



The Women's Centre Sutton

Annual Report 2020 / 2021

“Empowering women to achieve their
full potential”

Charity Registration Number: 294067
Company number 01829008



@suttonwomen



suttonwomen



www.suttonwomen.co.uk

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Executive Summary



This past year we have all experienced the huge upheaval in our lives and ways of working as a result of the Covid pandemic.

We know that one of the biggest impacts was the increase in domestic abuse during lockdown - with women being forced to stay at home with their perpetrators and being unable to reach out for help.

Lockdown meant all our face-to-face services suddenly closed. This presented a huge challenge to us and the approximately 200 women we were supporting at the time.

But the speed with which our staff and volunteers stepped up and reacted to this was inspiring. Counselling was quickly delivered through WhatsApp, Zoom, telephone - whichever suited the client. Our Freedom Programme, art classes, writing classes, therapeutic activities and committee meetings took place via Zoom. We increased access to our foodbank and we campaigned digitally to increase awareness of available domestic abuse services and encourage women to reach out.

Our local community also stepped up to help the women and families we work with. From a local green grocer who donated a huge amount of fresh food to our food bank to Cheam and Sutton Rotary Club who provided our families with a virtual Father Christmas

and Bob Watson who provided over 200 bags of Christmas presents, the response has been overwhelming and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has offered us support.

Somehow, during this time we also managed to fundraise and build an extension to our premises. This meant that once restrictions were eased, we could provide Covid safe classes, and provide an extra 40 counselling sessions every week. We also delivered an online International Women's Day event which was attended by 378 women - the largest number we have ever achieved.

Our hard work has been recognised and this year we were again nominated for Sutton Voluntary Organisation of the Year Award, and we won the Self Care Award organised by the National Self Care Forum.

The changes we have had to manage this year have also presented us with opportunities to do things differently. Our future plans include providing more services online to enable women who work and disabled women easier access to our services.

As ever it is our people who make the difference. Without the commitment, knowledge and skills of our staff and volunteers we would not achieve what we do. This year they have really demonstrated what commitment, caring and hard work can achieve.

Anna
Cummins

Chair of the
Trustees

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Reference and Administrative Information

CHARITY NUMBER:	294067
REGISTERED NUMBER:	01829008 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:	3 Palmerston Road Sutton Surrey SM1 4QL
DATE OF INCORPORATION:	05 March 1999
DIRECTORS :	A. Cummins A. McLoughlin M.Turner
TRUSTEES:	A. Cummins (Chair) M Turner (Vice-Chair) C. Williams(Secretary) M. Stehfest (Treasurer) L. Noakes V. Hill L. Mupfurutsa K. Coombes S. Murphy
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM:	L. McGarry P. Hennessy
ACCOUNTANTS:	Community Action Sutton Granfers Community Centre 73-79 Oakhill Road Sutton SM1 3AA
BANKERS:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Lane West Malling, Kent ME19

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Our Governance



All our trustees continue to put a huge amount of personal time and effort into developing and resourcing the Centre

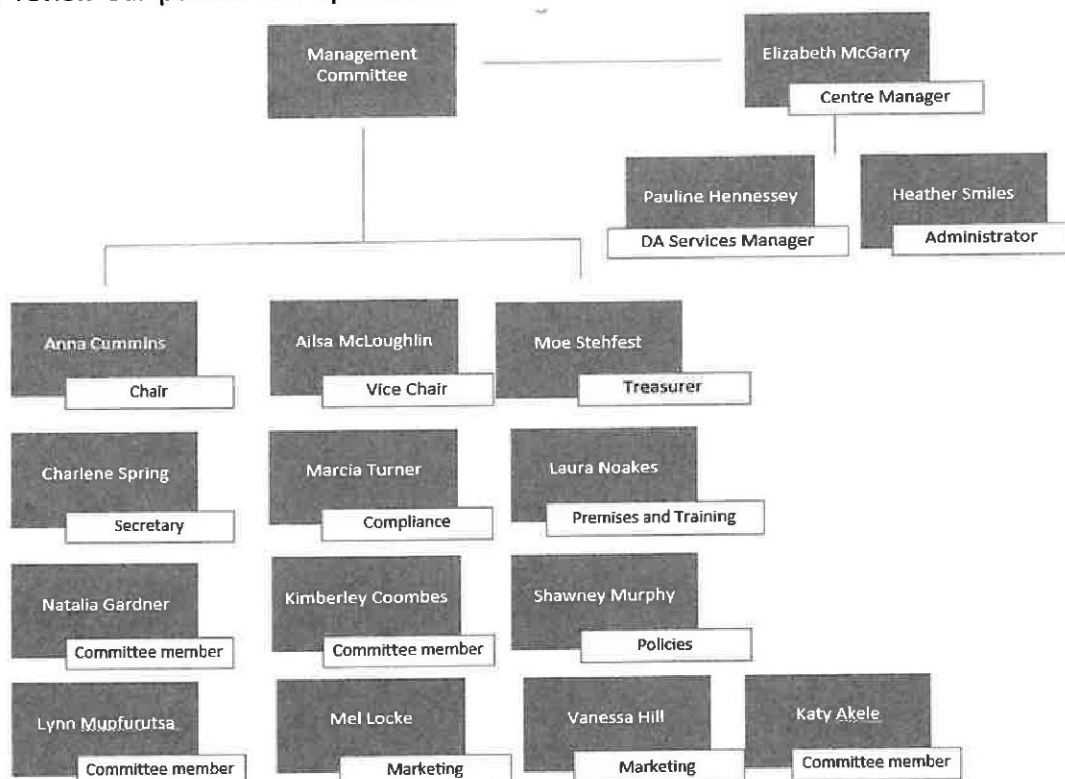
As a charity, we take our governance seriously and have put a number of policies in place to ensure the Women's Centre is sustainable in the long term and will continue to deliver services and support local women in the long term.

In 2018 we were successful in achieving the PQASSO standard. Unfortunately, NCVO are no longer running the replacement standard Trusted Charity however, we continue to regularly review our policies and operational

processes to ensure we are complying with the high standard we have set ourselves.

The Management Committee continues to function well and takes collective responsibility for all of its decisions. We held a number of strategy session with Linda Wood in January to review our effectiveness in delivery and to strengthen our team bonds. This was very successful and has led to many new and better ways of working. We are also planning to work with the Women's Resource Centre on their Feminist Leadership Programme

Our management structure is detailed below.



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Our Aims, Objectives and Outcomes

Our Mission Statement

"Providing a safe, women only space where women can access support, advice, information and education to help them achieve their potential; develop their skills; and live their lives free from domestic abuse."

Our Objectives



Sutton Women's Centre is a unique organisation within the London Borough of Sutton with the capacity, skills and knowledge to design and deliver services to meet the

needs of local women. We continue to innovate and have a strong reputation for high quality service delivery. We are strong advocates for services for local women and champion these. We work in partnership with other organisations and are active members of a number of local voluntary sector fora.

Our headline objectives are -

- To support and empower women to increase their confidence and self-esteem and enable them to make positive life decisions for themselves and their children.
- To provide advice to local women to ensure that they are able to access appropriate services, support and increase communication between women

- To provide inclusive educational and learning opportunities to improve the life chances of local women and their children, increase their career related skills and enable women to develop the tools they need to be active citizens.
- To provide information to women that respects their individual needs and improves their life chances, reduces isolation and increases communication between women.
- To champion the needs of local women to local partners and collaborate to find solutions.

Our Outcomes

In line with many other organisations we monitor and evaluate our work. Many of the outcomes we monitor and evaluate are prescribed by funders and commissioners. However, we believe that if we are to ensure we are functioning well as a charity and meeting our charitable objectives we need to have objectives that can demonstrate this. To that end we monitor and evaluate all our work to ensure our work with women:

- Improves their life chances
- Improves their health and well-being
- Increases their basic skills
- Reduces their Isolation

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Our Achievements

The Freedom Programme

We are now into our seventh year of providing the Freedom Programme currently funded by the London Borough of Sutton via the Transform Partnership. To date over 1800 women have completed the programme with us.

The Freedom Programme is a twelve-week domestic abuse group course for women, which covers:

- All aspects of the dominator,
- The characteristics that he uses to gain power and control,
- The roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors
- The tactics that are involved in the games the dominator plays and the effects that domestic violence has on babies, toddlers, and teenagers.

Women either self refer or are referred by other agencies to the programme. The majority of our referrals are received from Children's Services, and have Child Protection Plans. Other referrals come from Hestia, NHS services, the police and schools.



This year saw a **68% increase** in the number of referrals to the Freedom Programme. From 371 in the previous year up to 545 this year. This very much reflects the increase in domestic abuse seen across the UK (and globally) during lockdown. We also saw a substantial increase in women aged 20-30 being referred, or self referring.

Continuing to provide the Freedom Programme was a priority for us. Our team quickly looked to Zoom and our team redesigned elements of the programme to better work online. This was hugely successful. Unfortunately, not all referrals were able to do the course online because of issues around safety, where their perpetrator was in the home; privacy, with children being at home), and lack of access to IT. Once restrictions were slightly lifted we were able to provide

Covid secure space and laptops for women who did not have access to IT - these were funded by the Coronavirus Community Support Fund..

Using Zoom has also meant that we are able to provide evening groups which has made it much more accessible for working women. Going forward we will continue to exploit the potential of online groups to make the Freedom Programme even more accessible.

We never view the Freedom Programme as a one-off course that ticks the box. Many of our women have complex needs as a result of years of abuse. We are there at every step of the way in what is often a very long journey to freedom. For example, we are -

- Supporting women to report incidences of abuse to the police
- Supporting women during court proceedings
- Providing crisis support
- Providing online support
- Providing access to our free counselling services
- Providing access to free legal advice
- Providing free workshops and classes to help with building self-esteem, improving mental health and coping with parenting challenges.
- Guiding women to our other services and those provided by other organisations in the community.

Women attending the Freedom Programme are diverse. The youngest woman we had was 16 years old and the oldest was 84. 33% of women attending the course are BME, which very much reflects our local community. For many this awareness of our services directly links to our provision of free ESOL classes - women are know us, they recommend us and they trust us.

Data shows that 9% of women attending have a disability, which is quite low. So this year two of our staff have been completed an accredited course on best practice to work with women with disabilities who have experienced domestic abuse. Using Zoom provides us with an opportunity to reach out to disabled women and our aim in the coming year is to trial a Freedom Programme group online specifically for disabled women.

The Freedom Programme - Jane's story in her own words *

I came to the Women's Centre after hearing about it from my IDVA who I was put in contact with via my children's school after reporting my ex-partner for domestic abuse.

The support and guidance I have received from the centre has been an absolute lifeline. My life and my children's has been very difficult these past two years and in the beginning I was feeling very scared, lost, alone and confused by everything that was going on.

I first spoke to a lady called Pauline after a horrendous court case. She listened and advised and sympathised with me which was very, very needed after the day I'd had. I was in a very low place and speaking to her that day really helped.

I then went in to see if I was suitable for the freedom programme. I started the programme and found it very useful but due to struggling with time due to working and everything else I only attended two sessions. After speaking with my IDVA I spoke to Pauline again and as the courses were now being held via zoom and in the evenings I decided to give it another go.

I found it so helpful and found myself looking forward to our Tuesday meetings. After the meetings I felt like a weight had been lifted being able to talk and understand the abuse I'd been subjected to. Listening to the other ladies also helped and the help and guidance they provided was brilliant.

I now realise I am not alone and have stopped being so hard on myself for allowing this to happen. I also have hope that things will eventually get better for me and my children after listening to the meeting leaders and hearing how life is for them now.

I have also accessed some free legal help from the centre which has helped me navigate myself through the court process.

I can't thank these ladies enough and I know without this service things would be very different for me and I probably wouldn't have had the strength to carry on fighting for a better, abuse free life for me and my children and would have felt I had no other option but to go back to my ex partner and endure many more years of physical, emotional, financial and verbal abuse.

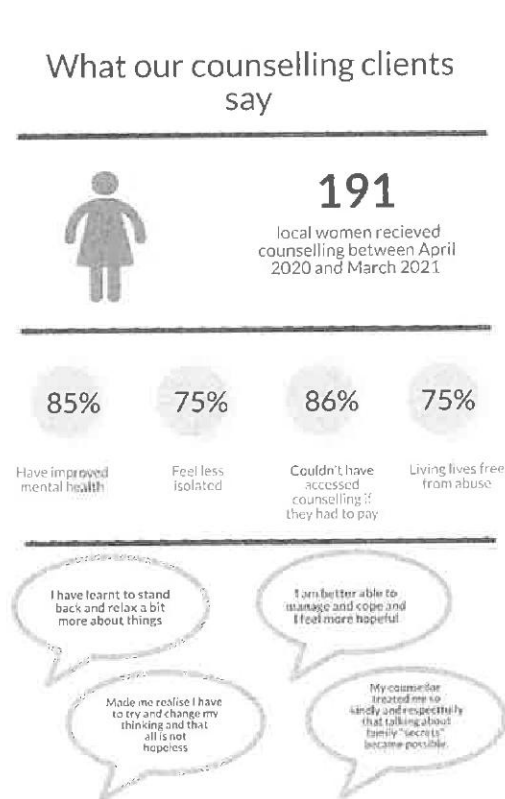
I am currently on the waiting list for counselling which I think will massively benefit me as I am still struggling with the emotional damage from the relationship.

Thank you, Sutton Women's Centre, from the bottom of my heart. You've changed mine and my children's lives.

*name changed to protect confidentiality

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Counselling

We continue to provide one to one counselling service for local women who have experienced domestic/ sexual abuse. This service has now been running for over 10 years with many thanks to funding from the National Lottery.



This year we worked with 191 women and delivered over 5,000 hours of counselling. As a result of the Covid pandemic our counselling service had to be adapted to online or telephone support. We provided training to our counsellors to enable them to make the transition to online work ethically and our counsellors rose to the challenge and took on more clients to reduce our ever-increasing waiting list. We also provided crisis support to 40 women suffering from anxiety and stress.

We now have 38 counsellors volunteering for this service. These volunteers come from a mixed background of counselling students looking for a counselling placement as part of their qualification, and fully qualified counsellors who want to give back to their community.

We are finding that many of our counsellors are now staying with us once they are qualified and we can now boast that half our counsellors are fully qualified. We have begun to work more closely with two of our local colleges to provide a placement for trainee counsellors.

The extension we built this year has provided us with enough space for an additional 40 hours of counselling a week to help us manage our waiting list of over 100 women.

What our stakeholders say

We get referrals from a number of sources - Social Services, GPs, Health Visitors, voluntary and community organisations, and hospitals. We recently undertook a survey of our stakeholders, who regularly refer women to our counselling service.

- 100% believed that women's mental and emotional health has improved because of the services we provide
- 88.9% reported that the counselling service makes a difference to the lives of survivors of domestic abuse
- 88.9% reported that our counselling service made a difference to the mental and emotional wellbeing of their service users
- 100% valued that the counselling service is able to be free of charge due to funding
- 100% stated that it was important to them that it was a female only service.

What our clients say

A 2020 survey of our service users found the following results:

- 84.6% of women had improved mental health
- 64% reported an increase in confidence
- 74.1% reported a reduction in feelings of isolation
- 78.6% reported an increased ability to cope with life on a day to day basis
- 69.2% reported an increase in self esteem
- 72.4% reported that they now live a life free of abuse
- 79.3% of women reported that they couldn't have had counselling on a regular basis if the sessions weren't free of charge and 85.7% reported that they wouldn't have been able to have counselling at all.
- 92.6% reported that they wouldn't have been able to look at their trauma if they had only been offered a handful of sessions.
- 69.3% felt that we managed to changeover to online counselling well but only 23.1% would prefer to work online rather than return to face to face sessions.

Our work with Women In Prison's local branch has continued and this is going well. They are hopeful to get further funding to continue with this outreach counselling service.

We have had a number of successes in the past year, including winning the Self Care Award organized by the Self Care Forum, a national organisation. A personal thankyou was received from the borough domestic abuse commissioner for providing additional services.

We have also introduced a weekly evening support group for women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

Supporting and developing our counsellors

We have increased our number of supervisors to 4 and now offer supervision on a Tuesday as well as a Monday, in order to be able to accommodate all our counsellors. Previously we only offered supervision on a Monday and this clashed with lessons at one of the local colleges which meant students then had to have their supervision privately. By introducing a new supervisor, on a different day, we can now offer all our counsellors group supervision.

We have also increased our counsellor's training opportunities, including a workshop on how to work effectively with the LGBTQ+ community and with women with disabilities who have experienced domestic abuse. We have also provided training in working with women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse as we are finding that more and more of our clients are presenting with this issue.

The workshop on the LGBTQ+ community was very informative and gave us some pointers into how we can engage with this hard-to-reach community more effectively.

Counselling feedback

I was so frightened when I came to SWC - not of SWC obviously, but of my husband, and also how I would be viewed as a professional working in the Borough and accessing the service (even though I had nothing to base this on!)

I was shown nothing but caring, non-judgemental, professional kindness and cannot thank SWC and Moira enough.

I knew I needed counselling for some time, but until that incident occurred last year, I just kept putting it off. I also felt that there were so many other women out there who deserved the counselling much more than me, and who were in far worse circumstances.

Well Moira allowed me to realise I am as important as anyone else and she gave me time to recognise what had led me to my current circumstances. She helped provide me clarity and allowed me to gain in confidence, so that I could leave my relationship when ready.

I have not done that yet, however I feel in a very different place. My anxiety levels have drastically reduced, and I feel less guilty and far more confident and happier. I know longer feel like I'm standing on the edge of a cliff waiting to jump or be pushed!

Workshops and classes

We run a number of classes to help build women's self-esteem, understand and manage their mental health better, and help them find their voice. Over the year approximately 270 have accessed these workshops and courses. The following courses took place as a result of working in partnership with Sutton College.

Art for Wellbeing funding enabled us to increase our classes to 3 a week. The classes are incredibly popular and oversubscribed, even when we had to switch them online.

Chi Flow, a mixture of Tai Chi and Qigong, helps women with their physical as well as their mental health, improving balance and flexibility as well as reintroducing women to their bodies, something that is very important to women who have experienced domestic and sexual abuse.

Breaking the Chains a drama-based course which helps women build on their self-esteem and empowers them to find their voice.

Writing for Wellbeing funhelps women to get their thoughts and feelings down on paper, a proven method to release trauma. It is also helpful to write your own story and to use metaphor to process feelings that may be too painful to express verbally.

Linda Wood facilitated 3 courses for us, each one several times a year and these are designed to improve women's understanding of their mental health and provide them with psychoeducation. These classes also build on women's self-esteem and confidence.

Domestic Abuse Support Groups

Support groups take place twice a month and are facilitated by a qualified counsellor. Twenty to thirty women attend each month and crèche facilities are available. Women find this ongoing support invaluable and many still need crisis intervention.

There is also online facilitated support via WhatsApp groups for each programme and a private Facebook page where women can share and receive support.

International Women's Day Celebration

As International Women's Day approached we started to look at what we could do within Covid guidelines and how we could do things differently. It is with thanks to team member Heather Smiles that we ended up with a full weekend of activities and over 378 tickets booked. Heather put her heart and soul into the celebrations and delivered a fantastic event over a full two days. We are incredibly grateful to the women below who shared their time, skills and experience free of charge.

- Art for Wellbeing Workshop - Anna Virabyan
- Singing for Wellbeing with local Choir Leader - come and sing for fun.
- Fabulicious Fitness - Shelly Holmes
- Time to Relax and Recharge - a meditation session - Linda Wood
- To Your Future Self - Caroline Odogwu of She Is You and winner of the Sutton Means Business Awards 2020.
- Gentle Yoga - Dipika
- Positive Mental Health Talk - Michelle Dawes, Life Coach
- Young Vibes a talk on inspirational women - Sutton African and Caribbean Cultural Society
- Musical Beats - Arabic Dance Demonstration - Daff Drumming
- Finding Inner Strength Through Self Compassion - Kind Mind Academy

Fundraising and donations

Like many charities, this year has been very hard in terms of fundraising as our usual range of local activities were not available and our fundraising Gala Dinner was cancelled.

However, many local organisations and people have stepped up and been incredibly generous with their donations. Acts of kindness have a huge impact on survivors.

Particular thanks go to

Tropic Skin Care - donated a huge amount of their products which we gave out as Christmas presents. We also distribute these to women who are attending the Freedom Programme, women having counselling and women using the foodbank.

Phase Eight - who donated a huge number of items of clothing

Carshalton High School for Girls - who donated £1.000 which they raised by making and selling face masks.

Cheam and Sutton Rotary Club - who donated £750.00 and also hosted a virtual Santa's Grotto which was enjoyed by 62 children

Bob Watson - who donated a huge number of children's presents enabling 168 families to have a special Christmas. And thanks to his wife and daughter who spent days sorting the presents into age groups and wrapping them beautifully.

Cuddington Ladies Golf Club - who donated £5,000

Sutton Vineyard Church - who donated Christmas presents and over 40 Christmas food hampers

Jill Scarlett (Sainsburys community champion) - who donated 30 Christmas cakes baked by her and her mother

Kathy Pelc who did a sponsored walk around the borough and raised £455.00

SWAN (a local Muslim Women's Group) - who donated stationery packs and clothes

And finally, a huge thanks to all the people who have donated anonymously through Facebook, Amazon Smile and PayPal, and those who have donated goods to help us fundraise.

Food Bank

We are currently supporting 58 women a week and have supplied 1935 bags of shopping in the last year. The introduction of a food bank for our clients has made a huge difference to our service users. Many of our women have challenges with Universal Credit and still live with the impact of economic abuse. From October to December alone we provided 763 bags of shopping to local women.

During lockdown, a visit to the foodbank also gave women the opportunity to have a chat with one of our counsellors or support staff and receive some emotional support. Service users reported back that this was invaluable in getting them through such a difficult time. We are very grateful to all the individuals and organisations who have made donations which we have distributed to women in need. Particular thanks go to -

- Cheam and Sutton Rotary Club
- Carshalton Park Rotary club
- Sutton Community Farm
- Sainsburys
- Morrisons
- Tesco
- Lighthouse Church

Building our extension

We had planned for some time to create an extension in our back garden as we are in desperate need of more space to deliver our services. George Williamson from WAD Associates Ltd in Wallington was the architect who pulled together the plans, secured planning permission and managed the project for us. We are incredibly grateful for his professionalism and support.

We started the build shortly after lockdown. We are incredibly grateful to Surrey Lofts who carried out the building work. They were diligent, professional and we are more than happy with the result. Having the extension gives us an extra room and the capacity to offer over 40 more women a week counselling. The room has also allowed us to increase our capacity for other services such as ESOL, art classes and well-being workshops. This has been crucial during the pandemic as we have had the room to offer Covid secure classes and counselling sessions.

The total cost of the build was £45,000. We already had £21,000 of funds ringfenced by fundraising and we raised the remaining £24,000+ from

- Sutton Vineyard Church - donated £4,000
- Viridor Beddington Community Benefit Fund - donated £3, 000
- Bernard Sunley Foundation - donated £5,000
- Aviva Crowdfunding - which raised £3,500. Huge thanks to Sarah McGourty who did all the work on this so well, and so successfully.
- Community Action Sutton and Sutton Giving COVID-19 Rebuild Fund - who gave us a grant of £10,000

We had a limited launch with the Mayor of Sutton and Deputy Madam Mayor and we extend our thanks to them for doing this.

Engaging with the wider community

Opportunities to engage with the wider community were very limited this year. We have always welcomed visitors to the Centre and going out to speak and engage with local people and organisations.

However, we have continued to act as a voice in the local community as members of

- The London Borough of Sutton Domestic Abuse Strategic Board
- The London Borough of Sutton Domestic Abuse Forum
- The London Borough of Sutton Reducing Reoffending Board
- The local VCS CEO forum
- Women's Aid and the Women's Aid CEO Network

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Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are pivotal to our success. From counselling to legal advice, they bring skills and knowledge that we could never hope to buy in.

We have increased the number of our volunteers to over 60 this year. We have 41 voluntary counsellors at the Centre. These are second- or third-year students studying for an MSC or Diploma in counselling, or recently qualified counsellors. We are grateful to them not only for the hours they give us but for the way so many of them throw themselves into the life and culture of the Centre.

We are finding that many of our counsellors are now staying with us once they are qualified and we can now boast that half our counsellors are fully qualified. We have recently begun to work more closely with two of our local colleges to provide a placement for trainee counsellors.



We are particularly pleased that our volunteers on the Freedom Programme are drawn from women who have been on the programme themselves. Not only can they share their insight but develop their own skills and experience as they take their lives forward. Two of our former Freedom Programme volunteers - Kerry and Lyzanne - are now qualified facilitators and truly understand the hard journey women face to find freedom.

We would not be able to provide the wide range of support and services without our volunteers. For example, our "Women on Wednesday" is supported totally by volunteers who have shown a long-term commitment to working with local women and supporting the centre.

We have calculated that this year our volunteers have provided an annual value of over £270,000¹.

¹ ONS annual survey of hours and earnings
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/pla-ceofresidencebylocalauthorityshetable8>

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Our Future Plans

Our Plans for 2021 - 2022

Our overarching priorities in terms of service delivery are -

- Supporting women to live their lives free of violence
- Enabling women to be economically and socially active
- Supporting mothers in the challenges they face

As a small charity we rely on funding streams to support services for which we have identified a need. This means that the majority of our funding is restricted- with contractual obligations setting out what must be delivered, the time frame and the available resources.

In terms of unrestricted funding, money is raised through fundraising activity but given the nature of this it is impossible to identify what this resource would be throughout the year or make any plans for this. The Management Committee regularly consider the priorities for unrestricted funds when they become available.

Like many organisations we are not sure what the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will have. What we are certain of, is that we have the capacity and skills to quickly flex to meet the needs of local women and design services that meet these needs.

There is a planned Strategy Session due to take place in May 2021 to determine our plans going forward.

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Our Funding

Transactions and financial position

Financial position

The statement of financial activities shows net income/ (outgoings) for the year of (2021:- £7562) and our reserves stand at **£225016** (2020: £217,453) in total, of which £170,837 represents Current Assets and £54,237 represents Fixed Assets.

Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the charity

Details of movements in Fixed Assets are set out in Note 9 of the Accounts.

Reserves

The Trustees recognise the need to ensure adequate resources are held in reserve to account for contractual obligations to staff (i.e. maternity and redundancy pay), contingencies, risk management and any unanticipated reduction in income. The Trustees have agreed a reserves policy in recognition of the risks to our operations if we fail to secure future funding. The reserves policy aims to mitigate these risks. We have one main asset which is our premises, which is owned by Sutton Women's Centre. This puts us in a slightly different position to many charities in that we can keep the Centre open, in some form, with only basic running costs and volunteers. However this means that the major risk to our future is the building itself and as such the potential costs / liability for major work is incorporated into this reserve policy.

Sutton Women's Centre is currently dependent on a variety of funders providing restricted funding to deliver agreed services. This reserves policy does not cover the actual loss from these funding streams once the funding period has ended but rather the reserves required to keep a basic level of service available to local women and to prevent Sutton Women's Centre from closing.

Directors and Trustees

All Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity, and there have been no other Trustees. All of the Trustees named on page 1 served as detailed. The Board has the power to appoint additional Trustees as it considers fit to do so.

Risk Management

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Trustee's responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The Trustees are required by company law to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the charity and of its financial position at the end of that year. In preparing those Financial Statements the Trustees are required to:

- (a) select suitable policies and apply them consistently;
- (b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (c) state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and with applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements; and
- (d) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

Independent Examiners

A resolution proposing Community Action Sutton be re-appointed as Independent Examiners of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on

and signed on their behalf by:


.....

A Cummins - Chair

The Women's Centre Sutton
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31st March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Charitable Activities	3	-	165,460	165,460	116,190
Donations	2	56,909	15,052	71,961	41,844
Total	2	56,909	180,512	237,421	158,034
Expenditure On:					
Charitable Activities		54,935	174,924	229,859	147,506
Total	4	54,935	174,924	229,859	147,506
Net Income / (expenditure)		1,974	5,588	7,562	10,528
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		1,974	5,588	7,562	10,528
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		138,316	79,137	217,453	206,925
Total Funds carried forward		140,291	84,724	225,015	217,453

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above

The Women's Centre Sutton
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible Assets	9	54,178	54,237
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		170,837	163,926
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	-	710
NET CURRENT ASSETS:		170,837	163,216
NET ASSETS		<u>225,015</u>	<u>217,453</u>
FUNDS	11		
Other Reserves		54,000	54,000
Restricted Funds		30,724	25,137
Unrestricted Funds		<u>140,291</u>	<u>138,316</u>
		<u>225,015</u>	<u>217,453</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Director acknowledges her responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the charity keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each year, financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 & 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015) and with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Approved by the Board on

4/10/2021

Signed on their behalf by:

Anna Cummins –
Chair

X 

Amokegbame Stehfast –
Treasurer

X



Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2021

1.1a Basis of preparation of Accounts

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Directors' and Trustees' Report and all of which are continuing.

The Accounts have been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Charity Accounts Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Statement No 1 (revised) from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement.

1.1b Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of a grant

1.2 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of Fixed Assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold Property	Not provided
Fixtures & Fittings	25% on reducing balance
Office Equipment	25% on reducing balance

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income & donations are accounted for as received by the charity. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs. No permanent endowments have been received in the period, but these are dealt with through the Statement of Financial Activities when received.

The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these Accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31st March 2021

1.4 Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income plus associated tax recoverable is credited to income on an accruals basis, using dividend dates and interest accrued daily.

1.5 Value Added Tax

Value added tax is not recoverable by the charity, and as such is not included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.6 Resources Expended

Administration expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the charitable activity which is based within the premises. This includes costs of running office premises, staff salaries for administrative staff and accountancy fees.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the Independent Examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly.

1.7 Fundraising Costs

Fundraising expenditure comprises costs incurred in inducing people and organisations to contribute financially to the charity's work. This includes the cost of advertising for donations and the staging of special fundraising events

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31st March 2021

2. INCOME FROM GENERATED FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
HMRC Job RS	-	15,052	15,052	-
Donations and Gifts	21,751	-	21,751	13,028
Counselling donations	3,750	-	3,750	6,472
Fundraising	22,309	-	22,309	8,464
ROOM-HIRE	-	-	-	2,795
LWD BOOKS	370	-	370	445
Supervision	6,600	-	6,600	5,160
Gift Aid	2,128	-	2,128	3,034
Contributions towards courses	-	-	-	2,447
Grants (Note 3)	-	165,460	165,460	116,190
	56,909	180,512	237,421	158,034

All donations are treated as an unrestricted fund. Investment Income is derived from interest receivable on cash deposits.

3. GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Transform	-	44,240	44,240	11,057
Transform MOPAC	-	7,155	7,155	-
Children In Need	-	4,996	4,996	9,992
Children In Need Extra Funding	-	3,000	3,000	-
London Funders Wave3	-	9,990	9,990	-
National Lottery	-	50,412	50,412	43,291
National Lotte COVID Fund	-	2,882	2,882	-
Sutton College ESOL	-	288	288	1,440
Tesco Groundworks	-	500	500	-
CommunityAction COVID19	-	1,300	1,300	-
Community Action Rebuild	-	10,000	10,000	-
Women In Prison	-	13,063	13,063	2,247
Neighbourly Com Fund	-	400	400	-
Arts Network	-	1,000	1,000	-
Sutton College Bid	-	4,494	4,494	4,314
Sutton College	-	9,291	9,291	-
Ministry of Justice	-	2,450	2,450	-
LBS FREEDOM PROGRAMME	-	-	-	27,990
ICS NHS	-	-	-	10,400
Ashley Foundation	-	-	-	960
St James Place	-	-	-	2,500
Sutton College ART	-	-	-	2,000
	-	165,460	165,460	116,190

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31st March 2021

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
STAFF SALARIES	41,394	83,098	124,492	93,983
STAFF TRAINING	-	1,589	1,589	1,755
SUPERVISION	-	15,010	15,010	11,250
CRECHE	-	82	82	1,081
SERVICE DELIVERY	-	9,078	9,078	15,213
IND EXAMINERS FEES	-	710	710	1,310
TELEPHONE	-	558	558	376
Accounting	-	-	-	193
Salaries	-	-	-	7,696
RATES	-	792	792	881
INSURANCE	-	1,114	1,114	1,029
COMPUTER COSTS	-	-	-	739
LIGHT & HEAT	-	819	819	922
SUNDRY	-	171	171	1,568
POST & STATIONERY	-	1,953	1,953	2,356
Building Works	13,541	31,943	45,484	2,059
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	-	7,299	7,299	827
Cleaning	-	880	880	918
BANK CHARGES	-	138	138	120
FUNDRAISING COSTS	-	200	200	591
CONFERENCE	-	-	-	250
Gala Dinner	-	-	-	550
COVID	-	3,279	3,279	-
WORKSHOPS	-	15,760	15,760	1,262
VOLUNTEER EXPENSES	-	392	392	499
DEPRECIATION	-	59	59	79
	54,935	174,924	229,859	147,507

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
Year ended 31st March 2021

5. NET INCOME / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the charity
Independent Examiners Fees

2021	2020
£	£
59	79
710	1,310
<u>769</u>	<u>1,389</u>

6. STAFF COSTS

Salaries & Social Security Costs

2021	2020
£	£
<u>124,492</u>	<u>93,983</u>

No employee received remuneration of more than £20,426.

The number of employees at the end of the year totalled **14** (2020: 15)

7. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION & RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year. No travel costs were reimbursed to any Trustee during the year (2020 - nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year. (2020 - nil).

8. TAXATION

As a charity The Women's Centre (Sutton) is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
Year ended 31st March 2021

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	FREEHOLD PROPERTY £	FIXTURES & FITTINGS £	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT £	TOTALS 2021 £	TOTALS 2020 £
COST					
As at 1 April 2020	54,000	10,218	13,495	77,713	77,713
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2021	54,000	10,218	13,495	77,713	77,713
DEPRECIATION					
As at 1 April 2020	-	10,136	13,339	23,476	23,397
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for Year	-	20	39	59	79
At 31 March 2021	-	10,156	13,378	23,535	23,476
NET BOOK VALUE					
As at 31 March 2021	54,000	62	117	54,178	54,237
At 31 March 2020	54,000	82	156	54,238	54,317

Freehold Property

There is a charge registered by the London Borough of Sutton against all the charity's property.

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Creditors	-	-
Other accruals	-	710
	-	710

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31st March 2021

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 31 March 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
OTHER RESERVE	54,000	-	-	-	54,000
RESTRICTED					
CommunityNat Lottery Fund	17,643	50,412	(53,731)		14,324
Natiional Lottery COVID	-	2,882	(2,882)		-
Transform	(2,816)	44,240	(33,622)		7,802
Transform MOPAC	-	7,155	(7,155)		-
LBS Survivors	1	1	1		1
CHILDREN IN NEED	4,356	4,996	(9,129)		223
Children In Need COVID	-	3,000	(3,000)		-
London Funders Wave 3	-	9,990	(9,990)		-
Ministry of Justice	-	2,450	(2,450)		-
Sutton college Bid	220	4,494	(4,714)		-
Sutton College Bid 2	-	9,291	(10,451)		(1,161)
Sutton College ESOL	-	288	(288)		-
Women In Prison	717	13,063	(9,500)		4,280
St James Place	882	-	(882)		-
Ashley Foundation	820	-	(380)		440
CommunityAction COVID19	-	1,300	(1,300)		-
CommunityAction COVID19	-	10,000	(10,000)		-
Neighbourly Com Fund	-	400	(400)		-
Tesco Groundworks	-	500	-		500
Art Network	-	1,000	-		1,000
NHS	3,316	-	-		3,316
HMRC Job Ret	-	15,052	(15,052)		-
TOTAL	79,137	180,512	(174,925)		84,724
GENERAL	138,316	56,909	(54,935)		140,291
	217,453	237,421	(229,859)		225,015

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2021

I report on the accounts for The Women's Centre (Sutton) for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for Independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent review

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe, that in any material respect, the requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name: Dunstanette Kuti FCCA MCS1
Position: Head of Financial Services
Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre
73-79 Oakhill Road
Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3AA

Date:

11/10/

2021