

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 291890

Details

Other names	ISLINGTON VOLUNTARY ACTION COUNCIL LIMITED, I V A C, VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	01913555
Registered	1985-06-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Voluntary Action Islington 200A Pentonville Road London N1 9JP
Phone	02078325800
Email	information@vai.org.uk
Website	www.vai.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE, PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, THE FURTHERANCE OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF POVERTY, DISTRESS AND SICKNESS.TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE COOPERATION IN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES AND TO THAT END TO BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES ENGAGED IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES WITHIN THE AREA OF BENEFIT

Activities: * Supporting member community organisations including provision of information and support* Capacity building work with voluntary and community organisations in the borough including training * Developing the local voluntary sector including promoting and supporting volunteering* Supporting networks including the Islington Community Network

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
- Islington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£502,780	£559,456	£305,209	9
2024-03-31	£495,263	£493,101	-	-
2023-03-31	£490,853	£437,546	-	-
2022-03-31	£407,946	£371,669	-	-
2021-03-31	£315,568	£366,828	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ali Jabeen		2023-12-04
Anjna Khurana		2025-06-25
Craig Burgess		2023-12-04
Daniel Belay Gessesse		2025-06-25
Jorge Llorens Ferrero		2019-12-04
Ken Penton		2025-06-25
Kenneth Hettiarachi		2020-02-05
Santa Gascoigne		2020-07-02

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England & Wales - Charity number 291890

Accounts

Company No. 01913555
Charity No. 291890

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

31 March 2025

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Voluntary Action Islington Limited
Charity registration number	291890
Company registration number	01913555
Registered Office	200a Pentonville Road London N1 9JP

Board of Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Ali Jabeen
Craig Burgess
Emma Victoria Hutchins (Chair)
Hussain Ahmed – (resigned 21 May 2024)
Irene Victoria Winter – (resigned 24 September 2024)
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)
Ken Hettiarachi (Vice Chair)
Kevin Turner
Madeleine Gascoigne
Santa Gascoigne

**Chief Executive Officer and
Company Secretary**

Navinder Kaur

Independent Examiners

Goldwins Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
9 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

PURPOSE AND AIMS

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness
- b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not-for-profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit

In the past year the staff and trustees reviewed VAI's mission, vision, values and aims and this annual report reflects these strategic changes.

OUR VISION

A thriving Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Islington; enriching people's lives and building stronger communities.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen Islington's VCFSE sector to deliver services effectively and sustainably to promote social justice.

OUR VALUES

- **Collaborative:** building partnerships and co-designing solutions
- **Effective:** creative, energetic and responsive
- **Inclusive:** promoting the importance of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion
- **Positive:** tackling challenges by building on strengths
- **With Integrity:** honest, professional and respectful

OUR NEW STRATEGIC AIMS

1. To support the development, effectiveness and sustainability of Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
2. To enable and strengthen volunteering, social action and community resilience
3. To facilitate stronger partnership working across Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to influence policy, decision-making and system growth
4. To run VAI responsibly, effectively and efficiently as a model of good practice

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, Community Safety and Health.

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VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON

Voluntary Action Islington (VAI) has been at the heart of Islington's sector for over 50 years. We support local charities, community groups, faith organisations & social enterprises, while also working closely with residents and statutory partners. Over this time, we've built strong relationships, extensive local knowledge & a clear understanding of the challenges many people in our borough face. Today, we have over 500 registered members and regularly share information with more than 900 through our newsgroup. The VCFSE sector continues to demonstrate resilience, creativity and determination in the face of unprecedented challenges, and this is what drives us to remain so committed to our local VCFSE sector and residents.

OUR NEW 3 YEAR STRATEGY 2024-2027

In September '24, we launched our new strategy, capturing what Islington's VCFSE sector have been telling us about what they need from us during these unpredictable and challenging times.

As NCVO have articulated very well in their recent 'The Road Ahead' report, the sector is facing ongoing economic uncertainty, difficult funding landscapes and evolving political priorities requiring us to rethink how we operate, collaborate and advocate for change. The sector is operating in a perfect storm, with funding harder to secure, at a time when the sector is trying to keep up with the unprecedented rise in the demand for services.

We have been working more closely with the VCFSE sector and partners putting in place ways to collaborate and advocate for change - strengthening our relationships and partnerships to strengthen VAI and the wider VCFSE sector in Islington. We bring our strategic aims to life through services that are practical and people-focused:

- Capacity building and organisational development support: we provide advice, training and mentoring to small community groups, charities and social enterprises. We help them build skills and sustainability so they can serve local people who need their support.
- Volunteering: we run Islington's NAVCA accredited Volunteer Centre, helping residents find meaningful roles and supporting organisations to create inclusive opportunities. Volunteering builds confidence & belonging while giving local charities the vital support they need.
- Collaboration: We connect and advocate for the VCFSE sector, representing the sector on Islington council-led boards and partnerships and sub boards of the North Central London Integrated Care Board. We convene annual conferences and networks that strengthen partnership working and collaboration.
- Community space: through our Resource Centre, we provide affordable co-working and meeting space, creating a supportive environment where groups can collaborate and deliver their services.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

Our priorities have been to strengthen our internal infrastructure; capturing and demonstrating VAI's value and the value of the local VCFSE sector; and reaching more local organisations and residents through our Local Wellbeing Networks and delivering a wider range of holistic, early intervention and prevention services to better meet the needs of residents and organisations by forming new collaborations with local partners to achieve this and extend our reach.

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES: Capacity building and organisational development support

- We continued to provide capacity building and organisational development support to local residents and organisations. We provided practical 1:1 and group support to residents establishing or running local VCFSE sector organisations and community groups.

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- We continued to provide an email news group service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities. Islington council colleagues also disseminate information through this news group.
- Our website continues to be an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including good practice resources for organisations. During the year we started work on developing a new website, having consulted with the sector around accessibility, navigation and resources needed.
- We continue to have an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate.
- We continue to have an arrangement with Russell Cooke who offer free 20-minute legal advice to the sector.

VOLUNTEERING, SOCIAL ACTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- We delivered the core elements of an NAVCA accredited Volunteer Centre - matching local residents interested in volunteering with local opportunities in the VCFSE sector. We have a small team of volunteers who provide a drop-in service twice a week and through outreach we promote volunteering at local community events
- We provided a volunteering platform that enables organisations to post their volunteer opportunities, whilst at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements. This year we improved accessibility by upgrading our volunteering platform.
- We promoted community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting in the first week of November.
- We facilitated the Local Wellbeing Networks – North, Central, South Islington – bringing together residents, VCFSE sector organisations, community groups and statutory partners, focusing on priorities determined by frontline organisations and residents.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE VCFSE TO INFLUENCE POLICY, DECISION MAKING AND SYSTEM GROWTH

- We organised an annual conference in March '25 and smaller events throughout the year for the local VCFSE sector on themes of relevance. Our half day conference in March focused on defining the impact and social value of the VCFSE sector, supported by Sheffield Hallam and Nottingham Trent Universities, and how the sector can benefit from Evidence Islington, funded by the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC).
- We facilitated VAI's Advisory Group (made up of 20 local organisations and local funders) and the Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative – to support the VCFSE sector to collaborate more effectively.
- We represented the VCFSE sector on a range of Islington council led partnerships and boards and supported wider VCFSE representation. We represented the VCFSE on the North Central London VCSE Alliance and NCL Integrated Care Board partnerships and boards.

OUR RESOURCE CENTRE

- We are delighted to announce that with the support of Islington Council, we secured a new 15-year lease providing us with the stability that we need going forward.
- Having secured a new lease, we have started to make more improvements to the Resource Centre to ensure that the space is welcoming and a nice environment to work in.

2024-25 – THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

2024-25 – THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



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STRATEGIC AIM 1: TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ISLINGTON'S VCFSE

One to one sessions – tailored advice and guidance to build confidence and skills

We received requests for support from 172 organisations and residents who were supported mainly through 1:1 in person and online sessions (119) and via email and telephone (53). We worked with some groups on a short-term basis, whilst others benefited from longer term targeted support to help them build robust foundations.

In this reporting period we supported 20 of the 51 organisations receiving core grant funding from Islington Council; and we reached 28 organisations/residents that had not received support from VAI previously. The main areas of support provided via one-to-one sessions:

1. Funding, fundraising including reviews of funding applications
2. Legal structures: charity structures and registering as a charity or company limited by guarantee or changing their existing structures. 21% of all requests came from residents (some of whom already delivering community services) who wanted advice about how to set up as a charity, community group, CIO and Community Interest Company (Social Enterprise)
3. Financial management: accounts & budgeting
4. Governance and planning
5. Monitoring, evaluation and measuring impact including using data / case studies to demonstrate outcomes and impact.
6. Safeguarding policies and procedures
7. Requests for volunteers

HOW RESIDENTS AND ORGANISATIONS ACCESS OUR SERVICES

- Our partners: the Big Alliance, Cripplegate Foundation, Local Initiatives Funding (LIF) team, local councillors, Islington Council's Partnership Team, and other Council departments
- Through events, and networks: our newsgroup, conferences, training and workshops
- Community signposting: referrals from other VCS organisations, VAI Volunteer Centre, word of mouth and local forums

PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING

Alongside one-to-one support, we delivered practical, skills focused training in partnership with other organisations, enabling the sector to learn together, share ideas and strengthen connections. We delivered the training in partnership with others, joining up the offer to meet the demand from organisations, and to maximise our reach and impact. Across the year, a total of 214 people participated in our training sessions, and 90% reported increased knowledge or confidence in their ability to apply what they learned.

Theme	Delivery partner	Number of organisations
Finance, budgeting and fundraising	Cripplegate (May '24)	27 attended, 45 received follow up templates
Charitable Incorporated Organisations: Is this the perfect structure for your organisation?	Russell Cooke (Oct '24)	30 attended
Introduction to Project Management	VAI's Volunteer Associate (Oct '24) x 2 sessions	20 attended both sessions
Introduction to Social Enterprise	Better Space (Nov '24)	15 attended

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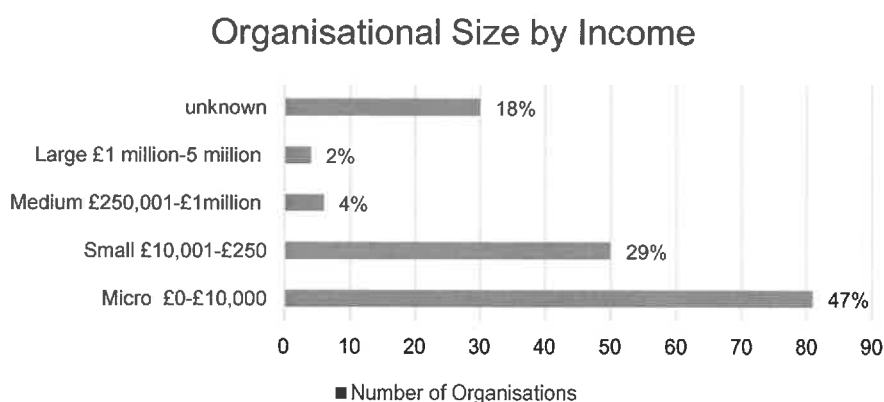
Theme	Delivery partner	Number of organisations
Partnership and Networking	Voice 4 Change (Feb '25)	33 small, black led organisations attended
Project Planning and Development	London Met University (March 25) x 3 sessions	15 micro sized organisations attended
Funding Toolkit Workshop (funded by Islington Council)	The toolkit provider IDOX provided a workshop on how to navigate the toolkit (March 25)	57 attended

MAKING ACCESS TO FUNDRAISING EASIER

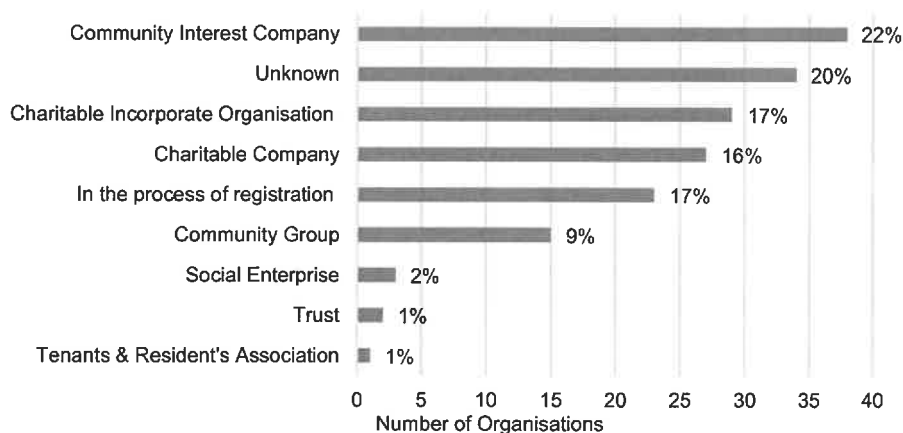
We know that funding is a lifeline for the sector, and we worked to make it easier for organisations to identify opportunities and success in applications. During the year we:

- produced 2 updated funding booklets disseminated in October '24 & March '25 - bringing together a range of funding opportunities in one place. The booklet makes it easier for local organisations to access relevant opportunities quickly, saving them time and helping them focus on strengthening their funding applications.
- collated and disseminated over 35 funding updates throughout the year, with at least 2 per month. We received positive feedback on how helpful these regular updates are to groups who are sourcing funding opportunities.
- promoted the Islington Funding Toolkit 15 times through VAI's Newsgroup and Local Wellbeing Networks, increasing registrations to 380 organisations. The Toolkit is a searchable database of local, regional, national, and international funding opportunities, helping groups find funders by type, area of work, or beneficiaries.
- reviewed funding applications, providing constructive feedback, and advised groups on how to strengthen their applications or prepare for future funding opportunities.

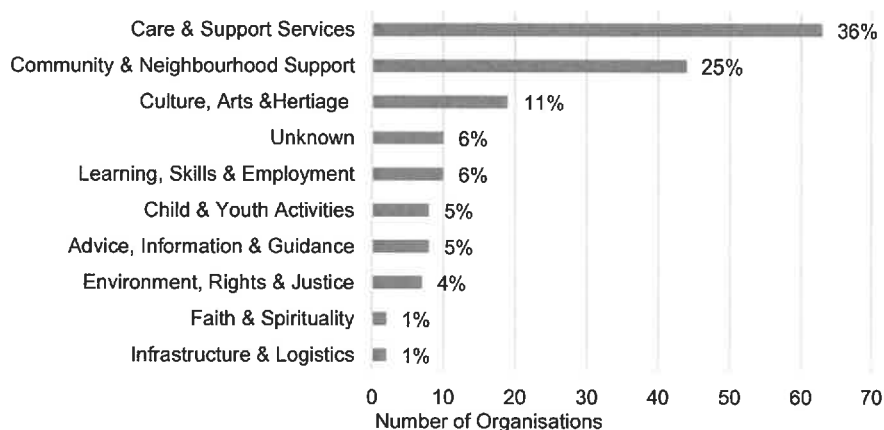
OUR REACH: WHO WE ARE SUPPORTING



Organisational Structure



Main services offered by those we support



The feedback from the advice sessions has been very positive. Groups reported they received practical advice and information and gained knowledge and skills that would help them to start, develop and run their organisations. Evaluation feedback from sessions shows a high level of satisfaction with the advice provided.

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MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

OUR MEMBERSHIP

- 550 formal members
- 380 organisations now using the Islington Funding Toolkit, the free-to-access funding database, funded by Islington Council.
- 953 users of VAI news, our email news group
- 34,086 visits to our website

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 3567 Twitter followers (VAI account)
- 2612 Twitter followers (Volunteer Centre account)
- 1,081 Instagram followers (Volunteer Centre)

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Our membership consists of 550 local VCFSE sector organisations. Going forward we will be reviewing our membership offer and will work on improving our offer to our members.

GOOGLE NEWSGROUP

VAI's Google Newsgroup membership increased from the previous year to over 953 local groups/organisations. This platform is used by organisations to share local news about their services. Upon request, we also disseminated news and information from our council and public health colleagues. In 2024-25, 980 news emails were shared using this platform.

We circulated funding updates, job alerts and local community events and services as well as news from Islington Council via all our messaging platforms:

WEBSITE

Our website had over 33k visits from VCFSE sector groups/organisations accessing a range of capacity building and organisational development information/resources and events to support the VCFSE in the delivery of their services.

We have started to plan the development of a new revamped website (funded by the National Lottery) to improve access, navigation and resources and toolkits available to the local VCFSE sector. The website will be completed in Feb/March 2026.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: TO ENABLE AND STRENGTHEN VOLUNTEERING, SOCIAL ACTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

COST OF LIVING PILOT PROGRAMME – LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORKS

The LWNs continued to be a major focus of our work delivered in partnership with Octopus Community Network, Help on Your Doorstep and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust and other LWN partners. We focused on delivering an early intervention approach by providing a holistic and joined up response to residents accessing food aid. We built upon the work with existing members of the LWNs and started working more closely with the Islington food aid providers network. Our aim was to raise awareness of statutory and VCFSE services in the borough, to support collaboration, sharing of resources, co-delivering events and providing workforce development training to staff and volunteers working within food aid hubs.

Over the year, the Food Aid providers network told us about the complexity of issues residents accessing food aid provision face, and what additional support services residents need and these include: debt / benefit advice, education / training, employment support, housing advice

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/ support, language support, legal advice, social wellbeing activities / support to reduce social isolation, support with mental and physical health, support to address substance use / gambling harms.

LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORK MEETINGS AND EVENTS

We engaged 185 residents, VCFSE organisations including 28 food aid providers, raising awareness of mental health, employment, debt, income maximisation, drug/alcohol/gambling support and the support offered by the Access Hubs. This was in response to what food aid providers told us that their residents needed.

We delivered 17 Local Wellbeing Networks meetings across the 3 localities in settings accessible to residents and practitioners, with approx. 25-35 members attending each LWN meeting:

- 5 North Locality meetings with 94 attendees
- 6 Central Locality meetings with 79 attendees
- 6 South Locality meetings with 93 attendees

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMPLOYABILITY WITH A FOCUS ON NETWORKING IN THE CREATIVE AND TEC SECTOR

38 young people attended a co-designed employability event in July 2024. The North LWN members prioritised work with young people and as a result of the conversation, Copenhagen Youth Project, Fish Tank, Mary's Youth Club, Whittington Park Community Centre co-produced an event with young people around employability with a focus on networking in the creative and tech sector. A hugely successful event which took place at Havas, Kings Square.

ONLINE WEBINARS AND IN PERSON TRAINING FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITHIN THE FOOD AID NETWORK

Theme	Delivery partner and Dates	Number of organisations
Making Every Contact Count (MECC)	September '24 and January '25	32 Food Aid Providers (21 volunteers)
Motivational Interviewing	January '25	21 Food Aid Providers (10 volunteers)
iMax and Islington Access Hubs (online)	In partnership with Help on Your Doorstep (HOYD) Dec '24	32

LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORKS WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH ISLINGTON COUNCIL

During the year, we worked in partnership with council colleagues in the following areas:

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES TEAM

In March 25, we delivered a tabletop exercise with Islington Council's Civil Contingencies Team with 24 participants included Food Aid Providers, emergency services, healthcare, charities and the council. We tested the response to an event that threatened food security and supply. The aim of the exercise was to promote joint working, and planning between all partners, exploring the likely responses of each organisation, develop knowledge of other services and identify vulnerabilities and inter dependencies.

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND REHABIT

A mental health subgroup of the LWN worked on developing a mental health and wellbeing guide – a practical toolkit to help staff and volunteers in Islington feel confident having conversations about mental health and signposting residents to further support. This will be launched in the Autumn of '25.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

In March '25, we ran a focus group on early intervention and prevention mental health support in Islington. Food aid providers were invited to contribute to:

- What the early intervention and prevention offer for mental health in Islington looks like
- What works well and what could be improved
- What we want it to look like in the future

SUBGROUP 1: MENTAL HEALTH

Members include VAI (LWN), Islington Council, Public Health, REHABIT

A mental health subgroup of the LWN worked on developing a mental health and wellbeing guide – a practical toolkit to help staff and volunteers in Islington feel confident having conversations about mental health and signposting residents to further support.

SUBGROUP 2: FINANCIAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Members include VAI (LWN), Residents Without Borders, Go Africa, Maya Centre, Betknowmore, Islington Council, Evidence Islington, Hanley Crouch Community Centre, Eritrean Family Support Group, Islington Chinese Association and Age UK Islington.

Key challenges identified was the link between poverty and poor health, particularly affecting disabled people, housing affordability issues, high utility costs and lack of financial literacy and limited awareness of available resources. Members started working on a community event planned for the Autumn on Community Voices: Managing Your Money Workshop "managing your money" – led by Residents Without Borders, with Islington Law Centre, Citizens Advice, SHINE (fuel poverty and energy support) and Betknowmore – providers of gambling support.

SUBGROUP 3: ENVIRONMENT

Members include VAI (LWN), Kings Head Theatre, Residents Without Borders, Let's Link, St Mary's Youth Group, Islington Council, London Metropolitan University, Islington Clean Air Parents, Hanley Crouch, and residents.

Key themes and discussions centred around: air quality and green infrastructure; community owned air quality monitoring, with support from London Met, street greening, pocket parks and the use of planters in high traffic areas; waste and recycling; community gardens and green spaces.

One of the projects that is in development is with King's Head Theatre Community Garden, creating an inclusive space co-designed with young people and community groups. The aim is to revitalise an outdoor space at the Kings Head Theatre to encourage creativity, connection with nature and reduce loneliness. A collaboration with St Mary's Girls' Group (and later, an LGBTQ+ group). A local artist facilitated workshops, and the garden was designed with sustainable features: upcycled theatre equipment, trellises and repurposes materials.

SUBGROUP 4: EMPLOYMENT

Members include VAI (LWN) Brickworks Community Centre, Islington Council Adult Community Learning, NHS, Go Africa, Help on Your Doorstep, Evidence Islington, Islington Somali Community, Roj Women's Association, and engaged residents.

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Areas of concern for members include mismatch between resident's skills and available job roles, lack of work experience and volunteering opportunities, barriers such as mental health, low confidence, poor social skills, stigma and discrimination based on age, disability or language ability, inflexible job conditions, especially around childcare and care giving, and limited access to relevant apprenticeships and training.

To start with, as a result of this work Brickworks Community Centre and Islington Council Adult Community Learning have partnered to deliver a pilot 5-week Employability Programme (pilot) course covering CVs, interview skills, job applications and confidence building, with an Autumn start.

LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORKS ADVISORY GROUP

In addition to the LWN subgroups, we set up in Dec '24 an Advisory Group comprised of 11 members representing food aid providers, LWN core members, local residents and community organisers and they meet every 6-8 weeks to help provide strategic leadership.

VOLUNTEER CENTRE SERVICES

Through our nationally accredited Volunteer Centre, we ensure that Islington residents have access to a wide range of opportunities to make a difference in the area where they live, study or work through volunteering and/or social action.

REACCREDITATION OF OUR VOLUNTEER CENTRE

We are pleased to announce that we achieved reaccreditation in April '24 after a 10-month process through NAVCA's Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation (VCQA) focusing on 5 functions of Volunteer Centres: strategic development of volunteering; good practice development; brokerage – connecting people, developing volunteering opportunities and voice of volunteering.

EXPANDING OUR VOLUNTEERING SERVICES

VOLUNTEER PLUS NETWORK AND VOLUNTEERING FOR HEALTH

Funded by the City Bridge Foundation (Volunteer Plus Network, until August 25) and the NHS (from July '24 for 3 years), bringing together Volunteer Centres in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington and supported by London Plus.

Our collective priorities:

- Equality of access: building diversity of our volunteering population, focusing on current gaps: young people, young carers and working with inclusion health communities including asylum seekers. Support volunteering through our Core20PLUS population groups that are part of NHS England's strategy to reduce health inequalities across the UK. Core20 Plus communities refers to the most deprived 20% of the national population based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and additional population groups who experience worse-than-average health access, outcomes or experiences and may not be captured by deprivation alone. They include ethnic minority communities, inclusion health groups such as vulnerable migrants, people with learning disabilities and autistic people, young carers, looked after children and care leavers.
- Improving volunteer experience: increasing access to volunteering and helping people find the right volunteering opportunity through a single place to search for NHS roles; creating flexible volunteering roles; creating/supporting best practice volunteer recruitment and management.

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- Volunteering into work - developing pathways from volunteering into work- supporting current work in this space, including the WorkWell Partnership and Volunteer to Careers.

Our collective outcomes include developing a system-wide integration of volunteer services across North Central London including providers of primary, secondary and tertiary health services to:

- Increase volunteering level and diversity
- Improve the volunteer experience through volunteer management good practice
- Embed volunteering in priority health and social care workstreams (e.g. how volunteering can support prevention)
- Meet need of NHS Charities / Trusts Volunteer Programmes
- Sharing of innovative volunteering approaches via our established Network
- Increasing involvement of volunteers in decision-making
- Developing pathways from volunteering into work

COST OF LIVING PILOT PROGRAMME – VOLUNTEERING

We developed a very successful partnership with Help on Your Doorstep (HOYD), Octopus Community Network and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, with funding from Islington Council's Cost of Living Crisis Fund. Funding was secured to address the social, economic and wellbeing issues amongst residents accessing food aid, supporting them to transition from reliance on food aid by receiving holistic / wrap around support.

Our role was to support residents experiencing financial crisis and social isolation to engage with local activities through volunteering to increase their skills, knowledge, and work experience to increase their confidence and self-esteem and improve their wellbeing and reduce their social isolation by creating connections with their community.

We delivered outreach to 12 food aid providers: Andover Community Centre, Cook for Good, Copenhagen Street Food Hub, Elizabeth House, Families in Harmony, Holloway Neighbourhood Group, Islington Black Advice Alliance Jean Stokes Café, Laamiga, Light International Project, St Lukes, The Peel.

What we found was that residents accessing food aid are not only experiencing financial crisis, but also have complex mental health issues including depression, high levels of anxiety, psychosis, and some have complex physical health issues such as long covid, fibromyalgia, cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure. Some experience drug and alcohol issues, and some are neurodiverse with ADHD, and Autism. Some are caring for young and disabled family members, and some have language barriers.

We are very proud of what we achieved over the year.

- 107 residents relying on food aid provision registered to volunteer from a total of 261 residents engaged overall
- 67 residents had volunteer placement interviews, with 33 placed as volunteers within Food Aid settings (29) and the rest within other community organisations
- 59 residents accessed other services including HOYD for benefit and PIP assessment, and other services supported them with their debt and rent arrears, legal advice, and Islington Adult Community Learning to improve their literacy and digital skills, as well as taking up short courses around mental health and wellbeing offered by the Recovery College and Manor Gardens to get help with translation.
- 6 food aid facilitators were recruited (3 students from London Metropolitan University) of which 1 left after finding work
- 7 volunteers were supported into work

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH WITH DROP-IN SESSIONS

Our team of Community Volunteering Advisors (volunteers) continued to support residents to apply for volunteering roles across the VCFSE sector. This was achieved through community outreach with drop-in sessions. During the year, we delivered outreach at 21 events at community settings as well as universities, job centres and libraries.

VOLUNTEERING FAIRS

We continued to deliver volunteering fairs in the community in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden (VCC) and Islington Council colleagues. 4 Volunteer fairs were held across the year with VCC:

- April '24, in person with 21 Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs), 75 people attended
- June '24, in person with 21 VIOs, 60 people attended
- September '24, online with 10 VIOs, 97 people registered, with 40 attending
- January '25, 144 people registered with 50 attending

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICE RESOURCES

we provided access to best practice resources to Volunteer Managers working within Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) via their Volunteer Managers and during the year delivered:

- 42 x 1:1 sessions and through our website
- monthly newsletters to 400 VIOs
- Updated resources in Feb '25 and additional resources uploaded in March 25
- Regular communications to organisations and residents registered at the Volunteer Centre

A NEW VOLUNTEERING PLATFORM AND OUR REACH

Alongside our exciting new programmes, we have also improved our volunteering platform, with a move from Simply Connect to Team Kinetic, which we achieved by the end of March '25. VAI staff and volunteers have been trained, and a guide created for Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs). During the year we had:

- 5317 volunteers registered on Simply Connect, including 1016 new volunteers
- 297 volunteering opportunities available
- Monthly newsletter sent to over 2000 residents registered on our platform
- 59 new Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) registered
- 164 new volunteering roles promoted, and 571 new volunteers registered

OUR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS AND AGM – 6 NOVEMBER 2024

We hosted our annual Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards celebration at the Great Hall, London Metropolitan University. It was a wonderful event celebrating Islington volunteers. We had 135 nominations put forward, with 200 attendees on the day.

Our guest speakers:

- Julie Hall, Vice Chancellor, London Metropolitan University,
- Jeremy Corbyn MP, Victoria Lawson, CEO, Islington Council, and
- Mayor of Islington, Cllr Anjna Khurana

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes, and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by the Mayor of Islington, Cllr Anjna Khurana. The winners were:

Older Volunteer of the Year 60+	Carolyn Baker	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25	Yusuf Uddin	Museum of the Order of St John

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

Volunteer of the Year 26-60	Tony Quinn	HC Cycles Workshop
Volunteering Team of the Year	Latin American Women's Aid's Volunteering Team	
Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year	Stephen Mullin	Culpepper Community Garden

VOLUNTEER CENTRE WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

Over the year we:

- Contributed to the Islington volunteering partnership meetings – with representatives from LBI, Big Alliance, and Cripplegate
- Promoted London Met University Charities & Social Enterprise Clinics
- Strengthened links with the local Employability Practitioners Network
- Strengthen links with the Islington Council's iWork Refugee Support Team
- Represented VAI at the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum (GLA) and the London Plus Volunteer Centre Network

OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT PLACEMENTS

In addition to our trustees, VAI had teams of volunteers assisting us in delivering some of our core activities. In total we had 21 local residents volunteering with us. Volunteers supported the running of our Resource Centre, assisted with our Volunteer Centre resident brokerage / matching service, delivered vital capacity building / organisational development support, Local Wellbeing Network meetings and events and the Cost-of-Living Programme and key elements of our internal governance:

- Volunteer Centre Community Volunteering Advisors: Nisreen Abou Henda, Marlene Lall, Gabisa Abelti, Yosef Mesfin, Richard Manson, Tynan Parker, Larysa Koltsova. These volunteers arranged face-to-face meetings with potential volunteers, supported the Volunteer Fairs and through outreach promoted volunteering opportunities across Islington. By volunteering for VAI, the volunteers gained valuable experience and skills, developed more confidence and self-esteem.
- Resource Centre: Johnston Walker, Maria Georgiou
- Cost of Living Pilot Programme: Volunteering: Essenam Diegah, Nana Nhyira, Mojisola Agarawu (London Met Students)
- Cost of Living Pilot Programme: Local Wellbeing Networks: James Wooldridge, Clara Nolan, Katarzyna Leczycka, Nadia Gordon, Josephine Belle-Ja, Yeabsera Gedion, Larysa Koltsova
- Capacity building and organisational development: Richard Singleton (Volunteer Associate: Project Management)
- Facilitation of VAI's Staff / Trustee Away Day: Volunteer Associate: Tony Rose

Huge thanks to all our volunteers.

STRATEGIC AIM 3: TO FACILITATE STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE VCFSE TO INFLUENCE LOCAL POLICY, DECISION-MAKING AND SYSTEM GROWTH

VAI'S ADVISORY GROUP

We continued to work closely with our Advisory Group made up of the following organisations and networks in the borough and facilitated meetings and workshops: Age UK, Brickworks Community Centre, Cripplegate, Healthwatch Islington, Help on Your Doorstep, Islington Citizens Advice Bureau, Islington Faiths Forum, Islington Mind, Islington Refugee and Migrant Forum, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, Octopus Community Network, St Lukes Community Centre, Stuart Low Trust, Disability Action Islington, Cloudesley, The Peel Centre. We extended the invitation to Nafsiyat, and Hillside Clubhouse.

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Our CEO facilitated 8 Advisory Group meetings, focusing on:

- Refreshing the Islington Compact, led by Islington Council Partnership Team with planning meetings in Dec '24 & Jan '25, followed by themed workshops
- Developing the case for a borough wide Islington Council / VCFSE strategy and implementation plan – helping to 'reset the relationship' between the sectors and have secured funding from the Council to partner with them and London Metropolitan University, the lead partner, with work starting in April 2025.
- Establishing and setting the direction of travel of Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative with working groups
- Widening representation across Islington Council led strategic boards and partnerships
- Demonstrating the VCFSE's impact and social value more effectively.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 13 MARCH 2025, LONDON MET UNIVERSITY

Delegates were warmly welcomed by Professor Julie Hall, Vice Chancellor, London Met University and Sophie Cloutterbuck, Director of London Engagement; and the London Met Lab: Empowering London, London Metropolitan University

Our agenda and speakers included:

- Launch of the Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative – bringing together the wider VCFSE sector to work together more collaboratively on key priorities as defined by the sector
- Keynote speech from Victoria Lawson, CEO, Islington Council who talked about the contribution that the sector has made over the past year
- Starting the process of defining the impact and social value of the VCFSE – with presentation from Professor Chris Dayson, and roundtable discussions facilitated by Dr Ellen Bennett, Sheffield Hallam University and Dr Beth Patmore, Nottingham Trent University
- An introduction to Evidence Islington and how the VCFSE can benefit and work in partnership with Islington Council to build community research capacity. We were joined by Jonathan O'Sullivan, Director of Public Health Islington Council, Laura Saksena, CEO, Healthwatch Islington and Sabrina Jantuah, Engagement and Participation Officer, Evidence Islington.

We play a key role in many borough-wide and neighbourhood initiatives that are focused on bringing about positive change for local people and communities

VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND VOLUNTEERING RESEARCH CONFERENCE – 11/12 SEPTEMBER 2024

Voice of the people? Democracy, representation, and involvement in and through the voluntary sector and volunteering – hosted by Bayes Business School

We were invited to be a partner at this annual conference which invites participants to explore issues, whilst also hearing about the latest research covering a wide range of topics relating to the voluntary sector and volunteering. The Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference 2024 was organised by the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN), in partnership with VAI, and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). It was hosted by the Centre for Charity Effectiveness at Bayes Business School, City, University of London. It provided a unique opportunity for academics, policy makers and practitioners from the UK and further afield to come together to share findings and discuss the implications of research for civil society.

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

FUTURE WORK

- Further work on impact and social value of the Islington VCFSE with our partnership with Sheffield Hallam and Nottingham Trent Universities
- Future work on the Islington Council / VCFSE sector strategy, and implementation plan including the Compact
- LBI Evidence Islington – developing community research skills within the VCFSE and residents and improving collection of data and insight
- Engaging the sector via the Islington VCFSE Leaders Collaborative and working with the sector on working together more collaboratively and effectively in the future.

LOCAL REPRESENTATION

Our CEO represented the VCFSE at the following LBI board and partnerships:

- Bright Lives Alliance Partnership
- Community Partnership Board
- Cost of Living Board (now the Tackling Poverty Steering Group)
- Evidence Islington Strategic Delivery Board
- Islington Borough Partnership – Integration of Health & Social Care and the development of the neighbourhood model of working
- Islington Borough Resilience Forum

NORTH CENTRAL LONDON REPRESENTATION

Our CEO represented Islington's VCFSE at the following North Central London (NCL) boards and partnerships:

- NCL VCSE Alliance – which includes CVSs and service providers from Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington
- NCL VCSE Investment Group
- NCL Integrated Care Board People's Board Subgroup
- NCL Research Network

VAI's Business Development Manager has been representing VAI at London Plus's Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) Director's Network monthly meetings.

STRATEGIC AIM 4: TO RUN VAI RESPONSIBLY, EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY AS A MODEL OF GOOD PRACTICE

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TEAM

Our most important assets are our people, and we ensure that we invest in them and their professional development. We have put in place opportunities to access comprehensive training opportunities, with regular reviews of their learning and training needs.

OUR GOVERNANCE

We have a solid governance structure with trustees with diverse experience and skills. During the year we:

- Completed a trustee skills and diversity audit
- Recruited 3 new trustees to bring skills and experiences to the board where we had gaps
- Created and launched our new 3 year strategy and operational plan
- Created a new finance and risk sub committee

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

IMPROVING OUR INTERNAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE THE WAY WE WORK WITH AND SUPPORT ISLINGTON'S VCFSE SECTOR

With thanks to the National Lottery for funding to develop our infrastructure, we embarked on 3 large projects which will in turn help our VCFSE sector membership:

- First phase Salesforce CRM implementation: streamline processes, centralise information and improve communication
- New Website: audit and user personas completed, and RFP currently being written and a shortlist of suppliers to be approached ready for work to start in the coming months
- New Volunteering Platform: completed

ORGANISATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- We carried out an audit of all VAI policies carried out including identifying gaps
- We are working on creating a plan to update and address gaps identified

IMPROVING OUR SUSTAINABILITY BY DIVERSIFYING OUR INCOME STREAMS

We are increasing the number of applications to charitable trusts and foundations

OPERATING A THRIVING RESOURCE CENTRE

Our Resource Centre continues to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFSE and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources. During the year, we continued to provide desk and room hire facilities to charities and community groups. Activity stabilised after challenging years during Covid and the start of the cost-of-living crisis.

Huge thanks to Islington Council for their support in negotiating an extension of our lease for a period of 15 years, taking us up to 2039. Huge thanks to Russell Cooke for their legal support. Given the stability that the new lease offers, we made improvements to our Resource Centre facilities including office redesign and plans for additional meeting rooms and upgrade to key areas. Huge thanks to Allford, Hall, Monaghan and Morris for their pro bono architectural support.

In total 141 organisations hired meeting rooms and desk space – mostly charities and social enterprises.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCFSE organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED

Our main sources of income are grants from statutory bodies and charitable trusts and foundations, together with rental income generated from our Resource Centre. The breakdown of our funding from statutory bodies and charitable trusts and foundations during this year:

Funder / income stream	Type of grant and for what services	How much
Charles S French Charitable Trust	Promoting and enabling volunteering for asylum seekers in Islington	£5,000

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Funder / income stream	Type of grant and for what services	How much
Islington Council	Core Grant – capacity building / organisational development	£40,000
Islington Council	Core Grant – Volunteer Centre services	£35,000
Islington Council	Cost of Living Programme: Local Wellbeing Networks & volunteering and support services for residents using food aid	£47,089
North Central London Integrated Care Board	NCL VCS Alliance	£6,450
National Lottery Community Fund	Strengthening Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector	£30,000

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net expenditure (an annual net loss) before gains on investments of £56,676 (2024: £2,162 surplus). That comprised losses of £16,814 on restricted funds (2024: £24,502 loss) and £39,862 on unrestricted funds (2024: £26,664 surplus). The loss on unrestricted funds was the effective operating loss for the year. Although a loss, it was a managed loss, had been anticipated and was a marginally better result than had been budgeted.

After incorporating the annual £5,509 gain in investment values (2024: £4,862 loss), total net expenditure (the annual loss) reduced to £51,167 (2024: £2,700).

Annual income increased from £495,263 to £502,780 in 2024-25. Voluntary Action Islington's Resource Centre generated the largest source of income, as it has done in recent years. The London Borough of Islington (LBI) continued to support VAI's core activities under the Strategic Borough-wide Partners and Strategic Volunteering Partners grants. The other significant funder was the National Lottery Community fund.

At the year end all funds totalled £305,209 (2024: £356,376) of which £273,099 (2024: £307,452) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £189,473 (2024: £203,145).

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

RESERVES

On 31 March 2025 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £273,099 (2024: £307,452).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £189,473 (2024: £203,145). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £189,473 is equivalent to 32% (2024: 34%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £83,626 (2024: £104,307), designations

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

having been made to invest in building improvements and to support future relocation from the Resource Centre, including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £32,110 of restricted funds (2024: £48,924), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

This year, Voluntary Action Islington implemented the investment policy as agreed in October 2022. The objectives of the policy:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long-term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington
- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Investment values fell from £158,603 to £153,744 during the year resulting in annual unrealised losses of £4,862 (2023: £14,976). The investments continue to be held with the expectation that values will rise in the future, as they have done for the current year to date.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees adopt a structured approach to risk appraisal and mitigation as part of the charity's ongoing development and governance responsibilities. The VAI Risk Register is reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure that documented risks are monitored, emerging risks are identified promptly, and appropriate mitigating actions are in place.

The Trustees recognise that effective risk management is essential to safeguard the charity's assets, reputation, and ability to deliver its objectives. Risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact, with priority given to those rated highest. Mitigating actions are regularly monitored and updated to reflect changes in the external environment and the charity's operations.

VAI's major risks at present are:

- Fundraising returns - The fundraising environment remains challenging, which may impact income generation. We are actively pursuing diversified funding streams and increasing the number of funding applications.
- Capacity and use of resources, including tangible fixed assets – Staffing levels, resource allocation, and the effective management of tangible fixed assets are closely monitored to ensure the charity can meet its objectives. Staff and trustees review headcount, resource deployment, and asset utilisation to maximise efficiency and long-term sustainability.

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- IT and disaster recovery – Robust systems and procedures are in place to minimise the risk of IT failures or data breaches. We have cyber insurance, and a disaster recovery plan is being developed.

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate systems and processes are in place to manage these risks and to support the long-term sustainability of the charity. The main factors likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity are a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to VCFSE sector organisations, and a loss of funding. We mitigate these risks by improving the facilities at the Resource Centre. We plan to maintain our financial resources by careful financial management and by continuing to provide excellent public benefit in conjunction with our partners and seeking funding for our projects and charitable services to the local VCFSE sector.

We have ensured continuity in our Resource Centre provision by negotiating a new 15-year lease from October 2024.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local VCFSE organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in Islington-led boards that influence how Islington Council plan and make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level, as well as North Central London.

We will continue to work with VCFSE sector organisations to help diversify funding and other support. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will continue to work with the VCFSE sector by providing networking and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local, regional and national organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership and continue to work with and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one-to-one support and training workshops.

We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

Our Resource Centre is an important community asset for local VCFSE sector organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility.

Our website and social media are well used resources, and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013. The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 8 trustees with plans to recruit 4 further trustees. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and during the past year a skills audit of current trustees was carried out. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building and organisational development. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law. The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), and NCVO. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9th September 2016 the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30th September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Emma Hutchins remains a director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans as yet to appoint new Directors.

Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. A register of trustee interests is maintained and was updated during the year. Any potential conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each trustee's meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees, who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report 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

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees on 31st March 2023 was 568. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's independent assessor is 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 independent assessor is aware of that information

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the Independent Examiners of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 7 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Navinder Kaur
Company Secretary

Registered office:
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP

Independent examiner's report

To the members of Voluntary Action Islington Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

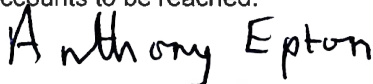
Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

28 October 2025

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	-	99,691	99,691	-	77,670	77,670
Charitable activities	3						
Community Development		47,089	-	47,089	40,000	-	40,000
Member Services and Support		500	-	500	-	-	-
Sector Development and Volunteering		54,064	290,721	344,785	66,409	301,816	368,225
Investments		-	10,715	10,715	-	9,368	9,368
Total income		<u>101,653</u>	<u>401,127</u>	<u>502,780</u>	<u>106,409</u>	<u>388,854</u>	<u>495,263</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Community Development		42,419	5,821	48,240	67,216	-	67,216
Member Services and Support		1,000	65,248	66,248	5,167	47,832	52,999
Sector Development and Volunteering		75,048	369,920	444,968	58,528	314,358	372,886
Total expenditure	4	<u>118,467</u>	<u>440,989</u>	<u>559,456</u>	<u>130,911</u>	<u>362,190</u>	<u>493,101</u>
Net (expenditure) income before net gains (losses) on investments		(16,814)	(39,862)	(56,676)	(24,502)	26,664	2,162
Net gains (losses) on investments	9	-	5,509	5,509	-	(4,862)	(4,862)
Net (expenditure) income for the year	7	(16,814)	(34,353)	(51,167)	(24,502)	21,802	(2,700)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	3,542	(3,542)	-
Net movement in funds		(16,814)	(34,353)	(51,167)	(20,960)	18,260	(2,700)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		48,924	307,452	356,376	69,884	289,192	359,076
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>32,110</u>	<u>273,099</u>	<u>305,209</u>	<u>48,924</u>	<u>307,452</u>	<u>356,376</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 14 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 28 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited (Limited by guarantee)**Balance sheet**

Company No. 01913555

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	11,626	3,307
Investments	9	<u>159,253</u>	<u>153,744</u>
		170,879	157,051
Current assets			
Debtors	10	32,615	30,152
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>147,543</u>	<u>223,797</u>
		180,158	253,949
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(45,828)</u>	<u>(54,624)</u>
Net current assets		<u>134,330</u>	<u>199,325</u>
Net assets	13	<u>305,209</u>	<u>356,376</u>
Funds	14		
Restricted funds		32,110	48,924
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		83,626	104,307
General funds		<u>189,473</u>	<u>203,145</u>
Total funds		<u>305,209</u>	<u>356,376</u>

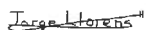
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

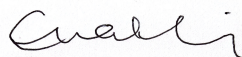
No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 07 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Jorge Llorens
Treasurer



Emma Hutchins
Chair

The notes on pages 28 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	15		(73,759)		(36,734)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends from investments		10,715		9,368	
Sale (purchase) of fixed assets		(13,210)		(3,439)	
Sale (purchase) of investments		-		-	
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			(2,495)		5,929
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			(76,254)		(30,805)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			224,555		255,360
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	16		148,301		224,555

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Voluntary Action Islington meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

1b Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgements have been made by the charitable company which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1c Income

Income, including income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are credited to incoming resources when they are receivable as the charity's own money, unless they are for activities that relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred to that period.

Income received under contracts for services which cross over the year end are recognised in the financial statements in line with the percentage of completion of the contract at the year end.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Distributions from listed investments are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally the date on which the holding is first quoted ex dividend or the end date of the period for which it is accrued as notified by the fund manager.

1d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1e Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of services and support to members and developing volunteering and the local voluntary sector undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

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

1f Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with their use of resources.

Premises are allocated proportionate to floor space occupied by each activity as follows:

Community Development	1.4%
Member Services and Support	2.1%
Sector Development and Volunteering	95.7%
Support costs	0.8%
Governance costs	0.0%

Other costs of administration are allocated per capita VAI staff and other occupants of the Resource Centre as follows:

Community Development	3.2%
Member Services and Support	4.8%
Sector Development and Volunteering	90.1%
Support costs	1.8%
Governance costs	0.1%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Community Development	10.5%
Member Services and Support	15.9%
Sector Development and Volunteering	73.6%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

1g Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the length of the lease.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1h Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	4 years
Leasehold property	The lesser of 15 years or the remaining lease term

1i Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1j Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
Islington Mayor	-	22,578	22,578	-
Other grants and similar income, under £5,000 each	-	2,113	2,113	2,670
	-	99,691	99,691	77,670

Voluntary Action Islington benefit from a Section 106 Agreement that provides accommodation at a peppercorn rent. As it is not possible to put an accurate value to this, it has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington Local Wellbeing Networks	47,089	-	47,089	30,000
Greater London Authority, Community Resilience Fund Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	-	-	5,000
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	-	-	-	5,000
Sub-total for Community Development	47,089	-	47,089	40,000
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	500	-	500	-
Sub-total for Member Services and Support	500	-	500	-
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Community resource and other service income	-	272,242	272,242	287,114
Peabody (via The London Community Foundation) South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	-	-	15,000
Greater London Authority, Community Resilience Fund Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	-	-	5,000
The National Lottery Community Fund Strengthening Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector	30,000	-	30,000	45,000
NHS England via London Plus and Volunteer Centre Camden Volunteering for Health Core Partnership	19,031	-	19,031	-
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	5,033	18,479	23,512	16,111
Sub-total for Sector Development and Volunteering	54,064	290,721	344,785	368,225
Total income from charitable activities	101,653	290,721	392,374	408,225

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Analysis of expenditure

4a Current year	Charitable activities				Governance costs	Support costs	2025 Total	2024 Total
	Community Development	Member Services and Support	Sector Development and Volunteering	£				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 5)	35,766	50,553	236,477	1,881	25,516	350,193	313,792	
Agency staff	-	-	1,885	-	19,486	21,371	21,796	
Other staff costs	228	348	1,464	8	133	2,181	4,354	
Direct activity costs	1,362	297	11,682	6	49	13,396	23,146	
Premises	1,180	1,770	91,103	42	716	94,811	59,069	
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	4,891	4,891	13,600	
Admin and ICT	2,409	2,180	50,741	45	985	56,360	44,400	
Compliance	-	-	333	12,122	3,798	16,253	12,944	
	40,945	55,148	393,685	14,104	55,574	559,456	493,101	
Governance costs	1,622	2,468	10,014	(14,104)	-	-	-	
Support Costs	5,673	8,632	41,269	-	(55,574)	-	-	
Total expenditure 2025	48,240	66,248	444,968	-	-	559,456	493,101	

5b Prior year

Direct expenditure	57,667	43,984	316,137	12,792	62,521	493,101
Support and governance costs allocated	9,549	9,015	56,749	(12,792)	(62,521)	-
Total expenditure 2024	67,216	52,999	372,886	-	-	493,101

Support and governance costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity (note 1f).
Of the total expenditure, £440,989 was unrestricted (2024: £362,190) and £118,467 was restricted (2024: £130,911).

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

5 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	307,832	275,438
Social security costs	25,693	23,386
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	16,668	14,968
	<u>350,193</u>	<u>313,792</u>
Agency costs	20,371	21,796
	<u>370,564</u>	<u>335,588</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2024: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer's national insurance of the key management personnel were £59,892 (2024: £62,863).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024 £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year (2024: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2024: none).

Staff numbers:

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 9 (2024: 8).

The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year and by activity was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Community Development	0.8	0.9
Member Services and Support	1.2	0.9
Sector Development and Volunteering	5.0	4.2
Support and governance	0.5	0.5
	<u>7.5</u>	<u>6.5</u>

6 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	4,891	13,600
Board of Trustees - indemnity insurance	889	584
Operating lease charges	22,395	13,457
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	3,300	3,150

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment £	Leasehold property £	2025 Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	98,867	133,179	232,046
Additions in year	13,210	-	13,210
Disposals in year	<u>(11,874)</u>	<u>(4,019)</u>	<u>(15,893)</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>100,203</u>	<u>129,160</u>	<u>229,363</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	95,560	133,179	228,739
Charge for the year	4,891	-	4,891
Eliminated on disposal	<u>(11,874)</u>	<u>(4,019)</u>	<u>(15,893)</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>88,577</u>	<u>129,160</u>	<u>217,737</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	<u>11,626</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,626</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,307</u>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

9 Fixed asset investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Listed investments (note 10a)	159,252	153,743
Investment in subsidiary company (note 10b)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>159,253</u>	<u>153,744</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

9a Listed investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Analysis of movement of investments		
Market value at start of year	152,985	157,847
Disposals at market value	-	-
Realised gains / (losses)	-	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	<u>5,509</u>	<u>(4,862)</u>
Market value at year end	158,494	152,985
Cash instruments and cash held for reinvestment	<u>758</u>	<u>758</u>
Fair value at year end	<u>159,252</u>	<u>153,743</u>
Historical cost	<u>158,595</u>	<u>158,595</u>

The investments comprise two UK unit trusts.

9b Investment in subsidiary company

VAI beneficially owns the entire share capital of Voluntary Action Services Limited (a company limited by share capital, company no. 8612449 (England and Wales)), through which VAI's commercial trading previously took place. In September 2016 the decision was taken to suspend trading through the company. The company remained dormant at 31 March 2025.

The share capital and reserves of the subsidiary are not material and therefore no consolidated accounts have been prepared. Disclosure is confined to this note to the accounts.

	2025 £	2024 £
Investment in Voluntary Action Services Ltd at cost	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

At 31 March 2025 VAI held one share of £1, being the entire share capital of the trading company.

9b Investment in subsidiary company (continued)

Relevant financial information regarding Voluntary Action Services Ltd is as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Assets	1	1
Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****10 Debtors**

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	18,941	22,409
Other debtors	2,277	3,247
Prepayments	11,397	4,496
	<u>32,615</u>	<u>30,152</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Tax and social security costs	7,242	7,044
Trade creditors	28,929	11,285
Other creditors	732	2,090
Accruals	8,075	33,445
Deferred income (note 11)	850	760
	<u>45,828</u>	<u>54,624</u>

Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	760	170
Amount released to income in the year	(760)	(170)
Amount deferred in the year	850	760
	<u>850</u>	<u>760</u>
Balance at the end of the year	<u>850</u>	<u>760</u>

Deferred income comprises Resource Centre income received in advance (2024: Resource Centre income received in advance).

12 Related party transactions

Craig Burgess was both a trustee of VAI and Chief Operating Officer of City Year from December 2023 until May 2024 .

City Year paid VAI £10,966 in rental and other charges during that period.

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

13 Analysis of group net assets between funds

13a Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,626	-	11,626
Investment assets	-	36,000	123,253	159,253
Net current assets	<u>32,110</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>66,220</u>	134,330
Net assets at 31 March 2025	<u><u>32,110</u></u>	<u><u>83,626</u></u>	<u><u>189,473</u></u>	305,209

13b Prior year

	Restricted £	Designated £	General £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,307	-	3,307
Investment assets	-	72,000	81,744	153,744
Net current assets	<u>48,924</u>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>121,401</u>	199,325
Net assets at 31 March 2024	<u><u>48,924</u></u>	<u><u>104,307</u></u>	<u><u>203,145</u></u>	356,376

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14 Movements in funds

14a Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	2,009	-	(500)	-	1,509
Conferences and events	-	533	(533)	-	-
Enabling Volunteering for Migrants and Refugees	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Local Wellbeing Network	6,197	47,089	(42,419)	-	10,867
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	-	-	-	-
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	40,718	30,000	(50,984)	-	19,734
Volunteering for Health	-	19,031	(19,031)	-	-
Total restricted funds	48,924	101,653	(118,467)	-	32,110
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvements	25,000	-	(12,541)	23,541	36,000
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	(4,000)	-
Relocation	72,000	-	-	(36,000)	36,000
Fixed assets	3,307	-	(4,891)	13,210	11,626
<i>Total designated funds</i>	104,307	-	(17,432)	(3,249)	83,626
General funds	203,145	406,636	(423,557)	3,249	189,473
Total unrestricted funds	307,452	406,636	(440,989)	-	273,099
Total funds	356,376	508,289	(559,456)	-	305,209

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14 Movements in funds (continued)

14b Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	7,176	-	(5,167)	-	2,009
Conferences and events	-	1,409	(1,409)	-	-
Local Wellbeing Network	27,918	30,000	(51,721)	-	6,197
Public Health and Community South Islington volunteering opportunities	23,864	-	(23,864)	-	-
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	15,000	(16,968)	1,968	-
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure	-	45,000	(4,282)	-	40,718
Fixed assets	3,921	5,000	(10,495)	1,574	-
	<u>7,005</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,005)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>69,884</u>	<u>106,409</u>	<u>(130,911)</u>	<u>3,542</u>	<u>48,924</u>
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvements	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	97,000	-	-	(25,000)	72,000
Fixed assets	<u>6,463</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,595)</u>	<u>3,439</u>	<u>3,307</u>
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<u>107,463</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,595)</u>	<u>3,439</u>	<u>104,307</u>
General funds	<u>181,729</u>	<u>388,854</u>	<u>(360,457)</u>	<u>(6,981)</u>	<u>203,145</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>289,192</u>	<u>388,854</u>	<u>(367,052)</u>	<u>(3,542)</u>	<u>307,452</u>
Total funds	<u><u>359,076</u></u>	<u><u>495,263</u></u>	<u><u>(497,963)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>356,376</u></u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds

Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Funds provided by the London Borough of Islington to support activities by the Children's Voluntary Sector Forum.
Conferences and events	Contributions from supporters towards the costs of the VCFSE conference held in partnership with London Met University and LBI and other smaller thematic events.
Enabling Volunteering for Migrants and Refugees	To promote and enable volunteering for asylum seekers in Islington.
Local Wellbeing Network	As part of Islington Council's Cost of Living Programme, VAI have been funded to continue to deliver Local Wellbeing Networks, to improve resident access to holistic services by increasing collaboration between Food Aid providers and local services.
Public Health and Community Engagement	Funding to develop effective partnerships with Public Health and the local VCFS to promote Covid vaccination and other health and wellbeing offers.
South Islington volunteering opportunities	To provide outreach services to Peabody residents especially those located in the south of the borough.
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	To increase community preparedness for emergencies, funded by GLA and London Communities Emergencies Partnership. Funds distributed via London Plus.
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	To improve VAI's internal infrastructure in order to collaborate with our local VCFSE sector more effectively. Funded by the National Lottery Communities Fund.
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	To partner with Healthprom, and develop a network of organisations to provide more effective support to Ukrainian families hosted through the sponsorship programme.
Volunteering for Health Core Partnership	To deliver a system-wide volunteer infrastructure, build diversity of our volunteering population, increase access to volunteering and support volunteering into work.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of designated funds

Building improvements	A fund to be used to improve VAI's Resource Centre so that it remains an up to date facility that is attractive and welcoming venue to local charities and community organisations.
ICT infrastructure development	A fund to invest in essential improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the Resource Centre. Discontinued in 2025.
Relocation	A fund to be built up over the 15 years of the current premises lease so that VAI is in a position to manage its liabilities, and to seek alternative premises if required, at the end of the lease in October 2039.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from unrestricted funds.

15 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(51,167)	(2,700)
Depreciation	4,891	13,600
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	(10,715)	(9,368)
(Gains) / losses on investments	(5,509)	4,862
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(2,463)	(2,925)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(8,796)	(40,203)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	<u>(73,759)</u>	<u>(36,734)</u>

16 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	Other changes £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	223,797	(76,254)	-	147,543
Cash held by investment managers	<u>758</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>758</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>224,555</u>	<u>(76,254)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>148,301</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

17 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Less than one year	19,622	18,616
One to five years	40,999	55,591
Over five years	-	-
	<u>60,621</u>	<u>74,207</u>

18 Contingent liability

Under the terms of the lease for its current premises Voluntary Action Islington is liable for the costs of restoring the property to its original condition, including removal of all fixtures and fittings, if so required by the landlord when yielding up the property at the end of the lease term. The current lease expires in October 2039. The extent of the works that will be required and the consequent cost cannot reasonably be estimated at this time and so no provision has been made for this in the accounts.

19 Company limited by guarantee

Voluntary Action Islington is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 291890

Accounts

Company No. 01913555
Charity No. 291890

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

31 March 2024

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Voluntary Action Islington Limited
Charity registration number	291890
Company registration number	01913555
Registered Office	200a Pentonville Road London N1 9JP

Board of Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Ali Jabeen – appointed 04.12.23
Colin Adams MBE – resigned 01.11.2023
Craig Burgess – appointed 04.12.23
Emma Victoria Hutchins – (appointed Chair 26.09.23)
Hussain Ahmed
Irene Victoria Winter – appointed 04.12.23
Joseph David Irvin OBE (Chair) – resigned 01.11.2023
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)
Ken Hettiarachi
Kevin Turner
Madeleine Gascoigne
Philip John Kelly – resigned 01.11.2023
Santa Gascoigne

**Chief Executive Officer and
Company Secretary**

Navinder Kaur

Independent Examiners

Goldwins Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
9 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Purpose and Aims

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness
- b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not-for-profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit

In the past year the staff and trustees reviewed VAI's mission, vision, values and aims and this annual report reflects these strategic changes.

Our Vision

A thriving Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Islington; enriching people's lives and building stronger communities.

Our Mission

To strengthen Islington's VCFSE to deliver services effectively and sustainably to promote social justice.

Our Values

- **Collaborative:** building partnerships and co-designing solutions
- **Effective:** creative, energetic and responsive
- **Inclusive:** promoting the importance of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion
- **Positive:** tackling challenges by building on strengths
- **With Integrity:** honest, professional and respectful

Our Strategic Aims

1. To support the development, effectiveness and sustainability of Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE)
2. To enable and strengthen volunteering, social action and community resilience
3. To facilitate a stronger partnership working across the VCFSE to influence policy, decision-making and system growth
4. To run VAI responsibly, effectively and efficiently as a model of good practice

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

Public Benefit

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, and Health and Wellbeing.

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The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCFSE organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES

Our core activities, undertaken in our capacity as a Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) are detailed below:

- Organise an annual conference for the local VCFSE sector on themes of particular relevance for the sector. This is an opportunity for our members to provide feedback and to inform future priorities
- Provide an email news service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities. Our website is an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including funding and good practice resources for organisations.
- Provide charities with desk spaces, affordable meeting and conference rooms and shared facilities through our Resource Centre.
- We promote community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting
- Deliver advice sessions where local residents and organisations can get initial advice about starting or developing a local community organisation
- We are proud to run the only nationally accredited Volunteer Centre for Islington - matching people interested in volunteering with local opportunities in the VCFSE sector. We have a small team of volunteers involved in this work which provides a drop-in twice a week and promote volunteering at local community events
- We provide a volunteering database that enables organisations to post their own volunteer opportunities, while at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements
- We have an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate.

VAI HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS THE YEAR

Capacity Building/Organisational Development

- We fielded 240 support diverse requests, supporting over 100 different groups on a wide range of issues. Positive feedback was received from many of these advice sessions.
- Three 1-2-1 surgeries with the National Lottery and two 'Meet the Funder' events with the Arts Council and Cloudsley were held and we produced two funding booklets and 42 funding updates.
- In the summer we held a Small Groups Roundtable to listen to their views with Islington Council representatives in attendance.
- A Monitoring and Evaluation workshop was held for ten community groups.

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Community Development

- 18 Local Wellbeing Network meetings were held across three Islington localities connecting the VCFSE, public sector and residents with 150 members in attendance throughout the year.
- We launched Listening and Social Action campaigns to understand what matters most to VCFSE organisations and local residents.
- We supported Octopus Community Network with Community Organising workshops at 4 different events in the summer and provided ongoing support to 7 Community Change Makers as part of the Local Wellbeing Networks programme.
- We continued to liaise with the LBI Borough Resilience Forum, working together on developing ideas for community resilience projects and engaging more residents with the Volunteer Centre.

Volunteer Centre Services

- 59 new Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) and 571 new volunteers were registered with 164 new volunteering opportunities promoted. We provided bespoke communications to these organisations and residents, assisted by our invaluable team of VAI volunteers.
- We hosted our annual Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards celebration at the Union Chapel with 190 in attendance, to recognise and champion the value of volunteering.
- 6 volunteering fairs were hosted to recruit volunteers, both online and in person.
- We increased our outreach in public places such as community centres, colleges, universities and Islington libraries to enable and raise awareness of volunteering in the broader community.
- We held one Volunteers' Managers Forum meeting with LBI, as well as working in partnership with the Big Alliance, Cripplegate, London Met University and many others.
- As the Islington Mayor's Charity of the Year 2023-24, we worked with Mayor Cllr Gary Heather to raise awareness of the value of volunteering.

Partnership Working

- We hosted 3 Community Conversations sessions, helping to set the agenda and co-chairing/co facilitating on important topics.
- Working with Healthprom, we supported organisations preparing for the arrival and ongoing support of Ukrainians.
- With Islington Faiths Forum, we contributed to a Community Festival in July to celebrate Islington's diversity, promoting community cohesion and collaboration.
- In November we held an adult community learning session for 20+ organisations as well as a session on welfare benefits for 50+ organisations in conjunction with LBI.
- In March we partnered with LBI and London Met University for the Annual VCFSE Conference to see how we could work together more effectively to tackle inequality and create a fairer Islington with more than 125 delegates attending and contributing to round table discussions.
- Our CEO continued to work with our Advisory Group of local organisations and networks in the borough, facilitating meetings and workshops.
- The Advisory Group started work on refreshing the Islington Compact – the partnership agreement between Islington Council and the VCFSE sector.
- Our CEO continued to represent the VCFSE at a number of LBI partnership and North Central London boards.

Resource Centre and our Membership

- During the year our Resource Centre continued to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFSE as well as providing affordable desk and room hire facilities

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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- During the year, we grew our membership to 590 local VCFSE organisations and circulated funding updates, job alerts and local community events via our messaging platforms, website and social media channels.

STRATEGIC AIM 1: TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ISLINGTON'S VCFSE

1a. Advice, information and support

During this period, we received 240 requests for support and advice from local groups and residents, and responded to these requests via emails, phone calls, but mainly through one to one in-person and online meetings. We held 100 1:1 advice sessions and information sessions with over 100 different groups, with 21 setting up as new organisations. We worked with some groups on a short-term basis, whilst some groups were given longer term support.

We worked with a broad range of groups, with most working in health and wellbeing, children & young people, general purposes and women's groups who mainly focus on health and wellbeing issues. As in previous years, there was a high level of cross over, and more than half of the groups were Black and Global Majority led. As in previous years, the top 4 most requested areas for support were the same, and this is not surprising as these are the main areas which enable groups to get established and to approach funders and get started on their journey of working with the communities they serve.

The top areas of support requested:

- Funding and fundraising
- Registering as a charity or company limited by guarantee
- General organisational development (planning, governance, financial management)
- Starting-up an organisation

The feedback from the advice sessions has been very positive. Groups reported they received practical advice and information, and gained knowledge and skills that would help them to start, develop and run their organisations.

Quote 1: "I am sharing knowledge and skills gained on how to write funding applications and monitoring and evaluations, so that all our staff have the relevant skills to sustain the organisation and to be able to continue delivering vital services to our community".

Quote 2: "the advisor helped me a lot. In November 2023, I asked the advisor to comment on our funding application before submitting. The advisor kindly checked the application and made some correction. Our application was successful. In the past we attended training delivered by VAI and gained considerable skills in writing fundraising, developing our Business Plan and funding strategy. We are so grateful for all the help we received from VAI".

1b. National Lottery 1-to-1 surgeries – April, September, November 2023

Our work with the National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) is a partnership which enables local community groups to have 1-to-1 sessions with the local Lottery Officer. We have done more outreach this year, with sessions taking place in community centres such as Elizabeth House and Brickworks – in order to reach out to local groups and make the sessions more accessible. The sessions were held April, September and November and the Lottery Officer advised groups on how best to apply for Lottery funding. In total 11 groups received advice on their funding applications.

Evaluation feedback from sessions shows a high level of satisfaction with the advice provided.

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Quote1: "I have gained great insight into the lottery funding and different types of projects funders are seeking to support which is helpful for our organisation when considering the development of our current and new projects. I feel much more confident to take the next step to apply for an award with the lottery fund".

1c. Funding Booklet, funding updates and promoting Islington Funding Toolkit

This year we produced two funding booklets each having an average of 20 new entries and a total of at least 100 funding programmes in each booklet. The booklet was promoted on VAI's news group over 10 times, and it has a presence on our website. These were updated and disseminated in August 2023 & March 2024.

We also collated and disseminated over 42 funding updates throughout the year, with at least two per month. We have received positive feedback on how helpful these regular updates are to groups who are sourcing funding opportunities.

The Funding Toolkit was sent out on 10 separate occasions via VAI's Newsgroup, which is made up of a membership of 880 local groups and organisations and partners. A workshop was held on the 6th December 2023, with 30+ organisations attending. In total, there are 265 unique users that are registered to use the toolkit.

1d. Meet the Funder Events – 27th June and 2nd November 2023

VAI collaborates with various funders and organises 'Meet the Funder' events. This year we hosted 2 sessions. On 27th June, we hosted a session in which the Arts Council and Islington council show-cased their latest funding opportunities and advised attendees on how to access and best apply for funding. 40 people attended the session. On 2nd November, we held the second event with Cloudesley. The Cloudesley Health Programme Fund supports Islington residents who have physical or mental health issues and who are on low or no income. 32 people attended this session. Feedback from both sessions were very positive.

Quote1: "A really great presentation from the Arts Council. It gave me confidence to apply and in fact we may form a consortium with our community centres to make an application"

Quote2: "It was good to hear from the Arts Council. I liked the speaker and thought they added more than we could have found online"

Quote3: "The session was really useful, and I have gained further understanding of Cloudesley's priorities".

1e. Small Groups Roundtable – 27th July 2023 (online)

We held a Roundtable discussion with a range of small groups and organisations and wanted to check in with them as a group. We wanted to listen to the needs of hard-working grass roots groups in Islington and those that we have been working with over a long period of time. Nadeem Murtuja, LBI Corporate Director for Community Engagement and Wellbeing (Interim) and Executive Member Cllr Una O'Halloran were both in attendance. 12 groups attended and they fed back to us about their needs and concerns. Important questions were asked such as, what difficulties is your organisation having? What would help your organisation to develop and become more effective? What we heard was that most groups were struggling, and we responded by offering an enhanced package of support to all groups in attendance.

One group's feedback to us which reflected what others had also said "we have difficulties with workload, demand for our services have increased as we are receiving lots of requests. We

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lack funding, we have no venue to run our activities, and we struggle to pay sessional workers. We have difficulties generating income and achieving financial sustainability”.

1f. Monitoring and Evaluation workshop – 27th February 2024

In February, we delivered a tailored monitoring and evaluation workshop for organisations with 10 groups attending.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: TO ENABLE AND STRENGTHEN VOLUNTEERING, SOCIAL ACTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2a. Local Wellbeing Networks – North, Central and South Localities

The Local Wellbeing Networks (LWNs) continued to be a major area of work over the year. We continued to strengthen our partnership with the Octopus Community Network to develop the mechanisms for promoting community voice, connecting the VCFSE, public sector and residents and using this partnership to co-deliver services. We continued to deliver bi-monthly meetings across the 3 localities and continued outreach to VCFSE, statutory partners and residents. We forged closer relationships with Evidence Islington (Public Health), LBI Better Lives Alliance, and the Borough's Resilience Forum.

We engaged 150+ members across all 3 Networks, a third of which are Islington residents. 18 Local Wellbeing Networks meetings were delivered across the 3 localities in settings accessible to residents and practitioners, with approx. 25-35 members attending each Local Wellbeing Network meeting.

We continued to listen to the priorities of the LWN members and launched the Listening and Social Action campaigns to understand what matters most to local residents. LWN members priorities included the following:

- Cost of living crisis (food, debt, fuel, and how can we support our most vulnerable residents more effectively. More residents are facing financial anxiety and stress and increasing mental health issues. The most pressing issue for those working in the North was children and young people, with the environment being the most pressing need for members working in the South – with members particularly expressing concern about the overdevelopment of EC1, decimation of open space and selling off community assets. A priority was to identify and map green spaces in the locality which are accessible to the public and spaces which have the potential to become green spaces the public can have access to.
- Employment issues - supporting residents to get into paid work. Addressing barriers such as childcare costs, need for cost-of-living support, language barriers, improving skills and low post pandemic employability.
- Mental Health and understanding of how it effects people differently; support needed for men especially, how to make services more accessible, using civic space to support health and wellbeing, supporting those who are struggling to connect with others, increased complex needs amongst service users, limitation of NHS mental health services and the role of community (psychosocial support) being key to wellbeing.

Launch of Listening and Social Action Campaign – 20 July 2023

- LWN summer event held at Whittington Park Community Association in July 2023 – with the launch of the Listening and Social Action Campaign, with 60+ organisations and local residents attending the round table event. The Listening and Social Action Campaigns focused on getting an understanding of what people love and are angry about, uncovering real problems and exploring possibilities for change. Listening through 'sofa talks' and 1:1

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conversations LWN members set about capturing powerful stories and enabling people to take leadership and make connections.

VAI and Octopus opened conversations with Help on Your Doorstep and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust to explore a partnership that would respond effectively to the cost-of-living crisis through a capacity building programme focusing upon the most vulnerable residents accessing crisis and emergency food provision. Partners actively participated in the LBI Cost-of Living Strategic Board presenting ideas and potential solutions to achieving systemic change. We worked collaboratively to develop a capacity building model and proposal to take forward the work.

2b. Community Organising and Community Change Makers

As part of the LWN initiative, we supported the second round of workshops that took place with Octopus Community Network (the borough's social action hub) delivering the training:

- 4th and 5th July with 12 people attending
- 13th July at St Luke's Community Centre, with 10 people attending
- 28th August with 15 people attending

We also provided ongoing support of 7 Change Makers – helping to deliver 2 major events

2c. Community Resilience

We continued to liaise with the LBI Borough Resilience Forum, with an ambition to work on:

- Community resilience projects delivered in partnership
- Developing a Community Resilience Toolkit
- Engaging more residents registered with the Volunteer Centre

VOLUNTEER CENTRE SERVICES

3a. Volunteer of the Year Awards – 1st November 2023

We hosted our annual Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards celebration on 1st November 2023 at the Union Chapel. We had over 250 people register for the event, with 190 attending. That helped us to create a more positive environment in which the value of volunteering was recognised with the biggest number of attendees ever.

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes, and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by the Mayor of Islington, Cllr Gary Heather. The winners were:

- Older Volunteer of the Year 60+: Jill Ellenby and Ben Griffith, Elizabeth House – Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust
- Volunteering Team of the Year: Union Chapel Asylum Seekers Project
- Volunteer of the Year 26-60: Zoe Coventry, Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation (MEWSO) | Little Village | The People's Army | MerryGoRound & Lawrence Curtis, Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies
- Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year: Anne-Marie Ellis, Cripplegate Foundation
- Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25: Maryam Amia, Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation (MEWSO)

3b. Volunteering Fairs and Outreach

VAI increased the number of volunteering fairs, hosting 6 fairs during the year with a number delivered in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden, to support the recruitment of volunteers, both online and in person. In total 313 residents attended the volunteering fairs, with 57 VCFSE organisations attending across the 6 fairs.

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We also increased our outreach in public places like community centres, colleges, universities and Islington libraries to enable and raise awareness of volunteering in the broader community.

3c. Volunteer Managers Forum – 18 July 2023

We held one forum meeting in partnership with LBI.

3d. Volunteer Centre Partnership Work

- Contributed to the Islington Volunteering Partnership meetings – with representatives from LBI, Big Alliance, and Cripplegate
- Promoted London Met University Charities & Social Enterprise Clinics
- Strengthened links with the local LBI Employability Practitioners Network
- Represented VAI at the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum (GLA) and the London Volunteer Centre Network
- Successfully ran a pilot with Union Chapel to increase number of Asylum Seeker volunteers
- Peabody Community Participation Project
- Contributed to the GLA Community Resilience Project

3e. Islington Mayor's Charity of the Year 2023-24

We were extremely pleased to be chosen as the Mayor's Charity of the Year. We worked in partnership with Mayor Cllr Gary Heather and the Mayor's Team to raise awareness of the value of volunteering and increased the number of local people taking up volunteering roles across all part of Islington.

3f. Our Reach

We sent regular communications to organisations and residents registered at the Volunteer Centre with:

- 59 new Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) registered
- 164 new volunteering roles promoted, and 571 new volunteers registered

OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT PLACEMENTS

In addition to our trustees, during the past year, VAI had a small team of volunteers assisting us in delivering some of our activities. The volunteers supported the customer service of VAI Resource Centre and assisted with our Volunteer Centre brokerage service. They arranged face to face meetings with potential volunteers, supported the online Volunteer Fairs and promoting volunteering opportunities across Islington. By volunteering for VAI, the volunteers gained valuable work experience which resulted in one volunteer gaining paid employment at VAI.

Our volunteers during this year included:

- Community Volunteering Advisors: Nisreen Abou Henda, Marlene Lall, Taina Zavora
- Communications: Daniel Belay Gessesse
- Resource Centre: Deborah Makonnen, Johnston Walker, Christian O'Brien
- Local Wellbeing Networks: James Wooldridge and Soumaiya Edoo

STRATEGIC AIM 3: TO FACILITATE STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE VCSE TO INFLUENCE LOCAL POLICY, DECISION-MAKING AND SYSTEM GROWTH

4a. Community Conversations

We continued to host Community Conversations, helping to set the agenda and co-chairing/co facilitating:

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- **Keeping your family healthy over the Winter period – 9th October 2023 (online)**

We worked with LBI colleagues to provide an overview of key infectious diseases of concern – measles, Covid-19 and flu; information and resources on how we can support local residents to stay safe and healthy and update on vaccine eligibility and availability.

- **Islington Population & Key Inequality Trends – 24th October 2023 (online)**

Over 70 organisations registered to attend this session highlighting changes to Islington's population and inequalities between the 2011 census and 2021 census.

- **Youth Safety – 4th December 2023 (in-person)**

We looked at the current picture, including local issues and Islington's Public Health approach to youth safety, Safe Havens and roll out of Bleed Control Kits and the review of Islington's youth safety strategy and violence against women and girls, with a focus on the role of VCFSE in keeping our young people safe with examples of local work and how the VCFSE can become more involved.

4b. Supporting Ukrainian Refugee Families – 10th May 2023 – (online)

We secured funding from NAVCA to support organisations which were preparing for the arrival of people from Ukraine and subsequent support for them as well as better co-ordination of activities within the VCFSE and Islington Council and to build capacity where it is needed. We teamed up with Healthprom who were commissioned by Islington Council to provide direct support to Ukrainian families arriving in Islington of which there were 270 mostly women and children as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Our partnership started in March 2023, and continued over the next 6-months bringing together council and community service to raise awareness and co-ordinate support for Ukrainian families.

4c. Community Festival – 12th July 2023 – In person, Assembly Hall

With Islington Faiths Forum leading, we contributed with other partners to

- Celebrate Islington's rich diversity thereby promoting community cohesion and safety;
- Boost the morale of residents, workers, volunteers and cross-sector groups in Islington;
- Promote joint working between community networks and groups plus LBI and statutory organisations all with a view to serving the community optimally together in Islington.

4d. Adult Community Learning – 28th November 2023 (online)

This session was held to promote Islington's offer for residents in the borough and included focus on Family Learning; ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages); English and Maths; Digital Skills; Vocational and Employability Skills; Creative, Practical and Well-being. 20+ organisations attended this session.

4e. Overview of Welfare Benefits – 15 November 2023 (online)

This session was held to promote LBI's Imax and Resident Support Service and how it can help residents with the rise in the cost of living. 50+ organisations attended this session.

4f. VAI Annual Conference – 12th March 2024 (In person) Great Hall, London Met University

We partnered with LBI and London Met University to see how we could work together more effectively to tackle inequality and create a fairer Islington. Our aims were to

- share Islington's priorities in tackling inequality based on the most recent data and evidence and plans for future research.

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- share insight from the VCFSE on what they are seeing and experiencing on the ground through their interaction with communities and how they are responding in partnership with the statutory sector.
- explore how we can work together more effectively in the areas of employment support and improving the mental and physical health of communities who are experiencing the worst outcomes.
- highlight the challenges that the VCFSE are currently facing and to explore the opportunities for the VCFSE and how we can move toward more collaborative commissioning and grant funding arrangements.
- share our ambition to refresh the Islington Compact - the partnership agreement between the VCFSE and statutory sector, which includes developing best practice guides and toolkits.
- explore ways of increasing investment in the VCFSE to support its development, effectiveness and sustainability.

With over 100+ delegates, the feedback included:

Theme: What are VCFSE seeing on the ground
Residents presenting with increased complexities with vast amount of unmet need in the borough
People's lives are unnecessarily difficult when it comes to accessing services
Costs of travel, childcare are huge barriers
Digital exclusion, food insecurity and mental health amongst young people need to be addressed
Theme: Employment
Families need impactful employment
Young people are distrusted by employers
Charity and business sector struggling to fill roles
Culture needs to change with employer organisations
Volunteering not valued enough as a stepping stone
Theme: Services/Systems Growth
Lack of accountability when services are inaccessible
Disconnect between theory, vision and practice
How can we look at systems change rather than firefighting individual cases
Culture needs to change with employer organisations
Volunteering not valued enough as a stepping stone
Improve information sharing
Services need to go to where people are – to provide information and raise awareness of services
Statutory services need to go out to the community
Need to listen to residents, and get better at reaching them
Lots of services – issue is how to engage with those that need it
Model good practice for accessible services – need for this to be transferred to all services
Streamline referral processes
Need better understanding of the sector and residents
Need collective impact approach
Theme: Partnerships/Collaboration
Consult VCFS earlier not when decisions are made
Underdeveloped – resource challenges, takes a lot of time to build, need lead person
Use data to identify those not accessing services
Develop quality connections

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Bring groups together to apply for funding
Build connections with universities
Theme: VCFSE Issues/Needs
Expectations are too high
VCFS takes the slack where statutory sector services fail
Sector needs to be more assertive. Need call to action
Need to be better at collecting evidence, showing impact, data that shows success
Capacity/resource limitations affect the sectors' ability to do more – finding the balance between today's needs and looking future to the future
Explore opportunities for joint bids – sponsor VCFSE to bid for funding to find solutions
Sharing information/data
More opportunities to meet and share info on service offers
VCFSE to also do more to promote offer 'get message out there
More collaboration. Locally based events like fairer together approach
Public health events for VCFS
Events about specific themes
Theme: Investment in the VCFSE
More use of s106 – this needs to be on services not just infrastructure
Anchor institutions and businesses encouraged to work more with VCFSE
Needs resources, can't be just a gateway to the community
Funders to streamline applications/pool resources
Partnership applications – toolkits/agreements

4g. VAI's Advisory Group

Our CEO continued to work with our Advisory Group made up of the following organisations and networks in the borough and facilitated meetings and workshops: Age UK, Brickworks Community Centre, Copenhagen Youth Project, Cripplegate, Healthwatch Islington, Help on Your Doorstep, Islington CAB, Islington Faiths Forum, Islington Mind, Islington Refugee and Migrant Forum, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, Octopus Community Network, St Lukes Community Centre, Stuart Low Trust, Talk for Health. We extended the invitation to Disability Action Islington, Cloudesley and The Peel Centre.

4h. Islington Compact – 11th October 2023 – (In person)

One of the significant areas of work that the Advisory Group started working on was the refresh of the Islington Compact – the partnership agreement between Islington Council and the VCFSE sector. We held an event in partnership with LBI in October. Following this, a small working group made up of Age UK Islington, Islington Mind, Islington Faiths Forum and Stuart Low Trust drafted a set of 12 Compact Principles. More work on the Compact will be done over 2024-25.

4i. Local Representation

Our CEO represented the VCFSE at the following LBI partnership boards including:

- Islington Borough Partnership
- Islington Together Cost of Living Summit
- Islington Cost of Living Board
- Fairer Together Partnerships Board
- Islington Community Safety Partnership Board
- Islington Borough Resilience Forum

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4j. North Central London (NCL) Representation

Our CEO represented Islington's VCFSE at the following NCL partnership boards:

- VCFSE Alliance – which includes CVSs and service providers from Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey
- NCL Integrated Care Board – People's Board, Population Health Board.
- NCL Research Network

STRATEGIC AIM 4: TO RUN VAI RESPONSIBLY, EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY AS A MODEL OF GOOD PRACTICE

5. Resource Centre Facilities

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road continues to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFSE and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources. During the year, we continued to provide desk and room hire facilities to charities and community groups, with activity increasing from the previous year.

Charities and community groups using our desk space facilities
ACTSA
Action for Empty Homes
Action for Race Equality (ARE)
ACTSA
ALAG
Al-Asharaf Community Welfare Association/ Somali Woman's Group
Action for Empty Homes
Action for Race Equality (ARE)
Betknowmore UK
British Institute of Human Rights (until Sept 2023)
Capacity London (until Sept 2023)
City Year UK
Community Empowerment Network (CEN)
Family in Harmony
First Step Action
Gendered Intelligence (until Sept 2023)
Head Held High
Headliners UK (until Oct 2023)
Healthprom
HEAR Network
Islington Refugee and Migrant Network
Lakwera Services
Migrant Voice
New Europeans
Respect
Say it Out Loud Club
SERA
The BEARR Trust
Universal Ease to Redress
Wipers CIC
Young Elite Management
Young Roots

6. MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Membership Services

During the year, we grew our membership to 590 local VCFSE organisations. Going forward we will be reviewing our membership offer and will work on improving our services to our membership.

Regular Communications

We circulated funding updates, job alerts and local community events via all our messaging platforms:

Social Media

VAI and Volunteer Centre have 6,513 followers on Twitter with 3,800 following VAI and 2,713 following the Volunteer Centre. We have increased our Instagram followers to 1,017.

Newsgroup

The VAI Google Newsgroup increased from the previous year to over 880 local groups/organisations. This is a platform where the VCFSE shared local news about their services in Islington. Upon request, we also disseminated news and information from our council and public health colleagues. In 2023-24, 1,211 news emails were shared using this platform.

Website

Our website had over 40k visits from VCS groups/organisations accessing a range of capacity building and organisational development information/resources and events to support the VCS in the delivery of their services.

KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED

Our main sources of income are grants and donations from public authorities and charitable trusts and foundations, together with space rental income from our Resource Centre. The breakdown of our funding during this year:

- Islington Council core grant to continue our work in building capacity among local VCFS organisations and operating our Volunteer Centre brokerage service - £75,000.
- Islington Council - Local Wellbeing Networks - £30,000
- City Bridge Foundation via Camden Volunteer Centre – enabling and strengthening volunteering with the NHS - £9,300
- North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) – to contribute to the NCL VCS Alliance £5,250
- National Lottery Community Fund – to strengthen our IT infrastructure £75,000 (with £73,870 carried forward into 24-25)
- GLA Community Resilience Fund – to increase community preparedness for emergencies - £5,000
- London Community Foundation - Peabody Trust – to engage more residents in volunteering - £15,000
- VAI Resource Centre generated income - £287,114

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net income, before gains on investments, of £2,162 (2023: £53,307). That surplus comprised net expenditure of £24,502 (2023: £37,825) on restricted funds and a £26,664 surplus (2023: £91,132) on unrestricted funds. The surplus on unrestricted funds was the effective operating surplus for the year.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

After incorporating the £4,862 loss incurred on investment values in the year (2023: £14,976) and a transfer of £3,542 to restricted funds (2023: £nil), the total net expenditure (the annual loss) is £2,700 (2023: £38,331 net surplus). The trustees consider that to be a satisfactory result for the year and consistent with their commitment to rebuild the charity reserves.

Income increased from £490,853 in 2022-23 to £495,263 for the current year. Voluntary Action Islington's Resource Centre generated the largest source of income, as it has done in recent years. The London Borough of Islington (LBI) continued to support VAI's core activities under the Strategic Borough-wide Partners and Strategic Volunteering Partners grants. Significant funding was also received from the National Lottery Community Fund through its Reaching Communities programme.

At the year end all funds totalled £356,376 (2023: £359,076) of which £307,452 (2023: £289,192) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £203,145 (2023: £181,729).

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

Reserves

On 31 March 2024 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £307,452 (2023: £289,192).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £203,145 (2023: £181,729). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £203,145 is equivalent to 34% (2023: 36%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £104,307 (2023: £107,463), designations having been made to invest in building improvements and VAI's IT infrastructure and to support future relocation from the Resource Centre including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £48,924 of restricted funds (2023: £69,884), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

Investment Policy and Performance

This year, Voluntary Action Islington implemented the investment policy as agreed in October 2022. The objectives of the policy are:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long-term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington
- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Investment values fell from £158,603 to £153,744 during the year resulting in annual unrealised losses of £4,862 (2023: £14,976). The investments continue to be held with the expectation that values will rise in the future, as they have done for the current year to date.

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Trustees adopt a risk appraisal and mitigation approach as part of future development. The VAI Risk Register is being comprehensively updated in 2024 and a Risk Sub Committee will prioritise and make plans to mitigate risks on a quarterly basis. Prioritised risks will be reviewed by the Board at each quarterly trustee meeting.

During 2023-24, the main factors likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity were a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to VCFSE organisations, a loss of funding or insecurity in our Resource Centre lease. We plan to mitigate these risks by improving the facilities at the Resource Centre and enhancing our communications and marketing of the facilities. We plan to maintain our financial resources by careful financial management and by continuing to provide excellent public benefit in conjunction with our partners and seeking funding for our projects and charitable services to the local VCFSE. We also plan to ensure continuity in our Resource Centre provision by negotiating renewal of the lease in October 2024.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local VCFSE organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in partnership boards that influence how Islington Council including Islington's Borough Partnership, the North Central London Integrated Care System and Public Health make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level. This includes multi-agency initiatives where we represent our membership.

We will continue to work with VCFSE organisations to help diversify funding and other support, including by engaging with private business. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will continue to work with VCFSE by providing networking and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one-to-one support and training workshops.

We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road is an important community asset for local VCFSE organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Our website and social media are well used resources, and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

We look forward to launching our new 3-year strategy in October 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013. The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 10 trustees with plans to recruit two further trustees. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and a skills audit of current trustees will be carried out over the latter part of 2024. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building and organisational development. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law. The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), NCVO, and Children England. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9th September 2016 the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30th September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Hussain Ahmed remains a director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans yet to appoint new Directors.

Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. Going forward, a register of trustee interests will be maintained, and any potential conflict of interest will be declared at the beginning of each quarterly trustee board meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees, who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 24 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Navinder Kaur', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Navinder Kaur
Company Secretary

Registered office:
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees on 31st March 2023 was 568. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's independent assessor is 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 independent assessor is aware of that information

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the Independent Examiners of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Independent examiner's report

To the members of Voluntary Action Islington Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	-	77,670	77,670	1,000	75,000	76,000
Charitable activities	3						
Community Development		40,000	-	40,000	50,000	-	50,000
Member Services and Support		-	-	-	20,000	3,930	23,930
Sector Development and Volunteering		66,409	301,816	368,225	44,372	288,423	332,795
Investments		-	9,368	9,368	-	8,128	8,128
Total income		106,409	388,854	495,263	115,372	375,481	490,853
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Community Development		67,216	-	67,216	45,273	-	45,273
Member Services and Support		5,167	47,832	52,999	30,488	51,606	82,094
Sector Development and Volunteering		58,528	314,358	372,886	77,436	232,743	310,179
Total expenditure	5	130,911	362,190	493,101	153,197	284,349	437,546
Net (expenditure) income before net gains (losses) on investments		(24,502)	26,664	2,162	(37,825)	91,132	53,307
Net gains (losses) on investments	10	-	(4,862)	(4,862)	-	(14,976)	(14,976)
Net (expenditure) income for the year	8	(24,502)	21,802	(2,700)	(37,825)	76,156	38,331
Transfers between funds		3,542	(3,542)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(20,960)	18,260	(2,700)	(37,825)	76,156	38,331
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		69,884	289,192	359,076	107,709	213,036	320,745
Total funds carried forward	15	48,924	307,452	356,376	69,884	289,192	359,076

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 24 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited (Limited by guarantee)**Balance sheet**

Company No. 01913555

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	3,307	13,468
Investments	10	<u>153,744</u>	<u>158,603</u>
		157,051	172,071
Current assets			
Debtors	11	30,152	27,227
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>223,797</u>	<u>254,605</u>
		253,949	281,832
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(54,624)</u>	<u>(94,827)</u>
Net current assets		<u>199,325</u>	<u>187,005</u>
Net assets	14	<u>356,376</u>	<u>359,076</u>
Funds	15		
Restricted funds		48,924	69,884
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		104,307	107,463
General funds		<u>203,145</u>	<u>181,729</u>
Total funds		<u>356,376</u>	<u>359,076</u>

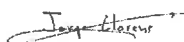
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

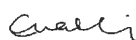
No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 24 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Jorge Llorens
Treasurer



Emma Hutchins
Chair

The notes on pages 24 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	16		(36,734)		70,405
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends from investments		9,368		8,128	
Sale (purchase) of fixed assets		(3,439)		-	
Sale (purchase) of investments		-		-	
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			5,929		8,128
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			(30,805)		78,533
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			255,360		176,827
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17		224,555		255,360

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Voluntary Action Islington meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

1b Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgements have been made by the charitable company which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1c Income

Income, including income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are credited to incoming resources when they are receivable as the charity's own money, unless they are for activities that relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred to that period.

Income received under contracts for services which cross over the year end are recognised in the financial statements in line with the percentage of completion of the contract at the year end.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Distributions from listed investments are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally the date on which the holding is first quoted ex dividend or the end date of the period for which it is accrued as notified by the fund manager.

1d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1e Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of services and support to members and developing volunteering and the local voluntary sector undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

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

1f Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with their use of resources.

Premises are allocated proportionate to floor space occupied by each activity as follows:

Community Development	2.0%
Member Services and Support	1.9%
Sector Development and Volunteering	95.1%
Support costs	0.9%
Governance costs	0.1%

Other costs of administration are allocated per capita VAI staff and other occupants of the Resource Centre as follows:

Community Development	4.7%
Member Services and Support	4.3%
Sector Development and Volunteering	88.6%
Support costs	2.3%
Governance costs	0.1%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Community Development	12.7%
Member Services and Support	12.0%
Sector Development and Volunteering	75.3%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

1g Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the length of the lease.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1h Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	4 years
Leasehold property	The lesser of 15 years or the remaining lease term

1i Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1j Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington	-	75,000	75,000	76,000
Other grants and similar income, under £5,000 each	-	2,670	2,670	-
	-	77,670	77,670	76,000

Voluntary Action Islington benefit from a Section 106 Agreement that provides accommodation at a peppercorn rent. As it is not possible to put an accurate value to this, it has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington Local Wellbeing Network	30,000	-	30,000	45,000
Greater London Authority, Community Resilience Fund Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	5,000	-	5,000	-
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Sub-total for Community Development	40,000	-	40,000	50,000
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service) Young Londoner's Fund Network	-	-	-	3,930
London Borough of Islington Young Islington Networks	-	-	-	20,000
Sub-total for Member Services and Support	-	-	-	23,930
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Community resource and other service income	-	287,114	287,114	272,006
London Borough of Islington Public Health	-	-	-	39,372
Peabody (via The London Community Foundation) South Islington volunteering opportunities	15,000	-	15,000	-
Greater London Authority, Community Resilience Fund Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	5,000	-	5,000	-
The National Lottery Community Fund Strengthening Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector	45,000	-	45,000	-
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	1,409	14,702	16,111	21,417
Sub-total for Sector Development and Volunteering	66,409	301,816	368,225	332,795
Total income from charitable activities	106,409	301,816	408,225	406,725

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

5 Analysis of expenditure

5a Current year	Charitable activities			Governance costs	Support costs	2024 Total	2023 Total
	Community Development	Member Services and Support	Sector Development and Volunteering				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 6)	39,643	40,850	206,280	1,881	25,138	313,792	266,709
Agency staff	-	-	2,554	-	19,242	21,796	20,540
Other staff costs	555	467	3,098	13	221	4,354	4,265
Direct activity costs	13,261	-	9,270	-	615	23,146	23,801
Premises	1,180	1,121	56,178	35	555	59,069	59,077
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	13,600	13,600	14,054
Admin and ICT	3,028	1,546	38,757	46	1,023	44,400	40,910
Compliance	-	-	-	10,817	2,127	12,944	8,190
Governance costs	57,667	43,984	316,137	12,792	62,521	493,101	437,546
Support Costs	1,995	1,882	8,915	(12,792)	-	-	-
	7,554	7,133	47,834	-	(62,521)	-	-
Total expenditure 2024	67,216	52,999	372,886	-	-	493,101	437,546

5b Prior year

Direct expenditure	40,370	58,233	273,038	6,984	58,921	437,546
Support and governance costs allocated	4,903	23,861	37,141	(6,984)	(58,921)	-
Total expenditure 2023	45,273	82,094	310,179	-	-	437,546

Support and governance costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity (note 1f).
Of the total expenditure, £362,190 was unrestricted (2023: £284,349) and £130,911 was restricted (2023: £153,197).

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages	275,438	234,372
Social security costs	23,386	18,886
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	14,968	13,451
	<u>313,792</u>	<u>266,709</u>
Agency costs	21,796	20,540
	<u>335,588</u>	<u>287,249</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2023: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer's national insurance of the key management personnel were £62,863 (2023: £78,026).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year (2023: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2023: none).

Staff numbers:

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 8 (2023: 8).

The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year and by activity was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Community Development	0.9	0.6
Member Services and Support	0.9	1.2
Sector Development and Volunteering	4.2	4.3
Support and governance	0.5	0.5
	<u>6.5</u>	<u>6.6</u>

7 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

8 Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	13,600	14,054
Board of Trustees - indemnity insurance	584	505
Operating lease charges	13,457	8,613
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	3,150	3,000

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment £	Leasehold property £	2024 Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	96,118	133,950	230,068
Additions in year	3,439	-	3,439
Disposals in year	(690)	(771)	(1,461)
At 31 March 2024	<u>98,867</u>	<u>133,179</u>	<u>232,046</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	94,661	121,939	216,600
Charge for the year	1,589	12,011	13,600
Eliminated on disposal	(690)	(771)	(1,461)
At 31 March 2024	<u>95,560</u>	<u>133,179</u>	<u>228,739</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,307</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,457</u>	<u>12,011</u>	<u>13,468</u>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

10 Fixed asset investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Listed investments (note 10a)	153,743	158,602
Investment in subsidiary company (note 10b)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>153,744</u>	<u>158,603</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

10a Listed investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Analysis of movement of investments		
Market value at start of year	157,847	172,823
Disposals at market value	-	-
Realised gains / (losses)	-	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	<u>(4,862)</u>	<u>(14,976)</u>
Market value at year end	152,985	157,847
Cash instruments and cash held for reinvestment	<u>758</u>	<u>755</u>
Fair value at year end	<u>153,743</u>	<u>158,602</u>
Historical cost	<u>158,595</u>	<u>158,595</u>

The investments comprise two UK unit trusts.

10b Investment in subsidiary company

VAI beneficially owns the entire share capital of Voluntary Action Services Limited (a company limited by share capital, company no. 8612449 (England and Wales)), through which VAI's commercial trading previously took place. In September 2016 the decision was taken to suspend trading through the company. The company remained dormant at 31 March 2024.

The share capital and reserves of the subsidiary are not material and therefore no consolidated accounts have been prepared. Disclosure is confined to this note to the accounts.

	2024 £	2023 £
Investment in Voluntary Action Services Ltd at cost	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

At 31 March 2023 VAI held one share of £1, being the entire share capital of the trading company.

10b Investment in subsidiary company (continued)

Relevant financial information regarding Voluntary Action Services Ltd is as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Assets	1	1
Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2024****11 Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	22,409	18,456
Other debtors	3,247	3,152
Prepayments	4,496	5,619
	<u>30,152</u>	<u>27,227</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Tax and social security costs	7,044	6,488
Trade creditors	11,285	14,955
Other creditors	2,090	-
Accruals	33,445	73,214
Deferred income (note 12)	760	170
	<u>54,624</u>	<u>94,827</u>

Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	170	3,653
Amount released to income in the year	(170)	(3,653)
Amount deferred in the year	760	170
	<u>760</u>	<u>170</u>

Deferred income comprises resource centre income received in advance (2023: resource centre income received in advance).

13 Related party transactions

Colin Adams is a trustee of VAI and a trustee of Octopus Community Network.

VAI paid Octopus Community Network £9,493 towards costs incurred in supporting the Local Wellbeing Network programme in the year (2023: £8,149).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

14 Analysis of group net assets between funds

14a Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,307	-	3,307
Investment assets	-	72,000	81,744	153,744
Net current assets	<u>48,924</u>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>121,401</u>	<u>199,325</u>
Net assets at 31 March 2024	<u>48,924</u>	<u>104,307</u>	<u>203,145</u>	<u>356,376</u>

14b Prior year

	Restricted £	Designated £	General £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	7,005	6,463	-	13,468
Investment assets	-	60,000	98,603	158,603
Net current assets	<u>62,879</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>83,126</u>	<u>187,005</u>
Net assets at 1 April 2023	<u>69,884</u>	<u>107,463</u>	<u>181,729</u>	<u>359,076</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Movements in funds

15a Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	7,176	-	(5,167)	-	2,009
Conferences and events	-	1,409	(1,409)	-	-
Local Wellbeing Network	27,918	30,000	(51,721)	-	6,197
Public Health and Community Engagement	23,864	-	(23,864)	-	-
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	15,000	(16,968)	1,968	-
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	-	45,000	(4,282)	-	40,718
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	3,921	5,000	(10,495)	1,574	-
Fixed assets	7,005	-	(7,005)	-	-
Total restricted funds	69,884	106,409	(130,911)	3,542	48,924
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvements	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	97,000	-	-	(25,000)	72,000
Fixed assets	6,463	-	(6,595)	3,439	3,307
<i>Total designated funds</i>	107,463	-	(6,595)	3,439	104,307
General funds	181,729	388,854	(360,457)	(6,981)	203,145
Total unrestricted funds	289,192	388,854	(367,052)	(3,542)	307,452
Total funds	359,076	495,263	(497,963)	-	356,376

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Movements in funds (continued)

15b Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	17,664	-	(10,488)	-	7,176
Cost of living	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	34,818	-	(34,818)	-	-
Local Wellbeing Network	27,112	45,000	(44,194)	-	27,918
Public Health and Community Engagement	-	39,372	(15,508)	-	23,864
South Islington volunteering opportunities	14,102	-	(14,102)	-	-
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	-	5,000	(1,079)	-	3,921
VCFS Annual Conference	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Young Islington Networks	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Fixed assets	14,013	-	(7,008)	-	7,005
Total restricted funds	107,709	115,372	(153,197)	-	69,884
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	33,000	-	-	64,000	97,000
Fixed assets	13,509	-	(7,046)	-	6,463
<i>Total designated funds</i>	50,509	-	(7,046)	64,000	107,463
General funds	162,527	375,481	(292,279)	(64,000)	181,729
Total unrestricted funds	213,036	375,481	(299,325)	-	289,192
Total funds	320,745	490,853	(452,522)	-	359,076

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds

Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Funds provided by the London Borough of Islington to support activities by the Children's Voluntary Sector Forum.
Conferences and events	Contributions from supporters towards the costs of the VCFSE conference held in partnership with London Met University and LBI and other smaller thematic events.
Cost of Living	NAVCA funding to facilitate the sharing of data and insight between VCFS and LBI. Includes facilitation and support for the LBI staff volunteering programme.
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	Funded by NCL Clinical Commissioning Group and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the programme aimed to improve Covid-19 vaccination take up in areas and communities where it is low.
Local Wellbeing Network	As part of Islington Council's 'Fairer Together' initiative, VAI and Octopus Community Network have been funded to develop Local Wellbeing Networks in the North, Central and South localities to increase collaboration between local services and to provide a platform for community voice.
Public Health and Community Engagement	Funding to develop effective partnerships with Public Health and the local VCFS to promote Covid vaccination and other health and wellbeing offers.
South Islington volunteering opportunities	To provide outreach services to Peabody residents especially those located in the south of the borough.
Strengthening Community Resilience in Islington	To increase community preparedness for emergencies, funded by GLA and London Communities Emergencies Partnership. Funds distributed via London Plus.
Strengthening Islington's VCFSE sector	To improve VAI's internal infrastructure in order to collaborate with our local VCFSE sector more effectively. Funded by the National Lottery Communities Fund.
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	To partner with Healthprom, and develop a network of organisations to provide more effective support to Ukrainian families hosted through the sponsorship programme.
VCFS Annual Conference	LBI funding towards catering costs for an event held at London Metropolitan University

Voluntary Action Islington Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2024**

15c Movements in funds (continued)**Purpose of restricted funds (continued)**

Young Islington Networks To widen the engagement and participation of Islington's VCFS in the Young Islington Networks and the Universal Youth Work Offer.

Fixed assets To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from restricted funding.

Purpose of designated funds

Building improvements A fund established by transfer from the Relocation Fund to improve VAI's Resource Centre so that it remains an up to date facility that is attractive and welcoming venue to local charities and community organisations.

ICT infrastructure development A fund to invest in essential improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the Resource Centre.

Relocation A fund built up over 10 years so that VAI is in a position to manage its liabilities at the end of the lease on the current premises in 13th October 2024, and to seek alternative premises if required. £25,000 was transferred from the fund to the Building Improvements Designated Fund in the year.

Fixed assets To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from unrestricted funds.

16 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(2,700)	38,331
Depreciation	13,600	14,054
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	(9,368)	(8,128)
(Gains) / losses on investments	4,862	14,976
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(2,925)	(10,048)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(40,203)	21,220
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	<u>(36,734)</u>	<u>70,405</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	Other changes £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	254,605	(30,808)	-	223,797
Cash held by investment managers	<u>755</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>758</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>255,360</u>	<u>(30,805)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,555</u>

18 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment 2024 £	2023 £
Less than one year	18,616	8,610
One to five years	55,591	24,869
Over five years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>74,207</u>	<u>33,479</u>

19 Contingent liability

Under the terms of the lease for its current premises Voluntary Action Islington is liable for the costs of restoring the property to its original condition, including removal of all fixtures and fittings, if so required by the landlord when yielding up the property at the end of the lease term. The current lease expires in October 2024 but is likely to be extended to October 2039. The extent of the works that will be required and the consequent cost cannot reasonably be estimated at this time and so no provision has been made for this in the accounts.

20 Company limited by guarantee

Voluntary Action Islington is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 291890

Accounts

Company No. 01913555
Charity No. 291890

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

31 March 2023

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Charity registration number 291890

Company registration number 01913555

Registered Office 200a Pentonville Road
London
N1 9JP

Board of Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Colin Adams MBE
Emma Victoria Hutchins (Vice Chair)
Hussain Ahmed
Joseph David Irvin OBE (Chair)
Josephine Mary Langdale (Vice Chair - resigned 01.11. 2022)
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)
Ken Hettiarachi
Kevin Turner (Joined 07.02.23)
Madeleine Gascoigne (Joined 07.02.23)
Philip John Kelly
Santa Gascoigne

**Chief Executive Officer and
Company Secretary**

Navinder Kaur

Independent Examiners

Goldwins Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
9 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Purpose and Aims

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness
- b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not-for-profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit

In the past year the staff and trustees reviewed VAI's mission, vision, values and aims and this annual report reflects these strategic changes.

Our Vision

A thriving voluntary and community sector in Islington: enriching people's lives and building stronger communities.

Our Mission

To strengthen our local voluntary and community sector's ability to deliver services effectively and to promote social justice.

Our Values

- **Effective:** creative, energetic and responsive
- **Collaborative:** building partnerships and co-designing solutions
- **Inclusive:** valuing the importance of diversity and equality
- **Positive:** building on strengths, not just focusing on problems
- **With Integrity:** honest, professional and respectful

Our Strategic Aims

- To support the **development, effectiveness and sustainability** of Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE)
- To empower Islington's diverse **communities**
- To enable **volunteering**
- To facilitate a stronger VCFSE **voice** to influence local policy, decision-making and system change.
- To facilitate stronger **partnership** working across the VCFSE sector

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

Public Benefit

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, Community Safety and Health.

Our strategic aims include enabling the VCFSE to address these issues, by supporting organisations to:

- Be more sustainably funded and resourced
- Deliver more effective services
- Be more able to influence local policy

In addition, we want to support the people who volunteer for VCFSE organisations by ensuring:

- Volunteers gain more social contacts, employability experience and skills, and improved health and wellbeing

Through the development of our Theory of Change for Voluntary Action Islington, we were able to map out the changes that we want to achieve for the sector, and the steps that we will take to achieve this change. These specific activities have been briefly described below, as they relate to each aim.

STRATEGIC AIM 1: TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ISLINGTON'S VCFSE

1a. Advice, Information and Support

During this period, we received 240 requests for support and advice from local groups and residents, and responded to these requests via emails, phone calls, and mainly through in-person and online meetings. We held over 130 one-to-one advice sessions with over 80 different groups. We also provided some groups with support over a longer period.

We worked with a broad range of groups, with most working in the area of Health and Wellbeing, Children & Young People and other groups who worked with the whole community. Most of the groups that received support are BAME led. We also provided support to a number of women's groups who mainly focus on health and well-being issues.

This year the top 4 most requested areas of support proved similar to last year, however this year many more (20+) wanted to register as a charity with several of them achieving charity status thus enabling them to approach a broader range of funders. The top areas of support requested:

- Funding and fundraising
- Registering as a charity or company limited by guarantee
- General organisational development (planning, governance, financial management)
- Starting-up an organisation

Evaluation

In general groups who attended the advice sessions felt that they gained practical advice, skills, knowledge, and information that would help them to set up and run their organisations more effectively. Some groups also said that the sessions generated ideas that they wouldn't have thought of. One group reported that the session gave them confidence to set up their Community Interest Company on their own.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1b. National Lottery 1-to-1 Surgeries

Our work with the National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) is a partnership which enables local community groups to have 1-to-1 sessions with the local Lottery Officer. We have done more outreach this year, with sessions taking place in community centres such as Elizabeth House and Brickworks – in order to reach out to local groups and make the sessions more accessible.

The sessions were held every 2 months and the Lottery Officer advised groups on how best to apply for Lottery funding. This year we held 5 sessions, in which 19 groups received advice on their funding applications. In total 13 groups applied for funding, 4 were successful with Awards for All funding, totalling approximately £40,000, and 2 organisations are being assessed for the Reaching Communities programme.

Evaluation feedback from these sessions shows that most of the groups felt that they had gained better knowledge about what it takes to write a good Lottery application and what the process involved.

1c. Funding Booklet and Funding Updates

This year we produced two funding booklets (July 2022 and February 2023) each having more than 20 new entries and a total of at least 100 funding programmes in each booklet. The booklet is promoted on VAI's news group, and it is placed on our website in both word and PDF formats.

We also collated and disseminated over 35 funding updates through the year, with at least two per month.

1d. Meet the Funder Event

VAI also works with local funders, and on 9 November 2022 we held an event for the Cloudesley's Health programme. This fund supports Islington residents who have physical or mental health issues and who have low levels of income. 35 people attended the session which involved a presentation and a Q&A session.

1e. Writing Better Funding Applications Workshop

This year we ran a training workshop with 12 groups attending. This session was for groups who struggled to write good funding applications because they are new to fundraising or have very little experience and have not been successful with funding applications in the past. The feedback forms showed that all the groups found the workshop very helpful and informative.

1f. Resource Centre Facilities

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road continues to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFSE and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources.

During the year, we continued to provide desk and room hire facilities to charities and community groups. Activity increased as groups recovered from the impact of the pandemic. We applied a flexible approach, with hot desking being introduced as a new feature.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The community space provided permanent and hot desking facilities to the following organisations working in the equalities and social justice sectors:

Permanent & Hot Desk Users	Postal Addresses
Action for Empty Homes	Christian Muslim Forum
Action for Race Equality (ARE)	Community Tool Bank/ Things in Common
ACTSA	Eritrean Youth Club
ALAG	Metrobox London
Al-Asharaf Community Welfare Association/ Somali Woman's Group	Performing Production
Betknowmore UK	
British Institute of Human Rights	
Capacity London	
Change Communications	
City Year UK	
First Step Action	
Gendered Intelligence	
Headliners UK	
Healthprom	
Hear Network	
Islington Refugee and Migrant Network	
Lakwera Services	
Migrant Voice	
Sapphire Foundation	
Say it Out Loud Club	
SERA	
Universal Ease to Redress	
Wipers CIC	

During the year, we provided training, conference and meeting room facilities to charities and communities groups and did so on 250 occasions.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: TO EMPOWER ISLINGTON'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

2a. Local Wellbeing Network Meetings and Events

The development of the Local Wellbeing Networks (LWNs) continued to be a major priority over the year. We strengthened our partnership with the Octopus Community Network and continued to develop the mechanisms for promoting community voice, connecting the VCFSE, public sector and residents and using this partnership to co-deliver services.

Monthly Local Wellbeing Network meetings in community settings located in the North, Central and South localities took place in July (79 registrations), September, (74 registrations), October (35 registrations) and November (36 registrations).

On the 2 February 23, we held a joint event – with all 3 localities coming together at Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre.

2b. Community Organising

In partnership with Octopus Community Network, we teamed up with Community Organisers, a national agency, who went on to deliver a series of 'An Introduction to Community Organising' training to empower resident voice and engage localised communities:

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

- North Locality – 26 April & 10 May (36 registrations for each)
- Central Locality – 28 April & 11 May (33 registrations for each)
- South Locality – 5 May & 12 May (34 registrations for each)

2c. Network Development

We also teamed up with the Social Change Agency to deliver Network Development training, with 9 out of 10 'Change Makers' going through the intensive Network building canvas.

2d. Disabled People's Access to LBI's Employment Support Offer

In partnership with Healthwatch Islington, we carried out research to better understand the barriers in accessing Islington Council's employment support offer. This piece of work was funded by the Islington Integrated Care Board, and we interviewed 25 disabled people as part of this project. We also engaged with local VCFSE organisations working closely with the target group to help identify the gaps in the support offer and what more can be done to enable better access.

2e. Access to Islington's Employment Support Offer

In addition to the above research, we held a session on the 10 November in partnership with Islington Council and Healthwatch to raise awareness of the Council's employment service. 29 organisations registered for the event.

STRATEGIC AIM 3: ENABLE VOLUNTEERING

3a. Volunteer of the Year Awards 2022

We hosted the first in person Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards celebration since the Covid-19 outbreak in November 2022 at London Metropolitan University. That helped us to create a more positive environment in which the value of volunteering was recognised with the biggest number of attendees ever.

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes, and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by the Mayor of Islington, Cllr Marian Spall. The winners were:

- Older Volunteer of the Year 60+: Molly McConville, nominated by the Sunday Club at St John's Church
- Volunteering Team of the Year: Islington Bereavement Support Volunteers
- Volunteer of the Year 26-60: David Batchelor, nominated by Help on Your Doorstep
- Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year: Guilene Marco, nominated by Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation (MEWSo)
- Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25: Edward Campbell, Soapbox Youth Centre

3b. Volunteering Fairs and Outreach

VAI increased the number of volunteering fairs, hosting 4 fairs (April, June & September 2022 and February 2023) in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden, to support the recruitment of volunteers, both online and in person.

We also increased our outreach in public places like community centres, colleges, universities and Islington libraries to enable and raise awareness of volunteering in the broader community.

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3c. Development of New Partnerships to Promote Volunteering

We have started a couple of new projects working in partnership with HeathProm and Union Chapel to support Ukrainian families and asylum seekers living in bridging hotels in Islington to improve their welfare and engagement with the local community whilst volunteering with VSCFE organisations in the borough.

We continued to work in partnership with the Peabody Trust to enhance the existing service and create new volunteering opportunities among Peabody Trust and south Islington residents, to improve their wellbeing and employability skills, and aid community cohesion.

As part of our Community Research project on Disabled People's Access to LBI's Employment Support Offer, we asked local volunteers about their awareness of the help and advice that Islington Council can offer to those who are looking for work.

3d. Our Reach

Although the number of volunteers declined in other parts of London, we had 351 new volunteers registered with the Volunteer Centre – almost reaching pre-pandemic numbers – and bringing a total of 4,122 local residents registered as volunteers. 56 new VCFSE groups/organisations registered with our Volunteer Centre, bringing the total of organisations registered to 489, with 262 volunteer roles promoted.

STRATEGIC AIM 4: TO FACILITATE A STRONGER VCFSE VOICE TO INFLUENCE LOCAL POLICY, DECISION-MAKING AND SYSTEM CHANGE

4a. Young Islington Inclusion Project

From May 2022 onwards, VAI worked with Islington Council to support the development of the three Young Islington Locality Networks and the New Youth Offer as part of the 'Fairer Together' Islington initiative. VAI engaged small groups and grassroots organisations (those with a turnover of up to £500k per annum) working with young people (aged 11 – 25 years of age) that are under-represented and/or not engaged with the Islington Youth Work Offer focussing on those from the Bangladeshi, Kurdish, Somali and Turkish communities. This was a new area of work, in which VAI engaged small groups and grassroots organisations to explore their barriers to engaging with the Young Islington Locality Networks (YILNs) and support their stepping into more visible influential roles within the YILNs. By doing this it was envisaged that this would result in the development of an enriched universal youth work offer that was shaped by the YILNs growing diverse and inclusive membership. Additionally, VAI worked to establish standards for engagement of these underrepresented/marginalised groups in the YILNs and wider youth provision and, partnership working.

Between 13 June 2022 and 25 January 2023, VAI's Young Islington Development Officer met with 84 youth providers/small community groups. 42 in person and 42 remotely. Of these 39 were groups/individuals working with young people from the Bangladeshi, Kurdish, Somali and/or Turkish communities.

Young Islington Locality Event - 26 January 2023

Based on feedback VAI obtained from the listening sessions held with the small community groups working with young people it emerged that the groups wanted to come together to share their experiences, network, meet local funders and hear more about the new Youth Work Offer.

On 26 January 2023 the Young Islington Locality Event was held at VAI's Resource Centre. The main aims of the event were a) to provide the opportunity for small community groups working with young people (particularly from the aforementioned under-represented communities) and representatives from the YILNs to come together, share information and

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build bridges. The intention being for this event to start the process of an ongoing dialogue between these groups and for local funders to share their insights and encourage the groups to submit funding applications.

Additionally, the event provided the opportunity to directly gather the participant's views and opinions on:

- The things they are doing with their young people that work well
- What their young people would like to do more of and
- How they would like to develop their relationship with established youth providers to benefit their young people

62 delegates from 41 organisations attended.

Over the duration of the project, the Young Islington Development Officer reached out to 125 organisations. 89 of these organisations were active and, he worked more closely with 13 Pilot Group organisations working exclusively or mostly with target groups. Of these Pilot Groups Galbur Foundation, MEWSO, Minority Matters, Turkish Kurdish Children's Group and the Somali Women's Speakers Group were supported to work closely with and develop positive relationships with the YILNs/network members.

Also, Galbur Foundation, Masjid e Yusuf Mosque, MEWSO and, Turkish Kurdish Group attended Young Islington Locality meetings, and Eritrean Community In UK and the Muslim Welfare House have/are interested in attending YILNs meetings.

4b. London Youth - Centre for Youth Impact Research & Analysis - March 2023

The above-mentioned pilot groups were invited to engage with/join London Youth to share the ways they meet their young people's needs and engage and provide them with high-quality and impactful services. London Youth were keen to hear about what their young people's needs are. The sessions took place online on Tuesday 21 and 22 March.

London Youth and Partnership for Young London used this information to inform the work they did with young people and youth practitioners to produce a resource on how to best support minoritised groups.

4c. Community Conversations

We continued to host Community Conversations, helping to set the agenda and co-chairing the series with Public Health Islington on the 28 April and 29 November 2022.

4d. Health and Wellbeing Network

With a view to ensuring inclusivity and widening participation around the theme of health and the LWN, in February 2022 we created the borough-wide Health and Wellbeing Network, as a direct response to the pandemic, but also around the growing need for clear communications around health, both physical and mental throughout **Islington**. We held a series of Health and Wellbeing Network meetings on the following dates:

- 28 April (24 registrations)
- 26 May (21 registrations)
- 21 July (26 registrations)
- 29 September (34 registrations)
- 20 October (27 registrations)

4e. VAI's Advisory Group

Our CEO assembled an Advisory Group made up of the following organisations and networks in the borough and facilitated monthly meetings and workshops: Age UK, Brickworks Community Centre, Copenhagen Youth Project, Cripplegate, Healthwatch Islington, Islington

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CAB, Islington Faiths Forum, Islington Mind, Islington Refugee and Migrant Forum, Octopus Community Network, St Lukes Community Centre, Stuart Low Trust, and Talk for Health.

4f. Islington Compact

One of the significant areas of work that the Advisory Group started working on was the refresh of the Islington Compact – the partnership agreement between Islington Council and the VCFSE sector.

4g. Local Representation

Our CEO represented the VCFSE at the following LBI partnership boards:

- Islington Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Inequality Task Force
- Let's Talk Islington
- Fairer Together
- Islington Together Cost of Living Summit
- Emergency Planning – Corporate Contingency Exercise
- Islington Together Leaders Group
- Fairer Together Partnerships Board
- Community Partnership Board
- Winter Wellness Partners Group

4h. North Central London (NCL) Representation

Our CEO represented Islington's VCFSE at the following NCL partnership boards:

- VCFSE Alliance – which includes CVSs and service providers from Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey
- NCL Integrated Care Board – Strategy and Development Committee

STRATEGIC AIM 5: TO FACILITATE STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE VCFSE

5a. Annual VCFSE Conference – 18 May 2022

VAI held its annual conference at the London Metropolitan University. The discussions highlighted the following main challenges for the sector:

- Increasing poverty and health inequality amongst Islington's communities resulting from the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis
- Lack of connectivity and joint working between the VCFSE and between the sectors which has an impact on meeting the growing needs of our communities
- Lack of infrastructure and workforce development to support the VCS to work together more effectively and with the statutory sector
- Lack of access to statutory funding, and complex procurement processes

Summary of key actions needed:

- Build on the successes of the COVID-19 pandemic to address the cost-of-living crisis, and health inequality amongst Islington's communities
- Celebrate VCFSE successes and demonstrate its added value, quality and impact. More resources and investment required to do this and needs to include volunteering
- Share more information on how we work and have the infrastructure to enable sharing online and through forums and networks
- VCFSE should be recognised as a key strategic partner that should be involved in every conversation – and be a vehicle for influence and positive social change. Where

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challenges/issues have been identified by statutory agencies, they need to approach the VCFSE for solutions and vice versa

- Build stronger links amongst statutory bodies, statutory provision, funders and community and residents whether by having events where commissioners and beneficiaries can have a dialogue or having statutory services coming to the community and residents to raise awareness of current services and/or changes in services
- Address our capacity issues with more resources invested in premises, building capacity and organisational development as well as back-office support, peer support and mentoring, leadership, and succession planning
- Build a greater level of collaboration and connectivity amongst the VCFSE to enable the sharing of learning and skills as well as providing opportunities for joint funding
- Build stronger links with statutory sector to demonstrate the diversity of the VCFSE and the value of this diversity but one that has a shared identity
- Develop a Code of Conduct between sectors (i.e. COMPACT)

5b. Grassroots and Small Organisations Summits – 12 July & 29 September 2022

We received extensive feedback from groups in the following areas:

- Stronger voice
- Volunteering
- Communications and demonstrating impact
- Organisational development and
- funding and resources

We will input this feedback into the development and implementation of our new 2024-27 strategy as well as the VCFSE strategy and implementation plan which we will create in partnership with Islington Council.

5c. Supporting Ukrainian Families

We secured funding from NAVCA to start supporting organisations which were preparing for the arrival of people from Ukraine and subsequent support for them as well as better co-ordination of activities within the VCFSE and Islington Council and to build capacity where it is needed. We teamed up with Healthprom who were commissioned by Islington Council to provide direct support to Ukrainian families arriving in Islington of which there were 270 mostly women and children as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Our partnership started in March 2023, with the bulk of the activity taking place from April 2023 onwards.

5d. Other Partnerships

As we have outlined in previous sections, we sought to foster stronger partnerships and cooperation, through:

- Supporting Local Wellbeing Networks, in partnership with Octopus Community Network
- Creating VAI's Advisory Group of 13 voluntary and community groups and borough-wide networks
- Delivering Volunteering Fairs in partnership with Voluntary Action Camden
- Supporting the borough-wide Health and Wellbeing Network
- Supporting the development of three Young Islington Locality networks and bringing organisations together at the Young Islington Locality Event
- Convening our annual VCFSE conference and two Grassroots Summits
- Representing the VCFSE on several LBI partnership boards
- Representing the local VCFSE on the NHS Integrated Care Board for North Central London
- Beginning a review of the Compact – the overarching partnership agreement between Islington Council and the VCFSE sector

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- Working with Healthwatch Islington to promote health issues and LBI's employment support service

5e. Celebrating 50 Years of Service

We were proud during the year to celebrate our 50 years of service to the Islington community. We paid tribute to the founders of VAI and all the people who, across over five decades, served as volunteers, staff and trustees; our member organisations and everyone in the Borough's voluntary and community bodies; as well as our hugely valuable partners in the public sector, charitable trusts and businesses.

We hosted a major event at London Metropolitan University to commemorate these 50 years of work at our AGM on 2 November 2022, along with the Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards. We were pleased to welcome the Council Leader Cllr Kaya Comer Schwartz, local MP Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn, the Mayor of Islington Cllr Marian Spall, two former CEOs and several representatives of the local VCFSE to contribute to the occasion.

We published a history of our 50 years ('VAI - Celebrating 50 Years of Service'). The achievements of those five decades include:

- Pioneering work to set up new community centres and fostering new voluntary organisations and tenants associations
- Negotiating with the Council to set a baseline for staff working in the local voluntary sector, including the London Living Wage and appropriate pay scales
- Establishing the only accredited volunteer centre for the borough, matching thousands of volunteers with opportunities in local charities and community groups
- Supporting hundreds of local VCFSE organisations to get off the ground and flourish
- Providing a common voice for the VCFSE in times of need
- Setting standards for childcare and play areas
- Supporting greater equality and diversity
- Fostering the development of BAME, ethnic community and refugee support charities
- Organising thousands of volunteers to support our community during the Covid pandemic, including delivering food and essential supplies to homes and helping at vaccination centres

More information about our history and the impact we have made over the last 5 decades and continue to make can be found here: [VAI's 50th Anniversary Publication. Annual Impact Report 2021/2022](#)

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES

Our core activities, undertaken in our capacity as a Council for Voluntary Services are detailed below:

- We organise an annual conference for the local VCFSE sector on themes of particular relevance for the sector. This is an opportunity for our members to provide feedback and to inform future priorities
- We continue to provide an email news service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities
- We have negotiated an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate
- Our website is an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including local volunteering opportunities, funding and resources for organisations. We continued to add to and update our online directory of local organisations

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- We provide charities with desk spaces, affordable meeting and conference rooms and shared facilities through our Resource Centre. There are special rates on room hire for members
- We promote community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting
- We continue to run advice sessions and also run monthly "surgeries" where people can get initial advice about starting or developing a local community organisation
- We are proud to run the only nationally accredited Volunteer Centre for Islington - matching people interested in volunteering with local opportunities in the VCFS. We have a small team of volunteers involved in this work which provides a drop-in twice a week and promotes volunteering at local community events
- We provide a volunteering database that enables organisations to post their own volunteer opportunities, while at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Membership Services

During the year, we grew our membership to 568 local VCFSE organisations. Going forward we will be reviewing our membership offer and will work on improving our services to our membership.

Regular Communications

We circulated funding updates, job alerts and local community events via all our messaging platforms:

Social Media

VAI and its Volunteer Centre have 6,373 followers on Twitter with 3,758 following VAI and 2,615 following the Volunteer Centre. We have increased our Instagram followers by 22% to 808 from the previous year.

Newsgroup

The VAI Newsgroup increased from the previous year to over 700 local groups/organisations. This is a platform where the VCFSE shared local news about their services in Islington. Upon request, we also disseminated news and information from our council and public health colleagues. In 2022-23, 1,152 news emails were shared using this platform.

Volunteer Centre

We sent regular communications to organisations and residents registered at the Volunteer Centre.

Website

Our website had over 37k visits from VCS groups/organisations accessing a range of capacity building and organisational development information/resources and events to support the VCS in the delivery of their services.

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OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT PLACEMENTS

In addition to our trustees, during the past year, VAI had a small team of volunteers assisting us in delivering some of our activities. The volunteers supported the customer service of VAI Resource Centre and assisted with our Volunteer Centre brokerage service. They arranged face to face meetings with potential volunteers, supported the online Volunteer Fairs and promoting volunteering opportunities across Islington. By volunteering for VAI, the volunteers gained valuable work experience which resulted in one volunteer gaining paid employment at VAI.

Our volunteers during this year included: Justyna Kniec, Juliana Jalo, Kidist Melka, Nadine Johnson, Nisreen Abou Henda, Marlene Lall, Megan Malloy and Tara Harman. They provided support at the Resource Centre and Volunteer Centre, as well as providing support at Local Wellbeing Network events and meetings.

DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

We continued to develop new and existing cross-sector partnerships – please see Strategic Aims 4 & 5 above.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCFSE organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED

Our main sources of income are grants and donations from public authorities and charitable trusts and foundations, together with space rental income from our Resource Centre. The breakdown of our funding during this year:

- Islington Council core grant to continue our work in building capacity among local VCFS organisations and operating our Volunteer Centre brokerage service - £75,000.
- Islington Council - Local Wellbeing Networks - £45,000
- Islington Council – Young Islington Inclusion Project - £20,000
- Public Health Islington - hyperlocal vaccination and volunteering support - £39,372
- Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service) – Young Londoners Fund Network - £3,930
- VAI Resource Centre - £272,006

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net income, before gains on investments, of £53,307 (2022: £36,277). That surplus comprised net expenditure of £37,825 (2021: £64,750 surplus) on restricted funds and a £91,132 surplus (2022: £28,473 loss) on unrestricted funds. The surplus on unrestricted funds was the effective operating surplus for the year.

After incorporating the £14,976 loss incurred on investment values in the year (2022: £16,035 gain), net income (the annual surplus) reduces to £38,331 (2021: £52,312). The trustees consider that to be a satisfactory result for the year and consistent with their commitment to rebuild the charity reserves.

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Income increased from £407,946 in 2021-22 to £490,853 for the current year. Voluntary Action Islington's Resource Centre generated the largest source of income, as it has done in recent years, and continued its recovery from the Covid-19 impacted years. The London Borough of Islington (LBI) continued to support VAI's core activities under the Strategic Borough-wide Partners and Strategic Volunteering Partners grants.

At the year end all funds totalled £359,076 (2022: £320,745) of which £289,192 (2022: £213,036) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £181,729 (2022: £162,527).

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

Reserves

On 31 March 2023 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £289,192 (2022: £213,036).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £181,729 (2022: £162,527). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £181,729 is equivalent to 36% (2022: 36%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £107,436 (2022: £50,509), designations having been made to invest in VAI's IT infrastructure and to support potential relocation from the Resource Centre in 2024 including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £69,884 of restricted funds (2022: £107,709), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

Investment Policy and Performance

This year, Voluntary Action Islington implemented the investment policy as agreed in October 2022. The objectives of the policy are:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long-term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington
- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Investment values fell from £173,579 to 158,603 during the year resulting in annual unrealised losses of £14,976 (2022: £16,035 gains). The investments continue to be held with the expectation that values will rise in the future.

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Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

During the year the trustees carried out a review of the risks faced by the charity in relation to personnel, finance, property, reputation, new business, health and safety, governance and management, and performance. Plans to mitigate these risks were developed and reviewed. A risk register is maintained as part of the Business Plan and the trustees keep this under review.

The main factors likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity are a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to VCFSE organisations, a loss of funding or insecurity in our Resource Centre lease. We mitigate these risks by improving the facilities at the Resource Centre. We plan to maintain our financial resources by careful financial management and by continuing to provide excellent public benefit in conjunction with our partners and seeking funding for our projects and charitable services to the local VCFSE.

We also plan to ensure continuity in our Resource Centre provision by negotiating renewal of the lease in October 2024.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local VCFSE organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in partnership boards that influence how Islington Council including Islington's Integrated Care Board (ICB), the North Central London Integrated Care System and Public Health make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level. This includes multi-agency initiatives such as Fairer Together, where we represent our membership.

We will continue to work with VCFSE organisations to help diversify funding and other support, including by engaging with private business. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will continue to work with VCFSE by providing networking and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one-to-one support and training workshops.

We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road is an important community asset for local VCFS organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility.

Our website and social media are well used resources, and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013. The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 11 trustees with plans to recruit one further 1 trustee. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and during the past year a skills audit of current trustees was carried out. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building and organisational development. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law. The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), NCVO, and Children England. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9th September 2016 the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30th September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Hussain Ahmed remains a director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans as yet to appoint new Directors.

Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. A register of trustee interests is maintained and was updated during the year. Any potential conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each trustees meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. All job descriptions are independently evaluated, and staff receive the rate of pay applicable to the scale at which the post is evaluated. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees, who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

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STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees on 31st March 2023 was 568. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's independent assessor is 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 independent assessor is aware of that information

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

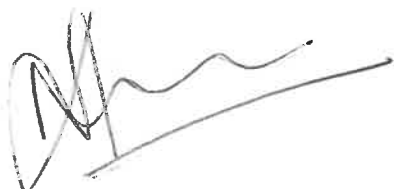
Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the Independent Examiners of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 30 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Navinder Kaur', written over a horizontal line.

Navinder Kaur
Company Secretary

Registered office:
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP

Independent examiner's report

To the members of Voluntary Action Islington Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	1,000	75,000	76,000	-	75,000	75,000
Charitable activities	3						
Community Development		50,000	-	50,000	41,132	-	41,132
Member Services and Support		20,000	3,930	23,930	-	4,939	4,939
Sector Development and Volunteering		44,372	288,423	332,795	75,781	199,334	275,115
Investments		-	8,128	8,128	-	7,478	7,478
Other	4	-	-	-	-	4,282	4,282
Total income		115,372	375,481	490,853	116,913	291,033	407,946
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Community Development		45,273	-	45,273	14,020	2,434	16,454
Member Services and Support		30,488	51,606	82,094	4,274	63,304	67,578
Sector Development and Volunteering		77,436	232,743	310,179	33,869	253,768	287,637
Total expenditure	5	153,197	284,349	437,546	52,163	319,506	371,669
Net (expenditure) income before net gains (losses) on investments		(37,825)	91,132	53,307	64,750	(28,473)	36,277
Net gains (losses) on investments	10	-	(14,976)	(14,976)	-	16,035	16,035
Net (expenditure) income for the year	8	(37,825)	76,156	38,331	64,750	(12,438)	52,312
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(5,565)	5,565	-
Net movement in funds		(37,825)	76,156	38,331	59,185	(6,873)	52,312
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		107,709	213,036	320,745	48,524	219,909	268,433
Total funds carried forward	15	69,884	289,192	359,076	107,709	213,036	320,745

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 23 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited (Limited by guarantee)**Balance sheet**

Company No. 01913555

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	13,468	27,522
Investments	10	<u>158,603</u>	<u>173,579</u>
		172,071	201,101
Current assets			
Debtors	11	27,227	17,179
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>254,605</u>	<u>176,072</u>
		281,832	193,251
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(94,827)</u>	<u>(73,607)</u>
Net current assets		<u>187,005</u>	<u>119,644</u>
Net assets	14	<u>359,076</u>	<u>320,745</u>
Funds	15		
Restricted funds		69,884	107,709
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		107,463	50,509
General funds		<u>181,729</u>	<u>162,527</u>
Total funds		<u>359,076</u>	<u>320,745</u>

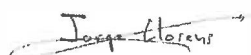
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 30 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Jorge Llorens
Treasurer



Joseph David Irvin
Chair

The notes on pages 23 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	16		70,405		69,165
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends from investments		8,128		7,478	
Sale (purchase) of fixed assets		-		(2,915)	
Sale (purchase) of investments		-		-	
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			8,128		4,563
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			78,533		73,728
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			176,827		103,099
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17		255,360		176,827

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Voluntary Action Islington meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

1b Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. They are confident that the level of reserves, the strong recovery from Covid-19 disruption in the last year and the on-going diversification of income streams will together ensure its ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgements have been made by the charitable company which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1c Income

Income, including income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are credited to incoming resources when they are receivable as the charity's own money, unless they are for activities that relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred to that period.

Income received under contracts for services which cross over the year end are recognised in the financial statements in line with the percentage of completion of the contract at the year end.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Distributions from listed investments are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally the date on which the holding is first quoted ex dividend or the end date of the period for which it is accrued as notified by the fund manager.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

1e Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of services and support to members and developing volunteering and the local voluntary sector undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

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

1f Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with their use of resources.

Premises are allocated proportionate to floor space occupied by each activity as follows:

Community Development	1.2%
Member Services and Support	2.3%
Sector Development and Volunteering	95.6%
Support costs	0.8%
Governance costs	0.1%

Other costs of administration are allocated per capita VAI staff and other occupants of the Resource Centre as follows:

Community Development	2.7%
Member Services and Support	5.4%
Sector Development and Volunteering	89.9%
Support costs	1.9%
Governance costs	0.1%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Community Development	7.4%
Member Services and Support	14.9%
Sector Development and Volunteering	77.7%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1g Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the length of the lease.

1h Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	4 years
Leasehold property	The lesser of 15 years or the remaining lease term

1i Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1j Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington	1,000	75,000	76,000	75,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>76,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>

Voluntary Action Islington benefit from a Section 106 Agreement that provides accommodation at a peppercorn rent. As it is not possible to put an accurate value to this, it has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington				
Local Wellbeing Network	45,000	-	45,000	30,000
Peabody				
Local Wellbeing Network	-	-	-	11,132
Donations and similar income, under	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Sub-total for Community Development	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>41,132</u>
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service)				
Young Londoner's Fund Network	-	3,930	3,930	4,939
London Borough of Islington				
Young Islington Networks	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Sub-total for Member Services and Support	<u>20,000</u>	<u>3,930</u>	<u>23,930</u>	<u>4,939</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

3 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Community resource and other service income	-	272,006	272,006	154,322
London Borough of Islington				
COVID-19 vaccination roll-out support	-	-	-	36,026
COVID-19 vaccine uptake	-	-	-	59,281
Public Health	39,372	-	39,372	-
Peabody (via The London Community Foundation)				
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	-	-	15,000
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	5,000	16,417	21,417	10,486
Sub-total for Sector Development and Volunteering	44,372	288,423	332,795	275,115
Total income from charitable activities	114,372	292,353	406,725	321,186

4 Other income

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	4,282
	-	-	-	4,282

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

5 Analysis of expenditure

5a Current year	Charitable activities			Sector Development and Volunteering		Governance costs	Support costs	2023 Total	2022 Total
	Community Development	Member Services and Support		£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 6)	21,868	53,032	169,077	1,711	21,021	266,709	216,686		
Agency staff	-	-	728	-	19,812	20,540	21,872		
Other staff costs	223	970	2,918	10	144	4,265	2,488		
Direct activity costs	16,749	423	6,610	-	19	23,801	6,221		
Premises	709	1,359	56,478	35	496	59,077	67,504		
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	14,054	14,054	14,621		
Admin and ICT	821	2,449	37,044	39	557	40,910	34,681		
Compliance	-	-	183	5,189	2,818	8,190	7,596		
	40,370	58,233	273,038	6,984	58,921	437,546	371,669		
Governance costs	685	1,368	4,931	(6,984)	-	-	-		
Support Costs	4,218	22,493	32,210	-	(58,921)	-	-		
Total expenditure 2023	45,273	82,094	310,179	-	-	437,546	371,669		

5b Prior year

Direct expenditure	13,607	56,561	241,541	5,333	54,627	371,669
Support and governance costs allocated	2,847	11,017	46,096	(5,333)	(54,627)	-
Total expenditure 2022	16,454	67,578	287,637	-	-	371,669

Support and governance costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity (note 1f).
Of the total expenditure, £284,349 was unrestricted (2022: £319,506) and £153,197 was restricted (2022: £52,163).

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	234,372	187,400
Redundancy and termination costs	-	4,208
Social security costs	18,886	14,731
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	13,451	10,348
	266,709	216,687
Agency costs	20,540	16,601
	287,249	233,288

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2022: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer's national insurance of the key management personnel were £78,026 (2022: £57,330).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year (2022: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2022: none).

Staff numbers:

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 8 (2022: 6).

The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year and by activity was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Community Development	0.6	0.3
Member Services and Support	1.2	1.1
Sector Development and Volunteering	4.3	3.0
Support and governance	0.5	0.4
	6.6	4.8

7 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

8 Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	14,054	14,621
Board of Trustees - indemnity insurance	505	492
Operating lease charges	8,613	8,319
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	3,000	3,000

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment £	Leasehold property £	2023 Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	101,397	133,950	235,347
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	<u>(5,279)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,279)</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>96,118</u>	<u>133,950</u>	<u>230,068</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	97,899	109,926	207,825
Charge for the year	2,041	12,013	14,054
Eliminated on disposal	<u>(5,279)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,279)</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>94,661</u>	<u>121,939</u>	<u>216,600</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,457</u>	<u>12,011</u>	<u>13,468</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>3,498</u>	<u>24,024</u>	<u>27,522</u>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

10 Fixed asset investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Listed investments (note 10a)	158,602	173,578
Investment in subsidiary company (note 10b)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>158,603</u>	<u>173,579</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

10a Listed investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of movement of investments		
Market value at start of year	172,823	156,788
Disposals at market value	-	-
Realised gains / (losses)	-	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	<u>(14,976)</u>	<u>16,035</u>
Market value at year end	157,847	172,823
Cash instruments and cash held for reinvestment	<u>755</u>	<u>755</u>
Fair value at year end	<u>158,602</u>	<u>173,578</u>
Historical cost	<u>158,595</u>	<u>158,595</u>

The investments comprise two UK unit trusts.

10b Investment in subsidiary company

VAI beneficially owns the entire share capital of Voluntary Action Services Limited (a company limited by share capital, company no. 8612449 (England and Wales)), through which VAI's commercial trading previously took place. In September 2016 the decision was taken to suspend trading through the company. The company remained dormant at 31 March 2023.

The share capital and reserves of the subsidiary are not material and therefore no consolidated accounts have been prepared. Disclosure is confined to this note to the accounts.

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment in Voluntary Action Services Ltd at cost	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

At 31 March 2023 VAI held one share of £1, being the entire share capital of the trading company.

10b Investment in subsidiary company (continued)

Relevant financial information regarding Voluntary Action Services Ltd is as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Assets	1	1
Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

11 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	18,456	9,108
Other debtors	3,152	798
Prepayments	5,619	7,273
	<u>27,227</u>	<u>17,179</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Tax and social security costs	6,488	4,777
Trade creditors	14,955	10,543
Other creditors	-	1,515
Accruals	73,214	53,119
Deferred income (note 12)	170	3,653
	<u>94,827</u>	<u>73,607</u>

Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	3,653	4,884
Amount released to income in the year	(3,653)	(4,884)
Amount deferred in the year	170	3,653
Balance at the end of the year	<u>170</u>	<u>3,653</u>

Deferred income comprises resource centre income received in advance (2022: one partially delivered service contract).

13 Related party transactions

Colin Adams is a trustee of VAI and a trustee of Octopus Community Network.

VAI paid Octopus Community Network £8,149 towards costs incurred in supporting the Local Wellbeing Network programme in the year. There were no related party transactions to disclose for 2022.

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

14 Analysis of group net assets between funds

14a Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	7,005	6,463	-	13,468
Investment assets	-	60,000	98,603	158,603
Net current assets	<u>62,879</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>83,126</u>	187,005
Net assets at 31 March 2023	<u>69,884</u>	<u>107,463</u>	<u>181,729</u>	359,076

14b Prior year

	Restricted £	Designated £	General £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	14,013	13,509	-	27,522
Investment assets	-	33,000	140,579	173,579
Net current assets	<u>93,696</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>21,948</u>	119,644
Net assets at 31 March 2022	<u>107,709</u>	<u>50,509</u>	<u>162,527</u>	320,745

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15 Movements in funds

15a Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	17,664	-	(10,488)	-	7,176
Cost of living	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	34,818	-	(34,818)	-	-
Local Wellbeing Network	27,112	45,000	(44,194)	-	27,918
Public Health and Community Engagement	-	39,372	(15,508)	-	23,864
South Islington volunteering opportunities	14,102	-	(14,102)	-	-
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	-	5,000	(1,079)	-	3,921
VCFS Annual Conference	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Young Islington Networks	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Fixed assets	14,013	-	(7,008)	-	7,005
Total restricted funds	107,709	115,372	(153,197)	-	69,884
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	33,000	-	-	64,000	97,000
Fixed assets	13,509	-	(7,046)	-	6,463
<i>Total designated funds</i>	50,509	-	(7,046)	64,000	107,463
General funds	162,527	375,481	(292,279)	(64,000)	181,729
Total unrestricted funds	213,036	375,481	(299,325)	-	289,192
Total funds	320,745	490,853	(452,522)	-	359,076

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15 Movements in funds (continued)

15b Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	21,938	-	(4,274)	-	17,664
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	-	59,281	(24,463)	-	34,818
Islington Environment Forum	5,565	-	-	(5,565)	-
Local Wellbeing Network	-	41,132	(14,020)	-	27,112
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	15,000	(898)	-	14,102
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Fixed assets	21,021	-	(7,008)	-	14,013
Total restricted funds	48,524	116,913	(52,163)	(5,565)	107,709
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvement	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	33,000	-	-	-	33,000
Fixed assets	11,081	-	(7,613)	10,041	13,509
<i>Total designated funds</i>	53,081	-	(12,613)	10,041	50,509
General funds	166,828	307,068	(306,893)	(4,476)	162,527
Total unrestricted funds	219,909	307,068	(319,506)	5,565	213,036
Total funds	268,433	423,981	(371,669)	-	320,745

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds

Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Funds provided by the London Borough of Islington to support activities by the Children's Voluntary Sector Forum.
Cost of Living	NAVCA funding to facilitate the sharing of data and insight between VCFS and LBI. Includes facilitation and support for the LBI staff volunteering programme.
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	Funded by NCL Clinical Commissioning Group and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the programme aimed to improve Covid-19 vaccination take up in areas and communities where it is low.
Islington Environment Forum	Funds originally transferred from Groundwork London for activities undertaken by the Islington Environment Forum, led by an Independent Chair. After five years of inactivity, with multiple attempts made over time to contact representatives of the Forum to ascertain their intentions for this funding, VAI's trustees concluded in 2021-22 that they were no longer required for this restricted purpose and took them back to general funds.
Local Wellbeing Network	As part of Islington Council's 'Fairer Together' initiative, VAI and Octopus Community Network have been funded to develop Local Wellbeing Networks in the North, Central and South localities to increase collaboration between local services and to provide a platform for community voice.
Public Health and Community Engagement	Funding to develop effective partnerships with Public Health and the local VCFS to promote Covid vaccination and other health and wellbeing offers.
South Islington volunteering opportunities	To provide outreach services to Peabody residents especially those located in the south of the borough.
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	To partner with Healthprom, and develop a network of organisations to provide more effective support to Ukrainian families hosted through the sponsorship programme.
VCFS Annual Conference	LBI funding towards catering costs for event held at London
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	Grants from NAVCA to provide local intelligence, supplied via weekly Emergency Partnerships Pulse Check Surveys, about local priority concerns arising from Covid-19.
Young Islington Networks	To widen the engagement and participation of Islington's VCFS in the Young Islington Networks and the Universal Youth Work Offer.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds (continued)

Fixed assets To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from restricted funding.

Purpose of designated funds

ICT infrastructure development A fund to invest in essential improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the Resource Centre.

Relocation A fund to be built up over 10 years so that Voluntary Action Islington is in a position to manage its liabilities at the end of the lease on the current building in October 2024 and to seek alternative premises. £64,000 was designated to the fund in the year.

Fixed assets To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from unrestricted funds.

16 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	38,331	52,312
Depreciation	14,054	14,621
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	(8,128)	(7,478)
(Gains) / losses on investments	14,976	(16,035)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(10,048)	17,287
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	21,220	8,458
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	70,405	69,165

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	Other changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	176,072	78,533	-	254,605
Cash held by investment managers	755	-	-	755
Total cash and cash equivalents	176,827	78,533	-	255,360

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

18 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Less than one year	8,610	8,582
One to five years	24,869	31,538
Over five years	-	1,913
	<u>33,479</u>	<u>42,033</u>

19 Contingent liability

Under the terms of the lease for its current premises Voluntary Action Islington is liable for the costs of restoring the property to its original condition, including removal of all fixtures and fittings, if so required by the landlord when yielding up the property at the end of the lease term (October 2024). The extent of the works that will be required and the consequent cost cannot reasonably be estimated at this time and so no provision has been made for this in the accounts.

20 Company limited by guarantee

Voluntary Action Islington is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 291890

Accounts

Company No. 01913555
Charity No. 291890

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

31 March 2022

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Charity registration number 291890

Company registration number 01913555

Registered Office 200a Pentonville Road
London
N1 9JP

Board of Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Joseph David Irvin (Chair from 27 April 2021)
Philip John Kelly (Chair until 27 April 2021)
Colin Adams
Ken Hettiarachi
Emma Victoria Hutchins
Josephine Mary Langdale
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)
Barbara Joan Ludlow (resigned 15 December 2021)
Hussain Ahmed
Santa Gascoigne

**Chief Executive Officer and
Company Secretary**

Navinder Kaur

Auditor

Goldwins Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
Nine Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

Solicitors

Bates Wells
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

OUR AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose and aims

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not-for-profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

Over the year the staff and trustees reviewed VAI's mission, vision, values and aims and this annual report reflects these strategic changes.

Our Vision

A thriving voluntary and community sector in Islington: enriching people's lives and building stronger communities

Our Mission

To strengthen our local voluntary and community sector's ability to deliver services effectively and to promote social justice

Our Values

- **Effective:** creative, energetic and responsive
- **With Integrity:** honest, professional and respectful
- **Positive:** building on strengths, not just focusing on problems
- **Inclusive:** valuing the importance of diversity and equality
- **Collaborative:** building partnerships and co-designing solutions

Our Strategic Aims

- To support the **development** of Islington's Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)
- To empower Islington's **communities**
- To enable **volunteering**
- To facilitate a stronger **VCS voice** to influence policy
- To work in **partnership** across the VCS and all sector

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Public Benefit

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, Community Safety and Health.

Our strategic aims are to enable the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCFS) to address these issues, by supporting organisations to:

- Be more sustainably funded and resourced.
- Deliver more effective services.
- Be more able to influence local policy.

In addition, we want to support the people who volunteer for VCFS organisations by ensuring:

- Volunteers gain more social contacts, employability, and improved health.

Through the development of a new Theory of Change for Voluntary Action Islington, we were able to map out the changes that we want to achieve for the sector, and the steps that we will take to achieve this change. These specific activities have been briefly described below, as they relate to each aim.

STRATEGIC AIM 1: Support Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Development

During this year, our main activities included:

- In July 2021, we were pleased to secure a further 3 years core funding to enable us to continue to support the local VCS – mostly micro and small and grassroots organisations. As part of our forward plan, we have taken into consideration what the VCFS fed back through Islington Council's capacity building review carried out by Locality in early 2021 as well as our own insight from what VCFS organisations have been telling us and what we have observed through our service delivery and consultations. Providing advice, information, and Support for local groups.
- Throughout the year we responded to 195 requests for support and advice from local groups. We held 16 advice sessions in which 37 different groups attended. We provided advice and support to 59 different groups outside of the structured advice sessions, so in total we worked with 96 different groups via zoom meetings, in-person, through telephone calls and emails
- In partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF), we hosted 1- to -1 funding advice surgeries every 2 months, to help organisations make better applications to TNLCF Reaching Communities funding programme. Two Funding booklets were produced during the year (July 2021 and January 2022), and frequent updates both with over 100 funding programmes. In total 10 organisations applied for funding, 3 were successful with the Awards for All funding totalling approximately £30,000 and 2 organisations are being assessed for the Reaching Communities funding programme.
- We organised three workshops: 'Getting Back on Track' – April 2021, Finding the Funds - July 2021, and Writing Better Funding Applications – February 2022

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

- In order to support VCS organisations to grow their network and professional connections and to improve relative digital literacy within the sector, we delivered free LinkedIn training in April 2021
- We conducted a consultation with youth providers to find out how we can best support them and the work they do.
- We worked with Peabody, who brought together a partnership including Cripplegate (via Islington Giving), Southern Housing Group, Hyde, Newlon, Help on Your Doorstep (HOYD), and Octopus Community Network to develop 'Make it Happen' – a Small Grants Programme for Local Ideas a borough-wide micro grant offer to residents to apply for £500 grants for a community project to life.
- In partnership with the Ethical Property Foundation, we offered a free property webinar - How to Write a Property Plan - in May 21 run by experts, helping organisations write a simple, well thought out property plan.
- We worked in cross sector partnership with a variety of agencies to deliver capacity building support to the VCS, including Big Alliance, Cripplegate Foundation, Funders Network, LBI Young Islington, Russell-Cooke, and the National Lottery Community Fund.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: Empower Communities

During this year, our main activities included:

- Our CEO served on the Inequality Task Force set up by Islington Council to help shape the borough's longer term strategic priorities, together with Executive Members, Councillors, Schools, GPs, NHS, London Metropolitan University, TUC and The New Economics Foundation, with facilitation provided by New Local.
- We engaged VCFS partners in Let's Talk Islington, an initiative spearheaded by the Islington Council to help engage local residents in building a more equal future for the borough by identifying their most pressing priorities. Our CEO described the purpose of the campaign in the Islington Life magazine.
- Local Wellbeing Networks (LWNs) were a major priority. We developed an exciting new partnership with Octopus Community Network and through which we secured funding from the council for the development of the LWN, creating a new route/mechanism for promoting community voice, connecting VCFS, public sector and residents and using this partnership to co-deliver services.
- Monthly Local Wellbeing Network meetings aimed to connect all local services, groups, and organisations, collaborate and co-deliver initiatives to tackle local health inequalities and to capture community voice, including two stakeholder meetings held on 23 and 24 February 2022.
- Recruitment began for the training of 45 Islington community members to become Community Organisers as part of the Local Wellbeing Network strategy to empower resident voice and engage localised communities.
- We are delighted to report that from an initial investment of £30,000 to facilitate the creation of the Local Wellbeing Networks in the three Locality Areas in Islington, the collaboration between VAI and Octopus Community Network has in the first year secured a financial contribution of £141,132 to realise the potential of the project, forging new relationships with the Peabody Trust, and with Public Health Islington.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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For the year ended 31 March 2022

- A successful funding application to North Central London Commissioning Group led by VAI and supported by Public Health Islington enabled us to adopt a more localised and community approach in the roll out of the vaccination programme in wards with the lowest take up of the vaccination. Aligning the Hyperlocal Vaccination Programme to the development and delivery of these new networks has ensured targeted, joined up working and in some cases first time collaborations
- With a view to ensuring inclusivity and widening participation around the theme of health and the LWN, in February 2022 we created the borough-wide Health and Wellbeing Network, as a direct response to the pandemic, but also around the growing need for clear communications around health, both physical and mental throughout Islington.

STRATEGIC AIM 3: Enable Volunteering

During this year, our main activities included:

- VAI processed 1,200 registrations of interest from volunteers to support the COVID-19 vaccination programme at the mass vaccination sites at the Arsenal stadium and the Business Design Centre and supported the recruitment and co-ordination of volunteers at the local clinics situated at Bingfield and Hanley Clinics.
- VAI carried out a volunteering survey where we received 56 responses from our member organisations, to help us to gather insight into the needs of the VCFS.
- Provided volunteering brokerage opportunities – with most registrations of interest by volunteers for the Covid Vaccination programme; befriending; food banks and administrative roles.
- VAI hosted 3 online volunteering fairs (June & October 2021 and February 2022) in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden, to support the recruitment of volunteers.

Our reach

- 1,232 new volunteers registered with the Volunteer Centre, bringing a total of 3,855 registered volunteers.
- 36 new VCFS groups/organisations registered with our Volunteer Centre, bringing the total of organisations registered to 299.
- 203 volunteer roles were promoted.
- 1,200 volunteers registered as marshals and stewards for the Covid 19 Vaccination Programme.

Development of new partnerships to promote volunteering

- We developed a partnership and received funding from Coram Beanstalk to undertake a piece of research, looking at what were the barriers preventing local people in Islington in engaging with the Coram Beanstalk volunteering opportunities to support Islington primary school aged children with their reading.
- We worked in partnership with Peabody Trust to create new volunteering opportunities among Peabody Trust residents in South Islington over a two-year period.
- We continue to be active members of the Network facilitated by London Plus, to share best practice and information.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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- In June 2021, we organised an online event during Volunteers' Week to celebrate and recognise the efforts of our volunteers who delivered vital work as part of the COVID-19 Vaccination programme roll-out and those who usually volunteer but were not able to due to the pandemic.

The Volunteer of the Year Awards were presented to the successful volunteers (see below).

STRATEGIC AIM 4: Stronger Voice

During this year, our main activities included:

We hosted an online 'Wellbeing for All' event on the 12 May 2021

We took an active part in the Community Conversations, helping to set the agenda and co-chairing the series with Cllr Sue Lukes, Executive Member for Communities. We hosted 5 conversations during the year.

Our CEO represented the VCFS at the following workshops as well as supporting the engagement of the wider VCFS in the development of council strategies:

- Progressive Procurement – July 2021
- LBI Violence Reduction Strategy – September 2021
- LBI Good Work – What's the system change we need to see happen? What part do we all play? – September 2021
- Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Wider Fairer Together partnership: Bright Islington Partnership Board; Challenging Inequality Coalition; Challenging Inequality Partnership Working Group, All Age Mental Health Partnerships Inequalities Work Stream; and the Strategic Executive Group (SEG)

STRATEGIC AIM 5: Strengthen Partnerships

Much of our work to strengthen the voice of the VCFS under our fourth strategic aim also reinforces this aim.

During this year, our main activities included:

- We supported the development of Islington Council's Young Islington Networks bringing together VCFS providers of children and young people's services. The aims of the Networks are to provide an opportunity to access information, funding, and capacity building opportunities; Free training, space for meetings and activities; conferences and workshops on a wide range of topical issues for young people and providers; opportunity to access a wide range of statutory partners for information and support opportunities for young people through a well promoted collective offer
- To support the development of the Young Islington Networks, we secured one-year funding from Islington Council to support the engagement and participation of Islington's diverse VCFS in the 3 Networks and the Universal Youth Work Offer. Our particular focus is to encourage and support the participation of small groups and grassroots organisations especially those working with Bangladeshi, Somali and Turkish young people and supporting VCFS groups representing these communities in developing their youth work practice and their strategic engagement with the Networks.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

CORE ACTIVITIES

Our core activities, undertaken in our capacity as a Council for Voluntary Services are detailed below:

- We organise an annual conference for the local voluntary and community sector on a theme of particular relevance for the sector, and we invite high profile speakers. This is an opportunity for our members to provide feedback and to inform future priorities.
- We provide an electronic newsletter to our members on a bi-monthly basis and continue to provide an email news service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities.
- We have negotiated an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate.
- Our website is an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including local volunteering opportunities, funding and resources for organisations. We continued to add to and update our online directory of local organisations.
- We provide charities with desk spaces, affordable meeting and conference rooms and shared facilities through our Resource Centre. There are special rates on room hire for members.
- We promote community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting.
- We continue to run advice sessions and also run monthly "surgeries" where people can get initial advice about starting or developing a local community organisation.
- We are proud to run the only nationally accredited Volunteer Centre for Islington - matching people interested in volunteering with local opportunities in the VCFS. We have a small team of volunteers involved in this work which provides a drop-in twice a week and promotes volunteering at local community events.
- We provide a volunteering database that enables organisations to post their own volunteer opportunities, while at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements.

OUR VOLUNTEERS & STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Many of our volunteers work with us to gain experience that will assist them to find employment. In addition to our trustees, during the past year, VAI had a small team of volunteers assisting us in delivering some of our activities. The volunteers supported the customer service of VAI Resource Centre and assisted with our Volunteer Centre brokerage service. They arranged face to face meetings with potential volunteers, supported the online Volunteer Fairs and promoting volunteering opportunities across Islington. By volunteering for VAI, the volunteers gained valuable work experience which resulted in two of them accessing paid employment.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCFS organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Membership Services

During the year, we grew our membership to 531 local VCS organisations. Going forward we will be reviewing our membership offer and will work on improving our services to our membership.

VAI and its Volunteer Centre have 6,310 followers on Twitter. We have also increased our Instagram followers by 20% to 629 from the previous year.

Newsgroup

The VAI Newsgroup increased from the previous year to 675 local groups/organisations. This is a platform where the VCS shared local news about their services in Islington. Upon request, we also disseminated news and information from our council and public health colleagues. In 2021-22, 532 news emails were shared using this platform.

Newsletter

Our newsletter went out on 16 occasions throughout the year to the VAI Newsgroup and our members. In the newsletter we focused on 7 topics – VAI News, Funding, Volunteering in Islington, Health and Wellbeing, Inequality, Local Information and Online Training and Events.

Website

Our website had over 37,000 visits from VCS groups/organisations accessing a range of capacity building and organisational development information/resources and events to support the VCS in the delivery of their services.

VAI RESOURCE CENTRE

VAI manages a Resource Centre which acts as a community space for training and events and provides permanent and hot desking space to 24 VCFS groups and organisations.

We provided over 35 permanent desks and hot desking facility to 24 charities, especially small groups/organisations. Our hosted organisations include local, regional, national and international equalities organisations:

During the year, we have supported 36 charities, including small groups/organisations on 235 occasions, providing them with training, conference, and meeting room facilities.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS

We continue to celebrate and promote volunteering. We have a section on our website with examples of the difference that volunteers are making to life in Islington. In June 2021, we organised an online event during Volunteers' Week to celebrate and recognise the efforts of our volunteers who delivered vital work in the COVID-19 Vaccination programme and those who usually volunteer but were not able to due to the pandemic.

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards in December 2021 were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes, and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by Islington's Mayor Cllr Troy Gallagher at an online celebration in December. The winners were:

- Older Volunteer of the Year 60+: Anita Maiagmiot, nominated by Islington Chinese Association
- Volunteering Team of the Year: The Arc Foodbank Volunteer Team, The Arc Centre
- Volunteer of the Year 26-60: Ian Spencer, nominated by Octopus Community Network
- Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year: Adrian Brown, nominated by The Elfrida Society
- Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25: Aleksandra Tihomirova, nominated by Soapbox Youth Centre

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road continues to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFS and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources. During the year, we continued with the adjustments due to the Covid restrictions.

DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

We continued to develop new and existing cross-sector partnerships – please see strategic aims 4 & 5 above.

KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED

Our main sources of income are grants and donations from public authorities and charitable trusts and foundations, together with earned space rental income from our Resource Centre.

- Islington Council core grant to continue our work in building capacity among local VCFS organisations and operating our Volunteer Centre brokerage service - £75,000
- Islington Council - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – Additional Restrictions Grant supporting Islington businesses through Covid 19 - £4,282
- Islington Council - Local Wellbeing Networks - £30,000
- Peabody - Local Wellbeing Networks - £11,192
- Public Health Islington - hyperlocal vaccination and volunteering support - £59,281
- Peabody - South Islington volunteering opportunities - £15,000
- Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service) – Young Londoners Fund Network - £4,939
- NAVCA Emergency Partnership - £1,500
- Coram Beanstalk - £3,652

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net income, before gains on investments, of £36,277 (2021: net expenditure of £51,260). That surplus comprised a surplus of £64,750 (2021: £1,235 surplus) on restricted funds and a £28,473 loss (2021: £52,495) on unrestricted funds. The loss on unrestricted funds was the effective operating loss for the year.

Investments increased in value by £16,035 (2021: £24,933). Net income (the annual surplus) increases to £52,312 (£2021: £26,327 loss).

Income increased from the previous year's £315,568 to £407,946 for the current year.

At the year end all funds totalled £320,745 (2021: £268,433) of which £213,036 (2021: £219,909) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £162,527 (2021: £166,828).

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

Reserves

On 31 March 2022 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £213,036 (2021: £219,909).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £162,527 (2021: £166,828). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £162,527 is equivalent to 36% (2021: 45%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £50,509 (2021: £53,081), designations having been made to invest in VAI's IT infrastructure and to support potential relocation from the Resource Centre in 2024 including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £107,709 of restricted funds (2021: £48,524), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

Investment policy and performance

This year Voluntary Action Islington continued to implement the investment policy last agreed in 2014. The objectives of the policy are:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services

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delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long-term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington.

- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return.

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Some recovery was made from the Covid-19 impacted low values of the previous year and annual unrealised gains of £16,035 (2021: £24,933 gains) was generated in the current year.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

Principal risks and uncertainties

During the year the trustees carried out a review of the risks faced by the charity in relation to personnel, finance, property, reputation, new business, health and safety, governance and management, and performance. Plans to mitigate these risks were developed and reviewed. A risk register is maintained as part of the Business Plan and the trustees keep this under review.

The main factor likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity is a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to voluntary organisations, as a result of Covid-19. We mitigate this risk by improving the facilities at the resource centre, including making it Covid compliant, continuing to promote our facilities to a wide cross-section of relevant VCS organisations seeking desk and/or room hire facilities in central London, and adapting our offer to the developing needs of the sector.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local VCFS organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in partnership boards that influence how Islington Council including Islington's Integrated Care Board (ICB), the North Central London Integrated Care System and Public Health make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level. This includes multi-agency initiatives such as Fairer Together, where we represent our membership.

We will continue to work with VCFS organisations to help diversify funding and other support, including by engaging with private business. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will continue to work with VCFS by providing networking and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one-to-one support and training workshops.

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

The Voluntary Action Islington Resource Centre on Pentonville Road is an important community asset for local VCFS organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility.

Our website and social media are well used resources, and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013. The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 10 trustees with plans to recruit a further 2 trustees. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and during the past year a skills audit of current trustees was carried out. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law. The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), NCVO, and Children England. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9th September 2016 the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30th September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Hussain Ahmed remains a Director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans as yet to appoint new Directors.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. A register of trustee interests is maintained and was updated during the year. Any potential conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each trustees meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. All job descriptions are independently evaluated, and staff receive the rate of pay applicable to the scale at which the post is evaluated. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees, who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation.

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees on 31st March 2022 was 531. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR AUDITORS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is 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 auditor is aware of that information.

AUDITORS

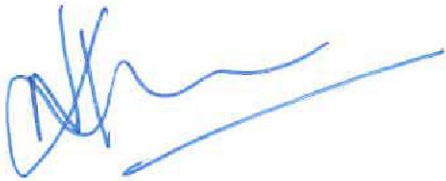
Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the auditors of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 25 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Navinder Kaur
Company Secretary

Registered office:
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP

Independent examiner's report

To the members of Voluntary Action Islington Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	-	75,000	75,000	3,750	75,716	79,466
Charitable activities	3						
Community Development		41,132	-	41,132	-	-	-
Member Services and Support		-	4,939	4,939	20,000	6,585	26,585
Sector Development and							
Volunteering		75,781	199,334	275,115	23,110	144,356	167,466
Investments		-	7,478	7,478	-	9,489	9,489
Other	4	-	4,282	4,282	-	32,562	32,562
Total income		116,913	291,033	407,946	46,860	268,708	315,568
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Community Development		14,020	2,434	16,454			-
Member Services and Support		4,274	63,304	67,578	11,757	101,122	112,879
Sector Development and							
Volunteering		33,869	253,768	287,637	33,868	220,081	253,949
Total expenditure	5	52,163	319,506	371,669	45,625	321,203	366,828
Net (expenditure) income before net gains (losses) on investments		64,750	(28,473)	36,277	1,235	(52,495)	(51,260)
Net gains (losses) on investments	10	-	16,035	16,035	-	24,933	24,933
Net (expenditure) income for the year	8	64,750	(12,438)	52,312	1,235	(27,562)	(26,327)
Transfers between funds		(5,565)	5,565	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		59,185	(6,873)	52,312	1,235	(27,562)	(26,327)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		48,524	219,909	268,433	47,289	247,471	294,760
Total funds carried forward	15	107,709	213,036	320,745	48,524	219,909	268,433

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 20 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited (Limited by guarantee)**Balance sheet**

Company No. 01913555

As at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	27,522	39,228
Investments	10	173,579	157,544
		<u>201,101</u>	<u>196,772</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	11	17,179	34,466
Cash at bank and in hand		176,072	102,344
		<u>193,251</u>	<u>136,810</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(73,607)	(65,149)
Net current assets		<u>119,644</u>	<u>71,661</u>
Net assets	14	<u>320,745</u>	<u>268,433</u>
Funds	15		
Restricted funds		107,709	48,524
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		50,509	53,081
General funds		162,527	166,828
Total funds		<u>320,745</u>	<u>268,433</u>

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

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 25 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Jorge Llorens
Treasurer



Joseph David Irvin
Chair

IRVIN JDS

The notes on pages 20 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	16		69,165		(40,914)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends from investments		7,478		9,489	
Sale (purchase) of fixed assets		(2,915)		-	
Sale (purchase) of investments		-		70,000	
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			4,563		79,489
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			73,728		38,575
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			103,099		64,524
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17		176,827		103,099

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Voluntary Action Islington meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

1b Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In reaching that conclusion the trustees have considered the possible impact of the COVID -19 pandemic on future activities and cash flows. They have considered a number of different scenarios and although the future impact of the pandemic on Resource Centre income generation, a significant part of VAI's total income, is not easy to predict, the trustees are confident that the level of reserves, the on-going diversification of income streams and the proven capacity to adapt the Resource Centre delivery model will together ensure its ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgements have been made by the charitable company which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1c Income

Income, including income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are credited to incoming resources when they are receivable as the charity's own money, unless they are for activities that relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred to that period.

Income received under contracts for services which cross over the year end are recognised in the financial statements in line with the percentage of completion of the contract at the year end.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Distributions from listed investments are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally the date on which the holding is first quoted ex dividend or the end date of the period for which it is accrued as notified by the fund manager.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

1e Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of services and support to members and developing volunteering and the local voluntary sector undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

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

1f Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with their use of resources.

Premises are allocated proportionate to floor space occupied by each activity as follows:

Community Development	0.8%
Member Services and Support	2.9%
Sector Development and Volunteering	95.2%
Support costs	1.0%
Governance costs	0.1%

Other costs of administration are allocated per capita VAI staff and other occupants of the Resource Centre as follows:

Community Development	1.8%
Member Services and Support	7.0%
Sector Development and Volunteering	88.8%
Support costs	2.2%
Governance costs	0.2%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Community Development	4.7%
Member Services and Support	18.4%
Sector Development and Volunteering	76.9%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1g Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the length of the lease.

1h Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	4 years
Leasehold property	The lesser of 15 years or the remaining lease term

1i Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1j Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
Other grants and similar income, under £5,000 each	-	-	-	4,466
	-	75,000	75,000	79,466

Voluntary Action Islington benefit from a Section 106 Agreement that provides accommodation at a peppercorn rent. As it is not possible to put an accurate value to this, it has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington				
Local Wellbeing Network	30,000	-	30,000	-
Peabody				
Local Wellbeing Network	11,132	-	11,132	-
Sub-total for Community Development	41,132	-	41,132	-
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service)				
Young Londoner's Fund Network	-	4,939	4,939	6,585
London Borough of Islington				
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	-	-	-	20,000
Sub-total for Member Services and Support	-	4,939	4,939	26,585

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

3 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Community resource and other service income	-	154,322	154,322	117,439
London Borough of Islington				
COVID-19 vaccination roll-out support	-	36,026	36,026	12,020
COVID-19 vaccine uptake	59,281	-	59,281	-
London Community Foundation (via Peabody)				
South Islington volunteering opportunities	15,000	-	15,000	-
London Community Response Fund (via City Bridge Trust)				
Strengthening communities through volunteering	-	-	-	20,110
Donations and similar income, under £5,000 each	1,500	8,986	10,486	17,897
Sub-total for Sector Development and Volunteering	75,781	199,334	275,115	167,466
Total income from charitable activities	116,913	204,273	321,186	194,051

4 Other income

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	4,282	4,282	24,562
London Borough of Islington				
Additional Restrictions Grant supporting Islington businesses through Covid 19	-	-	-	8,000
	-	4,282	4,282	32,562

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

5 Analysis of expenditure

5a Current year	Charitable activities			Governance costs	Support costs	2022 Total	2021 Total
	Community Development	Member Services and Support	Sector Development and Volunteering				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 6)	12,249	51,825	132,884	1,638	18,090	216,686	231,772
Agency staff	-	600	4,596	-	16,676	21,872	18,142
Other staff costs	391	447	1,398	11	241	2,488	1,696
Direct activity costs	-	-	6,221	-	-	6,221	12,734
Premises	400	1,450	65,104	40	510	67,504	38,007
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	14,621	14,621	13,892
Admin and ICT	587	2,239	31,280	44	551	34,681	41,056
Compliance	-	-	58	3,600	3,938	7,596	8,530
	13,607	56,561	241,541	5,333	54,627	371,669	366,828
Governance costs	347	1,339	3,647	(5,333)	-	-	-
Support Costs	2,500	9,678	42,449	-	(54,627)	-	-
Total expenditure 2022	16,454	67,578	287,637	-	-	371,669	366,828
5b Prior year							
Direct expenditure	-	97,839	213,969	7,033	47,987	366,828	
Support and governance costs allocated	-	15,040	39,980	(7,033)	(47,987)	-	
Total expenditure 2021	-	112,879	253,949	-	-	366,828	

Support and governance costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity (note 1f).
Of the total expenditure, £319,506 was unrestricted (2021: £321,203) and £52,163 was restricted (2021: £45,625).

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	187,400	203,973
Redundancy and termination costs	4,208	-
Social security costs	14,731	16,966
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	10,348	10,835
	216,687	231,774
Agency costs	16,601	18,142
	233,288	249,916

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2021: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer's national insurance of the key management personnel were £57,330 (2021: £65,189).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2021: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year (2021: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2021: none).

Staff numbers:

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 6 (2021: 6).

The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year and by activity was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Community Development	0.3	-
Member Services and Support	1.1	1.9
Sector Development and Volunteering	3.0	3.2
Support and governance	0.4	0.2
	4.8	5.3

7 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

8 Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation	14,621	13,892
Board of Trustees - indemnity insurance	492	538
Operating lease charges	8,319	5,434
Independent Examiner's (2021: Auditor's) remuneration:	3,000	4,250

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment £	Leasehold property £	2022 Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	106,194	133,950	240,144
Additions in year	2,915	-	2,915
Disposals in year	(7,712)	-	(7,712)
At 31 March 2022	101,397	133,950	235,347
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	103,002	97,914	200,916
Charge for the year	2,609	12,012	14,621
Eliminated on disposal	(7,712)	-	(7,712)
At 31 March 2022	97,899	109,926	207,825
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	3,498	24,024	27,522
At 31 March 2021	3,192	36,036	39,228

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

10 Fixed asset investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Listed investments (note 10a)	173,578	157,543
Investment in subsidiary company (note 10b)	1	1
	173,579	157,544

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

10a Listed investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Analysis of movement of investments		
Market value at start of year	156,788	201,855
Disposals at market value	-	(70,000)
Realised gains / (losses)	-	6,131
Unrealised gains / (losses)	<u>16,035</u>	<u>18,802</u>
Market value at year end	172,823	156,788
Cash instruments and cash held for reinvestment	<u>755</u>	<u>755</u>
Fair value at year end	<u>173,578</u>	<u>157,543</u>
Historical cost	<u>158,595</u>	<u>158,595</u>

The investments comprise two UK unit trusts.

10b Investment in subsidiary company

VAI beneficially owns the entire share capital of Voluntary Action Services Limited (a company limited by share capital, company no. 8612449 (England and Wales)), through which VAI's commercial trading previously took place. In September 2016 the decision was taken to suspend trading through the company. The company remained dormant at 31 March 2022.

The share capital and reserves of the subsidiary are not material and therefore no consolidated accounts have been prepared. Disclosure is confined to this note to the accounts.

	2022 £	2021 £
Investment in Voluntary Action Services Ltd at cost	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

At 31 March 2022 VAI held one share of £1, being the entire share capital of the trading company.

10b Investment in subsidiary company (continued)

Relevant financial information regarding Voluntary Action Services Ltd is as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Assets	1	1
Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

11 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	9,108	5,760
Other debtors	798	23,387
Prepayments	7,273	5,319
	<u>17,179</u>	<u>34,466</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Amount due under finance lease	-	5,339
Tax and social security costs	4,777	6,552
Trade creditors	10,543	12,909
Other creditors	1,515	-
Accruals	53,119	35,465
Deferred income (note 12)	3,653	4,884
	<u>73,607</u>	<u>65,149</u>

VAI entered into a three-year lease to finance the installation of LED lighting in February 2019. The loan had been repaid in full by 31 March 2022.

Deferred income

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	4,884	4,789
Amount released to income in the year	(4,884)	(4,789)
Amount deferred in the year	<u>3,653</u>	<u>4,884</u>
Balance at the end of the year	<u>3,653</u>	<u>4,884</u>

Deferred income comprises one (2021: two) partially delivered service contract(s).

13 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2022 (2021: none).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

14 Analysis of group net assets between funds

14a Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	14,013	13,509	-	27,522
Investment assets	-	33,000	140,579	173,579
Net current assets	93,696	4,000	21,948	119,644
Net assets at 31 March 2022	107,709	50,509	162,527	320,745

14b Prior year

	Restricted £	Designated £	General £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	21,021	11,081	7,126	39,228
Investment assets	-	100,000	57,544	157,544
Net current assets	27,503	(58,000)	102,158	71,661
Net assets at 31 March 2021	48,524	53,081	166,828	268,433

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Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15 Movements in funds

15a Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	21,938	-	(4,274)	-	17,664
Islington Environment Forum	5,565	-	-	(5,565)	-
Local Wellbeing Network	-	41,132	(14,020)	-	27,112
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	15,000	(898)	-	14,102
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	-	59,281	(24,463)	-	34,818
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Fixed assets	21,021	-	(7,008)	-	14,013
Total restricted funds	48,524	116,913	(52,163)	(5,565)	107,709
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvement	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	33,000	-	-	-	33,000
Fixed assets	11,081	-	(7,613)	10,041	13,509
<i>Total designated funds</i>	53,081	-	(12,613)	10,041	50,509
General funds	166,828	307,068	(306,893)	(4,476)	162,527
Total unrestricted funds	219,909	307,068	(319,506)	5,565	213,036
Total funds	268,433	423,981	(371,669)	-	320,745

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For the year ended 31 March 2022

15 Movements in funds (continued)

15b Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	13,695	20,000	(11,757)	-	21,938
Islington Environment Forum	5,565	-	-	-	5,565
Infrastructure support	-	3,750	(3,750)	-	-
Strengthening communities through volunteering	-	20,110	(20,110)	-	-
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Fixed assets	28,029	-	(7,008)	-	21,021
Total restricted funds	47,289	46,860	(45,625)	-	48,524
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvement	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	65,000	-	-	(32,000)	33,000
Service continuity	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Service development	13,000	-	-	(13,000)	-
Fixed assets	15,590	-	(4,509)	-	11,081
<i>Total designated funds</i>	117,590	-	(4,509)	(60,000)	53,081
General funds	129,881	293,641	(316,694)	60,000	166,828
Total unrestricted funds	247,471	293,641	(321,203)	-	219,909
Total funds	294,760	340,501	(366,828)	-	268,433

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Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds

Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Funds provided by the London Borough of Islington to support activities by the Children's Voluntary Sector Forum.
Islington Environment Forum	Funds originally transferred from Groundwork London for activities undertaken by the Islington Environment Forum, led by an Independent Chair. After five years of inactivity, with multiple attempts made over time to contact representatives of the Forum to ascertain their intentions for this funding, VAI's trustees have concluded they are no longer required for this restricted purpose and taken them back to general funds.
Infrastructure support	Grants from London Plus for purchasing laptops to support the Volunteer Centre's response to Covid-19.
Local Wellbeing Network	As part of Islington Council's 'Fairer Together' initiative, VAI and Octopus Community Network have been funded to develop Local Wellbeing Networks in the North, Central and South localities to increase collaboration between local services and to provide a platform for community voice.
South Islington volunteering opportunities	To provide outreach services to Peabody residents especially those located in the south of the borough.
Strengthening communities through volunteering	A grant paid by City Bridge Trust from the London Community Response Fund to support VCS groups to adapt their services in response to Covid-19.
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	Funded by NCL Clinical Commissioning Group and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the programme aims to improve Covid-19 vaccination take up in areas and communities where it is low.
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	Grants from NAVCA to provide local intelligence, supplied via weekly Emergency Partnerships Pulse Check Surveys, about local priority concerns arising from Covid-19.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from restricted funding.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of designated funds

Building improvement	A fund to invest in improving the Resource Centre so that it remains an up to date facility that is attractive to charities and community organisations.
ICT infrastructure development	A fund to invest in essential improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the Resource Centre.
Relocation	A fund to be built up over the next 10 years so that Voluntary Action Islington is in a position to manage its liabilities at the end of the lease on the current building in 2024 and to seek alternative premises.
Service continuity	Funds to support continuity of service provision during a period when our income has been decreasing. Discontinued in 2021.
Service development	A fund to develop new services. Discontinued in 2021.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from unrestricted funds, excluding those purchased under the finance lease.

16 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	52,312	(26,327)
Depreciation	14,621	13,892
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	(7,478)	(9,489)
(Gains) / losses on investments	(16,035)	(24,933)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	17,287	(15,253)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	8,458	21,196
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	69,165	(40,914)

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	Other changes £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	102,344	73,728	-	176,072
Cash held by investment managers	755	-	-	755
Total cash and cash equivalents	103,099	73,728	-	176,827

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

18 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment 2022 £	2021 £
Less than one year	8,582	5,428
One to five years	31,538	7,436
Over five years	1,913	-
	<u>42,033</u>	<u>12,864</u>

19 Contingent liability

Under the terms of the lease for its current premises Voluntary Action Islington is liable for the costs of restoring the property to its original condition, including removal of all fixtures and fittings, if so required by the landlord when yielding up the property at the end of the lease term (October 2024). The extent of the works that will be required and the consequent cost cannot reasonably be estimated at this time and so no provision has been made for this in the accounts.

20 Company limited by guarantee

Voluntary Action Islington is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 291890

Accounts

Company No. 01913555
Charity No. 291890

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report & Financial Statements

31 March 2021

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Charity registration number 291890

Company registration number 01913555

Registered Office 200a Pentonville Road
London
N1 9JP

Board of Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Philip John Kelly (Chair to 15 June 2021)
Colin Adams
Mulat Haregot – resigned 6 September 2020
Ken Hettiarachi
Emma Victoria Hutchins
Joseph David Irvin (Chair from 15 June 2021)
Josephine Mary Langdale
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)
Barbara Joan Ludlow
Hussain Ahmed – appointed 2 July 2020
Santa Gascoigne – appointed 2 July 2020
Lisa Caroline Smith – appointment terminated 1 November 2020

Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary

Antony Bewick-Smith (Interim until 22 November 2020)
Navinder Kaur from 23 November 2020

Auditor

Goldwins Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
Nine Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

Solicitors

Bates Wells
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

OUR AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Purpose and aims

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not for profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

Our vision is:

A vibrant civil society that drives local action and positive change for everyone in Islington.

The main activities that we undertake to pursue our purposes are the provision of information and advice to voluntary and community organisations operating in Islington in order to assist them to relieve poverty, reduce inequality and further health. We are the accredited Volunteer Centre for Islington and recruit and place volunteers with local organisations to assist them to achieve these aims. We support networking, bringing together representatives of local voluntary organisations with statutory authorities to cooperate and consider joint initiatives which further our overall charitable purposes.

Our values are:

- Equality and diversity, valuing difference, treating everyone with respect.
- Independence in our thinking and actions.
- Integrity and professionalism, maintaining high personal and professional standards.
- Working with others to support and develop collaboration and co-production across the community.
- Listening and learning from all our stakeholders including members, staff and volunteers.

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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Public Benefit

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, Community Safety and Health.

Our strategic aims are to enable the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to address these issues, by supporting organisations to:

- Be more sustainably funded and resourced.
- Deliver more effective services.
- Be more able to influence local policy.

In addition, we want to support the people who volunteer for VCS organisations by ensuring:

- Volunteers gain more social contacts, employability and improved health.

Our Theory of Change for Voluntary Action Islington, enables us to map out the changes that we want to achieve for the sector, and the activities that we deliver to achieve this change. These specific activities have been briefly described below, as they relate to each aim.

Supporting the local VCS to be more sustainably funded and resourced

To meet this aim, we:

- Produce a booklet about Trust funding for local organisations.
- Provide access to live information on the Funding Toolkit hosted by Islington Council
- Organise briefings about the funding programmes relevant to local organisations.
- Develop thematic VCS partnerships to increase access to funding and contracts.
- Encourage cross-sector partnership working to unlock resources.
- Support Islington's VCS to strengthen its volunteering practice through platforms for learning and information sharing, such as Volunteer Managers Forum.

Supporting the local VCS to deliver more effective services

To meet this aim, we:

- Keep abreast of changing statutory frameworks and how they affect the local VCS, and support groups in adapting to these changes.
- Ensure the website has up to date information about Islington, charity regulation, governance, equal opportunities, volunteer management and finance.
- Circulate information to members through newsgroups, newsletters and social media.
- Offer one-to-one support to VCS organisations through face to face surgeries, telephone and email.
- Develop a training programme using staff knowledge and expertise.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

- Deliver time limited programmes of intervention to small groups.
- Offer specialist and Pro Bono advice surgeries and briefing sessions with corporate and VCS partners.

Supporting the local VCS and local communities to influence local policy

To meet this aim, we:

- Ensure the VCS and public sector are aware of each other's service offer for local people.
- Support the development of community- based action initiatives.
- Organise a programme of events to share and learn from VCS peers.
- Promote the voice of Islington's VCS at a strategic level through Islington Community Network (ICN).
- Encourage operational collaboration between the VCS and the public sector.
- Maintain learning opportunities for both Chief Executives and Trustees of Islington groups.

Supporting volunteers to gain more skills, social contacts, employability and improved health

To meet this aim, we:

- Develop cross-sector partnerships to streamline access to volunteers and volunteering opportunities.
- Raise awareness of volunteering through targeted outreach, high profile events and social media.
- Champion volunteering through recognition and awards.
- Facilitate volunteering for both volunteers and VCS organisations through volunteer database.
- Act as a brokering service between potential volunteers and VCS organisations.
- Offer appropriate volunteering opportunities to a wide range of residents enabling them to be more connected with local communities.
- Develop capacity of organisations around volunteer recruitment and management through workshops and one to one support.
- Develop platforms for sharing good practice.

Our core activities, undertaken in our capacity as a Council for Voluntary Services are detailed below:

- With Islington Council we organise an annual conference for the local voluntary and community sector on a theme of particular relevance for the sector, and we invite high profile speakers. This is an opportunity for our members to provide feedback and to inform future priorities.

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- We provide an electronic newsletter to our members on a regular basis and continue to provide an email news service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities.
- We have negotiated an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate.
- Our website is an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including local volunteering opportunities, funding and resources for organisations. We continued to add to and update our online directory of local organisations.
- We provide charities and social enterprises with desk spaces, affordable meeting and conference rooms and shared facilities through our Resource Centre. There are special rates on room hire for members.
- We have improved internet connectivity in the Resource Centre, thereby improving our service to voluntary organisations who pay to use our facilities.
- We promote community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting.
- We continue to run a telephone advice service and also run monthly "surgeries" where people can get initial advice about starting or developing a local community organisation.
- We run the Capacity Building Essentials project, a structured model of intensive development support and guidance for smaller organisations, based around the key elements identified to help them grow and become more sustainable.
- We are proud to run the only nationally accredited Volunteer Centre for Islington - matching people interested in volunteering with local opportunities. We have a small team of volunteers involved in this work which provides a drop-in twice a week and promotes volunteering at local community events.
- We provide a volunteering database that enables organisations to post their own volunteer opportunities, while at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements.
- We support borough-wide thematic networks to address four big local issues:
 - *Community Safety*
 - *Health and Well Being*
 - *Inequality*
 - *Poverty*
- We provide direct support to the Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum, for which we hold and administer funds.

The success criteria for our planned activities are set out in our annual operating plan, which is agreed by trustees every February, alongside the budget for the year. Achievement in relation to this plan is monitored quarterly by trustees using a traffic light system stating whether the particular activity is on target, needs additional action to get back on target or where the target is unlikely to be met. At the end of March 2021, most of our targets were met and were greatly exceeded due to our response to the Covid-19 crisis; however, some were impacted by the Covid-19 lockdowns, particularly those targets relating to the delivery of our

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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capacity building programmes. We adapted our capacity building and volunteer activities and services by transferring these online.

OUR VOLUNTEERS & STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Many of our volunteers work with us to gain experience that will assist them to find employment. Covid-19 had a substantial impact on the recruitment and activities of volunteers supporting both our Volunteer Centre and the Resource Centre. Covid-19 lockdowns affected the number of volunteers required at the Resource Centre to cover reception and carry out administrative tasks. All face to face brokerage support was put on hold due to the successive lock-downs.

In addition to our trustees, during the past year, VAI had 1 in-house volunteer assisting with the delivery of our Volunteer Centre activities. This volunteer assisted with the Volunteer Centre brokerage service – matching volunteers to VCS organisations and their volunteer opportunities. This service was delivered on-line and via telephone.

We have been developing our partnership with London Metropolitan University and during the spring hosted a student studying Social Work.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve each of the outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. There are targets for each service and activity and progress is coded as on target, needing attention or not on target. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end. During the year we visited a cross section of our members to obtain feedback about our services.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCS organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

During the year our formal membership consisted of 550 community organisations. We have 3,624 followers on twitter, an increase of 146 over the year. The Volunteer Centre now has 2,442 followers, an increase of 139 by the end of the year, and 400 Instagram followers.

From June 2020, we started to produce fortnightly newsletters to share information with the sector quickly. We then moved to weekly newsletters from September onwards. The newsletter was sent to all organisations registered on our newsgroup as well as the membership.

We have had positive feedback about the usefulness of information on our website and about our briefings.

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CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT

We ensure that our members and non-members are well informed about funding opportunities, including opportunities to tender for local contracts, as soon as we are made aware of them.

We published a revised version of our Funding Booklet for local organisations in January 2021 with funding news and updates emailed throughout the year.

Our advice sessions are very popular, especially amongst our small groups. Our Development Officer delivered the following sessions:

- November 2020 - funding advice session
- January 2021 - 1:1 National Lottery surgery
- March 2021 - National Lottery Community Fund session

We continued to host the Islington Council funding database "Open 4 Communities" on our website which can be accessed by all VAI members and non-members. We now have 313 subscribers registered on the portal that now receive regular funding updates from the site.

We provide our members with information about, and access to, a wide range of sources of pro-bono support. This includes information on our website about sources of specialist and pro-bono help. We work with the BIG Alliance in Islington and others to provide expert advice on subjects such as financial planning and web design.

During the year, our Development Officer also provided 4 additional Advice and Support sessions. This included advice about registering as a charity, funding (including crisis funding) and business planning.

Our website provides a range of information and resources to assist with running an organisation. There were 35,464 visits to our website during the year.

We ensure that our members are well informed about national and regional developments relevant to their work through our links with National and Regional organisations. As part of their membership of Voluntary Action Islington organisations can get a discount if they join NCVO. We provide information about policy developments through our regular newsletter.

Volunteers play a vital part in enabling local voluntary organisations to pursue their charitable purposes. From the start of the pandemic, VAI recruited an army of new volunteers to support the response to Covid-19, thus enabling VCS organisations in the borough to deliver their crisis response services.

We hosted online Volunteering Fairs in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden, to support the recruitment of volunteers online.

In January 2021, VAI partnered with Age UK Islington, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust and Help on Your Doorstep to recruit and manage Volunteer Marshals and Stewards for the Covid-19 vaccination programme across the Islington vaccination sites including local clinics, Business Design Centre, and pop ups including the Emirates Stadium.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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For the year ended 31 March 2021

CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS

We continue to celebrate and promote volunteering. We have a section on our website with examples of the difference that volunteers are making to life in Islington. Our Volunteer of the Year Awards were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by Cllr Janet Burgess MBE at an online celebration in December. The winners were:

- Older Volunteer of the Year 60+: Richard Longworth, Angel Shed Theatre Company;
- Volunteering Team of the Year: Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association;
- Volunteer of the Year 26-60: David Mallory, Age UK Islington and Healthwatch Islington;
- Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year: Mrs Margaret Pitt, Culpeper Community Garden Association;
- Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25: Mohamed Senusi, The Pillion Trust.

VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road continues to generate funds to support the development of the local voluntary sector and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources.

During the year we had to make adjustments due to the Covid lockdowns, including making the Resource Centre Covid-19 compliant. The crisis caused substantial disruption to the normal workings of the Centre and was closed to the public from April to August.

This crisis has led to a substantial shortfall in rental income from desk and room hire. We have started to consider options for the medium and longer term as our current lease on our premises comes to an end in October 2024.

DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

Voluntary Action Islington hosts an annual conference for the local VCS to discuss pressing issues and to encourage collaboration with each other and statutory and private sector partners. It aims to inspire charity and not-for-profit staff, trustees and volunteers, and partnership working with other sectors.

This year, the conference was held online on 30 September 2020, with 60 organisations in attendance. The conference focused upon the impact of Covid-19 on the VCS with the following priority issues identified: funding; volunteering support, IT and adapting services online.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In early 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic shook the whole of our society, resulting in several national 'lockdowns' as people were told to stay at home unless they provided key services. VCS organisations and local authorities were disrupted but demands increased, such as the

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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need to get food and medicine to housebound vulnerable residents. In response, VAI mounted a huge effort around volunteering, communicating and working closely with VCS organisations and Islington Council. There was a surge in local people wanting to volunteer. We increased online communication and deployed staff and recruited volunteers to support local VCS partner organisations to fulfil their new volunteering needs.

As a senior member of the Islington community and the main representative of the local VCS sector, VAI joined the Islington Covid-19 Response Group whose remit was to coordinate the pan-sector response to supporting the borough's most vulnerable residents (in particular with food and medicine distribution, VCS support and volunteering). VAI and our Volunteer Centre played a major role in providing volunteers to assist with the mass vaccination programme, and made a significant contribution to the Covid-19 crisis by recruiting an army of new volunteers needed to support the borough's crisis response including the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme delivered across the mass vaccination sites, local clinics and pop ups.

One aspect of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic was the creation of a network of Mutual Aid Groups (MAGS). In recognition of this, VAI hosted a workshop for MAGS on constituting as a formal organisation.

We were successful in receiving crisis funding which enabled us to provide additional online support to those recruiting and managing volunteers during the first 6-7 months of the crisis. Over August/September we delivered 2 Volunteer Management Clinics and 2 Volunteer Manager's Forum & Networking events. We also delivered a joint Camden & Islington Volunteering Fair to support the recruitment of volunteers.

VAI designed a programme to provide brokerage support between volunteers and VCS partners. Our efforts were supported by two Council redeployees who supported the recruitment of volunteers and carried out the required DBS and Reference checks.

KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED

Our main sources of income are grants and donations from public authorities and charitable trusts and foundations, together with earned space rental income from our Resource Centre.

- We were awarded core funding of £75,000 in 2020/21 by Islington Council to continue our work in building capacity among local VCS organisations and operating our Volunteer Centre brokerage service. The existing grant was temporarily rolled over following the Covid outbreak and the Council commissioned a scoping exercise to ascertain future voluntary sector and volunteering capacity building needs.
- VAI received extra funding (£16,000 during this period) to provide additional capacity for the volunteer support programme to aid the recruitment, induction and DBS/reference checks and debriefing of volunteers as part of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.
- From MOPAC (via Islington Council) we were awarded £4,000 to service the Islington Safer Neighbourhood Board and £3,500 to deliver the Islington Community Safety Engagement Project (ICEP). VAI provided administrative and communications

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support to maximise communication and interaction between local communities, the VCS that support and represent them and those statutory organisations responsible for the safety of Islington's communities.

- Via the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) we were awarded £3,000 from the Department of Culture Media and Sport for infrastructure organisation involvement in local emergency planning.
- As a member of a partnership of five Volunteer Centres, North Central London Partners in Health and Care (NLP) awarded us £5,600 to contribute to the development of the North Central London network and volunteering strategy.
- Through support from London Community Response Fund Wave 2, we were supported to improve and adapt volunteering practice during Covid19.
- We applied for and received £3,200 to purchase four laptops through a successful funding application made by London Plus to the London Community Response Fund
- In addition, VAI was pleased to receive £500 via the Neighbourly crowdfunding website.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net expenditure, before gains on investments, of £51,260 (2020: £22,195). Of that loss £52,495 (2020: £10,547) was incurred on unrestricted funds. That was the effective operating loss for the year and very much a result of the negative impact of Covid-19 on income generation opportunities.

Investments increased in value by £24,933, recovering some of the £44,151 losses incurred in the previous year. When those gains are included, net expenditure (the annual loss) reduces to £26,327(2020: £66,346).

Income was significantly impacted on by the challenges posed by the pandemic, falling from the previous year's £416,948 to £315,568 for the current year. Although the Voluntary Action Resource Centre continued to generate the largest source of income, the fall in demand for work and meeting spaces significantly reduced its revenue and more than accounted for the overall fall in income. In response savings were implemented - expenditure was reduced by £72,315 - and the Trustees agreed to cover the resultant losses from reserves. The London Borough of Islington (LBI) continued its funding of VAI under the Strategic Borough-wide Partners and Strategic Volunteering Partners grants, both of which support our core activities, and its funding of the Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum.

At the year end all funds totalled £268,433 (2020: £294,760) of which £219,909 (2020: £247,471) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £166,828 (2020: £129,881). Although a loss was generated on General funds they also benefited from an inward transfer of £60,000 from three previously designated funds.

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Reserves

At 31 March 2021 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £219,909 (2020: £247,471).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £166,828 (2020: £129,881). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £166,828 is equivalent to 45% (2020: 29%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £53,081 (2020: £117,590) designations having been made to invest in the Resource Centre and its IT infrastructure, where VAI is based, and to support potential relocation from the Resource Centre in 2024 including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £48,524 of restricted funds (2020: £47,289), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

Investment policy and performance

This year Voluntary Action Islington continued to implement the investment policy last agreed in 2014. The objectives of the policy are:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington.
- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return.

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Some recovery was made from the Covid-19 impacted low values of the previous year and annual unrealised gains of £24,933 (2020: £44,151 losses) was generated in the current year. The Trustees note that the recovery in values has continued beyond year end.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal risks and uncertainties

During the year the trustees carried out a review of the risks faced by the charity in relation to personnel, finance, property, reputation, new business, health and safety, governance and management, and performance. Plans to mitigate these risks were developed and reviewed. A risk register is maintained as part of the Business Plan and the trustees keep this under review.

The main factor likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity is a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to voluntary organisations, as a result of Covid-19. We mitigate this risk by improving the facilities at the resource centre, including making it Covid compliant, continuing to promote our facilities to a wide cross-section of relevant VCS organisations seeking desk and/or room hire facilities in central London, and adapting our offer to the developing needs of the sector.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in platforms that influence how Islington Council including the North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level. This includes multi-agency initiatives such as Fairer Together, where we represent our membership.

We will continue to work with voluntary organisations to diversify funding and other support, including by engaging with private business. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will encourage larger and more established organisations to support smaller groups, by providing mentoring and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership, and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one to one support and training workshops. Additionally, we plan to continue to provide opportunities for trustees and CEOs to network and share good practice.

We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

The Voluntary Action Islington Resource Centre on Pentonville Road is an important community asset for local VCS organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility. We will keep under review our charges and consider additional options to manage community facilities in other parts of the borough.

Our website and social media are well used resources and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013.

The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 10 trustees. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and during the past year a skills audit of current trustees was carried out. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law.

The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), NCVO, and Children England. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9th September the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30th September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Joseph David Irvin remains a Director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans as yet to appoint new Directors.

Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. A register of trustee interests is maintained and was updated during the year. Any potential conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each trustees meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. All job descriptions are independently evaluated and staff receive the rate of pay applicable to the scale at which the post is evaluated. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees,

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report 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 these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation.

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2020 was 397. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR AUDITORS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is 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 auditor is aware of that information.

AUDITORS

Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the auditors of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 11 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Navinder Kaur
Company Secretary

Registered office:
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP

Independent Auditor's Report
To the members of
Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voluntary Action Islington Limited for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (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 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity 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 charity'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 directors 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 auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work

Independent Auditor's Report
To the members of
Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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.

Opinion on other matter 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 trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

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 the trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 they 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 Charity'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 Charity 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 an auditor's report 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.

Independent Auditor's Report
To the members of
Voluntary Action Islington Limited

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 are set out below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 auditor's report.

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 charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Anthony Epton

.....
Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Goldwins Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

15 November 2021

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	3,750	75,716	79,466	-	75,260	75,260
Charitable activities	3						
Member Services and Support		20,000	6,585	26,585	20,000	14,714	34,714
Sector Development and							
Volunteering		23,110	144,356	167,466	-	294,340	294,340
Investments		-	9,489	9,489	-	12,634	12,634
Other	4	-	32,562	32,562	-	-	-
Total income		<u>46,860</u>	<u>268,708</u>	<u>315,568</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>396,948</u>	<u>416,948</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Member Services and Support		11,757	101,122	112,879	24,640	129,342	153,982
Sector Development and							
Volunteering		33,868	220,081	253,949	7,008	278,153	285,161
Total expenditure	5	<u>45,625</u>	<u>321,203</u>	<u>366,828</u>	<u>31,648</u>	<u>407,495</u>	<u>439,143</u>
Net (expenditure) income before net gains (losses) on investments		1,235	(52,495)	(51,260)	(11,648)	(10,547)	(22,195)
Net gains (losses) on investments	10	-	24,933	24,933	-	(44,151)	(44,151)
Net (expenditure) income for the year	8	1,235	(27,562)	(26,327)	(11,648)	(54,698)	(66,346)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,235	(27,562)	(26,327)	(11,648)	(54,698)	(66,346)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		47,289	247,471	294,760	58,937	302,169	361,106
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>48,524</u>	<u>219,909</u>	<u>268,433</u>	<u>47,289</u>	<u>247,471</u>	<u>294,760</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 16 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 22 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

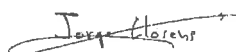
Voluntary Action Islington Limited (Limited by guarantee)**Balance sheet**

Company No. 01913555

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	39,228	53,120
Investments	10	<u>157,544</u>	<u>202,611</u>
		196,772	255,731
Current assets			
Debtors	11	34,466	19,213
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>102,344</u>	<u>63,769</u>
		136,810	82,982
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(65,149)</u>	<u>(38,614)</u>
Net current assets		71,661	44,368
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	13	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,339)</u>
Net assets	15	<u><u>268,433</u></u>	<u><u>294,760</u></u>
Funds	16		
Restricted funds		48,524	47,289
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		53,081	117,590
General funds		<u>166,828</u>	<u>129,881</u>
Total funds		<u><u>268,433</u></u>	<u><u>294,760</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 11th November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:


Jorge Llorens
Treasurer

Joseph David Irvin
Chair

The notes on pages 22 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	17		(40,914)		(22,197)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends from investments		9,489		12,634	
Sale (purchase) of fixed assets		-		(5,249)	
Sale (purchase) of investments		70,000		-	
			79,489		7,385
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			38,575		(14,812)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			64,524		79,336
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	18		103,099		64,524

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Voluntary Action Islington meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

1b Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In reaching that conclusion the trustees have considered the possible impact of the COVID -19 pandemic on future activities and cash flows. They have considered a number of different scenarios and, although lost income from the Resource Centre room and desk hires will generate negative cash flows until VAI can resume more normal business, the trustees are confident that VAI's level of reserves, cost saving measures already introduced, changes made to the Resource Centre delivery model and the diversification of income streams will together ensure its ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgements have been made by the charitable company which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1c Income

Income, including income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are credited to incoming resources when they are receivable as the charity's own money, unless they are for activities that relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred to that period.

Income received under contracts for services which cross over the year end are recognised in the financial statements in line with the percentage of completion of the contract at the year end.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Distributions from listed investments are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally the date on which the holding is first quoted ex dividend or the end date of the period for which it is accrued as notified by the fund manager.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

1e Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of services and support to members and developing volunteering and the local voluntary sector undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

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

1f Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with their use of resources.

Premises are allocated proportionate to floor space occupied by each activity as follows:

Member Services and Support	4.8%
Sector Development and Volunteering	94.6%
Support costs	0.5%
Governance costs	0.1%

Other costs of administration are allocated per capita VAI staff and other occupants of the Resource Centre as follows:

Member Services and Support	10.8%
Sector Development and Volunteering	87.9%
Support costs	1.1%
Governance costs	0.2%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Member Services and Support	27.3%
Sector Development and Volunteering	72.7%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1g Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the length of the lease.

1h Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	4 years
Leasehold property	The lesser of 15 years or the remaining lease term

1i Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1j Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
Other grants and similar income, under £5,000 each	3,750	716	4,466	260
	<u>3,750</u>	<u>75,716</u>	<u>79,466</u>	<u>75,260</u>

Voluntary Action Islington benefit from a Section 106 Agreement that provides accommodation at a peppercorn rent. As it is not possible to put an accurate value to this, it has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service)				
Young Londoner's Fund Network	-	6,585	6,585	8,231
London Borough of Islington				
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Donations and similar income, under £5,000 each	-	-	-	6,483
Sub-total for Member Services and Support	<u>20,000</u>	<u>6,585</u>	<u>26,585</u>	<u>34,714</u>
London Community Response Fund (via City Bridge Trust)				
Strengthening communities through volunteering	20,110	-	20,110	-
Community resource and other service income	-	117,439	117,439	294,340
London Borough of Islington				
COVID-19 vaccination roll-out support	-	12,020	12,020	20,000
Donations and similar income, under £5,000 each	3,000	14,897	17,897	-
Sub-total for Sector Development and Volunteering	<u>23,110</u>	<u>144,356</u>	<u>167,466</u>	<u>314,340</u>
Total income from charitable activities	<u>43,110</u>	<u>150,941</u>	<u>194,051</u>	<u>349,054</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

4 Other income

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme London Borough of Islington	-	24,562	24,562	-
Additonal Restrictions Grant supporting Islington businesses through Covid 19	-	8,000	8,000	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>32,562</u>	<u>32,562</u>	<u>-</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

5 Analysis of expenditure

5a Current year	Charitable activities		Governance costs	Support costs	2021 Total	2020 Total
	Member Services and Support	Sector Development and Volunteering				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 6)	82,478	136,172	1,853	11,269	231,772	255,975
Agency staff	-	-	-	18,142	18,142	15,572
Other staff costs	380	639	6	670	1,695	5,024
Direct activity costs	9,957	2,711	-	66	12,734	29,168
Premises	2,526	49,829	39	505	52,899	68,743
Depreciation	-	-	-	13,892	13,892	13,892
Admin and ICT	2,388	24,521	35	220	27,164	40,499
Compliance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit	-	-	5,100	-	5,100	5,100
Legal and other	110	97	-	3,223	3,430	5,170
	97,839	213,969	7,033	47,987	366,828	439,143
Governance costs	2,608	4,425	(7,033)	-	-	-
Support Costs	12,432	35,555	-	(47,987)	-	-
Total expenditure 2021	112,879	253,949	-	-	366,828	439,143

5b Prior year

Direct expenditure	130,456	235,568	8,067	65,052	439,143
Support and governance costs allocated	23,526	49,593	(8,067)	(65,052)	-
Total expenditure 2020	153,982	285,161	-	-	439,143

Support and governance costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity (note 1f).

Of the total expenditure, £321,203 was unrestricted (2020: £407,495) and £45,625 was restricted (2020: £31,648).

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	203,971	223,012
Social security costs	16,966	20,484
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	10,835	12,479
	<u>231,772</u>	<u>255,975</u>
Agency costs	18,142	15,572
	<u>249,914</u>	<u>271,547</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2020: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer's national insurance of the key management personnel were £65,189 (2020: £68,819).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year (2020: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2020: none).

Staff numbers:

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 6 (2020: 6).

The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year and by activity was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Member Services and Support	1.9	1.9
Sector Development and Volunteering	3.2	3.1
Support and governance	0.2	0.5
	<u>5.3</u>	<u>5.5</u>

7 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

8 Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation	13,892	13,892
Board of Trustees - indemnity insurance	538	588
Operating lease charges	5,434	5,428
Auditors' remuneration	4,250	4,250

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment £	Leasehold property £	2021 Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	106,298	133,950	240,248
Disposals in year	(104)	-	(104)
At 31 March 2021	<u>106,194</u>	<u>133,950</u>	<u>240,144</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	101,226	85,902	187,128
Charge for the year	1,880	12,012	13,892
Eliminated on disposal	(104)	-	(104)
At 31 March 2021	<u>103,002</u>	<u>97,914</u>	<u>200,916</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	<u>3,192</u>	<u>36,036</u>	<u><u>39,228</u></u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>5,072</u>	<u>48,048</u>	<u>53,120</u>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2021****10 Fixed asset investments**

	2021 £	2020 £
Listed investments (note 10a)	157,543	202,610
Investment in subsidiary company (note 10b)	1	1
	<u>157,544</u>	<u>202,611</u>

10a Listed investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Analysis of movement of investments		
Market value at start of year	201,855	246,006
Disposals at market value	(70,000)	-
Realised gains / (losses)	6,131	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	18,802	(44,151)
Market value at year end	156,788	201,855
Cash instruments and cash held for reinvestment	755	755
Fair value at year end	<u>157,543</u>	<u>202,610</u>
Historical cost	<u>158,595</u>	<u>239,673</u>

The investments comprise two UK unit trusts.

10b Investment in subsidiary company

VAI beneficially owns the entire share capital of Voluntary Action Services Limited (a company limited by share capital, company no. 8612449 (England and Wales)), through which VAI's commercial trading previously took place. In September 2016 the decision was taken to suspend trading through the company. The company remained dormant at 31 March 2021.

The share capital and reserves of the subsidiary are not material and therefore no consolidated accounts have been prepared. Disclosure is confined to this note to the accounts.

	2021 £	2020 £
Investment in Voluntary Action Services Ltd at cost	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

At 31 March 2021 VAI held one share of £1, being the entire share capital of the trading company.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2021****10b Investment in subsidiary company (continued)**

Relevant financial information regarding Voluntary Action Services Ltd is as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Assets	1	1
Liabilities	-	-
Total funds	1	1

11 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	5,760	4,649
Other debtors	23,387	9,445
Prepayments	5,319	5,119
	34,466	19,213

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Amount due under finance lease	5,339	4,727
Tax and social security costs	6,552	5,783
Trade creditors	12,909	8,306
Accruals	35,465	15,009
Deferred income	4,884	4,789
	65,149	38,614

Deferred income

	2021 £	2020 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	4,789	1,453
Amount released to income in the year	(4,789)	(1,453)
Amount deferred in the year	4,884	4,789
Balance at the end of the year	4,884	4,789

Deferred income comprises two (2020: three) partially delivered service contracts.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amount due under finance lease	-	5,339
	-	5,339

VAI entered into a three-year lease to finance the installation of LED lighting in February 2019

14 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2021 (2020: none).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

15 Analysis of group net assets between funds

15a Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	21,021	11,081	7,126	39,228
Investment assets	-	100,000	57,544	157,544
Net current assets	27,503	(58,000)	102,158	71,661
Net assets at 31 March 2021	48,524	53,081	166,828	268,433

15b Prior year

	Restricted £	Designated £	General £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	28,029	15,590	9,501	53,120
Investment assets	-	100,000	102,611	202,611
Net current assets	19,260	2,000	23,108	44,368
Long term liabilities	-	-	(5,339)	(5,339)
Net assets at 31 March 2020	47,289	117,590	129,881	294,760

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

16 Movements in funds

16a Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	13,695	20,000	(11,757)	-	21,938
Islington Environment Forum	5,565	-	-	-	5,565
Infrastructure support	-	3,750	(3,750)	-	-
Strengthening communities through volunteering	-	20,110	(20,110)	-	-
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
Fixed assets	28,029	-	(7,008)	-	21,021
Total restricted funds	47,289	46,860	(45,625)	-	48,524
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvement	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	65,000	-	-	(32,000)	33,000
Service continuity	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Service development	13,000	-	-	(13,000)	-
Fixed assets	15,590	-	(4,509)	-	11,081
<i>Total designated funds</i>	117,590	-	(4,509)	(60,000)	53,081
General funds	129,881	293,641	(316,694)	60,000	166,828
Total unrestricted funds	247,471	293,641	(321,203)	-	219,909
Total funds	294,760	340,501	(366,828)	-	268,433

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

16 Movements in funds (continued)

16b Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	18,335	20,000	(24,640)	-	13,695
Islington Environment Forum	5,565	-	-	-	5,565
Fixed assets	35,037	-	(7,008)	-	28,029
Total restricted funds	58,937	20,000	(31,648)	-	47,289
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvement	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
ICT infrastructure development	12,000	-	(4,536)	(3,464)	4,000
Relocation	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Service continuity	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Service development	13,000	-	-	-	13,000
Fixed assets	14,850	-	(4,509)	5,249	15,590
<i>Total designated funds</i>	124,850	-	(9,045)	1,785	117,590
General funds	177,319	396,948	(442,601)	(1,785)	129,881
Total unrestricted funds	302,169	396,948	(451,646)	-	247,471
Total funds	361,106	416,948	(483,294)	-	294,760

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

16c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds

Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Funds provided by the London Borough of Islington to support activities by the Children's Voluntary Sector Forum.
Islington Environment Forum	Funds transferred from Groundwork London that are for activities undertaken by the Islington Environment Forum.
Infrastructure support	Grants from London Plus for purchasing laptops to support the Volunteer Centre's response to Covid-19.
Strengthening communities through volunteering	A grant paid by City Bridge Trust from the London Community Response Fund to support VCS groups to adapt their services in response to Covid-19.
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	A grant from NAVCA to provide local intelligence, supplied via weekly Emergency Partnerships Pulse Check Surveys, about local priority concerns arising from Covid-19.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from restricted funding.

Purpose of designated funds

Building improvement	A fund to invest in improving the Resource Centre so that it remains an up to date facility that is attractive to charities and community organisations.
ICT infrastructure development	A fund to invest in essential improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the Resource Centre.
Relocation	A fund to be built up over the next 10 years so that Voluntary Action Islington is in a position to manage its liabilities at the end of the lease on the current building in 2024 and to seek alternative premises.
Service continuity	Funds to support continuity of service provision during a period when our income has been decreasing. Discontinued in 2021.
Service development	A fund to develop new services. Discontinued in 2021.
Fixed assets	To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from unrestricted funds, excluding those purchased under the finance lease.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

17 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(26,327)	(66,346)
Depreciation	13,892	13,892
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	(9,489)	(12,634)
(Gains) / losses on investments	(24,933)	44,151
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(15,253)	8,197
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	21,196	(9,457)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	<u>(40,914)</u>	<u>(22,197)</u>

18 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2020	Cash flows	Other changes £	At 31 March 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	63,769	38,575	-	102,344
Cash held by investment managers	755	-	-	755
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>64,524</u>	<u>38,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,099</u>

19 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment 2021 £	2020 £
Less than one year	5,428	5,428
One to five years	7,436	12,864
	<u>12,864</u>	<u>18,292</u>

20 Contingent liability

Under the terms of the lease for its current premises Voluntary Action Islington is liable for the costs of restoring the property to its original condition, including removal of all fixtures and fittings, if so required by the landlord when yielding up the property at the end of the lease term (October 2024). The extent of the works that will be required and the consequent cost cannot reasonably be estimated at this time and so no provision has been made for this in the accounts.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

21 Company limited by guarantee

Voluntary Action Islington is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.