engagements, this assessment requires evaluating whether there is an enforceable right to payment for work completed to date and whether any restrictions or conditions affect recognition. Estimation uncertainty arises in determining recoverability, as some matters may depend on client approval, negotiated fees, or contingent outcomes. Additionally, the valuation of WIP may vary significantly by case type-for example, fixed-fee arrangements, hourly billing, or contingent cases-each requiring different assumptions about completion status and recoverability. Management applies judgment based on historical recovery rates, client-specific circumstances, and the likelihood of successful completion to ensure WIP is stated at its net realisable value. Changes in these assumptions could materially affect reported income and assets.

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 15)	58,191	96,737
Social security and other taxes	-	35,217
VAT	11,727	15,862
Other creditors	295,107	185,709
Accrued expenses	30,799	118,305
Deferred income	419,010	408,993
	<u>814,834</u>	<u>860,823</u>

15. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	<u>58,191</u>	<u>96,737</u>

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	480,775	196,211	676,986
Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	50,000
Equipment fund	50,000	-	50,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	100,000
	<u>680,775</u>	<u>196,211</u>	<u>876,986</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>680,775</u>	<u>196,211</u>	<u>876,986</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2025

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	999,542	(803,331)	196,211
Restricted funds			
Charities Aid Foundation	5,000	(5,000)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	99,837	(99,837)	-
Trust for London Migrant Housing	45,376	(45,376)	-
The Baring Foundation	54,000	(54,000)	-
Project 17 immigration advice	20,064	(20,064)	-
London Legal Support Trust	80,974	(80,974)	-
United St Saviour's Charity	30,000	(30,000)	-
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	73,484	(73,484)	-
Access to Justice Foundation	214,433	(214,433)	-
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	47,943	(47,943)	-
AB Charitable Trust	41,500	(41,500)	-
Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme	14,990	(14,990)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	75,022	(75,022)	-
King's College London	20,235	(20,235)	-
City Bridge Trust	58,375	(58,375)	-
South London Refugee Association Justice			
Together	44,660	(44,660)	-
Lewisham ICS	79,300	(79,300)	-
NHS England Sickle Cell	80,082	(80,082)	-
London Councils	234,560	(234,560)	-
The Legal Education Foundation	67,722	(67,722)	-
Oak Foundation	166,000	(166,000)	-
Norton Rose Fullbright	10,750	(10,750)	-
Indo-American Refugee and Migrant			
Organisation	30,541	(30,541)	-
Gowling WLG	10,962	(10,962)	-
Impact on Urban Health	85,333	(85,333)	-
John Ellerman Foundation	4,743	(4,743)	-
Clothworkers Foundation	6,060	(6,060)	-
Alan & Babette Sainsbury Charity Trust	12,500	(12,500)	-
	<u>1,714,446</u>	<u>(1,714,446)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,713,988</u>	<u>(2,517,777)</u>	<u>196,211</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	400,723	99,583	(19,531)	480,775
Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	-	50,000
Equipment fund	50,000	-	-	50,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
	<u>600,723</u>	<u>99,583</u>	<u>(19,531)</u>	<u>680,775</u>
Restricted funds				
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	1,042	(1,042)	-	-
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	(13,735)	-	13,735	-
Home Office EU Settlement Application				
Fund	28,986	(24,782)	(4,204)	-
NHS England Sickle Cell	(10,000)	-	10,000	-
	<u>6,293</u>	<u>(25,824)</u>	<u>19,531</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>607,016</u>	<u>73,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680,775</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	940,479	(840,896)	99,583
Restricted funds			
Charities Aid Foundation	25,000	(25,000)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	91,642	(91,642)	-
Trust for London Migrant Housing	45,375	(45,375)	-
The Baring Foundation	54,000	(54,000)	-
Project 17 immigration advice	35,233	(35,233)	-
London Legal Support Trust	71,543	(71,543)	-
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	-	(1,042)	(1,042)
United St Saviour's Charity	40,000	(40,000)	-
King's Health Partnership Pathway	6,600	(6,600)	-
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	91,855	(91,855)	-
Home Office EU Settlement Application Fund	-	(24,782)	(24,782)
Access to Justice Foundation	89,763	(89,763)	-
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	65,052	(65,052)	-
AB Charitable Trust	26,667	(26,667)	-
Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme	5,000	(5,000)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	31,250	(31,250)	-
King's College London	20,417	(20,417)	-
City Bridge Trust	49,725	(49,725)	-
South London Refugee Association Justice Together	42,581	(42,581)	-
Lewisham ICS	30,847	(30,847)	-
NHS England Sickle Cell	13,188	(13,188)	-
London Councils	200,578	(200,578)	-
The Legal Education Foundation	28,524	(28,524)	-
Oak Foundation	83,000	(83,000)	-
Norton Rose Fullbright	2,750	(2,750)	-
Indo-American Refugee and Migrant Organisation	12,636	(12,636)	-
Gowling WLG	9,728	(9,728)	-
Impact on Urban Health	88,667	(88,667)	-
John Ellerman Foundation	33,537	(33,537)	-
	<u>1,295,158</u>	<u>(1,320,982)</u>	<u>(25,824)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,235,637</u>	<u>(2,161,878)</u>	<u>73,759</u>

Restricted monies are carried forward to be utilised in the next financial year.

Restricted

AB Charitable Trust: Funding for an Immigration Caseworker at the Windrush Justice Clinic.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2025

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Action for Refugees in Lewisham: Funding for solicitor costs to provide immigration advice for families in Lewisham.

Access to Justice: Funding to assist people to access early advice.

The Baring Foundation: Funding to develop a second-tier support hub to provide legal advice and training for community organisations in the areas of education and discrimination law.

Charities Aid Foundation: Funding for cost of living support.

City Bridge Trust : Funding for the salary costs of a full-time housing and welfare rights paralegal.

The Home Office: Funding to provide support on EU settlement applications.

Gowling WLG: Funding for the Windrush Justice project.

Guys & St Thomas' Hospital Trust: Funding for casework for Homeless patients.

The Indigo Trust: Funding for immigration and housing casework and representation at Lewisham Law Centre.

John Ellerman Foundation: Funding for policy work for the Windrush Justice Clinic.

King's College London : Funding to supervise students volunteering on the Windrush Justice project.

Impact on Urban Health : Funding for housing advice for private renters and people in temporary accommodation.

The Legal Education Foundation: Funding for the Access to Education Rights project.

Lewisham Council: Contract to provide immigration advice for people with No Recourse to Public Funds supported by the council.

London Councils: Funding for the South East Region Immigration Advice project, for people who are or who are at risk of sleeping rough.

London Legal Support Trust : Funding for cost of living support.

The National Lottery Community Fund: Funding for the Planning Voice project.

NHS England : Contracts for casework for homeless patients and people with Sickle Cell disease.

Norton Rose Fulbright : Funding for Windrush Justice project.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation: Funding for the coordination of the Windrush Justice project.

Project 17: Funding for immigration casework for destitute families.

Southwark Council : Funding to provide Borough of Sanctuary policy work.

Strategic Legal Fund : Funding for pre-litigation work.

Trust for London: Funding for the Migrant Housing Project.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2025

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

United St Saviour's Charity : Funding for immigration casework for Southwark residents.

Indo-American Refugee and Migrant Organisation : Funding for a workforce development programme.

Windrush Justice Clinic: Funding from Allen and Overy Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, John Ellerman Foundation and King's College London to offer legal advice to victims of the Windrush scandal.

South London Refugee Association: Funding for second tier advice for their team.

Unrestricted

Access to Justice: Funding for core costs.

The Indigo Trust: Funding for core costs.

London Legal Support Trust: Core funding as part of the 'Centre of Excellence' project.

Oak Foundation : Funding for core costs.

South London Refugee Association : Funding for second tier advice.

Southwark Council : Contract to provide specialist legal advice in Southwark.

Kings Health Partnership Pathway: Funding for training and second tier advice for health professionals.

Southwark Immigration Advice: Funding for immigration advice for homeless people.

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	30,082	32,797
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	907	794
Charitable activities		
Grants	1,865,672	1,402,445
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	582,077	527,758
Specialist contracts	226,727	269,420
Miscellaneous income	8,523	2,423
	2,682,999	2,202,046
Total incoming resources	2,713,988	2,235,637
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Salaries	1,574,027	1,412,894
Social security	168,721	149,240
Pensions	339,456	309,424
Recruitment, temporary staff & training expenses	20,841	6,451
Replacement law books	1,805	945
Legal Aid costs	46,025	44,223
Computer accessories, software & support	90,060	48,652
Legal and professional fees	42,733	10,276
Annual report	288	288
Practising certificates	7,539	6,471
Insurance professional indemnity	4,440	4,029
Lawtel	-	1,206
Grants to institutions	20,000	-
	2,315,935	1,994,099
Support costs		
Finance		
Other operating leases	4,073	4,265
Other		
Rent and rates	42,145	41,372
Carried forward	42,145	41,372

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Other		
Brought forward	42,145	41,372
Insurance	2,413	2,197
Light and heat	6,932	4,199
Telephone	17,121	16,199
Postage and stationery	16,467	12,379
Sundries	18,300	10,945
Repairs & maintenance	12,102	3,979
Bookkeeping	29,475	31,953
Travel & subsistence	3,351	3,526
Bank charges	-	92
Subscriptions	22,306	21,348
Cleaning	4,168	3,687
Office move costs	12,042	79
Fixtures and fittings	1,610	560
Computer equipment	-	1,972
	188,432	154,487
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	8,650	8,400
AGM costs	687	627
	9,337	9,027
Total resources expended	2,517,777	2,161,878
Net income	196,211	73,759

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01418763 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 277927

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

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SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
for the year ended 31 March 2024

TRUSTEES	V Fewkes A Gallagher (resigned 31.10.23) S D O Lancashire L McGown V Olisa (Vice Chair) O J Persey A Polley (Chair) J Rhodes L H Stoy (resigned 4.9.23) K C Thomas R S K Roberts Trustee (appointed 13.12.23) A Chandler (Treasurer) P Noakes (appointed 14.2.24) S A Catten (appointed 14.2.24)
COMPANY SECRETARY	S Causer
REGISTERED OFFICE	Hanover Park House 14-16 Hanover Park Peckham London SE15 5HG
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	01418763 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	277927
AUDITORS	Berringers LLP Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley Kent BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

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 2024. 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Southwark Law Centre was founded in 1976. Our main office is in Peckham. In 2017 a branch office was developed in Lewisham which was recognised as Lewisham Law Centre by the Law Centres Network (LCN) in July 2020.

The Law Centre provides specialist legal advice and representation, which is free and of high quality, for those who could not otherwise afford to receive legal services. The Law Centre operates in the areas of asylum/immigration law, discrimination, education, housing, planning and public law, welfare rights, and support with the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Law Centre's constitution enables it to take individual cases from all Greater London Boroughs.

The Law Centre prioritises the most complex cases which involve the prevention of homelessness, destitution, discrimination, breaches of human rights and poverty. It provides training and second tier support on legal rights for local advice and community agencies. It campaigns to influence law, policy and practice; and to promote human and civil rights, often by the use of strategic litigation.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

In 2023/4 the Law Centre took on 803 complex new cases across the different areas of law and provided one-off advice and signposting in 905 cases. It provided workshops and advice on social welfare law topics and planning, reaching around 700 frontline workers and members of the public.

Some of the Law Centre's key partnerships:

- Housing and Immigration Group:

Funding from Trust for London enables the Law Centre to co-ordinate the London-wide Housing and Immigration Group, which facilitates the sharing of good practice and information between practitioners and referrals for urgent cases. The Trustees would like to thank Trust for London for its continued funding for this service.

- Southwark Homelessness Forum:

The Forum brings together representatives from the voluntary sector and representatives of Southwark Council to try to develop a joined-up approach to tackling issues of homelessness and ensuring policies do not adversely affect local residents. The Law Centre's Executive Director chairs these meetings.

- Quarterly liaison meetings with the Southwark Exchequer Service:

The Law Centre facilitates and chairs meetings between the core Southwark advice agencies and the Council's Exchequer Service. The aim is to work in partnership particularly around the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living increase on tenants' ability to pay their rent.

- Forum For Equalities and Human Rights and Equality Human Rights Panel (EHRP):

The Executive Director of the Law Centre is a member of the EHRP, which acts as a critical friend to Southwark Council, commenting on policy initiatives and equality analysis.

- Windrush Justice Clinic Partnership:

Our project is part of the Windrush Justice Clinics (WJC). The WJC is a collaboration between Southwark Law Centre and North Kensington Law Centre, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, the University of Westminster Legal Advice Clinic, King's College London Legal Clinic, London South Bank University Legal Clinic, and community groups, notably the Claudia Jones Organisation, Windrush Lives and the Jigsaw House Society.

Each organisation plays a key role within our three-tier model of support: community engagement, outreach and communications; information and triage; and legal support with more complex applications, particularly those where there is an immigration matter to be resolved.

- Action for Education Rights:

A partnership of community organisations and local residents was formed in response to concerns from local parents around the disproportionate number of pupils from Black and Ethnic Minorities being excluded from school, and not receiving the support they need. The overall aim of the project is to improve access to education outcomes for children and young people from Black and Ethnic Minority communities.

- Southwark Borough of Sanctuary

The Law Centre is working with Southwark Council and a multi-agency forum to ensure that Southwark is a welcoming place for refugees and migrants.

Public benefit

The trustees consider that the objectives and activities stated above of the Law Centre provide public benefit within the meaning and terms of the Charities Act 2011.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteers and pro bono support

In the year 2023/4 25 students from the law faculty at King's College London volunteered with the Law Centre, providing support on the Windrush Compensation Scheme project.

The Law Centre was supported by 7 office/casework support volunteers, several of whom were students from University College London. The Law Centre also took on an intern funded by UCL to work on our planning project.

Pro bono support was received from the following firms of solicitors: Anthony Gold, Clifford Chance, Gowling WLG, Norton Rose Fulbright and Withers Worldwide Solicitors.

Trainees

The Law Centre aims to provide support to trainees and para-legals wishing to qualify. In this way we can support the next generation of social welfare lawyers.

The Law Centre was pleased to partner with Indo American Refugee and Migrant Organisation to support two of their trainees as part of the PROPEL programme.

The Law Centre received funding from the Legal Education Foundation for a Justice First Fellow and another law centre para-legal will be joining an apprenticeship programme in 2024.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The service the Law Centre provides is casework-based and involves advocacy, preparation for and representation at tribunals, arbitration, and review panels and in the Courts within its specialist areas.

The Law Centre aims to provide support to other agencies which refer cases to it, even when it cannot take on particular cases. Support may be telephone advice to assist the referral agency in resolving the problem without the client seeing a lawyer, or help in finding other sources of advice from groups such as the Southwark Lambeth and Lewisham Housing Lawyers Group or the Housing and Immigration Group.

Areas of Law

Housing

Housing remains one of the main advice needs in Southwark and Lewisham.

The Law Centre specialises in cases involving homelessness, possession, eviction, disrepair and asylum support law.

In the year 2023/4 the Law Centre dealt with 431 new cases, across our Peckham and Lewisham offices. In 2022/3 the number of cases had almost doubled largely because of the number of Lambeth and Southwark tenants going to Court for possession hearings, after the eviction ban was lifted. This was putting a significant strain on the housing team and on resources. In June 2023 the Law Centre learned that it had been unsuccessful in the reapplication to run the duty scheme at Clerkenwell Court. The Legal Aid contract was awarded to a private practice firm of solicitors. Since this date the number of cases the housing team is seeing has reduced to a more manageable level and the Law Centre can explore ways to reach tenants with earlier advice. Linked to this, the Law Centre received funding from the GLA via London Legal Support Trust and from the Access to Justice Foundation which enabled the housing team to set up a telephone advice line for people facing possession hearings.

The Law Centre continued to receive funding from Urban Health, part of the Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, to work on a project in partnership with Kineara, a social enterprise which provides holistic support for vulnerable tenants in the private rented sector.

The Law Centre continued to work with Citizens Advice Southwark on a project to provide 'Know your Rights' workshops for private tenants.

Disrepair issues for all classes of tenancies remain a major problem.

The Law Centre is funded by Trust for London to provide housing advice for destitute migrants. This is an area of growing need as the number of asylum seekers in Southwark and Lewisham continues to grow and they are largely accommodated for long periods in unsuitable hotel accommodation. The Home Office moving to the Streamlined Asylum Process, for people from several countries of origin, increased homelessness for newly granted refugees whose asylum accommodation ended. The Law Centre responded by working in partnership with Southwark Refugee Communities Forum, Southwark Council and Kineara to provide weekly drop-in sessions to help with finding housing.

The Law Centre has provided specialist second-tier advice for local frontline agencies to improve triaging for this client group, and enabled sharing of best practice through administrating and co-ordinating the Housing and Immigration Group (HIG).

Employment/Discrimination

In 2023/4 the Law Centre provided advice in 34 employment cases, continuing to provide a regular telephone outreach session for clients referred by Citizens Advice Southwark. Although the Law Centre holds a Legal Aid contract for discrimination, the lack of legal aid for associated matters such as unfair dismissal makes this area of work extremely challenging. Funding to provide representation at Tribunals is not available and many of our clients are not able to represent themselves. Without the funding from the Southwark Council contract the Law Centre would not be able to provide this area of law.

Education

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

In response to identified need, the Law Centre worked with local partners in Southwark to set up a model of education advice on areas such as school exclusion and access to Specialist Education and Disability Needs. An advisory group has been set up involving frontline agencies and local parents.

Our approach has been to build on the knowledge and expertise already present within the community. Funding has been secured from the Baring Foundation for the Law Centre to act as a legal hub for education issues. Over the last year we have provided a number of education rights training sessions on areas such as education rights for the Traveller community. We are also grateful to The Legal Education Fund who fund a project which is run in partnership with the Social Integration Regeneration Group, a frontline community agency which trains community mentors to support and empower parents.

Community Care

The Law Centre carries out community care work particularly in the areas of homelessness and 'Section 17' support for destitute families who have been given 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) status because of problems with their immigration status. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (S.17) gives local authorities the power to provide accommodation and financial support to families with 'children in need', even if they have no recourse to public funds. The Law Centre is also seeing an increasing number of vulnerable adults with NRPF who need Care Act assessments. This is linked to our immigration advice for homeless patients and the London Council funded immigration advice for rough sleepers.

Asylum and Immigration

In the year 2023/24 Southwark and Lewisham Law Centres took on 217 new immigration and asylum cases. This figure does not include all the complex cases that have been active for several years, gathering evidence with pending Home Office appeals.

The Law Centre prioritises cases for vulnerable people such as children, young people, people at risk of gender violence and people with mental and physical health problems. Many of the clients are homeless and destitute.

In July 2022 we began a major new project funded by London Councils for 3 years. The Law Centre is the South east London sub-regional lead, and works in partnership with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network.

The Law Centre has received continued funding from Lewisham Council to take referrals for specialist immigration advice for families and individuals supported by Lewisham's NRPF team.

During 2023/4 the Law Centre has continued working with Action for Refugees in Lewisham, on a project funded by Trust for London. Additional partnership funding has been provided by Lewisham Council to support some of the most complex cases for people in initial asylum accommodation.

The Law Centre provides casework and representation for homeless patients in partnership with the homelessness teams at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals. As a result of the successful outcomes this project has demonstrated in terms not only of benefits for very vulnerable patients but also savings to the NHS, the project is being funded on a rolling basis by the GSTT Hospital Trust. A similar project funded by the SE London Integrated Care Service, taking referrals from hospitals in Lewisham, Bromley and Greenwich began on a pilot basis in 2022. An evaluation carried out in 2023/4 showed similar successful outcomes for this project. The ICS have now extended funding until March 2025.

The Law Centre continues to work with the South London Refugee Association (SLRA), on the Justice Together funded programme taking referrals of complex immigration matters and providing targeted consultancy support for their staff.

In 2023/4 the Law Centre continued its partnership with Project 17 funded by Trust for London to provide specialist immigration advice for families with No Recourse to Public Funds.

In recognition of the increase in complex immigration matters in Southwark, the Law Centre is grateful to the United St Saviours Charity for providing funding for an additional caseworker.

Windrush Compensation Scheme

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Law Centre has funding from AB Charity to provide casework to help victims of the Windrush scandal to access the compensation that they are entitled to and to deal with associated immigration advice. The Law Centre has funding from King's College London to provide support for law students volunteering with this project. We also have funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to employ a part time coordinator to work more widely across the Windrush Justice Partnership. The Law Centre is also grateful to Gowling WLG and Norton Rose Fulbright solicitors for their contribution to the project.

The Law Centre is currently working on 34 complex cases and is pursuing a challenge to the Legal Aid Agency's blanket refusal to award Legal Aid for help with compensation claims.

Welfare Rights

In 2023/4 the Law Centre dealt with 58 welfare rights cases. It specialises in appeals to the First Tier Tribunal (Social Security and Asylum Support), Upper Tribunal, and Judicial Review cases. Legal Aid is rarely available for welfare rights cases and the Law Centre's casework was largely funded thanks to the important Southwark Council contract.

The Law Centre receives funding from the Integrated Care Board to provide welfare benefits advice and representation for people across SE London with Sickle Cell.

Planning Voice

The overall aim of this innovative project is to support and empower local people, particularly those from economically and socially disadvantaged communities, to be able to influence developments affecting the environment they live in.

The Law Centre has funding from the National Lottery Fund and the Oak Foundation to carry out this work, in particular exploring how planning intersects with homelessness and the need for affordable housing. The funding enables the Law Centre to employ a full-time planning solicitor supported by a paralegal.

Our planning work is informed by an advisory group consisting of local residents and representatives of community organisations.

Public Law

The Law Centre has a small number of Legal Aid Matter Starts in this area. It is important that it maintains its ability to challenge unreasonable decisions made by public bodies.

In the year 2023/4 the Law Centre carried out 7 public law challenges. These have been mainly in the area of Asylum Support. In 2024 the Law Centre is exploring public law cases in the area of education, and challenging conditions in initial asylum accommodation.

Financial review

Financial position

The Law Centre's gross income was higher this year at £2,235,637 against £1,842,103 last year, an increase of £393,534. Higher outlay on resources expended, up from £1,873,855 to £2,161,878 resulted in net incoming resources of £73,759 against net outgoing resources of £31,752 for the previous year. At the year end restricted funds were £Nil (2023 - £6,293), whilst unrestricted income funds amounted to £680,775 against £600,723 in the previous year, of which £200,000 (2023 - £200,000) has been designated.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funding sources

Legal Aid funding accounts for around 25% of income. The contract with Southwark Council accounts for around 10%, and a further 10% from the London Council's grant for immigration advice for homeless people. The remainder comes from charitable grants, donations and a contract with Lewisham Council to provide immigration advice.

The Law Centre acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of those who give it grant funding and the support of Southwark and Lewisham Councils.

The total amount of funding received from Southwark Council in respect of the specialist advice contract was £384,048.

The amount recorded in the financial statements is the net amount due to the Law Centre after payments made to Cambridge House Law Centre and Migrant Legal Action, which are partner organisations with the Law Centre in the specialist contract with the Borough.

The Law Centre holds Legal Aid contracts in housing, debt and welfare benefits, public law, discrimination, immigration and asylum law at Southwark Law Centre, with a separate housing contract at Lewisham Law Centre.

The Law Centre is also very grateful to all its other significant funders and supporters, which include:

AB Charity, Access to Justice Foundation, Action for Refugees in Lewisham, Baring Foundation, City Bridge Trust, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, Impact on Urban Health, Indigo Charity, John Ellerman Foundation, Justice Together, King's Health Partnership (Pathway), The Legal Education Foundation, London Legal Support Trust, National Lottery Fund, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Project 17, South East London Integrated Care Board, South London Refugee Association, Trust for London, United St Saviour's Charity. All of these, along with generous individual supporters, enable us to provide critical help to a wide range of disadvantaged and marginalised clients.

Reserves policy

The Law Centre's reserves have been set in accordance with the Law Centre's reserve policy, which is formulated pursuant to Charity Commission guidance. Best practice suggests that the Law Centre should have an appropriate proportion of its annual outgoings available by way of reserves, and the level of the Law Centre's reserves is regularly monitored by the Trustees.

As part of the Law Centre's Financial Management processes, the Board of Trustees has set a target of working towards accumulating and maintaining a reserve fund which represents 3 months' annual operating costs. This amount is reflective of general good practice in the charity sector. In the financial year 2024/5 this would amount to approximately £650,000. These reserves enable the Law Centre to deal with the following contingencies:

- Reductions in or withdrawal of grant funding;
- Reduction in Legal Aid earned income; and
- In the event of closure, 3 months' running costs to wind up the organisation and pay redundancies, leasehold and other liabilities.

In addition the Trustees wish to set aside the following amounts:

- £50,000 for unforeseen staffing issues; and
- £50,000 fund for replacing essential equipment such as telephones or IT.

The total amount of reserves the Trustees therefore wish to aim for, over the coming year, is £750,000.

This policy is reviewed at least annually when the Trustee Board considers the end of year projections and the audited accounts.

The Trustee Board reviews the overall financial position of the Law Centre at least every 3 months, with cashflow reports monthly, and records the outcome of its review in the minutes of its meetings.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

Key areas of work

A new Executive Director has been appointed with effect from November 2024, allowing for a transition period before the retirement of the current Executive Director in December 2024.

Southwark Law Centre intends to move to new premises by the end of the 2024 calendar year. The new premises are owned by a charity and will be shared with one other organisation. The Law Centre wishes to create a more welcoming space for clients and a pleasant working environment for staff, making the most effective use of affordable technology.

The Southwark Council contract ends in March 2025, and we are currently in negotiations with the Council for renewal funding for the next 5 years.

The Law Centre will continue to build on its wide range of experience and deliver the highest quality legal advice to the population of South East London as far as resources allow.

The following priorities have been identified as part of our planning process which involves all members of staff, volunteers and trustees. The Trustee Board and staff met in March 2024 to discuss and review the Law Centre's business plan. The Law Centre also considers feedback from clients, partner organisations, funders and the wider community.

Key Objectives 2024/5

- Achieve a workforce and Trustee Board that is representative of the diverse communities that live and work within South East London;
- Ensure our service is responsive to the needs of our diverse community;
- Ensure we maintain a supportive atmosphere for all the team of staff and volunteers, encouraging development;
- Continue to develop the identity of Lewisham Law Centre;
- Maintain and develop infrastructure to underpin all our work; and
- Maintain capacity to provide specialist casework and representation in all the areas of law the Law Centre currently covers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Law Centre is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

All the trustees live or work within the Law Centre's area of benefit. The recruitment of trustees is through advertising with volunteer support agencies, adverts on our website, contact with local community organisations, advice agencies and legal providers in the area of benefit. The Law Centre also encourages former clients and volunteers to be members of the charity and to consider joining the Trustee Board. Prospective trustees are invited to attend and observe at trustees' meetings and are recruited on the basis of relevant skills, experience and knowledge. The Board carries out an annual skills and attendance audit.

The trustees retire from office on a rotational basis (one third each year at the Annual General Meeting, based on length of service), but may stand for re-election.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board meets approximately every two months to oversee the strategic management of the organisation. The full Trustee Board met 7 times in 2023/4 including the AGM and business planning event.

The Finance sub-committee meets at least quarterly with monthly cash flow projections provided to the Treasurer. The sub-committee reports to the Trustee Board.

The Human Resources sub-committee meets at least quarterly, and reports to the Trustee Board.

Day-to-day management of the Law Centre is delegated to the Executive Director, Sally Causer, who works full-time. The Law Centre has a Senior Management Team which includes the Senior Solicitors for Immigration, Housing and Employment. The Senior Solicitors are accountable to the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the conduct of legal cases, and provide day to day supervision of casework. Individual staff specialists provide legal supervision in their areas of specialisation: Housing, Employment, Immigration and Welfare Rights Law.

All members of the company, who include all the members of the Trustee Board, undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each in the event that the company is wound up while they are members, or within one year of cessation of membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have an induction meeting with the Executive Director to observe the work of the Law Centre. All trustees receive full details of the policies and procedures of the Law Centre.

Key management remuneration

	2024	2023
	£	£
Key management compensation in year	<u>89,106</u>	<u>79,485</u>

The remuneration is the total sum of the salaries and social security contributions paid to the Executive Director. No payments were made to any Trustee.

Risk management

The Trustees are keenly aware that their responsibilities include the duty to plan for the future, and to prepare the Law Centre for the risks and opportunities they have identified beyond the current financial year.

The Law Centre reviews an annual operational risk assessment and a business continuity plan.

The Law Centre has developed a separate risk assessment for the Lewisham Law Centre.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Southwark Law Centre 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).

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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

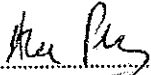
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding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

Report of the trustees, incorporating a Strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on and signed on the board's behalf by:

04/11/24


.....
A Polley Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Law Centre (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Cash flow statement 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).

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 2024 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; 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; 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 independent 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and error, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- results of our enquiries to management about their own assessment of the risks of fraud and error;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud may occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

Our procedures to respond to risk include the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected areas that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error;

addressing the risk of fraud and error through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journals, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul Allan BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

4 November 2024

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2024

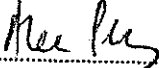
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	32,797	-	-	32,797	37,348
Charitable activities						
Legal representation	4	906,889	-	1,295,157	2,202,046	1,804,342
Investment income	3	794	-	-	794	413
Total		<u>940,480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,295,157</u>	<u>2,235,637</u>	<u>1,842,103</u>
EXPENDITURE ON						
Charitable activities	5					
Legal representation		<u>840,897</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,320,981</u>	<u>2,161,878</u>	<u>1,873,855</u>
NET						
INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)						
Transfers between funds	15	<u>99,583</u> <u>(19,531)</u>	<u>-</u> <u>-</u>	<u>(25,824)</u> <u>19,531</u>	<u>73,759</u> <u>-</u>	<u>(31,752)</u> <u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>80,052</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,293)</u>	<u>73,759</u>	<u>(31,752)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		<u>400,723</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>6,293</u>	<u>607,016</u>	<u>638,768</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>480,775</u></u>	<u><u>200,000</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>680,775</u></u>	<u><u>607,016</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11	1,679	-	-	1,679	2,239
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	12	737,234	23,147	96,737	857,118	661,628
Cash at bank and in hand		85,612	176,853	420,336	682,801	346,454
		<u>822,846</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>517,073</u>	<u>1,539,919</u>	<u>1,008,082</u>
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(343,750)	-	(517,073)	(860,823)	(403,305)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>479,096</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>679,096</u>	<u>604,777</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>480,775</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680,775</u>	<u>607,016</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>480,775</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680,775</u>	<u>607,016</u>
FUNDS	15					
Unrestricted funds					680,775	600,723
Restricted funds					-	6,293
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>680,775</u>	<u>607,016</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 04/11/24 and were signed on its behalf by:


A Polley - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>240,788</u>	<u>(234,506)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>240,788</u>	<u>(234,506)</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,972)	(10,876)
Interest received		<u>794</u>	<u>413</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(1,178)</u>	<u>(10,463)</u>
 Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		 <u>239,610</u>	 <u>(244,969)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	<u>346,454</u>	<u>591,423</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	 <u><u>586,064</u></u>	 <u><u>346,454</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of financial activities)	73,759	(31,752)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,532	9,317
Interest received	(794)	(413)
Increase in debtors	(195,490)	(207,354)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	360,781	(4,304)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	<u>240,788</u>	<u>(234,506)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	(355)	(424)
Cash in bank	683,156	346,878
Overdrafts included in bank loans & overdrafts falling due within one year	(96,737)	-
Total cash & cash equivalents	<u>586,064</u>	<u>346,454</u>

3. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	346,454	336,347	682,801
Bank overdrafts	-	(96,737)	(96,737)
	<u>346,454</u>	<u>239,610</u>	<u>586,064</u>
Total	<u>346,454</u>	<u>239,610</u>	<u>586,064</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. 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.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Work in progress is valued using a prudent estimation of the recoverability of on-going cases at the year end. Reference is made to the potential recoverability of the chargeable time recorded on the work in progress system, with consideration of fixed fees, irrecoverable time and unresolved cases.

Income

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

Such income is only deferred where the donor specifies that the grant or donation can be used in a future accounting period, or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to performance conditions is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support advice/performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contract and performance related grant income is deferred when received in advance of the performance of event to which they relate.

Turnover is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for services provided in the normal course of business, net of VAT.

Expenditure

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 a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. All support costs relate to unrestricted charitable activities.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

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

Fixtures and fittings	-25% on reducing balance
Law library	-25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-100% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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 Note 14 on 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 Centre participates in a Local Authority pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. It is therefore not possible to identify the assets and liabilities for participating employees. The Centre expenses the value of pensions contributions to this pension scheme in the statement of financial activities.

Work in progress

Work in progress is valued at net realisable value, after making due allowances for slow recovery and potential irrecoverable fees.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will remain a going concern and the accounts have been prepared on that basis. Currently, the Centre has stabilised the income from legal cases, additional grants have been secured and costs have risen only slightly. The trustees continue to monitor the situation.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	32,797	37,348

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2024

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	794	413

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2024	2023
		£	£
Grants	Legal representation	1,402,445	1,119,229
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	Legal representation	527,758	457,176
Specialist contracts	Legal representation	269,420	226,217
Miscellaneous income	Legal representation	2,423	1,720
		<u>2,202,046</u>	<u>1,804,342</u>

Southwark Law Centre is in partnership with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network in respect of the funds received from London Councils.

During the year £335,800 was received from London Councils, and £135,222 was paid to Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network

The below details the specialist contracts Southwark Law Centre has entered into.

Southwark Law Centre is in partnership with two other charities. As the lead applicant they receive funds on behalf of the other charities and pass them on.

Specialist contract with Southwark Council

	2024	2023
	£	£
Contract monies received from Southwark Council	384,048	336,000
Grant partners paid	(192,649)	(168,547)
Income relevant to Southwark Law Centre acknowledged	<u>191,399</u>	<u>167,453</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
Lewisham Immigration Specialist Contract	<u>78,021</u>	<u>58,764</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Charities Aid Foundation	25,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	91,642	62,049
Children in Need	-	20,000
Trust for London Migrant Housing	45,375	55,000
The Baring Foundation	54,000	55,949
AB Charitable Trust	26,667	27,083
Carried forward	<u>242,684</u>	<u>220,081</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	2024	2023
	£	£
Brought forward	242,684	220,081
Kings Health Partnership Pathway	6,600	12,000
London Legal Support Trust	82,433	55,992
Project 17	35,233	30,037
United St Saviour's Charity	40,000	17,730
The Legal Education Foundation	5,000	7,500
Access to Justice Foundation	89,763	14,672
South London Refugee Association	42,581	35,397
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	91,855	68,992
The Indigo Trust	84,167	85,833
The Home Office	-	94,630
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	65,052	16,932
Southwark Immigration Advice	5,000	49,344
Greenwich Council	-	2,900
Strategic Legal Fund	12,230	5,554
King's College London	20,417	13,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	31,250	36,850
City Bridge Trust	49,725	32,850
London Councils	200,578	83,863
NHS England	44,035	120,000
The Legal Education Foundation Action for Education Rights	23,524	11,537
Leathermarket JMB	-	2,360
Trust for London Office Move	-	15,000
Oak Foundation	83,000	-
Norton Rose Fulbright	2,750	-
Indo-American Refugee and Migrant Organisation	12,636	-
Gowling WLG	9,728	-
John Ellerman Foundation	33,537	-
Impact on Urban Health	88,667	86,175
	<u>1,402,445</u>	<u>1,119,229</u>

5. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

	Direct Costs 2024 £	Support costs (see note 6) 2024 £	Totals 2024 £
Legal representation	<u>1,994,099</u>	<u>167,779</u>	<u>2,161,878</u>

Comparatives for provision of legal services

	Direct Costs 2023 £	Support costs (see note 6) 2023 £	Totals 2023 £
Legal representation	<u>1,704,464</u>	<u>169,391</u>	<u>1,873,855</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance 2024 £	Other 2024 £	Governance costs 2024 £	Totals 2024 £
Legal representation	<u>4,265</u>	<u>154,487</u>	<u>9,027</u>	<u>167,779</u>

Comparatives for support costs

	Finance 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Governance costs 2023 £	Totals 2023 £
Legal representation	<u>3,688</u>	<u>156,867</u>	<u>8,836</u>	<u>169,391</u>

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Auditors' remuneration	8,400	8,400
Depreciation - owned assets	2,532	9,317
Other operating leases	<u>4,265</u>	<u>3,688</u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	1,412,894	1,230,454
Social security costs	149,240	130,933
Other pension costs	<u>309,424</u>	<u>255,813</u>
	<u>1,871,558</u>	<u>1,617,200</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Legal advice	31	29
Administration	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>39</u>	<u>37</u>

The number of employees who received emoluments in excess of £60,000 was 12 (2023: 6).

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

10. CLIENT BANK ACCOUNTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Monies held in client bank accounts	<u>162,563</u>	<u>93,482</u>
Monies due to clients	<u>162,563</u>	<u>93,482</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Law library £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2023	34,310	8,650	50,713	93,673
Additions	-	-	1,972	1,972
At 31 March 2024	<u>34,310</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>52,685</u>	<u>95,645</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2023	32,071	8,650	50,713	91,434
Charge for year	560	-	1,972	2,532
At 31 March 2024	<u>32,631</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>52,685</u>	<u>93,966</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,679</u>	-	-	<u>1,679</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>2,239</u>	-	-	<u>2,239</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	713,675	549,657
Other debtors	23,147	58,334
Prepayments and accrued income	120,296	53,637
	<u>857,118</u>	<u>661,628</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 14)	96,737	-
Social security and other taxes	35,217	30,176
VAT	15,862	47,536
Other creditors	185,709	151,815
Accrued expenses	118,305	36,943
Deferred income	408,993	136,835
	<u>860,823</u>	<u>403,305</u>

14. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	<u>96,737</u>	<u>-</u>

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	400,723	99,583	(19,531)	480,775
Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	-	50,000
Equipment fund	50,000	-	-	50,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
	<u>600,723</u>	<u>99,583</u>	<u>(19,531)</u>	<u>680,775</u>
Restricted funds				
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	1,042	(1,042)	-	-
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	(13,735)	-	13,735	-
Home Office EU Settlement Application Fund	28,986	(24,782)	(4,204)	-
NHS England Sickle Cell	(10,000)	-	10,000	-
	<u>6,293</u>	<u>(25,824)</u>	<u>19,531</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>607,016</u>	<u>73,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680,775</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	940,479	(840,896)	99,583
Restricted funds			
Charities Aid Foundation	25,000	(25,000)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	91,642	(91,642)	-
Trust for London Migrant Housing	45,375	(45,375)	-
The Baring Foundation	54,000	(54,000)	-
Project 17 immigration advice	35,233	(35,233)	-
London Legal Support Trust	71,543	(71,543)	-
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	-	(1,042)	(1,042)
United St Saviour's Charity	40,000	(40,000)	-
King's Health Partnership Pathway	6,600	(6,600)	-
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	91,855	(91,855)	-
Home Office EU Settlement Application Fund	-	(24,782)	(24,782)
Access to Justice Foundation	89,763	(89,763)	-
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	65,052	(65,052)	-
AB Charitable Trust	26,667	(26,667)	-
Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme	5,000	(5,000)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	31,250	(31,250)	-
King's College London	20,417	(20,417)	-
City Bridge Trust	49,725	(49,725)	-
South London Refugee Association Justice Together	42,581	(42,581)	-
Lewisham ICS	30,847	(30,847)	-
NHS England Sickle Cell	13,188	(13,188)	-
London Councils	200,578	(200,578)	-
The Legal Education Foundation	28,524	(28,524)	-
Oak Foundation	83,000	(83,000)	-
Norton Rose Fullbright	2,750	(2,750)	-
Indo-American Refugee and Migrant Organisation	12,636	(12,636)	-
Gowling WLG	9,728	(9,728)	-
Impact on Urban Health	88,667	(88,667)	-
John Ellerman Foundation	33,537	(33,537)	-
	<u>1,295,158</u>	<u>(1,320,982)</u>	<u>(25,824)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,235,637</u>	<u>(2,161,878)</u>	<u>73,759</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	407,729	(7,006)	400,723
Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	50,000
Equipment fund	50,000	-	50,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	100,000
	<u>607,729</u>	<u>(7,006)</u>	<u>600,723</u>
Restricted funds			
Project 17 immigration advice	14,807	(14,807)	-
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	-	1,042	1,042
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	-	(13,735)	(13,735)
Home Office EU Settlement Application Fund	-	28,986	28,986
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	16,232	(16,232)	-
NHS England Sickle Cell	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
	<u>31,039</u>	<u>(24,746)</u>	<u>6,293</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>638,768</u>	<u>(31,752)</u>	<u>607,016</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	844,143	(851,149)	(7,006)
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	62,049	(62,049)	-
Trust for London Migrant Housing	70,000	(70,000)	-
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	20,000	(20,000)	-
The Baring Foundation	42,500	(42,500)	-
Project 17 immigration advice	30,037	(44,844)	(14,807)
London Legal Support Trust	44,300	(44,300)	-
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	15,730	(14,688)	1,042
United St Saviour's Charity	15,449	(15,449)	-
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust	68,992	(82,727)	(13,735)
Home Office EU Settlement Application Fund	94,631	(65,645)	28,986
Access to Justice Foundation	14,672	(14,672)	-
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	16,931	(33,163)	(16,232)
The Indigo Trust	50,000	(50,000)	-
AB Charitable Trust	27,083	(27,083)	-
Strategic Legal Fund	5,554	(5,554)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	36,850	(36,850)	-
King's College London	13,000	(13,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	32,850	(32,850)	-
South London Refugee Association Justice Together	33,397	(33,397)	-
Lewisham ICS	70,000	(70,000)	-
NHS England Sickle Cell	50,000	(60,000)	(10,000)
London Councils	83,863	(83,863)	-
The Legal Education Foundation	11,537	(11,537)	-
Leathermarket JMB	2,360	(2,360)	-
Impact on Urban Health	86,175	(86,175)	-
	<u>997,960</u>	<u>(1,022,706)</u>	<u>(24,746)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,842,103</u></u>	<u><u>(1,873,855)</u></u>	<u><u>(31,752)</u></u>

Restricted monies are carried forward to be utilised in the next financial year.

Restricted

AB Charitable Trust: Funding for an Immigration Caseworker at the Windrush Justice Clinic.

Action for Refugees in Lewisham: Funding for solicitor costs to provide immigration advice for families in Lewisham.

Access to Justice: Funding to assist people to access early advice.

The Baring Foundation: Funding to develop a second-tier support hub to provide legal advice and training for community organisations in the areas of education and discrimination law.

Charities Aid Foundation: Funding for cost of living support.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

City Bridge Trust : Funding for the salary costs of a full-time housing and welfare rights paralegal.

The Home Office: Funding to provide support on EU settlement applications.

Gowling WLG: Funding for the Windrush Justice project.

Guys & St Thomas' Hospital Trust: Funding for casework for Homeless patients.

The Indigo Trust: Funding for immigration and housing casework and representation at Lewisham Law Centre.

John Ellerman Foundation: Funding for policy work for the Windrush Justice Clinic.

King's College London : Funding to supervise students volunteering on the Windrush Justice project.

Impact on Urban Health: Funding for housing advice for private renters and people in temporary accommodation.

The Legal Education Foundation: Funding for the Access to Education Rights project.

Children in Need: The funding contributes to the salary and related costs of a solicitor to provide immigration advice for young migrants.

Lewisham Council: Contract to provide immigration advice for people with No Recourse to Public Funds supported by the council.

London Councils: Funding for the South East Region Immigration Advice project, for people who are or who are at risk of sleeping rough.

London Legal Support Trust : Funding for cost of living support.

The National Lottery Community Fund: Funding for the Planning Voice project.

NHS England: Contracts for casework for homeless patients and people with Sickle Cell disease.

Norton Rose Fulbright : Funding for Windrush Justice project.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation: Funding for the coordination of the Windrush Justice project.

Project 17: Funding for immigration casework for destitute families.

Southwark Council : Funding to provide Borough of Sanctuary policy work.

Strategic Legal Fund : Funding for pre-litigation work.

Trust for London: Funding for the Migrant Housing Project.

United St Saviour's Charity : Funding for immigration casework for Southwark residents.

Indo-American Refugee and Migrant Organisation : Funding for a workforce development programme.

Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme: Funding to provide access to the EU Settlement Scheme for Southwark residents.

Windrush Justice Clinic: Funding from Allen and Overy Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, John Ellerman Foundation and King's College London to offer legal advice to victims of the Windrush scandal.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Leathermarket JMB: Funding for cost of living support for Leathermarket residents.

South London Refugee Association: Funding for second tier advice for their team.

Unrestricted

Access to Justice: Funding for core costs.

The Indigo Trust: Funding for core costs.

London Legal Support Trust: Core funding as part of the 'Centre of Excellence' project.

Oak Foundation : Funding for core costs.

South London Refugee Association : Funding for second tier advice.

Southwark Council : Contract to provide specialist legal advice in Southwark.

Kings Health Partnership Pathway: Funding for training and second tier advice for health professionals.

Southwark Immigration Advice: Funding for immigration advice for homeless people.

Greenwich Council: Funding for an immigration solicitor providing immigration advice for homeless people.

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	32,797	37,348
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	794	413
Charitable activities		
Grants	1,402,445	1,119,229
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	527,758	457,176
Specialist contracts	269,420	226,217
Miscellaneous income	2,423	1,720
	2,202,046	1,804,342
Total incoming resources	2,235,637	1,842,103
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Salaries	1,412,894	1,230,454
Social security	149,240	130,933
Pensions	309,424	255,813
Recruitment, temporary staff & training expenses	6,451	7,522
Replacement law books	945	1,607
Legal Aid costs	44,223	15,413
Computer accessories, software & support	48,652	42,280
Legal and professional fees	10,276	11,466
Annual report	288	288
Practising certificates	6,471	3,101
Insurance professional indemnity	4,029	2,750
Lawtel	1,206	2,837
	1,994,099	1,704,464
Support costs		
Finance		
Other operating leases	4,265	3,688
Other		
Rent and rates	41,372	41,523
Insurance	2,197	1,794
Light and heat	4,199	4,936
Telephone	16,199	14,294
Postage and stationery	12,379	11,902
Sundries	10,945	7,786
Carried forward	87,291	82,235

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Other		
Brought forward	87,291	82,235
Repairs & maintenance	3,979	2,216
Bookkeeping	31,953	29,736
Travel & subsistence	3,526	4,341
Bank charges	92	313
Subscriptions	21,348	20,777
Cleaning	3,687	4,182
Office move costs	79	3,750
Fixtures and fittings	560	746
Depreciation of law library	-	1
Computer equipment	1,972	8,570
	154,487	156,867
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	8,400	8,400
AGM costs	627	436
	9,027	8,836
Total resources expended	2,161,878	1,873,855
Net income/(expenditure)	73,759	(31,752)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01418763 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 277927

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

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for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS for the year ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES	A A Eden (resigned 16.11.2022) V Fewkes A Gallagher S D O Lancashire L McGown F J McGregor (Treasurer until Sept 22) (resigned 13.9.2022) V Olisa O J Persey A Polley (Vice Chair) J Rhodes (Chair) L H Stoy (resigned 4.9.2023) K C Thomas A Chandler (Treasurer from Jan 23) (appointed 14.12.2022)
COMPANY SECRETARY	S Causer
REGISTERED OFFICE	Hanover Park House 14-16 Hanover Park Peckham London SE15 5HG
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	01418763 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	277927
AUDITORS	Berringers LLP Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley Kent BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

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 2023. 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Southwark Law Centre was founded in 1976. Our main office is in Peckham. In 2017 a branch office was developed in Lewisham which was recognised as Lewisham Law Centre by the Law Centres Network (LCN) in July 2020.

The Law Centre provides specialist legal advice and representation, which is free and of high quality, for those who could not otherwise afford to receive legal services. The Law Centre operates in the areas of asylum/immigration law, discrimination, education, education, housing, planning and public law, welfare rights, and support with the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Law Centre's constitution enables it to take individual cases from all Greater London Boroughs.

The Law Centre prioritises the most complex cases which involve the prevention of homelessness, destitution, discrimination, breaches of human rights and poverty. It provides training and second tier support on legal rights for local advice and community agencies. It campaigns to influence law, policy and practice and promote human and civil rights, often by the use of strategic litigation.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

In 2022/3 the Law Centre took on 1304 complex cases across the different areas of law and provided workshops and advice on social welfare law topics reaching around 600 frontline workers.

Some of the Law Centre's key partnerships:

- Housing and Immigration Group:

Funding from Trust for London enables the Law Centre to co-ordinate the London-wide Housing and Immigration Group, which facilitates the sharing of good practice and information between practitioners and referrals for urgent cases. The Trustees would like to thank Trust for London for its continued of funding for this service.

- Southwark Homelessness Forum:

The Forum brings together representatives from the voluntary sector and representatives of Southwark Council to try to develop a joined-up approach to tackling issues of homelessness and ensuring policies do not adversely affect local residents. The Law Centre's Executive Director chairs these meetings.

- Quarterly liaison meetings with the Southwark Exchequer Service:

The Law Centre facilitates and chairs meetings between the core Southwark advice agencies and the Council's Exchequer Service. The aim is to work in partnership particularly around the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living increase on tenants ability to pay their rent.

- Forum For Equalities and Human Rights and Equality Human Rights Panel (EHRP)

The Executive Director of the Law Centre is a member of the EHRP, which acts as a critical friend to Southwark Council, commenting on policy initiatives and equality analysis.

- Windrush Justice Clinic Partnership

Our project is part of the Windrush Justice Clinics (WJC). The WJC is a collaboration between Southwark Law Centre and North Kensington Law Centre, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, the University of Westminster Legal Advice Clinic, King's College University Legal Clinic, London South Bank University Legal Clinic; and community groups, notably the Claudia Jones Organisation, Windrush Lives and the Jigsaw House Society.

Each organisation plays a key role within our three-tier model of support: community engagement, outreach and communications; information and triage; and legal support with more complex applications, particularly those where there is an immigration matter to be resolved.

- Action for Education Rights

A partnership of community organisations and local residents was formed in 2021 in response to concerns from local parents around the disproportionate number of pupils from Black and Ethnic Minorities being excluded from school, and not receiving the support they need. The overall aim of our project is to improve access to education outcomes for children and young people from Black and Ethnic Minority communities.

- Southwark Borough of Sanctuary

The Law Centre is working with a multi-agency forum led by Southwark Refugee Communities Forum to ensure Southwark is a welcoming place for refugees and migrants.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The trustees consider that the objectives and activities stated above of the Law Centre provide public benefit within the meaning and terms of the Charities Act 2011.

Volunteers

In the year 2022/3 19 students of Kings University London legal department volunteered with the Law Centre, providing support on the Windrush compensation project.

The Law Centre was supported by 7 office volunteers.

Pro bono support was received from four law firms: Hogan Lovells International LLP, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP, Clifford Chance LLP and Withers LLP.

The Trustees would like to thank all those who have provided help and assistance.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The service the Law Centre provides is casework-based and involves advocacy, preparation for and representation at tribunals, arbitration, and review panels and in the Courts within its specialist areas.

The Law Centre aims to provide support to other agencies which refer cases to it, even when it cannot take on particular cases. That support may be telephone advice to assist the referral agency in resolving the problem without the client seeing a lawyer, or help in finding other sources of advice from groups such as the Southwark Housing Lawyers Group or the Housing and Immigration Group.

Areas of Law

Housing

Housing remains one of the main advice needs in Southwark and Lewisham.

The Law Centre specialises in cases involving homelessness, possession, eviction, disrepair and asylum support law.

In the year 2022/3 the Law Centre dealt with 841 cases. This is almost double the number dealt with in 2021/2 and is largely due to the eviction ban being lifted. The levels of arrears that tenants now routinely have are higher than the Law Centre has ever seen, sometimes running into tens of thousands of pounds. This, combined with the cost-of-living increases, is causing a crisis for tenants on low incomes.

Staffing the duty solicitor rota at Clerkenwell Court (Lambeth and Southwark tenants) has been very challenging in terms of staff time and the impact on the legal aid income of the Law Centre, because of the sheer number of sessions and cases listed. It is an essential service as most of the tenants the Law Centre sees have not had the benefit of legal advice before attending Court. In 2023/4 the Law Centre will be exploring how it might be able to reach tenants with earlier advice. Linked to this we have funding from the GLA via London Legal Support Trust to provide some welfare rights advice linked to the Court duty scheme as many of the people the Law Centre sees have a benefits issue as a root cause of their rent arrears. This work began in October 2022.

The Law Centre continued to receive funding from Urban Health, part of the Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, to work on a project in partnership with Kineara, a social enterprise which provides holistic support for vulnerable tenants in the private rented sector.

During 2021/2 the Law Centre worked with Citizens Advice Southwark on a project to set up a support group for private renters. The Law Centre's role has been to encourage engagement and to provide 'Know your Rights' workshops.

The Law Centre is funded by Trust for London to provide housing advice for destitute migrants. This is an area of growing need as the number of asylum seekers in Southwark and Lewisham continues to grow and they are largely accommodated for long periods in unsuitable hotel accommodation.

The Law Centre has provided specialist second-tier advice for local frontline agencies to improve triaging for this client group, and has enabled sharing of best practice through administrating and co-ordinating the Housing and Immigration Group (HIG).

Employment/Discrimination

In 2022/3 the Law Centre provided advice in 63 employment cases, continuing to provide a regular telephone outreach session for clients referred by Citizens Advice Southwark. Although the Law Centre holds a Legal Aid contract for discrimination, the lack of legal aid makes this area of work extremely challenging as funding is not available for representation at Tribunals and many of the Law Centre's clients are not able to represent themselves.

Education

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

In response to identified need, the Law Centre is developing capacity to provide education advice on areas such as school exclusion and access to Specialist Education and Disability Needs. An advisory group has been set up involving frontline agencies and local parents.

The approach of the Law Centre has been to build on the knowledge and expertise already present within the community. Funding has been secured from the Baring Foundation for the Law Centre to act as a legal hub for education issues. Over the last year the Law Centre has provided a number of education rights training sessions on areas such as access to SEND support for children in families with No Recourse to Public Funds ('NRPF') status, and the police in schools. In addition, the Trustees would like to thank the Strategic Legal Fund for support to explore challenges around internal exclusions and SEND support for migrant children.

Community Care

The Law Centre carries out community care work particularly in the areas of homelessness and 'Section 17' support for destitute families who have been given NRPF status because of problems with their immigration status. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (S.17) gives local authorities the power to provide accommodation and financial support to families with 'children in need', even if they have no recourse to public funds. The Law Centre is also seeing an increasing number of vulnerable adults with NRPF status who need Care Act assessments. This is linked to its immigration advice for homeless patients and the London Council funded immigration advice for rough sleepers.

Asylum and Immigration

In the year 2022/3 the Law Centre dealt with 314 immigration and asylum cases.

It prioritises cases for vulnerable people such as children, young people, people at risk of gender violence and people with mental and physical health problems. Many of the clients are homeless and destitute.

In July 2022 the Law Centre began a major new project funded by London Councils for 3 years. The Law Centre is the Southeast London sub-regional lead, and will work in partnership with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network.

The Law Centre has received continued funding from Lewisham Council to take referrals for specialist immigration advice for families and individuals supported by Lewisham's NRPF team.

In 2022/3 the Law Centre has continued working with Action for Refugees in Lewisham.
The funding from Trust for London has been extended for another 2 years.

The Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Service provides casework and representation for homeless patients in partnership with the homeless teams at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals. As a result of the successful outcomes this project has demonstrated in terms not only of benefits for very vulnerable patients but savings to the NHS, the project is being funded on a rolling basis by the GSTT Hospital Trust. A similar project based in Lewisham Hospital, funded by the SE London Integrated Care Service, began on a pilot basis in 2022 and will be evaluated later in 2023.

During 2022/3 the Law Centre continued to receive funding from the Home Office to provide assistance with more complex applications for settlement from vulnerable EEA nationals. The Law Centre works in partnership with New Europeans and Citizens Advice Southwark

The Law Centre continues to work with the South London Refugee Association (SLRA), to provide targeted consultancy support for their staff. SLRA has led a partnership involving the Law Centre and Project 17 which has been awarded funding from the Justice Together programme. This project started in July 2022.

In 2022/3 the Law Centre continued its partnership with Project 17 funded by Trust for London to provide specialist immigration advice for families with NRPF status.

Representatives of the Law Centre attend regular King's Health Partnership Pathways team meetings in King's, Guy's, SLAM (South London and Maudsley) and St Thomas' hospitals to provide second-tier immigration advice and support for the homeless support teams funded by the Pathway project.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

Windrush Compensation Scheme

The Law Centre has funding from AB Charity to provide casework to help victims of the Windrush scandal to access the compensation that they are entitled to and to deal with associated immigration advice. The Law Centre has funding from King's College London to provide support for law students volunteering with this project. It also has funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to employ a part time coordinator to work more widely across the Windrush Justice Partnership. The Law Centre has taken on over 30 complex cases and is currently pursuing a challenge to the Legal Aid Agency's blanket refusal to award Legal Aid for help with compensation claims.

Welfare Rights

In 2022/3 the Law Centre dealt with 60 welfare rights cases. It specialises in appeals to the First Tier Tribunal (Social Security and Asylum Support), Upper Tribunal, and Judicial Review cases. Legal Aid is rarely available for welfare rights cases and the Law Centre's casework was largely funded thanks to the important Southwark Council contract.

In 2022 the Law Centre received funding to provide welfare benefits advice and representation for Lewisham residents with Sickle Cell.

Planning Voice

The overall aim of this innovative project is to support and empower local people, particularly those from economically and socially disadvantaged communities, to be able to influence developments affecting the environment they live in. In the 1970s and 1980s the Law Centre provided legal advice on planning issues at a time of huge redevelopment in the Borough. In order to respond to local needs, this is an area where the Law Centre should once again support residents.

Initial 3-year funding from United St Saviours Charity enabled Southwark Law Centre to employ a three day per week caseworker to provide group training sessions on planning issues and one-to-one support for local residents, including advocacy and drafting representations. In January 2020 the Law Centre was awarded 3-year funding from the National Lottery which has enabled the planning solicitor post to become full time and to cover a wider area of Southwark. In 2022 the National Lottery awarded a further 3 year grant with increased funding for an information support post.

Public Law

The Law Centre has a small number of Legal Aid Matter Starts in this area. It is important that it maintains its ability to challenge unreasonable decisions made by public bodies.

In the year 2021/2 the Law Centre carried out 12 public law challenges. These have been mainly in the area of Asylum Support.

Financial review

Financial position

The Law Centre's gross income was higher this year at £1,842,103 against £1,580,961 last year, an increase of £261,142. Higher outlay on resources expended, up from £1,644,157 to £1,873,855 resulted in net outgoing resources of £31,752 against £63,196 for the previous year. At the year end restricted funds were £6,293 (2022 - £31,039), whilst unrestricted income funds amounted to £600,723 against £607,729 in the previous year, of which £200,000 (2022 - £200,000) has been designated.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funding sources

Legal Aid funding accounts for around 25% of income. The contract with Southwark Council accounts for around 10%, and 10% from the London Council's grant for immigration advice for homeless people. The remainder comes from Charitable grants, donations and a contract with Lewisham Council to provide immigration advice.

The Law Centre acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of those who give it grant funding.

The total amount of funding received from Southwark Council in respect of the specialist advice contract was £167,453. An uplift of 6% over two years (2022/23 and 2023/24) to partially offset inflation and cost of living increase for staff was awarded towards the end of the 2022/3 financial year.

The amount recorded in the financial statements is the net amount due to the Law Centre after payments made to Cambridge House Law Centre and Migrant Legal Action, which are partner organisations with the Law Centre in the specialist contract with the Borough.

The Law Centre holds Legal Aid contracts in housing, debt and welfare benefits, public law, discrimination, immigration and asylum law at Southwark Law Centre, with separate housing contract and a discrimination law contracts at Lewisham Law Centre.

The Law Centre is also very grateful to all its other funders and supporters, which include:

AB Charity, Access to Justice Foundation, Action for Refugees in Lewisham, Baring Foundation, City Bridge Trust, The Home Office, Guys and St Thomas Hospital, Indigo Charity, Justice Together, Kings Health Partnership (Pathway), The Legal Education Foundation, London Legal Support Trust, National Lottery, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Project 17, South East London Integrated Care Service, South London Refugee Association, Trust for London, United St Saviours Charity, Urban Health. All of these, along with generous individual supporters, enable us to provide critical help to a wide range of disadvantaged and marginalised clients.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Law Centre's reserves have been set in accordance with the Law Centre's reserve policy, which is formulated pursuant to Charity Commission guidance. Best practice suggests that the Law Centre should have an appropriate proportion of its annual outgoings available by way of reserves, and the level of the Law Centre's reserves is regularly monitored by the Trustees.

As part of the Law Centre's Financial Management processes, the Board of Trustees has set a target of working towards accumulating and maintaining a reserve fund which represents 3 months' annual operating costs. This amount is reflective of general good practice in the Charity Sector, and is even more important in light of the current inflation rates and cost of living increases. In the financial year 2023/4 this would amount to approximately £500,000. These reserves enable the Law Centre to deal with the following contingencies:-

- Reductions in or withdrawal of grant funding
- Reduction in Legal Aid earned income
- In the event of closure, three months running costs to wind up the organisation and pay redundancies, leasehold and other liabilities

In addition we wish to set aside the following amounts :

- £100,000 in anticipation of a move from our current premises
- £50,000 for unforeseen staffing issues;
- £50,000 fund for replacing essential equipment such as telephones or IT.

The total amount of reserves the Trustees therefore wish to aim for, over the coming year, is £700,000.

This policy is reviewed at least annually when the Trustee Board considers the end of year projections and the audited accounts.

The Trustee Board reviews the overall financial position of the Law Centre at least every three months and records the outcome of their review in the minutes of their meeting.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

The Southwark Law Centre staff team has more than doubled in size over approximately the last 4 years, with new areas of work (notably education casework and Windrush compensation support).

The Law Centre's premises are not suitable for an expanded workforce, even though it has successfully introduced hybrid working. The Law Centre needs to find new more suitable premises on secure lease terms.

Legal Aid income dipped in 2022/3 largely because the Law Centre was unable to take as many cases during the pandemic. This together with maintaining staff cost of living increases meant that year end figures 2022/3 showed a deficit. The Law Centre's current funding strategy prioritises avoiding the need to reduce current staff posts and services, rather than further expansion.

The Law Centre will continue to build on its wide range of experience and deliver the highest quality legal advice to the population of South East London as far as resources allow.

The following priorities have been identified as part of our planning process which involves all members of staff, volunteers and trustees. The Trustee Board and staff met in May 2023 to discuss and review the Law Centre's business plan. The Law Centre also consider feedback from clients, partner organisations and the wider community.

Key Objectives 2023/4

- Maintain and develop infrastructure to underpin all the work carried out by the Law Centre
- Maintain capacity to provide specialist casework and representation in all the areas of law the Law Centre currently covers
- Achieve a workforce and Trustee Board that is representative of the diverse communities that live and work within South East London
- Ensure that service delivery is sensitive to users' needs
- Ensure that the Law Centre maintains a supportive atmosphere for all the team of staff and volunteers
- Continue to develop Lewisham Law Centre
- Maintain and develop infrastructure to underpin all the work carried out by the Law Centre

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Law Centre is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Sadly in 2022 our Treasurer Fiona McGregor died suddenly. In December 2022 we were able to appoint a new Treasurer Anthony Chandler.

All the trustees live or work within the Law Centre's area of benefit. The recruitment of trustees is through advertising with volunteer support agencies, adverts on our website, contact with local community organisations, advice agencies and legal providers in the area of benefit. The Law Centre also encourages former clients and volunteers to be members of the charity and to consider joining the Trustee Board. Prospective trustees are invited to attend and observe at trustees' meetings and are recruited on the basis of relevant skills, experience and knowledge. The Board carries out an annual skills and attendance audit.

The trustees retire from office on a rotational basis (one third each year at the Annual General Meeting, based on length of service), but may stand for re-election.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board meets approximately every two months to oversee the strategic management of the organisation. The full Trustee Board met 7 times in 2022/3 including the AGM and business planning event.

The Finance sub-committee meets at least quarterly with monthly cash flow projections provided for the treasurer. The sub-committee reports to the Trustee Board.

The Human Resources sub-committee meets at least quarterly, and reports to the Trustee Board.

Day-to-day management of the Law Centre is delegated to the Executive Director, Sally Causer, who works full-time. The Law Centre has a Senior Management Team which includes the Senior Solicitors for Immigration, Housing and Employment. The Senior Solicitors are accountable to the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the conduct of legal cases, and providing day to day supervision of casework. Individual staff specialists provide legal supervision in their areas of specialisation: Housing, Employment, Immigration and Welfare Rights Law.

All members of the company, who include all the members of the Trustee Board, undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each in the event that the company is wound up while they are members, or within one year of cessation of membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have an induction meeting with the Director to observe the work of the Law Centre. All trustees receive full details of the policies and procedures of the Law Centre.

Key management remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Key management compensation in year	79,485	69,066

The remuneration is the total sum of the salaries and social security contributions paid to the Executive Director. No payments were made to any Trustee.

Risk management

The Trustees are keenly aware that their responsibilities include the duty to plan for the future and to prepare the Law Centre for the risks and opportunities they have identified beyond the current financial year.

The Law Centre reviews an annual operational risk assessment and a business continuity plan.

The Law Centre has developed a separate risk assessment for the Lewisham Law Centre.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Southwark Law Centre 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).

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a Strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on and signed on the board's behalf by:

.....
J Rhodes - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Law Centre (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Cash flow statement 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).

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 2023 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; 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; 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 independent 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and error, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- results of our enquiries to management about their own assessment of the risks of fraud and error;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud may occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

Our procedures to respond to risk include the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected areas that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error;
- addressing the risk of fraud and error through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journals, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Paul Allan BSocSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

Date:

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	37,348	-	-	37,348	75,523
Charitable activities	4					
Legal representation		806,383	-	997,959	1,804,342	1,505,424
Investment income	3	413	-	-	413	14
Total		844,144	-	997,959	1,842,103	1,580,961
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities	5					
Legal representation		851,150	-	1,022,705	1,873,855	1,644,157
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(7,006)	-	(24,746)	(31,752)	(63,196)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		407,729	200,000	31,039	638,768	701,964
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		400,723	200,000	6,293	607,016	638,768

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11	2,239	-	-	2,239	680
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	12	573,267	58,334	30,027	661,628	454,274
Cash at bank and in hand		97,119	141,666	107,669	346,454	591,423
		<u>670,386</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>137,696</u>	<u>1,008,082</u>	<u>1,045,697</u>
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(271,902)	-	(131,403)	(403,305)	(407,609)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>398,484</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>6,293</u>	<u>604,777</u>	<u>638,088</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>400,723</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>6,293</u>	<u>607,016</u>	<u>638,768</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>400,723</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>6,293</u>	<u>607,016</u>	<u>638,768</u>
FUNDS	14					
Unrestricted funds					600,723	607,729
Restricted funds					6,293	31,039
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>607,016</u>	<u>638,768</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
J Rhodes - Trustee

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(234,506)</u>	<u>142,427</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(234,506)</u>	<u>142,427</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(10,876)	(2,861)
Interest received		<u>413</u>	<u>14</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(10,463)</u>	<u>(2,847)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(244,969)</u>	<u>139,580</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>591,423</u>	<u>451,843</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>346,454</u></u>	<u><u>591,423</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of financial activities)	(31,752)	(63,196)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	9,317	3,088
Interest received	(413)	(14)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(207,354)	22,936
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(4,304)	179,613
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(234,506)</u>	<u>142,427</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>591,423</u>	<u>(244,969)</u>	<u>346,454</u>
	<u>591,423</u>	<u>(244,969)</u>	<u>346,454</u>
Total	<u>591,423</u>	<u>(244,969)</u>	<u>346,454</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. 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.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Income

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

Such income is only deferred where the donor specifies that the grant or donation can be used in a future accounting period, or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to performance conditions is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support advice/performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contract and performance related grant income is deferred when received in advance of the performance of event to which they relate.

Turnover is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for services provided in the normal course of business, net of VAT.

Expenditure

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 a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. All support costs relate to unrestricted charitable activities.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

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

Fixtures and fittings	-25% on reducing balance
Law library	-25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-100% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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 Note 14 on 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 Centre participates in a Local Authority pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. It is therefore not possible to identify the assets and liabilities for participating employees.

Work in progress

Work in progress is valued at net realisable value, after making due allowances for slow recovery and potential irrecoverable fees.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will remain a going concern and the accounts have been prepared on that basis. Currently, the Centre has stabilised the income from legal cases, additional grants have been secured and costs have risen only slightly. The trustees continue to monitor the situation.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	<u>37,348</u>	<u>75,523</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2023

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	413	14

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2023	2022
		£	£
Grants	Legal representation	1,119,229	861,510
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	Legal representation	457,176	395,226
Prize award	Legal representation	-	20,000
Specialist contracts	Legal representation	226,217	228,688
Miscellaneous income	Legal representation	1,720	-
		<u>1,804,342</u>	<u>1,505,424</u>

The below details the specialist contracts Southwark Law Centre has entered into.

Southwark Law Centre is in partnership with two other charities. As the lead applicant they receive funds on behalf of the other charities and pass them on.

Specialist contract with Southwark Council

	2023	2022
	£	£
Contract monies received from Southwark Council	336,000	336,000
Grant partners paid	(168,547)	(168,547)
	<u>167,453</u>	<u>167,453</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
Lewisham Immigration Specialist Contract	58,764	58,734

	2023	2022
	£	£
Lambeth Council EU Settlement Scheme	-	10,000

	2023	2022
	£	£
Baring Foundation grant partners paid	-	(7,500)

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	62,049	75,073
Children in Need	20,000	20,000
Trust for London	55,000	22,500
The Baring Foundation	55,949	-
AB Charitable Trust	27,083	45,417
Kings Health Partnership Pathway	12,000	12,000
London Legal Support Trust	55,992	10,744
Project 17	30,037	23,178
United St Saviours Charity	17,730	14,440
The Legal Education Foundation	7,500	61,376
Access to Justice	14,672	30,000
South London Refugee Association	35,397	3,000
Guy's & St Thomas' Charity	155,167	40,000
The Indigo Trust	85,833	103,000
Allen & Overy Foundation	-	10,000
The Home Office	94,630	76,172
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	16,932	33,538
Guys & St Thomas Samaritan Project	-	79,417
Southwark Immigration Advice	49,344	49,283
Greenwich Council	2,900	17,816
Strategic Legal Fund	5,554	12,530
Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme	-	68,526
King's College London	13,000	20,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	36,850	33,500
City Bridge Trust	32,850	-
London Councils	83,863	-
NHS England	120,000	-
Action for Education	11,537	-
Leathermarket JMB	2,360	-
Trust for London Office Move	15,000	-
	<u>1,119,229</u>	<u>861,510</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

5. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

	Direct Costs 2023 £	Support costs (see note 6) 2023 £	Totals 2023 £
Legal representation	<u>1,704,464</u>	<u>169,391</u>	<u>1,873,855</u>

Comparatives for provision of legal services

	Direct Costs 2022 £	Support costs (see note 6) 2022 £	Totals 2022 £
Legal representation	<u>1,491,033</u>	<u>153,124</u>	<u>1,644,157</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Governance costs 2023 £	Totals 2023 £
Legal representation	<u>3,688</u>	<u>156,867</u>	<u>8,836</u>	<u>169,391</u>

Comparatives for support costs

	Finance 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Governance costs 2022 £	Totals 2022 £
Legal representation	<u>2,721</u>	<u>141,803</u>	<u>8,600</u>	<u>153,124</u>

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditors' remuneration	8,400	8,600
Depreciation - owned assets	9,317	3,087
Other operating leases	<u>3,688</u>	<u>2,721</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2023

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,230,454	1,051,938
Social security costs	130,933	108,421
Other pension costs	255,813	233,591
	<u>1,617,200</u>	<u>1,393,950</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Legal advice	29	25
Administration	8	8
	<u>37</u>	<u>33</u>

The number of employees who received emoluments in excess of £60,000 was 1 (2022: 1).

10. CLIENT BANK ACCOUNTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Monies held in client bank accounts	<u>93,482</u>	<u>164,555</u>
Monies due to clients	<u>93,482</u>	<u>164,555</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Law library £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2022	32,004	8,650	42,143	82,797
Additions	2,306	-	8,570	10,876
	<u>34,310</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>50,713</u>	<u>93,673</u>
At 31 March 2023				
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2022	31,325	8,649	42,143	82,117
Charge for year	746	1	8,570	9,317
	<u>32,071</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>50,713</u>	<u>91,434</u>
At 31 March 2023				
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2023	2,239	-	-	2,239
	<u>679</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680</u>
At 31 March 2022				

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	549,657	419,086
Other debtors	58,334	-
Prepayments and accrued income	53,637	35,188
	<u>661,628</u>	<u>454,274</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Social security and other taxes	30,176	32,145
VAT	47,535	23,641
Other creditors	151,816	164,555
Accrued expenses	36,943	65,715
Deferred income	136,835	121,553
	<u>403,305</u>	<u>407,609</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	407,729	(7,006)	400,723
Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	50,000
Equipment fund	50,000	-	50,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	100,000
	<u>607,729</u>	<u>(7,006)</u>	<u>600,723</u>
Restricted funds			
Partnership with Project 17	14,807	(14,807)	-
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	-	1,042	1,042
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	-	(13,735)	(13,735)
EU Settlement Application Fund	-	28,986	28,986
Action for Refugees	16,232	(16,232)	-
Sickle Cell Community Benefit	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
	<u>31,039</u>	<u>(24,746)</u>	<u>6,293</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>638,768</u></u>	<u><u>(31,752)</u></u>	<u><u>607,016</u></u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	844,143	(851,149)	(7,006)
Restricted funds			
Migrant Housing Advice Project	70,000	(70,000)	-
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	20,000	(20,000)	-
The Baring Foundation	42,500	(42,500)	-
Partnership with Project 17	30,037	(44,844)	(14,807)
London Legal Support Trust	44,300	(44,300)	-
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	15,730	(14,688)	1,042
Planning Voice Project	77,498	(77,498)	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	225,167	(238,902)	(13,735)
EU Settlement Application Fund	94,631	(65,645)	28,986
Access to Justice	14,672	(14,672)	-
Action for Refugees	16,931	(33,163)	(16,232)
The Indigo Trust	50,000	(50,000)	-
Windrush Justice Project	49,850	(49,850)	-
AB Charitable Trust	27,083	(27,083)	-
Strategic Legal Fund	5,554	(5,554)	-
City Bridge Trust	32,850	(32,850)	-
South London Refugee Association	33,397	(33,397)	-
Sickle Cell Community Benefit	50,000	(60,000)	(10,000)
London Councils	83,863	(83,863)	-
The Legal Education Foundation	11,537	(11,537)	-
Leathermarket JMB	2,360	(2,360)	-
	<u>997,960</u>	<u>(1,022,706)</u>	<u>(24,746)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,842,103</u></u>	<u><u>(1,873,855)</u></u>	<u><u>(31,752)</u></u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	366,968	(39,239)	80,000	407,729
Staff Contingency fund	80,000	-	(30,000)	50,000
Equipment fund	70,000	-	(20,000)	50,000
Lease and premises fund	130,000	-	(30,000)	100,000
	<u>646,968</u>	<u>(39,239)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>607,729</u>
Restricted funds				
Partnership with Project 17	-	14,807	-	14,807
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	16,726	(16,726)	-	-
Access to Justice	3,700	(3,700)	-	-
Action for Refugees	16,232	-	-	16,232
Walcot Foundation	18,338	(18,338)	-	-
	<u>54,996</u>	<u>(23,957)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,039</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>701,964</u>	<u>(63,196)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>638,768</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	951,021	(990,260)	(39,239)
Restricted funds			
Migrant Housing Advice Project	15,000	(15,000)	-
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	20,000	(20,000)	-
Partnership with Project 17	23,178	(8,371)	14,807
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	9,896	(9,896)	-
Planning Voice Project	79,617	(79,617)	-
Justice First Fellowship	31,376	(31,376)	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	119,417	(136,143)	(16,726)
EU Settlement Application Fund	80,445	(80,445)	-
Access to Justice	-	(3,700)	(3,700)
Action for Refugees	33,538	(33,538)	-
Walcot Foundation	-	(18,338)	(18,338)
The Indigo Trust	50,000	(50,000)	-
Windrush Justice Project	63,500	(63,500)	-
AB Charitable Trust	22,917	(22,917)	-
Strategic Legal Fund	12,530	(12,530)	-
Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme	68,526	(68,526)	-
	<u>629,940</u>	<u>(653,897)</u>	<u>(23,957)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,580,961</u>	<u>(1,644,157)</u>	<u>(63,196)</u>

Restricted monies are carried forward to be utilised in the next financial year.

Restricted

AB Charitable Trust: Funding for an Immigration Caseworker at the Windrush Justice Clinic.

Action for Refugees in Lewisham: Funding for solicitor costs to provide immigration advice for families in Lewisham.

Access to Justice: Funding for cost of living legal support.

The Baring Foundation: Funding to develop a second-tier support hub to provide legal advice and training for community organisations in the areas of education and discrimination law. Bridging funding for the Planning Voice Project.

The Home Office: Funding to provide support on EU settlement applications.

Guys & St Thomas' Charity: Funding for casework for Homeless patients.

The Indigo Trust: Funding for immigration and housing casework and representation at Lewisham Law Centre.

The Legal Education Foundation: Funding for the Access to Education Rights project.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Children in Need: The funding contributes to the salary and related costs of a solicitor to provide immigration advice for young migrants.

City Bridge Trust: Funding for the salary costs of a full-time paralegal, offering welfare benefits advice to low income private and social tenants facing eviction in Lambeth and Southwark.

Trust for London: Funding for the Migrant Housing Project. Funding to help source new office accommodation.

Project 17: Funding for immigration casework for destitute families.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation: Funding for the coordination of the Windrush Justice project.

The National Lottery Community Fund: Funding for the Planning Voice project.

Strategic Legal Fund: Funding for pre-litigation work to address race discrimination in schools.

Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme: Funding to provide access to the EU Settlement Scheme for Southwark residents.

United St Saviours Charity: Funding for Southwark Law Centre to jointly coordinate the Southwark the Universal Credit Network in partnership with Citizens Advice Southwark. Funding for education casework. Bridging funding for Planning Voice.

Walcot Foundation: Funding for a housing paralegal.

Windrush Justice Clinic: Funding from Allen and Overy Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and King's College London to offer legal advice to victims of the Windrush scandal.

The Legal Education Foundation: Funding for the Action for Education Rights project.

London Legal Support Trust: Funding for cost of living support, to increase advice capacity to help people affected by the rising cost of living and to improve community outreach.

London Councils: Funding for the South East Region Immigration Advice project, for people who are or who are at risk of sleeping rough.

Leathermarket JMB: Funding for cost of living support for Leathermarket residents.

South London Refugee Association: Funding for second tier advice for their team.

NHS England: Contracts for casework for homeless patients and people with Sickle Cell disease.

Unrestricted

Access to Justice: Funding for core costs.

AB Charitable Trust: Funding for core costs.

The Legal Education Foundation: Funding for core costs.

The Indigo Trust: Funding for Lewisham Law Centre.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2023

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

London Legal Support Trust: Core funding as part of the 'Centre of Excellence' project.

Kings Health Partnership Pathway: Funding for training and second tier advice for health professionals.

Westminster Foundation: Funding for equipment to enable staff to work from home during the pandemic.

South London Refugee Association: Funding for second tier advice.

Southwark Council: Contract to provide specialist legal advice in Southwark. Partnership project with Citizens Advice Southwark funding to run know your rights sessions for private tenants.

Southwark Immigration Advice: Funding for immigration advice for homeless people.

Greenwich Council: Funding for an immigration solicitor providing immigration advice for homeless people.

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	37,348	75,523
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	413	14
Charitable activities		
Grants	1,119,229	861,510
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	457,176	395,226
Prize award	-	20,000
Specialist contracts	226,217	228,688
Miscellaneous income	1,720	-
	1,804,342	1,505,424
Total incoming resources	1,842,103	1,580,961
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Salaries	1,230,454	1,051,938
Social security	130,933	108,421
Pensions	255,813	233,591
Recruitment, temporary staff & training expenses	7,522	10,693
Replacement law books	1,607	1,606
Legal Aid costs	15,413	35,805
Computer accessories, software & support	42,280	32,776
Legal and professional fees	11,466	5,940
Annual report	288	240
Practising certificates	3,101	4,884
Insurance professional indemnity	2,750	2,416
Lawtel	2,837	2,723
	1,704,464	1,491,033
Support costs		
Finance		
Other operating leases	3,688	2,721
Other		
Rent and rates	41,523	41,299
Carried forward	41,523	41,299

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
Other		
Brought forward	41,523	41,299
Insurance	1,794	1,995
Light and heat	4,936	1,773
Telephone	14,294	14,523
Postage and stationery	11,902	21,329
Sundries	7,786	3,752
Repairs & maintenance	2,216	4,676
Bookkeeping	29,736	29,725
Travel & subsistence	4,341	4,324
Bank charges	313	907
Subscriptions	20,777	12,287
Cleaning	4,182	2,125
Office move costs	3,750	-
Fixtures and fittings	746	226
Depreciation of law library	1	1
Computer equipment	8,570	2,861
	156,867	141,803
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	8,400	8,600
AGM costs	436	-
	8,836	8,600
Total resources expended	1,873,855	1,644,157
Net expenditure	(31,752)	(63,196)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01418763 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 277927

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

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SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
for the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES

Mr A A Eden (appointed 30.11.2021)
Ms V Fewkes
Cllr A Gallagher
Mr S D O Lancashire
Ms L McGown
Ms F J McGregor Treasurer
Ms V Olisa
Mr O J Persey
Mr A Polley
Mr J Rhodes Chair
Ms L H Stoy
Miss K C Thomas (appointed 30.11.2021)
Mr J Wells (resigned 5.4.2021)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Ms S Causer

REGISTERED OFFICE

Hanover Park House
14-16 Hanover Park
Peckham
London
SE15 5HG

**REGISTERED COMPANY
NUMBER**

01418763 (England and Wales)

**REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER**

277927

AUDITORS

Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Southwark Law Centre was founded in 1976. Our main office is in Peckham. In 2017 a branch office was developed in Lewisham which was recognised as Lewisham Law Centre by the Law Centres Network (LCN) in July 2020. The trustees would like to thank AB Charity, Allen and Overy Foundation, Hogan Lovells LLP, Indigo Charity, The Legal Education Foundation, and London Legal Support Trust for their help in setting up Lewisham Law Centre, and to Citizens Advice Lewisham for hosting the Law Centre's caseworkers.

The objectives set out in the Law Centre's constitution are the relief of poverty, suffering and distress through the provision of free, impartial, and confidential specialist legal advice and representation.

The Law Centre provides specialist legal advice and representation, which is free and of high quality, for those who could not otherwise afford to receive legal services. The Law Centre operates in the areas of discrimination, employment, education, housing, planning and public law, welfare rights, asylum/immigration law, and support with the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Law Centre's constitution enables it to take cases from all Greater London Boroughs, but the focus remains mainly for those who live, work or study in the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lewisham. More recently, since the closure of Lambeth Law Centre, casework for residents of Lambeth has increased.

We prioritise cases which involve the prevention of homelessness, destitution, discrimination, breaches of human rights and poverty. We provide training on legal rights for local advice and community agencies. We campaign to influence law, policy and practice and promote human and civil rights.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

During the year the Law Centre provided specialist casework in Southwark and Lewisham, including representation at court, in over 1,500 cases (opening 840 matters between April 2021 and March 2022).

It provided second-tier advice on 332 cases to generalist advice and community organisations.

The Law Centre provided seven training/workshops sessions on social welfare law topics, and planning and regeneration issues, for frontline health and community workers and members of the public reaching over 300 people.

The Law Centre leads or participates in the following partnerships and forums:

- Southwark Legal Advice Network:

The Network, which is facilitated by Citizens Advice Southwark (CAS), brings together the core advice agencies funded by Southwark Council in order to identify local need for legal advice and strategically plan services.

- Southwark Universal Credit Network, and Strategic Forum

Funded by United St Saviour's Charity, this is a joint project with CAS and Community Southwark to provide information and training around Universal Credit issues for community agencies in the Borough. A current concern is the planned migration of some of the most vulnerable welfare benefit claimants from legacy benefits onto Universal Credit.

- Housing and Immigration Group:

Funding from Trust for London enables the Law Centre to coordinate the London-wide Housing and Immigration Group which facilitates the sharing of good practice and information between practitioners and referrals for urgent cases. We would like to thank Trust for London for the continuation of funding for this service.

- Southwark Homelessness Forum:

The Forum brings together representatives from the voluntary sector and representatives of Southwark Council to try to develop a joined-up approach to tackling issues of homelessness and ensuring policies do not adversely affect local residents. The Law Centre's Executive Director chairs these meetings.

- Quarterly liaison meetings with the Southwark Exchequer Service:

The Law Centre facilitates and chairs meetings between the core Southwark advice agencies and the Council's Exchequer Service. The aim is to work in partnership particularly around the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living increase on tenants ability to pay their rent.

- Forum For Equalities and Human Rights and Equality Human Rights Panel (EHRP)

The Executive Director of the Law Centre is a member of the EHRP, which acts as a critical friend to Southwark Council, commenting on policy initiatives and equality analysis.

- Regeneration for All Liaison Group

This group was set up in 2019 to provide a channel for discussion between Southwark Council's planning, public health and community engagement departments, and community agencies leading on planning and regeneration support.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Windrush Justice Partnership

Our project is part of the Windrush Justice Clinics (WJC). The WJC is a collaboration between Southwark Law Centre and North Kensington Law Centre, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit, the University of Westminster Legal Advice Clinic, Kings College University Legal Clinic, London South Bank University Legal Clinic; and community groups, notably the Claudia Jones Organisation, Windrush Lives and the Jigsaw House Society.

Each organisation plays a key role within our three-tier model of support: community engagement, outreach and communications; information and triage; and legal support with more complex applications, particularly those where there is an immigration matter to be resolved.

Public benefit

The trustees consider that the objectives and activities stated above of the Law Centre provide public benefit within the meaning and terms of the Charities Act 2011.

Volunteers

During the pandemic the Law Centre had to suspend the office volunteer programme, but has relaunched this in 2022.

In the year 2021/22, 19 students of Kings University London legal department volunteered with the Law Centre, providing support on the Windrush compensation project.

Pro bono support was received from Hogan Lovells to assist in the negotiation of the Law Centre premises lease and to help with the development of the Lewisham Law Centre.

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner provided pro bono HR support.

Clifford Chance provided assistance on infrastructure issues following the partial return to working in the office and the adoption of an 'Agile Working' policy. Clifford Chance also provided support on the design of the Planning Voice evaluation report.

The Trustees would like to warmly thank Jack Carter Architects and colleagues for their support in considering improvements to our current premises.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The service the Law Centre provides is casework-based and involves advocacy, preparation for and representation at tribunals, arbitration, and review panels and in the Courts within its specialist areas.

The Law Centre aims to provide support to other agencies which refer cases to it even when it cannot take on particular cases. That support may be telephone advice to assist the referral agency in resolving the problem without the client seeing a lawyer, or help in finding other sources of advice from groups such as the Southwark Housing Lawyers Group or the Housing and Immigration Group.

Areas of Law

Employment

In 2021/22 the Law Centre provided advice in 63 employment cases, continuing to provide a regular telephone outreach session for clients referred by Citizens Advice Southwark.

Demand for high quality employment advice has increased as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

Discrimination

The Law Centre holds a Legal Aid contract to provide discrimination casework.

We aim to identify issues of discrimination across all our areas of work.

Education

In 2021, in response to identified need, the Law Centre began to develop capacity to provide education advice on areas such as school exclusion and access to Specialist Education and Disability Needs. An advisory group has been set up involving frontline agencies and local parents.

Our approach has been to build on the knowledge and expertise already present within the community. Funding has been secured from the Baring Foundation for the Law Centre to act as a legal hub for education issues. In addition, the Trustees would like to thank the Strategic Legal Fund for support to explore challenges around internal exclusions and SEND support for migrant children.

Housing

Housing remains one of the main advice needs in Southwark and Lewisham. In the year 2021/22 the Law Centre dealt with 463 cases.

The Law Centre specialises in cases involving homelessness, possession, eviction, disrepair and asylum support law.

The eviction ban imposed during the pandemic was lifted in May 2021. Due to court backlogs and the approach of social landlords, it is only one year on from the ban being lifted that there has been a significant increase in possession hearings. These are expected to continue to rise throughout 2022. The actual levels of arrears that tenants now routinely have is higher than the Law Centre has ever seen, sometimes running into tens of thousands of pounds. This, combined with the cost-of-living increases, is causing a crisis for tenants on low incomes.

In November 2020 the Law Centre received funding from Urban Health, part of the Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, to work on a project in partnership with Kineara, a social enterprise which provides holistic support for vulnerable tenants in the private rented sector. In the period 2021/22 the project helped 38 private tenants.

Since February 2022 the Law Centre has worked with Citizens Advice Southwark on a project to set up a support group for private renters. The Law Centre's role has been to encourage engagement and to provide 'Know your Rights' workshops.

The Law Centre is funded by Trust for London to provide housing advice for destitute migrants. The Law Centre has provided specialist second-tier advice to local frontline agencies to improve triaging for this client group, and enabled sharing of best practice through administrating and co-ordinating the Housing and Immigration Group (HIG).

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

Community Care

The Law Centre carries out community care work linked to its housing cases, particularly in the areas of homelessness and 'Section 17' support for destitute families who have been given 'No Recourse to Public Funds' status because of problems with their immigration status. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (S.17) gives local authorities the power to provide accommodation and financial support to families with 'children in need', even if they have no recourse to public funds.

Asylum and Immigration

In the year 2021/22 Southwark and Lewisham Law Centres dealt with 235 immigration and asylum cases.

It prioritises cases for vulnerable people such as children, young people, people at risk of gender violence and people with mental and physical health problems. Many of the clients are homeless and destitute.

In 2020/21 the Law Centre received funding and worked in partnership with Southwark Council to provide urgent immigration advice for the rough sleepers with No Recourse to Public Funds ('NRPF') that the council had housed as part of the 'Everyone In' initiative. Over 70 people were assisted as part of this project. In addition, Greenwich Council also provided a grant for similar work on a smaller scale. London Councils has now consolidated this funding and a 3-year grant has been awarded from July 2022. The Law Centre is the Southeast London sub-regional lead, and will work in partnership with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network.

The Law Centre has received continued funding from Lewisham Council to take referrals for specialist immigration advice for families and individuals supported by Lewisham's NRPF team.

In 2021/22 the Law Centre has continued the partnership immigration casework project with Action for Refugees in Lewisham funded by Trust for London.

Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Service: A project which provides casework and representation for homeless patients in partnership with the homeless teams at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals, won second place in the 2021 London Homeless Awards. Funding from January 2022 has been provided by the GSTT Hospital Trust. The project was originally funded by the Samaritan fund, part of the GSTT Charity. Vicky Ling, an independent consultant, carried out an evaluation of year 2 of this project:

<https://www.southwarklawcentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/HLPAS-Year-2->

As a result of the successful outcomes this project has demonstrated in terms not only of benefits for very vulnerable patients but savings to the NHS, a similar project will be funded to support homeless patients attending Lewisham Hospital in 2022.

During 2021/22 the Law Centre continued to receive funding from the Home Office and from Lambeth and Southwark Councils to provide assistance with more complex applications for settlement from vulnerable EEA nationals. The Law Centre works in partnership with New Europeans and Citizens Advice Southwark on the Home Office funded project and with Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth and Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation on the Lambeth element of the project. Despite the deadline for applications being 30 June 2021, there is still significant demand for specialist casework for some of the most vulnerable EEA nationals such as those in care homes or lacking mental capacity.

The Law Centre continues to work with the South London Refugee Association (SLRA), to provide targeted consultancy support for their staff. SLRA has led a partnership involving the Law Centre and Project 17 which has been awarded funding from the Justice Together programme. This project started in July 2022.

Funding from Children in Need to provide immigration advice for children and young people ended in March 2022. The Law Centre will reapply later in 2022.

In 2021/22 the Law Centre continued their partnership with Project 17 funded by Trust for London to provide specialist immigration advice for families with No Recourse to Public Funds.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

Representatives of the Law Centre attend regular King's Health Partnership Pathways team meetings in King's, Guy's, SLAM (South London and Maudsley) and St Thomas' hospitals to provide second-tier immigration advice and support for the homeless support teams funded by the Pathway project.

Windrush Compensation Scheme

In the Autumn of 2021, the Law Centre was awarded funding from AB Charity, Allen and Overy Foundation and Paul Hamlyn Foundation to begin to provide casework help for victims of the Windrush scandal. The funding enables the Law Centre to employ a part time solicitor to assist with compensation claims and associated immigration advice. It also enables the Law Centre to employ a project coordinator to oversee the wider Windrush Justice Clinic partnership. The Law Centre also has funding from Kings College London to provide support for law students volunteering with this project.

Welfare Rights

In 2021/22 the Law Centre dealt with 51 welfare rights cases. It specialises in appeals to the First Tier Tribunal (Social Security and Asylum Support), Upper Tribunal, and Judicial Review cases. Legal Aid is rarely available for welfare rights cases and the Law Centre's casework was largely funded thanks to the important Southwark Council contract.

The Law Centre aims to provide training for frontline workers as part of the Universal Credit Network in Southwark.

Planning Voice

The overall aim of this innovative project is to support and empower local people particularly those from economically and socially disadvantaged communities, to be able to influence developments affecting the environment they live in. In the 1970s and 1980s the Law Centre provided legal advice on planning issues at a time of huge redevelopment in the Borough. In order to respond to local needs, it has been identified that this is an area where the Law Centre should once again support residents.

Initial 3-year funding from United St Saviours Charity enabled Southwark Law Centre to employ a three day per week caseworker to provide group training sessions on planning issues and one-to-one support for local residents, including advocacy and drafting representations. In January 2020 the Law Centre was awarded 3-year funding from the National Lottery which has enabled the planning solicitor post to become full time and to cover a wider area of Southwark. In 2022 the National Lottery provided some additional funding which has enabled the Law Centre to employ a part-time information support officer.

Public Law

The Law Centre has a small number of Legal Aid Matter Starts in this area. It is important that it maintains its ability to challenge unreasonable decisions made by public bodies.

In the year 2021/22 the Law Centre carried out 11 public law challenges.

Financial review

Financial position

The Law Centre's gross income was higher this year at £1,580,961 against £1,514,756 last year, an increase of £66,205. Higher outlay on resources expended, up from £1,409,288 to £1,644,157 resulted in net outgoing resources of £63,196 against £105,468 net incoming resources for the previous year. At the year end restricted funds were £31,039 (2021 - £54,996), whilst unrestricted income funds amounted to £607,729 against £646,968 in the previous year, of which £200,000 (2021 - £280,000) has been designated.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funding sources

Legal Aid funding accounts for around 25% of income, the contract with Southwark Council 10%, with the remainder coming from Charitable grants, donations and a contract with Lewisham Council to provide immigration advice.

The Law Centre acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of those who give it grant funding.

The total amount of funding received from Southwark Council in respect of the specialist advice contract was £172,412.

The amount recorded in the financial statements is the net amount due to the Law Centre after payments made to Cambridge House Law Centre and Migrant Legal Action, which are partner organisations with the Law Centre in the specialist contract with the Borough.

Whilst the Trustees remain grateful for this significant longstanding support it is noted that the contract funding has reduced significantly and there has been no cost-of-living increase for many years.

The Law Centre holds Legal Aid contracts in housing, debt and welfare benefits, public law, discrimination, immigration and asylum law at Southwark Law Centre, with separate housing contract and a discrimination law contracts at Lewisham Law Centre.

The Law Centre is also very grateful to all its other significant funders and supporters, which include:

AB Charity, Access to Justice Foundation, Action for Refugees in Lewisham, Allen and Overy, Children in Need, City Bridge Trust, Hogan Lovells Solicitors, The Home Office, Indigo Charity, Kings Health Partnership (Pathway), Law Centre Network, The Legal Education Foundation, London Legal Support Trust, National Lottery, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Project 17, South London Refugee Association Trust for London, United St Saviours Charity, Urban Health, and the Walcot Foundation. All of these, along with generous individual supporters, enable us to provide critical help to a wide range of vulnerable clients.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Law Centre's reserves have been set in accordance with the Law Centre's reserve policy, which is formulated pursuant to Charity Commission guidance. Best practice suggests that the Law Centre should have an appropriate proportion of its annual outgoings available by way of reserves, and the level of the Law Centre's reserves is regularly monitored by the trustees.

As part of our Financial Management processes, the Board of Trustees has set a target of working towards accumulating and maintaining a reserve fund which represents three months annual operating costs. This amount is reflective of general good practice in the Charity Sector and is even more important in light of the current inflation rates and cost of living increases. In the financial year 2022/23 this would amount to approximately £500,000. These reserves enable the Law Centre to deal with the following contingencies:-

- Reductions in or withdrawal of grant funding
- Reduction in Legal Aid earned income
- In the event of closure, three months running costs to wind up the organisation and pay redundancies, leasehold and other liabilities

In addition we wish to set aside the following amounts :

- £100,000 in anticipation of a move from our current premises
- £50,000 for unforeseen staffing issues;
- £50,000 fund for replacing essential equipment such as telephones or IT.

The total amount of reserves we therefore like to aim for over the year is £700,000.

This policy is reviewed at least annually when the Trustee Board considers the end of year projections and the audited accounts.

The Trustee Board reviews the overall financial position of the Law Centre at least every three months and records the outcome of their review in the minutes of their meeting.

Policy reviewed and updated: 14th September 2022.

Future plans

The Law Centre will continue to build on its wide range of experience and deliver the highest quality legal advice to the population of South East London as far as resources allow.

A key challenge for the Law Centre in the coming year is to identify more suitable premises for the Peckham office.

The Trustee Board and staff met in March 2022 to discuss and review the Law Centre's business plan.

The Law Centre has agreed the following key objectives for the period 2022/23:

- * Achieve a workforce and Trustee Board that is representative of the diverse communities that live and work within South East London;
- * Ensure that service delivery is sensitive to users' needs
- * Ensure we maintain a supportive atmosphere for all members of staff and volunteers
- * Continue to develop Lewisham Law Centre
- * Maintain and develop capacity to provide specialist casework and representation in all the areas of law we currently offer
- * Continue to ensure that local residents have a voice in planning issues;
- * Extend capacity to provide employment casework
- * Maintain and develop infrastructure and administration to underpin all our work

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Law Centre is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

All the trustees who are recruited live or work within the Law Centre's area of benefit. The recruitment of trustees is through advertising with volunteer support agencies, adverts on our website, contact with local community organisations, advice agencies and legal providers in the area of benefit. The Law Centre also encourages former clients and volunteers to be members of the charity and to consider joining the Trustee Board. Prospective trustees are invited to attend and observe at trustees' meetings and are recruited on the basis of relevant skills, experience and knowledge. An annual skills and attendance audit is carried out.

The trustees retire from office on a rotational basis (one third each year at the Annual General Meeting, based on length of service), but may stand for re-election.

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board meets approximately every two months to oversee the strategic management of the organisation. The trustees met ten times during 2021/22 including meeting with staff for two business planning events, and two training sessions.

The Human Resources sub-committee meets at least quarterly, and reports to the Trustee Board. During 2021/22 the finance sub met approximately monthly to monitor our financial position including cash flow.

In recognition of the need for expert support the trustees have appointed a 2 day per week finance officer on a self-employed basis.

Day-to-day management of the Law Centre is delegated to the Executive Director, Sally Causer, who works full-time. We have a Senior Management Team which includes the Senior Solicitors for Immigration, Housing and Employment. The Senior Solicitors are accountable to the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the conduct of legal cases, and providing day to day supervision of casework. Individual staff specialists provide legal supervision in their areas of specialisation: Housing, Employment, Immigration and Welfare Rights Law.

All members of the company, who include members of the Trustee Board, undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each in the event that the company is wound up while they are members, or within one year of cessation of membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have an induction meeting with the Director to observe the work of the Law Centre. All trustees receive full details of the policies and procedures of the Law Centre.

Key management remuneration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Key management compensation in year	69,066	67,466

The remuneration is the total sum of the salaries, social security contributions and pension costs paid to, and in respect of, the Executive Director. No payments were made to any of the trustees for their management responsibilities.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees are keenly aware that their responsibilities include the duty to plan for the future and to prepare the Law Centre for the risks and opportunities they have identified beyond the current financial year.

The Law Centre reviews an annual operational risk assessment and a business continuity plan.

Risks include loss of funding, loss of key staff and failure to perform on grants and contracts.

The Law Centre has developed a separate detailed risk assessment for the Lewisham service.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Southwark Law Centre 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).

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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a Strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 14/9/2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:


.....
Mr J Rhodes - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Law Centre (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Cash flow statement 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).

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; 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; 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 independent 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and error, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- results of our enquiries to management about their own assessment of the risks of fraud and error;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud may occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

Our procedures to respond to risk include the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected areas that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error;
- addressing the risk of fraud and error through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journals, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul Allan BSocSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

Date: 14/9/22.....

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	75,522	-	-	75,522	13,717
Charitable activities	4					
Legal representation		875,485	-	629,939	1,505,424	1,500,831
Investment income	3	15	-	-	15	208
Total		951,022	-	629,939	1,580,961	1,514,756
 EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities	 5					
Legal representation		990,261	-	653,896	1,644,157	1,409,288
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(39,239)	-	(23,957)	(63,196)	105,468
Transfers between funds	14	80,000	(80,000)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		40,761	(80,000)	(23,957)	(63,196)	105,468
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		366,968	280,000	54,996	701,964	596,496
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		407,729	200,000	31,039	638,768	701,964

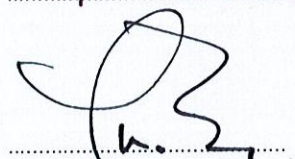
The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11	680	-	-	680	907
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	12	439,467	-	14,807	454,274	477,210
Cash at bank and in hand		104,083	200,000	122,785	426,868	451,843
		<u>543,550</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>137,592</u>	<u>881,142</u>	<u>929,053</u>
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(136,501)	-	(106,553)	(243,054)	(227,996)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>407,049</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>31,039</u>	<u>638,088</u>	<u>701,057</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		407,729	200,000	31,039	638,768	701,964
NET ASSETS		<u>407,729</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>31,039</u>	<u>638,768</u>	<u>701,964</u>
FUNDS	14					
Unrestricted funds					607,729	646,968
Restricted funds					31,039	54,996
TOTAL FUNDS					<u>638,768</u>	<u>701,964</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 14/19/2022 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mr J Rhodes - Trustee

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(22,129)</u>	<u>196,456</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(22,129)</u>	<u>196,456</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(2,861)</u>	<u>-</u>
Interest received		<u>15</u>	<u>208</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(2,846)</u>	<u>208</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(24,975)</u>	<u>196,664</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>451,843</u>	<u>255,179</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>426,868</u></u>	<u><u>451,843</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of financial activities)	(63,196)	105,468
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3,088	303
Interest received	(15)	(208)
Decrease in debtors	22,936	32,957
Increase in creditors	15,058	57,936
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(22,129)</u>	<u>196,456</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.21	Cash flow	At 31.3.22
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	451,843	(24,975)	426,868
	451,843	(24,975)	426,868
Total	<u>451,843</u>	<u>(24,975)</u>	<u>426,868</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. 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.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Income

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

Such income is only deferred where the donor specifies that the grant or donation can be used in a future accounting period, or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to performance conditions is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support advice/performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contract and performance related grant income is deferred when received in advance of the performance of event to which they relate.

Turnover is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for services provided in the normal course of business, net of VAT.

Expenditure

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 a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities. All support costs relate to unrestricted charitable activities.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

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

Fixtures and fittings	-25% on reducing balance
Law library	-25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-100% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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 Note 14 on 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 Centre participates in a Local Authority pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. It is therefore not possible to identify the assets and liabilities for participating employees.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will remain a going concern and the accounts have been prepared on that basis. Currently, the Centre has stabilised the income from Legal cases, additional grants have been secured and costs have risen only slightly. The trustees will continue to monitor the situation.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	<u>75,522</u>	<u>13,717</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>15</u>	<u>208</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2022	2021
	Activity	£	£
Grants	Legal representation	861,510	932,696
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	Legal representation	395,226	331,278
Prize award	Legal representation	20,000	-
Specialist contracts	Legal representation	228,688	236,857
		<u>1,505,424</u>	<u>1,500,831</u>

Specialist contract with Southwark Council

	2022	2021
	£	£
Contract monies received from Southwark Council	336,000	338,800
Grant partners paid	(168,547)	(170,107)
	<u>167,453</u>	<u>168,693</u>

	2022	2021
	£	£
Lewisham Immigration Specialist Contract	<u>58,734</u>	<u>58,164</u>

	2022	2021
	£	£
Lambeth Council EU Settlement Scheme	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

	2022	2021
	£	£
Baring Foundation Project		
Grant partners paid	(7,500)	-
	<u></u>	<u></u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Southwark Council	-	13,000
Charities Aid Foundation	-	17,815
National Lottery Community Fund	75,073	65,295
Children in Need	20,000	40,000
Trust for London	22,500	30,000
AB Charitable Trust	45,417	7,500
City Bridge Trust	-	10,630
Kings Health Partnership Pathway	12,000	11,716
London Legal Support Trust	10,744	21,771
Project 17	23,178	16,763
United St Saviours Charity	14,440	24,788
Law Centres Network	-	201,000
	<u>223,352</u>	<u>460,278</u>
Carried forward		

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	2022	2021
	£	£
Brought forward	223,352	460,278
The Legal Education Foundation	61,376	118,235
Access to Justice	30,000	5,400
EU Commission	-	23,321
South London Refugee Association	3,000	-
Guy's & St Thomas' Charity	40,000	40,000
The Indigo Trust	103,000	37,000
Allen & Overy Foundation	10,000	7,000
The Home Office	76,172	57,246
Action for Refugees in Lewisham	33,538	16,232
Cin Booster for Migrant Children	-	3,100
Walcot Foundation	-	18,338
Westminster Foundation	-	5,259
Guys & St Thomas Samaritan Project	79,417	33,451
Wave 3 Covid-19 emergency fund	-	29,836
Southwark Immigration Advice	49,283	78,000
Greenwich Council	17,816	-
Strategic Legal Fund	12,530	-
Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme	68,526	-
King's College London	20,000	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	33,500	-
	<u>861,510</u>	<u>932,696</u>

5. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Legal representation	<u>1,491,033</u>	<u>153,124</u>	<u>1,644,157</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance £	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Legal representation	<u>2,721</u>	<u>141,803</u>	<u>8,600</u>	<u>153,124</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	8,600	7,200
Depreciation - owned assets	3,087	303
Other operating leases	<u>2,721</u>	<u>3,460</u>

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

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,051,938	920,811
Social security costs	108,421	91,991
Other pension costs	<u>233,591</u>	<u>198,966</u>
	<u>1,393,950</u>	<u>1,211,768</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Legal advice	25	23
Administration	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>33</u>	<u>29</u>

The number of employees who received emoluments in excess of £60,000 was 1 (2021: 1).

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022

10. CLIENT BANK ACCOUNTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Monies held in client bank accounts	<u>164,555</u>	<u>120,821</u>
Monies due to clients	<u>164,555</u>	<u>120,821</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Law library £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2021	32,004	8,650	39,283	79,937
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,860</u>	<u>2,860</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>32,004</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>42,143</u>	<u>82,797</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2021	31,099	8,648	39,283	79,030
Charge for year	<u>226</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2,860</u>	<u>3,087</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>31,325</u>	<u>8,649</u>	<u>42,143</u>	<u>82,117</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2022	<u>679</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>680</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>905</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>907</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	419,086	434,397
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>35,188</u>	<u>42,813</u>
	<u>454,274</u>	<u>477,210</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	32,145	27,806
VAT	23,641	18,361
Accrued expenses	65,715	52,362
Deferred income	121,553	129,467
	<u>243,054</u>	<u>227,996</u>

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.22
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	366,968	(39,239)	80,000	407,729
Staff Contingency fund	80,000	-	(30,000)	50,000
Equipment fund	70,000	-	(20,000)	50,000
Lease and premises fund	130,000	-	(30,000)	100,000
	<u>646,968</u>	<u>(39,239)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>607,729</u>
Restricted funds				
Partnership with Project 17	-	14,807	-	14,807
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	16,726	(16,726)	-	-
Access to Justice	3,700	(3,700)	-	-
Action for Refugees	16,232	-	-	16,232
Walcot Foundation	18,338	(18,338)	-	-
	<u>54,996</u>	<u>(23,957)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,039</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>701,964</u>	<u>(63,196)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>638,768</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	951,021	(990,260)	(39,239)
Restricted funds			
Migrant Housing Advice Project	15,000	(15,000)	-
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	20,000	(20,000)	-
Partnership with Project 17	23,178	(8,371)	14,807
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	9,896	(9,896)	-
Planning Voice Project	79,617	(79,617)	-
Justice First Fellowship	31,376	(31,376)	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	119,417	(136,143)	(16,726)
EU Settlement Application Fund	80,445	(80,445)	-
Access to Justice	-	(3,700)	(3,700)
Action for Refugees	33,538	(33,538)	-
Walcot Foundation	-	(18,338)	(18,338)
The Indigo Trust	50,000	(50,000)	-
Windrush Justice Project	63,500	(63,500)	-
AB Charitable Trust	22,917	(22,917)	-
Strategic Legal Fund	12,530	(12,530)	-
Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme	68,526	(68,526)	-
	<u>629,940</u>	<u>(653,897)</u>	<u>(23,957)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,580,961</u></u>	<u><u>(1,644,157)</u></u>	<u><u>(63,196)</u></u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	368,996	77,972	(80,000)	366,968
Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	30,000	80,000
Equipment fund	50,000	-	20,000	70,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	30,000	130,000
	<u>568,996</u>	<u>77,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>646,968</u>
Restricted funds				
Migrant Housing Advice Project	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	-	16,726	-	16,726
Access to Justice	-	3,700	-	3,700
Action for Refugees	-	16,232	-	16,232
Walcot Foundation	-	18,338	-	18,338
	<u>27,500</u>	<u>27,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,996</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>596,496</u>	<u>105,468</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>701,964</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,317,671	(1,239,699)	77,972
Restricted funds			
Migrant Housing Advice Project	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	-	(7,500)	(7,500)
Justice First Fellowship	88,235	(88,235)	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	16,726	-	16,726
EU Settlement Application Fund	51,308	(51,308)	-
EU Latin American Mobility & Participation Project	846	(846)	-
Access to Justice	5,400	(1,700)	3,700
Action for Refugees	16,232	-	16,232
Walcot Foundation	18,338	-	18,338
	<u>197,085</u>	<u>(169,589)</u>	<u>27,496</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,514,756</u>	<u>(1,409,288)</u>	<u>105,468</u>

Restricted monies are carried forward to be utilised in the next financial year.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2022

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted

AB Charitable Trust: funding for an Immigration Caseworker at the Windrush Justice Clinic

Action for Refugees in Lewisham: Funding for solicitor costs to provide immigration advice for families in Lewisham.

The Home Office: funding to provide support on EU settlement applications.

Guys & St Thomas Samaritan Project: funds provided for housing and immigration advice for homeless patients.

Urban Health: Guys & St Thomas Charity: funding to provide legal support for low income private tenants whose ability to pay rent has been affected by Covid-19.

The Indigo Trust: funding for immigration and housing casework and representation at Lewisham Law Centre.

The Legal Education Foundation: Justice First Fellowship Training funding towards the salary and supervision of two trainee solicitors.

Children in Need: The funding contributes to the salary and related costs of a solicitor to provide immigration advice for young migrants.

Trust for London: The funding for Migrant Housing Project and contributes to the salary of a solicitor to provide housing and community care advice for destitute migrants.

Project 17: The funding from Trust for London contributes to the salary of a solicitor to provide immigration advice for destitute migrant families with young children.

The National Lottery Community Fund: The funding for Planning Voice project which provides for a full time caseworker whose role is to support and empower local people to participate in decisions around major redevelopments in Southwark.

Strategic Legal Fund: funding for pre-litigation work to address race discrimination in schools.

Southwark Council EU Settlement Scheme: funding to provide access to the EU Settlement Scheme for Southwark residents.

United St Saviours Charity: provides funding for Southwark Law Centre to jointly coordinate the Southwark Universal Credit Network in partnership with Citizens Advice Southwark and Community Southwark. A second grant for funding for a housing and welfare rights paralegal.

Walcot Foundation: funding for a housing paralegal.

Windrush Justice Clinic: funding from Allen and Overy Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and King's College London to offer legal advice to victims of the Windrush scandal.

Unrestricted

Access to Justice: funding for core costs.

AB Charitable Trust: funding for core costs.

Allen and Overy Foundation: funding for an immigration paralegal.

Charities Aid Foundation: core funding to assist with Covid-19 contingencies.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2022

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

City Bridge Trust: funding towards the salary and related costs of two part time welfare rights workers to provide a service to Lambeth residents.

Children in Need Booster for Migrant Children: funding for additional staff to support and represent migrant children and young people who are isolated due to Covid-19.

EU Commission: funding from the Home Office for supporting vulnerable and at-risk citizens to enable them to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Law Centres Network: Community Justice funding.

The Legal Education Foundation: funding for core costs.

The Indigo Trust: funding for Lewisham Law Centre

London Legal Support Trust: core funding as part of the 'Centre of Excellence' project, and funding to expand work with homeless migrants.

Kings Health Partnership Pathway: funding for training and second tier advice for health professionals.

Westminster Foundation: funding for equipment to enable staff to work from home during the pandemic.

Wave 3 Covid-19 emergency fund: funding for a short term immigration advice and training project with Southwark Day Centres for Asylum Seekers.

South London Refugee Association: funding for second tier advice.

Southwark Council: funding for Covid-19 support.

Southwark Council Immigration Advice: funding for immigration advice for homeless people.

Greenwich Council: funding for an immigration solicitor providing immigration advice for homeless people.

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	75,522	13,717
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	15	208
Charitable activities		
Grants	861,510	932,696
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	395,226	331,278
Prize award	20,000	-
Specialist contracts	228,688	236,857
	<u>1,505,424</u>	<u>1,500,831</u>
Total incoming resources	1,580,961	1,514,756
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Salaries	1,051,938	920,811
Social security	108,421	91,991
Pensions	233,591	198,966
Recruitment, temporary staff & training expenses	10,693	5,300
Replacement law books	1,606	5,435
Legal Aid costs	35,805	9,581
Computer accessories, software & support	32,776	33,369
Legal and professional fees	5,940	5,714
Annual report	240	240
Practising certificates	4,884	4,321
Insurance professional indemnity	2,416	3,103
Lawtel	2,723	2,623
	<u>1,491,033</u>	<u>1,281,454</u>
Support costs		
Finance		
Other operating leases	2,721	3,460
Other		
Rent and rates	41,299	41,751
Insurance	1,995	1,899
Light and heat	1,773	3,513
Carried forward	45,067	47,163

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
Other		
Brought forward	45,067	47,163
Telephone	14,523	10,634
Postage and stationery	21,329	19,338
Sundries	3,752	4,056
Repairs & maintenance	4,676	4,214
Bookkeeping	29,725	16,230
Travel & subsistence	4,324	3,781
Bank charges	907	700
Subscriptions	12,287	8,038
Cleaning	2,125	1,840
Staff costs	-	877
Fixtures and fittings	226	302
Depreciation of law library	1	1
Computer equipment	2,861	-
	<u>141,803</u>	<u>117,174</u>
 Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	<u>8,600</u>	<u>7,200</u>
 Total resources expended	<u>1,644,157</u>	<u>1,409,288</u>
 Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(63,196)</u>	<u>105,468</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01418763 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 277927

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

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SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

TRUSTEES	Ms J Bourke-White (resigned 28.4.2020) Ms V Fewkes Mr S D O Lancashire Cllr A Gallagher (appointed 25.3.2021) Ms F J MacGregor Treasurer L McGown (appointed 10.3.2021) Ms V Olisa Ms J Peirce (resigned 4.8.2020) Mr O J Persey Mr A Polley Mr J Rhodes Chair Ms L H Stoy Ms L C Taylor (resigned 28.4.2020) Mr J Wells (resigned 5.4.2021)
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COMPANY SECRETARY	Ms S Causer
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REGISTERED OFFICE	Hanover Park House 14-16 Hanover Park Peckham London SE15 5HG
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REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	01418763 (England and Wales)
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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	277927
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AUDITORS	Berringers LLP Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley Kent BR1 3RA
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SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

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 2021. 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Southwark Law Centre was founded in 1976. Our main office is in Peckham. Over the past few years, a branch office has been developed in Lewisham which was recognised as Lewisham Law Centre by the Law Centres Network in July 2020. The trustees would like to thank AB Charity, Allen and Overy Foundation, Hogan Lovells LLP, Indigo Charity, The Legal Education Foundation, and London Legal Support Trust for their help in setting up Lewisham Law Centre, and to Citizens Advice Lewisham for hosting and supporting the Centre's housing caseworkers.

The objectives set out in the Law Centre's Memorandum of Association are the relief of poverty, suffering and distress through the provision of free, impartial, and confidential specialist legal advice and representation.

The Law Centre provides specialist legal advice and representation, which is free and of high quality in the areas of discrimination, employment, housing, planning and public law, welfare rights, and asylum/immigration law to those who could not otherwise afford to receive legal services.

Its constitution enables the Law Centre to take cases from all Greater London Boroughs, but the focus remains mainly for those who live, work or study in the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lewisham. More recently since the closure of Lambeth Law Centre, casework for residents of Lambeth has increased.

The Law Centre prioritises cases which involve the prevention of homelessness, destitution, discrimination, breaches of human rights and poverty. We provide training on legal rights for local advice and community agencies. We campaign to influence law, policy and practice and promote human and civil rights.

Services and approach during the pandemic

In March 2020, when the first Covid -19 lockdown began, the Law Centre quickly moved to providing services remotely. Staff at Southwark and Lewisham Law Centres were provided with equipment to enable them to work safely from home. It was felt that there was going to be an increased need for legal advice caused by the pandemic so the Law Centre did not furlough any members of staff.

The Law Centre did in fact take on new members of staff during the year and developed projects to respond to some of the needs created by the pandemic. The Law Centre worked with Southwark Council to provide immigration advice for homeless people housed in hotels as part of 'Everyone In ' and developed support for vulnerable private tenants funded by the Guys and St Thomas' Charity.

The Trustee Board finance sub-committee has met more regularly over the past year to maintain a close watch on finances including cashflow updates. Many of the Law Centre funders stepped up to help meet the challenges caused by the pandemic, including flexible use of funding and lighter touch reporting. The Law Centre is very grateful to the Law Centres Network for facilitating access to the Community Justice Wave 1 funding.

The Law Centre received funding to deal with Covid 19 issues from the different waves of the London Community Response, and from Southwark Council's Covid Emergency Fund. This funding assisted the Law Centre to pay some of the extra costs for items such as equipment to enable staff to work from home.

The Law Centre staff, and Trustees met to review the business plan in March 2020 and carried out a full review and update of the plan in December 2020, to take account of the changed environment.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

During the year the Law Centre took on 593 new cases, with 93 additional cases being dealt with by Lewisham Law Centre, a significant achievement during the pandemic. These cases are in addition to the ongoing cases from previous years.

It provided second tier advice on 315 cases to generalist advice and community organisations.

The Law Centre provided eight training/workshops on social welfare law topics, and planning and regeneration issues for Southwark advice agencies reaching over 300 frontline workers.

The service the Law Centre currently provides is casework-based and involves advocacy, preparation for and representation at tribunals, arbitration and review panels, and in the Courts within its specialist areas. These are: employment and discrimination, housing, public law, welfare rights, asylum and immigration.

The Law Centre does not operate a drop-in service for the public. In general clients are introduced by referral from another organisation. The Law Centre takes referrals from a wide variety of agencies including youth workers, teachers, mental health workers, advisors, councillors, Members of Parliament, and generalist advisors. Cases are also generated by the County Court Duty Scheme. Targeting the most complex cases provides the most effective use of experienced caseworkers' and solicitors' time.

The Law Centre aims to provide support to other agencies which refer cases to it even when it cannot take on particular cases. That support may be telephone advice to assist the referral agency in resolving the problem without the client seeing a lawyer or help in finding other sources of advice from groups such as the Southwark Housing Lawyers Group, the Lewisham Housing Lawyers Group or the Housing and Immigration Group.

The Law Centre provides training for frontline workers across all areas of social welfare law, planning and regeneration.

The Law Centre leads or participates in the following partnerships and forums:

- Southwark Legal Advice Network:

The Network which is facilitated by Citizens Advice Southwark (CAS) brings together the core advice agencies funded by Southwark Council in order to identify local need for legal advice and strategically plan services.

- Southwark Universal Credit Network, and Strategic Forum:

Funded by United St Saviours Charity this is a joint project with CAS and Community Southwark to provide information and training around Universal Credit ("UC") issues for community agencies in the Borough. The UC Strategic Forum brings together key community groups, funders, MPs, councillors, and officers from Lambeth and Southwark to consider trends, evidence-based reports and policy initiatives on UC issues.

- Housing and Immigration Group:

Funding from Trust for London enables the Law Centre to coordinate the London wide Housing and Immigration Group which facilitates the sharing of good practice and information between practitioners and referrals for urgent cases.

- Southwark Homelessness Forum:

The Forum brings together representatives from the voluntary sector and representatives of Southwark Council to try to develop a joined-up approach to tackling issues of homelessness and ensuring policies do not adversely affect local residents. The Law Centre's Executive Director chairs these meetings.

- Quarterly liaison meetings with the Southwark Council Exchequer:

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Law Centre has facilitated and chaired meetings between the core Southwark advice agencies and the Exchequer service. The aim is to work in partnership particularly around the impact of Universal Credit on tenants' rent accounts.

- Forum For Equalities and Human Rights and Equality Human Rights Panel ("EHRP")

The Executive Director of the Law Centre is a member of the EHRP, which acts as a critical friend to Southwark Council , commenting on policy initiatives and equality analysis.

- "Regeneration for All" Liaison Group

This group was set up in 2019 to provide a channel for discussion between Southwark Council's planning, public health and community engagement departments, and community agencies leading on planning and regeneration support

- Windrush Justice Clinics (WJC):

The Law Centre is part of a coalition of agencies coming together as the Windrush Justice Clinics (WJC). The WJC is a collaboration between Southwark Law Centre and North Kensington Law Centre; the University of Westminster Legal Advice Clinic, University of Greenwich Legal Advice Clinic, and London South Bank University Legal Advice Clinic; and community groups Claudia Jones Organisation, The Windrush Compensation Project and The Jigsaw House Society. Each organisation plays a key role within our three-tier model of support, aimed at ensuring victims of the Windrush scandal receive the compensation to which they should be entitled.

Public benefit

The trustees consider that the objectives and activities stated above of the Law Centre provide public benefit within the meaning and terms of the Charities Act 2011.

Volunteers

During the pandemic the Law Centre had to suspend the office volunteer programme but is committed to relaunching this later in 2021/22 as restrictions are lifted.

In the year 2020/21 one student of Kings College London legal department volunteered with the Law Centre, providing remote support on a research project. Pro bono support was received from Hogan Lovells LLP to assist in the negotiation of the Southwark Law Centre premises lease and to help with the development of the Lewisham Law Centre. Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP provided pro bono support for HR issues and policy development.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Areas of Law

Employment

In 2020/21 the Law Centre provided advice in 71 employment cases, continuing to provide a regular telephone outreach session for clients referred by Citizens Advice Southwark.

It is envisaged that the demand for high quality employment advice will increase in 2021/22. During the pandemic almost 40,000 people in Southwark have been out on furlough. Many people may be made redundant and discrimination issues may increase.

Discrimination

In 2019 the Law Centre was awarded Legal Aid contracts in Lewisham and Southwark to provide discrimination casework. Training has been provided for caseworkers and we aim to embed identifying and dealing with issues of discrimination across all our areas of work.

Housing

Housing remains one of the main advice needs in Southwark and Lewisham. In the year 2020/21 the Law Centre dealt with 242 cases.

The Law Centre specialises in cases involving homelessness, possession, eviction, disrepair and asylum support law. During the pandemic there has been an eviction ban (lifted in May 2021) Therefore the team has dealt with a much lower number of cases involving home repossession for social housing tenants. This has enabled us to provide more support for private tenants, including those experiencing serious disrepair issues and illegal eviction. In November 2020 the Law Centre received funding from the Guys and St Thomas' Charity to work on a project in partnership with Kineara, a social enterprise. This project aims to provide holistic support for vulnerable tenants in the private rented sector.

The Law Centre is funded by Trust for London to provide housing advice for destitute migrants. This funding was enhanced during 2020/21 with funding from Wave 4 of the London Community Response led by the London Legal Support Network. Through this casework, the Law Centre has held local authorities to account and improved decision-making. The Law Centre has provided specialist second tier advice to local frontline agencies to improve triaging for this client group, and enabled sharing of best practice through administrating and co-ordinating the Housing and Immigration Group (HIG).

In 2020/21 the Law Centre received funding from United St Saviour's Charity and the Walcott Foundation as part of the London Community Response Wave 2 which enabled it to recruit a para legal to support the housing and welfare rights teams.

Community Care

The Law Centre carries out community care work linked to its housing cases, particularly in the areas of homelessness and 'Section 17' support for destitute families who have been given 'No Recourse to Public Funds' status because of problems with their immigration status. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (s.17) gives local authorities the power to provide accommodation and financial support to families with 'children in need', even if they have no recourse to public funds.

Asylum and Immigration

In the year 2020/21 the Law Centre dealt with 219 immigration and asylum cases, with an additional 67 being dealt with by Lewisham Law Centre.

It prioritises cases for vulnerable people such as children, young people, people at risk of gender violence and people with mental and physical health problems. Many of the clients are homeless and destitute.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

In 2020/21 the Law Centre received funding and worked in partnership with Southwark Council to provide urgent immigration advice for the rough sleepers with No Recourse to Public Funds ('NRPF') that the council had housed as part of the 'Everyone In' initiative. Over 40 people were assisted as part of this project. In addition Greenwich Council provided a grant for similar work on a smaller scale.

The Law Centre has received continued funding from Lewisham Council to take referrals for specialist immigration advice for families and individuals supported by Lewisham's NRPF team. In 2020/21 the Law Centre began a partnership immigration advice project with Action for Refugees in Lewisham ('AFRIL') in order to meet an identified need of expanding access to immigration casework in the Borough.

In January 2020 the Law Centre began a project to provide specialist legal advice in partnership with the homeless teams at Guy's, and St Thomas' hospitals, funded by the GSTT Charity Samaritan fund. The project provides casework and representation for homeless patients and second tier advice and training for hospital staff. In March 2021 an evaluation report on the first year of the project was launched, evidencing the successful outcomes of the project, including savings to the NHS. The project builds on an original project funded by Pathway which continues to provide second tier support for the homeless teams at Kings College Hospital and South London and Maudsley Hospital.

During 2020/21 the Law Centre received funding from the Home Office and from Lambeth Council to provide assistance with more complex applications for settlement from vulnerable EEA nationals. The Law Centre works in partnership with New Europeans and Citizens Advice Southwark on the Home Office funded project and with Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth and IndoAmerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation on the Lambeth element of the project. This has been a major area of work in the lead up to the deadline for making applications in June 2021.

The Law Centre continues to work with the South London Refugee Association, to provide targeted consultancy support for their staff, and received funding for a short term project from Trust for London via the London Funders Community Response Wave.

The Law Centre is grateful for the funding from Children in Need to continue to provide immigration advice for children and young people.

In 2019/20 the Law Centre continued its partnership with Project 17 funded by Trust for London to provide specialist immigration advice for families with No Recourse to Public Funds.

The Law Centre is grateful to the AB Charitable Trust for continuing its funding to develop the human rights based approach in relation to supporting clients to regularise their immigration status.

In 2020/21 funding was secured from Trust for London as part of the Wave 3 London Community Response for a short project to provide training for staff and volunteers of Southwark Day Centres for Asylum Seekers.

Welfare Rights

In 2019/20 the Law Centre dealt with 70 welfare rights cases. The team specialises in appeals to the First Tier Tribunal (Social Security and Asylum Support), Upper Tribunal, and Judicial Review cases. Legal Aid is rarely available for welfare rights cases and the Law Centre's casework was largely funded thanks to the important long-term Southwark Council contract.

The introduction of UC continues to cause major problems for local residents, particularly around the payment of housing costs. UC comes on top of the other cuts to welfare benefits that have faced residents over the past few years such as the benefit cap and bedroom tax.

The Law Centre provides training for frontline workers as part of the Universal Credit Network in Southwark.

Planning Voice

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

The overall aim of this innovative project is to support and empower local people particularly those from economically and socially disadvantaged communities to be able to influence developments affecting the environment in which they live. In the 1970s and 1980s the Law Centre provided legal advice on planning issues at a time of huge redevelopment in Southwark. In order to respond to local needs in this new period of significant redevelopment it has been identified that the Law Centre should once again support residents in this area.

Initial 3-year funding from United St Saviour's Charity enabled Southwark Law Centre to employ a three day per week caseworker to provide group training sessions on planning issues and one to one support for local residents including advocacy and drafting representations. In January 2020 the Law Centre was awarded 3-year funding from the National Lottery which has enabled the planning solicitor post to become full time and to cover a wider area of Southwark.

Public Law

The Law Centre has a small number of Legal Aid 'Matter Starts' in this area. It is important that it maintains its ability to challenge unreasonable decisions made by public bodies. In the year 2020/21 the Law Centre carried out 14 public law challenges on areas such as challenges to vulnerable migrants being housed in ex army barracks during the pandemic.

Financial review

Financial position

The Law Centre's gross income was higher this year at £1,514,756 against £1,161,511 last year, an increase of £353,245. Higher outlay on resources expended, up from £1,108,771 to £1,409,288 resulted in net incoming resources of £105,468 against £52,740 for the previous year. At the year end restricted funds were £54,996 (2020 - £27,500), whilst unrestricted income funds amounted to £646,968, against £568,996 in the previous year, of which £280,000 (2020 - £200,000) has been designated.

Principal funding sources

Legal Aid funding accounts for around 40% of income, the contract with Southwark Council 11% with the remainder coming from Charitable grants, donations and contracts with Lewisham and Lambeth Councils to provide immigration advice. The Law Centre holds Legal Aid contracts, in housing, debt and welfare benefits, public law, discrimination, immigration and asylum at Southwark Law Centre with a housing contract and a discrimination contract at Lewisham Law Centre.

The Law Centre acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of all those who give it grant funding.

The total amount of funding received from Southwark Council in respect of the specialist advice contract was £168,693. The contract has been extended for a further five years from 2020.

The amount recorded in the financial statements is the net amount due to the Law Centre after payments to Cambridge House Law Centre and Migrant Legal Action, which are partner organisations with the Law Centre in the specialist contract with Southwark Council.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Law Centre's reserves have been set in accordance with the Law Centre's reserve policy, which is formulated pursuant to Charity Commission guidance. Best practice suggests that the Law Centre should have an appropriate proportion of its annual outgoings available by way of reserves, and the level of the Law Centre's reserves is regularly monitored by the trustees.

As part of our Financial Management processes, the Board of Trustees has set a target of working towards accumulating and maintaining a reserve fund which represents six months annual operating costs. This amount is reflective of general good practice in the Charity Sector and is even more important in light of the financial impact of the pandemic. In the financial year 2021/22 this would amount to approximately £550,000. These reserves enable the Law Centre to deal with the following contingencies:-

- Reductions in or withdrawal of grant funding
- Reduction in Legal Aid earned income
- In the event of closure, six months running costs to wind up the organisation and pay redundancies, leasehold and other liabilities

In addition we wish to set aside the following amounts :

- £100,000 in the event we need to move from our current premises, or face major rent costs in 2025;
- £30,000 for improvements to office premises;
- £80,000 for unforeseen staffing issues;
- £70,000 fund for replacing essential equipment such as IT and telephones.

The total amount of reserves we therefore like to aim for over the year 2021/22 is £830,000.

This policy is reviewed at least annually when the Trustee Board considers the end of year projections and the audited accounts.

Future plans

The Law Centre will continue to build on its wide range of experience and deliver the highest quality legal advice to the population of Southwark and surrounding boroughs as far as resources allow.

The Trustee Board and staff met in March 2020 and again in December 2020 to discuss and review the Law Centre's business plan.

The Law Centre has agreed the following key objectives for the period 2021/22;

- * Aim to ensure that we target our services at the most disadvantaged members of the community;
- * Increase capacity to provide welfare rights, debt, housing, immigration, and employment and discrimination advice for Southwark and Lewisham residents;
- * Achieve a workforce and Trustee Board that is representative of the diverse communities that live and work within South East London;
- * Ensure we maintain a supportive atmosphere for all members of staff, supporting them with working from home and ensuring that we have good communication mechanisms;
- * Continue to provide support for disadvantaged EEA Nationals to assist them with more complex settlement applications;
- * Continue to ensure that local residents have a voice in planning issues;
- * Continue to support frontline workers so they can better support their service users;
- * Maintain regular liaison meetings with the DWP, Southwark Council Exchequer Service and Housing Options.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Law Centre is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

All the trustees who are recruited live or work within the Law Centre's area of benefit. The recruitment of trustees is through advertising with volunteer support agencies, adverts on our website, contact with local community organisations, advice agencies and legal providers in the area of benefit. The Law Centre also encourages former clients and volunteers to be members of the charity and to consider joining the Trustee Board. Prospective trustees are invited to attend and observe at trustees' meetings and are recruited on the basis of relevant skills, experience and knowledge. An annual skills audit is carried out.

The trustees retire from office on a rotational basis (one third at each Annual General Meeting, based on length of service), but may stand for re-election.

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board meets approximately every two months to oversee the strategic management of the organisation. The trustees met eight times during 2020/21 including meeting with staff for 2 business planning events.

The Human Resources sub-committee meets at least quarterly, and reports to the Trustee Board. During 2020/21 the Finance sub-committee met at least monthly to consider cash flow. In recognition of the need for further expert support the trustees have appointed a finance officer on a self-employed basis for two days a week.

Day-to-day management of the Law Centre is delegated to the Director, Sally Causer, who works full-time. Senior solicitors are accountable to the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the conduct of legal cases, and for providing day to day supervision of casework.

All members of the company, who include members of the Trustee Board, undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each in the event that the company is wound up while they are members, or within one year of cessation of membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees have an induction meeting with the Director to observe the work of the Law Centre. All trustees receive full details of the policies and procedures of the Law Centre.

Key management remuneration

	2021	2020
	£	£
Key management compensation in year	67,466	66,958

The remuneration is the total sum of the salaries, social security contributions and pension costs paid to, and in respect of, the Director. No payments were made to any of the trustees for their management responsibilities.

Risk management

The trustees are keenly aware that their responsibilities include the duty to plan for the future and to prepare the Law Centre for the risks and opportunities they have identified beyond the current financial year.

The Law Centre reviews an annual operational risk assessment and a business continuity plan. Risks include loss of funding, loss of key staff and failure to perform on grants and contracts.

The Law Centre has developed a separate detailed risk assessment for the Lewisham service.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2021

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Southwark Law Centre 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).

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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a Strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 26 October 2021 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Mr J Rhodes - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Law Centre (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Cash flow statement 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).

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 2021 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; 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; 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 independent 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:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and error, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- results of our enquiries to management about their own assessment of the risks of fraud and error;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud may occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

Our procedures to respond to risk include the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected areas that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error;
- addressing the risk of fraud and error through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journals, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Cardnell BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Berringers LLP
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

26 October 2021

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	13,717	-	-	13,717	15,556
Charitable activities	4					
Legal representation		1,303,746	-	197,085	1,500,831	1,145,114
Investment income	3	208	-	-	208	841
Total		1,317,671	-	197,085	1,514,756	1,161,511
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities	5					
Legal representation		1,239,699	-	169,589	1,409,288	1,108,771
NET INCOME		77,972	-	27,496	105,468	52,740
Transfers between funds	14	(80,000)	80,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,028)	80,000	27,496	105,468	52,740
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		368,996	200,000	27,500	596,496	543,756
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		366,968	280,000	54,996	701,964	596,496

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	11	907	-	-	907	1,210
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	12	460,484	-	16,726	477,210	510,167
Cash at bank and in hand		109,606	280,000	62,237	451,843	255,179
		570,090	280,000	78,963	929,053	765,346
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(204,029)	-	(23,967)	(227,996)	(170,060)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		366,061	280,000	54,996	701,057	595,286
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		366,968	280,000	54,996	701,964	596,496
NET ASSETS		366,968	280,000	54,996	701,964	596,496
FUNDS	14					
Unrestricted funds					646,968	568,996
Restricted funds					54,996	27,500
TOTAL FUNDS					701,964	596,496

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 October 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mr J Rhodes - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>196,456</u>	<u>(38,126)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>196,456</u>	<u>(38,126)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(3,287)
Interest received		<u>208</u>	<u>841</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>208</u>	<u>(2,446)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>196,664</u>	<u>(40,572)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>255,179</u>	<u>295,751</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>451,843</u></u>	<u><u>255,179</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of financial activities)	105,468	52,740
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	303	3,691
Interest received	(208)	(841)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	32,957	(191,724)
Increase in creditors	57,936	98,008
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	196,456	(38,126)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.20	Cash flow	At 31.3.21
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	255,179	196,664	451,843
	255,179	196,664	451,843
Total	255,179	196,664	451,843

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2021

1. 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.

Income

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

Expenditure

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 a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Fixtures and fittings	-25% on reducing balance
Law library	-25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	-100% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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 Note 14 on 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 Centre participates in a Local Authority pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. It is therefore not possible to identify the assets and liabilities for participating employees.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	13,717	15,556

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	208	841

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2021	2020
	Activity	£	£
Grants	Legal representation	932,696	410,530
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	Legal representation	331,278	527,258
Specialist contracts	Legal representation	236,857	207,326
		1,500,831	1,145,114

Specialist contract with Southwark Council

	2021	2020
	£	£
Contract monies received from Southwark Council	338,800	369,600
Grant partners paid	(170,107)	(187,274)
Income relevant to Southwark Law Centre acknowledged	168,693	182,326

	2021	2020
	£	£
Lewisham Immigration Specialist Contract	58,164	25,000

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Southwark Council	13,000	-
Charities Aid Foundation	17,815	-
National Lottery Community Fund	65,295	15,969
Children in Need	40,000	40,000
Trust for London	30,000	30,000
Comic Relief	-	9,285
AB Charitable Trust	7,500	30,000
City Bridge Trust	10,630	65,882
Kings Health Partnership Pathway	11,716	2,500
London Legal Support Trust	21,771	15,000
Carried forward	217,727	208,636

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	2021	2020
	£	£
Brought forward	217,727	208,636
Project 17	16,763	8,382
United St Saviours Charity	24,788	17,792
Law Centres Network	201,000	-
South London Refugee Association	-	2,500
The Legal Education Foundation	118,235	76,275
Access to Justice	5,400	-
EU Commission	23,321	24,552
Guardian appeal	-	16,500
Maternity Action	-	7,006
Guy's & St Thomas' Charity	40,000	16,726
The Indigo Trust	37,000	15,000
Allen & Overy Foundation	7,000	7,000
The Home Office	57,246	10,161
Action for refugees in Lewisham	16,232	-
Cin Booster for Migrant Children	3,100	-
Walcot Foundation	18,338	-
Westminster Foundation	5,259	-
Guys & St Thomas Samaritan Project	33,451	-
Wave 3 Covid-19 emergency fund	29,836	-
Southwark NRPF	78,000	-
	<u>932,696</u>	<u>410,530</u>

5. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Legal representation	<u>1,281,454</u>	<u>127,834</u>	<u>1,409,288</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance £	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Legal representation	<u>3,460</u>	<u>117,174</u>	<u>7,200</u>	<u>127,834</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	7,200	7,300
Depreciation - owned assets	303	3,691
Other operating leases	3,460	4,408
	<u>3,460</u>	<u>4,408</u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	920,811	694,475
Social security costs	91,991	69,746
Other pension costs	198,966	149,954
	<u>1,211,768</u>	<u>914,175</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Legal advice	23	19
Administration	6	4
	<u>29</u>	<u>23</u>

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

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

10. CLIENT BANK ACCOUNTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Monies held in client bank accounts	120,821	133,158
	<u><u>120,821</u></u>	<u><u>133,158</u></u>
Monies due to clients	120,821	133,158
	<u><u>120,821</u></u>	<u><u>133,158</u></u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Law library £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021	32,004	8,650	39,283	79,937
	<u>32,004</u>	<u>8,650</u>	<u>39,283</u>	<u>79,937</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2020	30,797	8,647	39,283	78,727
Charge for year	302	1	-	303
	<u>302</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>303</u>
At 31 March 2021	31,099	8,648	39,283	79,030
	<u>31,099</u>	<u>8,648</u>	<u>39,283</u>	<u>79,030</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2021	905	2	-	907
	<u>905</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>907</u>
At 31 March 2020	1,207	3	-	1,210
	<u>1,207</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,210</u>

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	434,397	434,455
Prepayments	42,813	75,712
	<u>434,397</u>	<u>434,455</u>
	<u><u>477,210</u></u>	<u><u>510,167</u></u>

Included in trade debtors are amounts earned but not invoiced until post year end. These are deemed actual debtors and not work in progress.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	1
Social security and other taxes	27,806	17,429
VAT	18,361	33,295
Accrued expenses	52,362	41,719
Deferred income	129,467	77,616
	<u>227,996</u>	<u>170,060</u>

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.21
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	368,996	77,972	(80,000)	366,968
Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	30,000	80,000
Equipment fund	50,000	-	20,000	70,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	30,000	130,000
	<u>568,996</u>	<u>77,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>646,968</u>
Restricted funds				
Migrant Housing Advice Project	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	-	16,726	-	16,726
Access to Justice	-	3,700	-	3,700
Action for Refugees	-	16,232	-	16,232
Walcot Foundation	-	18,338	-	18,338
	<u>27,500</u>	<u>27,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,996</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>596,496</u>	<u>105,468</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>701,964</u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,317,671	(1,239,699)	77,972
Restricted funds			
Migrant Housing Advice Project	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	-	(7,500)	(7,500)
Justice First Fellowship	88,235	(88,235)	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	16,726	-	16,726
EU Settlement Application Fund	51,308	(51,308)	-
EU Latin American Mobility & Participation Project	846	(846)	-
Access to Justice	5,400	(1,700)	3,700
Action for Refugees	16,232	-	16,232
Walcot Foundation	18,338	-	18,338
	<u>197,085</u>	<u>(169,589)</u>	<u>27,496</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,514,756</u></u>	<u><u>(1,409,288)</u></u>	<u><u>105,468</u></u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	341,256	55,963	(28,223)	368,996
Staff Contingency fund	70,000	-	(20,000)	50,000
Equipment fund	5,000	-	45,000	50,000
Lease and premises fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
	<u>516,256</u>	<u>55,963</u>	<u>(3,223)</u>	<u>568,996</u>
Restricted funds				
Migrant Housing Advice Project	7,500	-	-	7,500
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	20,000	-	-	20,000
European Union Latin American Mobility & Participation Project	-	(3,223)	3,223	-
	<u>27,500</u>	<u>(3,223)</u>	<u>3,223</u>	<u>27,500</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>543,756</u></u>	<u><u>52,740</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>596,496</u></u>

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued for the year ended 31 March 2021

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	896,481	(840,518)	55,963
Restricted funds			
Migrant Housing Advice Project	30,000	(30,000)	-
Migrant Children & Young People's Project	40,000	(40,000)	-
Migrant Women's Project	9,285	(9,285)	-
Partnership with Project 17	8,382	(8,382)	-
Universal Credit Mitigation Project	1,042	(1,042)	-
Planning Voice Project	32,719	(32,719)	-
European Union Latin American Mobility & Participation Project	634	(3,857)	(3,223)
Justice First Fellowship	53,775	(53,775)	-
EU Training Project	406	(406)	-
Strategic Legal Fund	23,506	(23,506)	-
Lambeth Welfare Rights Project	14,882	(14,882)	-
Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund	16,726	(16,726)	-
EU Settlement Application Fund	33,673	(33,673)	-
	<u>265,030</u>	<u>(268,253)</u>	<u>(3,223)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,161,511</u>	<u>(1,108,771)</u>	<u>52,740</u>

Restricted monies are carried forward to be utilised in the next financial year.

AB Charity: funding for Lewisham Law Centre

Access to Justice Foundation: funding for one place on the 'Management & Leadership' training programme and further funding for core costs and two days' consultancy.

Action for Refugees in Lewisham Project: Funding for solicitor costs to provide immigration advice for families in Lewisham.

Allen and Overy Foundation: funding for an immigration para legal

Charity Aid Foundation: core funding to assist with Covid -19 contingencies.

EU Settlement Application Fund: funding from the Home Office via Law Centre Network to provide support on EU settlement applications.

EU Training Project: funds were provided via the Law Centres Network to provide training on EU Citizens rights.

Homeless Patients Legal Advocacy Fund: funding from Guys & St Thomas' Samaritan Fund for housing and immigration advice for homeless patients.

Indigo Charity: funding for Lewisham Law Centre

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Justice First Fellowship Training: funding by The Legal Education Foundation towards the salary and supervision of two trainee solicitors.

Kings Health Partnership Pathway: funding for training and second tier advice for health professionals

Lambeth council: funding to provide advice in complex EU Settlement Applications

Latin American Mobility and Participation Project: This training and advice project has been funded by the European Commission via the Law Centres Network to work in partnership with the Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation.

Lewisham Immigration Project: funded by the London Borough of Lewisham to provide an accredited immigration advice service for households with NRPF supported by the council.

London Legal Support Trust: core funding as part of the 'Centre of Excellence' project, and funding to expand work with homeless migrants

Migrant Children & Young People's Project: The funding from Children in Need contributes to the salary and related costs of a solicitor to provide immigration advice for young migrants.

Migrant Housing Project: The funding from Trust for London contributes to the salary of a solicitor to provide housing and community care advice for destitute migrants.

Partnership with Project 17: The funding from Trust for London contributes to the salary of a solicitor to provide immigration advice for destitute migrant families with young children.

Planning Voice Project: The funding from United St Saviour's Charity, now taken over by The National Lottery Community Fund, provides for a full time caseworker whose role is to support and empower local people to participate in decisions around major redevelopments in Southwark.

Strategic Legal Fund: funded by The Guardian, and The Strategic Legal Fund via Maternity Action to challenge NHS charges for migrant women.

Southwark Council Housing Solutions: funding for immigration advice for rough sleepers

South London Refugee Association: funding for second tier advice

United St Saviours Charity: provides funding for Southwark Law Centre to jointly coordinate the Southwark Universal Credit Network in partnership with Citizens Advice Southwark and Community Southwark.

United St Saviours Charity and the Walcot Foundation: funding for a housing and welfare rights para legal.

Wave 3 Community Funding via Trust for London: funding for a short term immigration advice and training project with Southwark Day Centres for Asylum Seekers

Welfare Rights Project: funded by City Bridge Foundation for welfare rights advice for Lambeth tenants, facing action for rent arrears.

Westminster Foundation: funding for equipment to enable staff to work from home during the pandemic

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	13,717	15,556
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	208	841
Charitable activities		
Grants	932,696	410,530
Legal Aid Contract & Representation	331,278	527,258
Specialist contracts	236,857	207,326
	1,500,831	1,145,114
Total incoming resources	1,514,756	1,161,511
 EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Salaries	920,811	694,475
Social security	91,991	69,746
Pensions	198,966	149,954
Recruitment, temporary staff & training expenses	5,300	3,816
Replacement law books	5,435	2,878
Legal Aid costs	9,581	31,529
Computer accessories, software & support	33,369	24,483
Legal and professional fees	5,714	6,348
Annual report	240	240
Practising certificates	4,321	3,972
Insurance professional indemnity	3,103	1,968
Lawtel	2,623	2,142
	1,281,454	991,551
Support costs		
Finance		
Other operating leases	3,460	4,408
Other		
Rent and rates	41,751	41,817
Insurance	1,899	1,777
Light and heat	3,513	3,991
Carried forward	47,163	47,585

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Other		
Brought forward	47,163	47,585
Telephone	10,634	6,712
Postage and stationery	19,338	17,653
Sundries	4,056	3,285
Repairs & maintenance	4,214	2,765
Bookkeeping	16,230	4,771
Travel & subsistence	3,781	3,100
Bank charges	700	602
Subscriptions	8,038	4,856
Cleaning	1,840	5,719
Staff costs	877	4,136
Fixtures and fittings	302	403
Depreciation of law library	1	1
Computer equipment	-	3,287
	117,174	104,875
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	7,200	7,300
AGM costs	-	637
	7,200	7,937
Total resources expended	1,409,288	1,108,771
Net income	105,468	52,740

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