

# ASHA PROJECTS

England & Wales · Charity number 294516

## Details

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Other names    | ASHA-ASIAN WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE LAMBETH PROJECTS        |
| Status         | Registered  |
| Legal form     | Charitable company                                      |
| Company number | 02019000  |
| Registered     | 1986-06-10  |
| Register       | <a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a> |

## Contact

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|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Address | 13 Shrubbery Road<br>London<br>SW16 2AS                              |
| Phone   | 02086960023  |
| Email   | <a href="mailto:admin@asha.org.uk">admin@asha.org.uk</a>             |
| Website | <a href="http://www.ashaprojects.org.uk">www.ashaprojects.org.uk</a> |

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND SICKNESS AND THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND FOR ANY OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY (WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO WOMEN OF ASIAN ORIGIN) IN GREATER LONDON.

**Activities:** Asha Projects is a specialist Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women's organisation working with South Asian women to address violence against women and girls. Our programmes include accommodation based refuges, advice, outreach and training programmes to empower women.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER LONDON
- Throughout England

## Finances

| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets   | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £813,329 | £625,041    | £803,225 | 9         |
| 2024-03-31 | £769,147 | £552,804    | £614,937 | 6         |
| 2023-03-31 | £646,319 | £509,445    | £398,593 | 6         |
| 2022-03-31 | £469,859 | £414,811    | -        | -         |
| 2021-03-31 | £468,603 | £427,421    | -        | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                   | Role  | Appointed  |
|------------------------|-------|------------|
| <b>PRAFULA VADGAMA</b> | Chair |            |
| CHANDRA SHAH           |       |            |
| Dr BIPASHA AHMED       |       |            |
| Jayasree Kalathil      |       | 2017-07-03 |
| KAVITHA CHAHEL         |       |            |

**ASHA PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 294516

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# Accounts

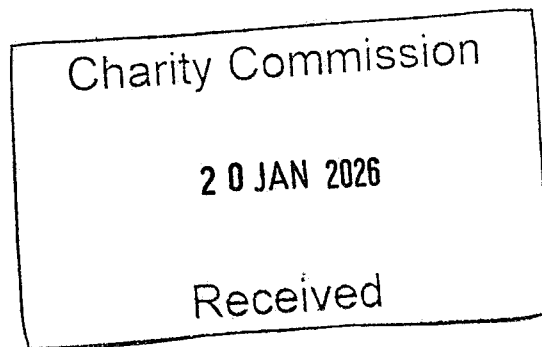
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**Company Registration No: 2019000**

**Charity Registration No. 294516**

**ASHA PROJECTS**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**



**BHARAT SHAH & CO**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**786 London Road**  
**Thornton Heath**  
**Surrey, CR7 6JB**

# ASHA PROJECTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025

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**ASHA PROJECTS**

**Company Information**

**Charity Number**

294516

**Company registration number**

2019000

**Registered office**

13 Shrubbery Road  
London  
SW16 2AS

**Trustees (Management Committee)**

P. Vadgama  
K. Chahel  
B. Ahmed  
C. Dagli – left 01 August 2024  
J. Kalathil

**Senior staff members**

I Patel  
V. Maharaj  
J. Chana – left 30 October 2024

**Independent Examiners**

Bharat Shah & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey  
CR7 6JB

**Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank plc  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

## **ASHA PROJECTS**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, governing documents, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Public Benefit Statement**

The trustees confirm that Asha Projects activities provide public benefit in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and directly aligned with our charitable aims. Our refuge accommodation, counselling, advice and advocacy programmes are free of charge and open to the section of the public we exist to support, South Asian women and children experiencing domestic abuse. These services help women achieve safety, stability and independence, advancing our charitable objectives to relieve poverty, protect health, and promote equality.

##### **Governing document**

Asha Projects is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in 1986. We are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. Our charitable objects, as stated in the Memorandum of Association are to advance education, relieve poverty, sickness, the protection of health, and to pursue any other charitable purpose for the benefit of the community with a particular focus on women of South Asian origin in the UK.

##### **Recruitment and Appointment of trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees. Under our Articles of Association, they are known as members of the management committee and hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), with the option of re-election.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

The organisation appoints trustees based on their skills, experience, and alignment with Asha's vision, mission, aims and objectives. A structured induction is offered to all new trustees, complemented by continuous professional development and support to strengthen governance and strategic oversight.

The trustees arrange to meet at least quarterly to:

- Provide strategic oversight and direction.
- Establish policies and delegate responsibilities.
- Monitor organisational performance.
- Ensure the effective and responsible management of Asha's resources.

#### **Financial Governance**

To strengthen financial governance, we have implemented procedures to:

- Establish clear delegations of authority over financial matters.
- Control income and expenditure.
- Implement robust budgeting and financial management practises.
- Maintain accurate and timely financial records in compliance with the Charities SORP and Companies Act 2006.
- Conduct regular internal reviews and independent examinations to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Monitor reserves and develop a reserves policy to safeguard long term sustainability.
- Ensure all financial decisions align with the organisation's strategic objectives and risk management framework.

While the trustees bear overall responsibility for Asha, the day-to-day operations are delegated to senior staff.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

#### Reserves Policy

As a small “by and for” organisation operating within short-term commissioning and funding cycles, the trustees remain concerned about Asha’s long-term sustainability. Competition for limited resources has increased significantly and larger organisations often have greater capacity and resources to submit multiple, complex funding applications, putting smaller organisations like ours at a disadvantage. This uncertainty makes forward planning difficult and affects our ability to recruit and retain skilled staff, as posts are often advertised for only a year or less. Such instability affects programme delivery and organisational growth.

To address these risks, the trustees have adopted a reserves policy aimed at:

- Building sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies and maintain continuity of programmes.
- Creating designated funds for hardship support (including No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)), staff contractual obligations, and property, programme development and sustainability, planned maintenance on a 5-year cycle and renewals and replacements on a 3-year cycle.
- Planning for future property acquisition to provide stability and reduce reliance on rented premises.
- Allocating general funds to cover at least 1 year of operational costs, ensuring the organisation can continue to function, even during funding gaps. This allows us to manage programme closures gradually, reducing disruption and minimising the impact on the women we support.
- Reviewing reserves annually to ensure they align with organisational needs and financial risks.

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

**Risk Management**

Risk management is a key priority for Asha. We take a proactive approach to identifying and reducing risks across all the areas of our work. Regular checks are carried out and recorded.

They cover:

- Business continuity planning to keep programmes running during emergencies including measures for staff safety, remote working arrangements, safeguarding protocols, and contingency plans for critical operations.
- Operational policies and procedures to ensure efficiency and compliance.
- Health and Safety checks and training including updated Fire Safety and First Aid training for staff.
- Maintain an annual risk register, that identifies both possible and expected risks faced by the organisation. The director and the senior managers monitor this register on an ongoing basis, and the management committee quarterly to ensure timely action and effective risk management.
- Follow safeguarding policies for staff, volunteers and people we support and provide staff training on risk management.
- Regularly check for financial and reputational risks and take steps to reduce them. This includes reviewing budgets, safeguarding assets, ensuring transparency, and complying with legal and regulatory standards.

## **ASHA PROJECTS**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

#### **Organisational Structure**

Asha operates under a collaborative structure with clear governance and delivery roles. At the core is Asha's Vision, guiding all activities and strategic direction.

The trustees provide oversight, overall direction, strategic focus and decision-making, while the senior team lead on strategy, advocacy, and funding. Our staff team delivers frontline services including refuge provision, advice, and counselling while finance and administration functions ensure sustainability and operational efficiency.

This structure promotes accountability, collaboration, and a shared commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

#### **Vision, Mission, Aims, and Objectives**

- Our vision is to live in a just and sustainable society, free from violence, oppression and exploitation.
- Our mission is to provide resources to empower South Asian women to build lives free from gender-based violence, racism, and other forms of discrimination.

#### **Our Aims**

- Provide holistic support to survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG), from crisis intervention through to long-term recovery.
- Ensure equitable access to essential services and support, addressing the diverse needs of women and children and removing barriers to safety, justice, and well-being.
- Empower women to become leaders, decision-makers, and agents of change in their own lives and communities.
- Drive systemic change by raising awareness and influencing policy through collective action, partnerships, and advocacy.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

#### Our Objectives (activities)

Asha works from four locations: one resource centre and three refuges with a total of 19 bed spaces. We:

- Offer safe accommodation through refuge provision.
- Provide advice, information and advocacy.
- Deliver culturally sensitive counselling in multiple South Asian languages.
- Run participatory activities that build peer support, confidence, and leadership skills.
- Maintain strong partnerships with statutory and voluntary sector services to improve access and outcomes.
- Build internal capacity through supervision, staff training, and adherence to quality standards.

We understand the unique challenges South Asian women face, such as cultural, language, and religious barriers, as well as discrimination based on race, ethnicity, caste and economic inequality. This is why Asha offers support that is culturally sensitive and led "by and for" South Asian women. This approach ensures women can get help in their preferred languages and in a safe, familiar environment where they feel understood and encouraged to share their experiences.

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

**Volunteer Support**

Asha values the vital role volunteers play in achieving our mission. Their diverse skills, knowledge and experiences strengthen and enrich our work.

We actively encourage former residents and clients to volunteer. This gives them opportunities to:

- Build confidence, develop new skills and improve employability.
- Gain work experience and explore career paths, leading to job opportunities within Asha or other organisations.
- Contribute to governance by joining the management committee, bringing lived experience that informs decision-making and programme delivery.
- Support other women survivors through peer-to-peer support are crucial in creating a safe and caring environment for current residents.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)****Achievements and Performance**

Asha Projects is a "by and for" South Asian women organisation, dedicated to ending gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG). With nearly 40 years of experience, we have extensive expertise and understanding of the complex issues surrounding VAWG within South Asian communities.

We recognise the critical importance of specialist organisations that go beyond simply providing language services and interpretation. Asha offers essential support grounded in a profound understanding of the unique socio-cultural norms, values, and challenges faced by South Asian women. Intersectional issues often create multiple barriers when accessing safety and support. Our participatory support systems are designed to be women-centred, empowering individuals to actively engage in their own recovery and growth. We address the diverse needs of each woman based on her unique experiences, ensuring a personalised, non-judgemental and culturally sensitive approach.

Survivor participation and feedback inform our work at every level. Monthly "Tea@Asha" meetings at each refuge, planned, led and managed by resident victim-survivors are an example of regular skill and knowledge building and sharing activities. Refuge caseworkers support and guide victim-survivors as problems and solutions are discussed collectively. Many South Asian victim-survivors experience enforced isolation before arriving at Asha, leading to feelings of being overwhelmed that can obstruct access to support. This is particularly challenging for migrant victim-survivors. With survivor participation and involvement, we foster growth in self-esteem, rebuild trust through collective solidarity and help remove practical barriers such as learning English, budgeting, navigating travel, attending appointments and more.

Shared understanding and peer support are vital components of our approach. These create a trusted and safe environment, enabling women to escape violent relationships that have devastating impacts on their physical and mental health. Through our collective efforts, vulnerable women are empowered to rebuild confidence, strengthen relationships, and create a brighter future for themselves and their children.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Continued funding received from the GLA/MOPAC Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation funding, facilitated through the OYA consortium, with Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) as the lead has enabled us to provide much-needed wrap-around holistic support to women and their children living our refuges.

In the year April 2024 to March 2025, we supported 521 women, 41 women received specialist immigration advice, ensuring their access to statutory support. Of these 28 women successfully changed their immigration status. Additionally, 45 women and 10 children received in-house counselling support with 35 women, and 8 children reported improved mental health and overall well-being.

Of the 98 women seeking refuge space during this period, we were only able to accommodate 20 new women and their children. 62 women were turned away because we had no space. This highlights the urgent need for increased refuge capacity to meet the growing demand for safe and supportive accommodation.

One of the most significant barriers faced by women seeking refuge is the severe shortage of available bed spaces, particularly for those requiring specialised support. The current funding structure for refuges is precarious, with short-term commissioning cycles (typically three years or less) leaving many organisations operating on a year-to-year basis. This lack of long-term funding security creates instability for both Asha and the women we support. Securing sustainable financial support is crucial but remains challenging, particularly in the current environment.

Accessing statutory services and support systems remains a significant challenge for many women we support. Barriers such as language barriers, racism, and cultural insensitivity within these systems can create significant obstacles for women in accessing essential services like healthcare and housing. This places a significant burden on our staff who must advocate on behalf of their clients to navigate these complex systems and ensure access to the support they need.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Securing access to safe and affordable housing is crucial for survivors' long-term recovery. However, finding suitable and secure housing remains a significant challenge, particularly for single women.

While we are fortunate to have a strong partnership with Lambeth Council, which provides access to social housing for women leaving our commissioned services, accessing housing in other boroughs can be a complex and distressing experience. Many women encounter significant barriers, including:

- Navigating multiple housing departments and meeting eligibility criteria can be time-consuming and overwhelming.
- Housing staff who may lack the understanding and sensitivity required to support survivors of domestic abuse.
- The shortage of affordable and long-term housing options often resulting in women being placed in unsuitable accommodation, such as emergency or temporary housing, or expensive private rentals with limited security.
- Additional barriers for women from South Asian backgrounds due to racism and discrimination within the housing system.

This experience can be incredibly stressful, instilling a sense of powerlessness and leading to deterioration of their mental and physical health. It can significantly impact survivors' recovery and their ability to rebuild their lives.

Furthermore, we observed a significant increase in requests for information and advice on:

- Debt management
- Council tax reduction
- Rent arrears
- Escalating utility costs

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

To address these critical issues, Asha will continue to advocate for:

- Increased and sustained funding for refuge services.
- Improved inter-agency collaboration.
- Greater access to affordable and secure housing options.
- Challenging systemic racism and discrimination.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to have a compounding impact on women experiencing domestic abuse, exacerbating existing inequalities and increasing vulnerability. Through the Covid-19 extension funding received via the OYA consortium, we were able to continue providing essential support to women living in our refuges at a time when the ongoing cost-of-living crisis affects our clients, staff, and the organisation.

To support women facing these unprecedented challenges, we:

- partnered with food banks and actively sought donations.
- Provided food, toiletries, clothing, bedding, and other essential items to women and children residing in the refuge. By addressing these immediate needs, we alleviated financial stress and enabled women to focus on their recovery.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Staff well-being was also prioritised. We provided:

- Regular clinical supervision offering guidance and opportunities to develop skills in culturally appropriate, trauma-informed care, leading to improved case management and better outcomes for women.
- Monthly support and supervision providing structured one-to-one sessions with managers.
- Weekly peer-to-peer case supervision creating a collaborative space for staff to share experiences, exchange best practises and problem solve collectively. These sessions foster team cohesion and mutual learning.
- Counselling support when needed ensuring staff have access to professional mental health support during periods of high stress or emotional strain.
- Monthly collective care sessions of guided activities designed to build resilience and promote mutual support in the workplace.

Feedback from staff indicated that this structured support significantly improved their mental health and reduced stress levels. Recruiting and retaining experienced staff particularly those who can provide culturally specific, bilingual, and trauma-informed support remains a significant challenge. Despite this, our team reflects a wide range of South Asian regions and languages, enabling us to deliver more inclusive and culturally sensitive services to victim-survivors.

To strengthen engagement and visibility, we are redesigning our website and enhancing our social media strategy. This redevelopment aims to provide stakeholders with clear, accessible information about our work, showcase our impact, and share updates on programmes and initiatives. It will also serve as a vital resource for South Asian women seeking support, offering practical guidance, safety information, and pathways to access our services. By improving our digital presence, we hope to increase awareness, foster community connections, and ensure that women in need can find help quickly and confidently.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

Despite an increasingly challenging economic environment where the cost-of-living crisis disproportionately affects the most vulnerable and growing concerns about the safety of South Asian victim-survivors are heightened by the rise of far-right extremism, we remain hopeful. Asha is committed to strengthening its practice to deliver meaningful lasting change in the lives of South Asian victim-survivors.

Asha continues to actively collaborate with agencies and partners who share our vision, fostering solidarity, resource-sharing, and a consistent, holistic approach to meet the needs of South Asian women. We work collaboratively both locally and across London, notably through our contribution to the OYA Consortium, a partnership of four "by and for" Black and minoritised VAWG organisations in London.

### Looking Ahead

We will:

- Continue strengthening our organisational sustainability.
- Continue supporting women during the cost-of-living crisis by building hardship funds to provide essential support to women facing financial difficulty.
- Continue advocating for access to affordable and secure housing.
- Ensure that our work continues to be informed by victim-survivors (Experts by Experience) through active participation, feedback, and co-production in programme design and delivery.
- Work towards obtaining a recognised quality mark to demonstrate best practice and strengthen credibility.

Going forward, the trustees will continue to focus on diversifying income streams, building general and designated funds, and maintaining robust financial controls to ensure long-term sustainability.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)

The trustees would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our funders and supporters for their ongoing support. We also want to acknowledge the dedication, commitment, and inspiring efforts of our staff and volunteers, who have done an exceptional job, especially during these trying times. Also, a thank-you to Chandra Dagli, management committee member, and Jatinder Chana, housing manager, who left during the year for their, long term dedication, commitment and support to Asha.

#### **Financial review**

The year April 2024 to March 2025 saw a slight increase in the charity's activities, with income rising from £769,147 to £813,329, an increase of £44,182.

Asha provides pension scheme contributions for our employees, which are reflected in the statement of financial activities for the year. The charity has no other liabilities under this scheme beyond these contributions.

In February 2025, Asha received £25,000 from Imkaan, which will be deferred to the next financial year to support planned activities. This ensures compliance with accounting standards and provides stability for future service delivery.

During the year, Asha faced a significant challenge when Lambeth Council issued a decommissioning notice in September 2024, instructing us to halt all recruitment. As a result, the Housing Manager post remained vacant for six months and a Refuge Caseworker post for two months. While this created operational pressures, it also generated savings of £25,000, which will be carried forward to the next financial year to strengthen service continuity.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

The increase in Asha's unrestricted reserves from £614,937 last year to £803,225 this year reflects our commitment to prudent financial management and long-term sustainability. This growth strengthens Asha's ability to withstand funding uncertainties, maintain essential services during financial gaps, and invest in strategic development. By safeguarding resources for planned maintenance, staff obligations, and programme innovation, we ensure continuity of support for South Asian women and children experiencing domestic abuse, even in challenging economic conditions.

**Renewal and Replacement Fund**

This fund is maintained to cover essential replacements and upgrades of equipment and furnishings across our refuges and resource centre. It includes planned renewals on 2, 3, and 5-year cycles, such as white goods, furniture, and other essential items that ensure a safe and comfortable living environment for residents. The balance increased from £21,953 to £40,000, reflecting our commitment to maintaining high-quality standards and reducing the risk of unexpected costs.

**Planned Maintenance Fund**

Previously known as the Internal Decoration Fund, this reserve is built over a five-year cycle to meet major maintenance and refurbishment needs. The balance increased from £23,100 to £47,100 following an additional allocation of £24,000 this year. This planned approach ensures that properties remain in good condition without placing sudden strain on operational budgets.

**Employers' Contractual Obligations Fund**

This fund safeguards Asha's ability to meet staff-related commitments, including redundancy and contractual obligations. The balance grew from £122,000 to £167,000, providing security for our workforce and ensuring organisational stability during periods of change or funding uncertainty.

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

**Hardship Fund**

The Hardship Fund provides emergency support for women facing severe financial difficulty and/or have No Recourse To Public Funds (NRPF). The balance increased from £8,500 to £28,500, enabling Asha to respond quickly to urgent needs such as food, clothing, and essential items during times of crisis.

**Property, Programme Development & Sustainability Fund**

This fund supports strategic growth, programme innovation, and future property acquisition to reduce reliance on rented premises. The balance rose from £38,000 to £98,000, strengthening Asha's capacity to invest in long-term sustainability and service development. This growth includes £25,000 savings generated from the frozen recruitment during decommissioning threat, ensuring that resources are protected for future organisational priorities.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)****Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Asha Projects 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 the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 (CONTINUED)**

**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Bharat Shah Chartered Accountant has expressed his willingness to stand for reappointment and a resolution proposing his reappointment will be put forward at the Trustees Meeting.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 26/12/25 signed on their behalf.

On behalf of the board

  
.....

Chairperson – P Vadgama

## **ASHA PROJECTS**

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set on pages 22 to 31.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiners' report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS  
(CONTINUED)**

**Independent examiners' statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - 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. have not been met, or
  
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Bharat Shah*

Bharat Shah (Independent Examiner)  
For and on behalf of Bharat Shah & Co  
Chartered Accountants

786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey, CR7 6JB

Date: *29 Dec 2025*

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**Statement of financial activities**  
**Income and Expenditure accounts**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

| Particulars   | Notes | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2025</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2024</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|---|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|   |       | £                                   |                                   | £                           | £                           |
| <b><u>Incoming resources</u></b>                                  |       |                                     |                                   |                             |                             |
| <b><u>Charitable Trading</u></b>                                  |       |                                     |                                   |                             |                             |
| Rental Income   |       | 399,453                             |                                   | 399,453                     | 366,515                     |
| Income from Solace Women's Aid                                    | [2]   | 99,878                              |                                   | 99,878                      | 93,606                      |
| Grant Income (LAWA)   | [2]   | -                                   | 45,066                            | 45,066                      | 45,066                      |
| Management Fee - Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing               |       | 5,304                               |                                   | 5,304                       | 5,304                       |
| Specialist Refuges Funding  |       | -                                   | 180,699                           | 180,699                     | 180,704                     |
| Specialist Counselling  |       | -                                   | 75,709                            | 75,709                      | 75,709                      |
| Specialist Support services                                       |       |                                     | -                                 | -                           |                             |
| <b><u>Other Income</u></b>  |       |                                     |                                   |                             |                             |
| Bank Interest   |       | 6,844                               |                                   | 6,844                       | 1,265                       |
| Sundry Income   |       | 376                                 |                                   | 376                         | 977                         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                   |       | <b>511,855</b>                      | <b>301,474</b>                    | <b>813,329</b>              | <b>769,147</b>              |
| <b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>                                  |       |                                     |                                   |                             |                             |
| Costs of Charitable Activities                                    | [3]   | 315,779                             | 296,474                           | 612,253                     | 541,038                     |
| Governance Costs  | [4]   | 7,787                               | 5,000                             | 12,787                      | 11,766                      |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                   |       | <b>323,567</b>                      | <b>301,474</b>                    | <b>625,041</b>              | <b>552,804</b>              |
| Surplus /(Deficit) for the year<br>Before transfers between funds |       | 188,288                             | -                                 | 188,288                     | 216,343                     |
| Transfers between Funds   |       |                                     |                                   | -                           | -                           |
| <b>Total Funds Brought forward</b>                                |       | <b>614,937</b>                      |                                   | <b>614,937</b>              | <b>398,594</b>              |
| <b>Total Funds Carried forward</b>                                |       | <b>803,225</b>                      | <b>-</b>                          | <b>803,225</b>              | <b>614,937</b>              |

**Continuing operations**

None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current and previous years.

**Total recognised gains and losses**

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the current and previous years.

**ASHA PROJECTS****Statement of Financial Position As At 31 March 2025**

|  | NOTES | 2025             |                  | 2024           |                  |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|  |       | £                | £                | £              | £                |
| <u>Fixed assets</u>                                  |       |                  |                  |                |                  |
| Tangible Assets                                      | [08]  |                  | 3,313            |                | 4,141            |
| <u>Current assets</u>                                |       |                  |                  |                |                  |
| Debtors  | [09]  | 94,519           |                  | 56,536         |                  |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             |       | 969,211          |                  | 722,060        |                  |
|  |       | <u>1,063,730</u> |                  | <u>778,597</u> |                  |
| <u>Creditors: Amount falling due within one year</u> | [10]  |                  | <u>(263,818)</u> |                | <u>(167,802)</u> |
| <u>Net current assets</u>                            |       |                  | 799,912          |                | 610,796          |
| <u>Net asset</u>                                     |       |                  | <u>803,225</u>   |                | <u>614,937</u>   |
| <u>Funds</u>   |       |                  |                  |                |                  |
| Unrestricted Funds                                   | [11]  |                  | 803,225          |                | 614,937          |
| Restricted Funds                                     | [12]  |                  | 0                |                | 0                |
| <u>Total Funds</u>                                   |       |                  | <u>803,225</u>   |                | <u>614,937</u>   |

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

## Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 26/12/25 and signed on their behalf by

  
 .....  
 Chairperson - P. Vadgama

**Notes to financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****1. Accounting policies****1.1 Status of the company**

Asha Projects is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the company being wound up.

**1.2 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) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees confirm that they have reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

**1.3 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice**

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

**1.4 Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment - 20% Reducing balance

**1.7 Taxation**

The charity is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is not therefore subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

**1.8 Funds**

All income and expenditure is dealt with through the SOFA. All funds are classified as restricted or unrestricted, defined as follows:

- (a) Restricted funds are funds subject to specific declaration by the donor and expendable in furtherance of a particular activity.
- (b) Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the aims of the charity.
- (c) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for a particular purpose.

**2. Income**

|                                  | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2025</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2024</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £                                   |                                   | £                           | £                           |
| Receipts from Solace Women's Aid | 99,878                              |                                   | 99,878                      | 93,606                      |
| Grant Aid from MHCLG via LAWA    | 0                                   | 45,066                            | 45,066                      | 45,066                      |
| Specialist Refuge Funding        | 0                                   | 180,699                           | 180,699                     | 180,704                     |
| Specialist Counselling           | 0                                   | 75,709                            | 75,709                      | 75,709                      |
|                                  | <u>99,878</u>                       | <u>301,474</u>                    | <u>401,352</u>              | <u>395,085</u>              |

Income from Solace Women's Aid is as per contractual agreement between Asha Project and Solace Women's Aid.

**3. Cost of Charitable Activities**

|  | <u>2025</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2024</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | £                           | £                           |
| Staff Costs                                | 309,594                     | 262,666                     |
| Premises Costs                             | 148,486                     | 141,003                     |
| Office Costs                               | 23,066                      | 18,254                      |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                     | 9,102                       | 3,263                       |
| Housing Management Expenses                | 98,043                      | 99,862                      |
| Training and Management Committee Expenses | 20,010                      | 12,503                      |
| Travelling and transport                   | 0                           | 0                           |
| Employee Support HR                        | 2,000                       | 162                         |
| Counselling                                | 0                           | 0                           |
| Staff Expenses                             | 227                         | 1,442                       |
| Bank Charges                               | 897                         | 848                         |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets               | 828                         | 1,035                       |
|  | <u>612,253</u>              | <u>541,038</u>              |

**4. Governance Costs**

|                             | <u>2025</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2024</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                             | £                           | £                           |
| Payroll Fees                | 765                         | 714                         |
| Independent Examiner's Fees | 2,640                       | 2,400                       |
| Bookkeeping fees            | 7,000                       | 6,350                       |
| Legal and Professional Fees | 2,382                       | 2,301                       |
|                             | <u>12,787</u>               | <u>11,766</u>               |

**5. Net incoming resources for the year**

|  | <u>2025</u><br><u>£</u> | <u>2024</u><br><u>£</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Net incoming resources is stated after charging:                 |                         |                         |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets | 828                     | 1,035                   |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2025**6. Employees**

|                             | <u>2025</u>    | <u>2024</u>    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                             | £              | £              |
| Salaries and Wages          | 209,934        | 190,989        |
| Employer's NI contributions | 20,264         | 16,842         |
| Pension                     | 40,857         | 30,677         |
|                             | <u>271,054</u> | <u>238,508</u> |

**7. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the current or previous year.

The charity is registered with H M Revenue & Customs as charitable so not liable to UK corporation tax.

**8. Tangible fixed assets**

|                     | <u>Fixtures &amp;<br/>Fittings</u> | <u>Total</u>   |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
|                     | £                                  | £              |
| Cost                |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2024     | 119,549                            | 119,549        |
| Additions           | 0                                  | 0              |
| Computer Cost       | 0                                  | 0              |
| At 31 March 2025    | <u>119,549</u>                     | <u>119,549</u> |
| Depreciation        |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2024     | 115,408                            | 115,408        |
| Charge for the year | 828                                | 828            |
| At 31 March 2025    | <u>116,236</u>                     | <u>116,236</u> |
| Net book values     |                                    |                |
| At 31 March 2025    | <u>3,313</u>                       | <u>3,313</u>   |
| At 31 March 2024    | <u>4,141</u>                       | <u>4,141</u>   |

**9. Debtors**

|                           | <u>2025</u>   | <u>2024</u>   |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                           | £             | £             |
| Debtors - Rent Receivable | 43,237        | 56,536        |
| Other Debtors -           | 51,282        |               |
| Prepayments               | 0             | 0             |
|                           | <u>94,519</u> | <u>56,536</u> |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2025**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                     | <u>2025</u>    | <u>2024</u>    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                     | £              | £              |
| Other Creditors and Deferred Income | 161,449        | 78,032         |
| Other Taxation and Social Security  | 6,254          | 5,384          |
| Accruals                            | 96,115         | 84,387         |
|                                     | <u>263,818</u> | <u>167,802</u> |

**11. Unrestricted funds**

|  | Opening<br>Balance | Income         | Expenses         | Transfers      | Closing<br>Balance |
|--|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|  | £                  | £              | £                | £              | £                  |
| Renewal and replacement fund                 | 21,953             |                |                  | 18,047         | 40,000             |
| Planned maintenance fund                     | 23,100             | 0              |                  | 24,000         | 47,100             |
| Employers contractual obligations            | 122,000            | 0              |                  | 45,000         | 167,000            |
| Hardship                                     | 8,500              | 0              |                  | 20,000         | 28,500             |
| Property, Programme development and sustains | 38,000             | 0              |                  | 60,000         | 98,000             |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>                | <u>213,553</u>     | <u>0</u>       | <u>0</u>         | <u>167,047</u> | <u>380,600</u>     |
| General funds                                | 401,384            | 511,855        | (323,567)        | (167,047)      | 422,625            |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>              | <u>614,937</u>     | <u>511,855</u> | <u>(323,567)</u> | <u>0</u>       | <u>803,225</u>     |

**12. Restricted funds**

|                  | Opening<br>Balance | Income | Expenses | Transfers | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                  | £                  | £      | £        | £         | £                  |
| Restricted funds | 0                  | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0                  |

**13. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

|  | <u>Unrestricted<br/>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted<br/>Funds</u> | <u>2025</u>    | <u>2024</u>    |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | £                             |                             | £              | £              |
| Fixed Assets                           | 3,313                         |                             | 3,313          | 4,141          |
| Cash at bank and in hand               | 969,211                       |                             | 969,211        | 722,060        |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | (169,299)                     |                             | (169,299)      | (111,265)      |
|  | <u>803,225</u>                |                             | <u>803,225</u> | <u>614,937</u> |

**Section 37 Notice**

14. Analysis of spend of the Covid extension Grant Aid of £45,066 was received in year 2024/25 from GLA and MOP, (Via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|   | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Total staffing costs (Direct and indirect)</b> | 23,200                     | 23,200                           |
| <b>Additional Covid-19 related costs</b>          | 8,785                      | 8,785                            |
| <b>Office equipment related costs</b>             | 5,000                      | 5,000                            |
| <b>Other costs</b>                                | 8,081                      | 8,081                            |
| <b>Total cost of delivery</b>                     | <u>45,066</u>              | <u>45,066</u>                    |

**Section 37 Notice**

14. Analysis of spend of grant Aid of £180,699 was received in year 2024/25 from GLA/MOPAC (via Latin American Women's Aid(LAWA)) for Domestic Abuse safe accommodation support (Service 1). The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|   | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Total staffing costs (Direct and Indirect)</b> | 162,256                    | 162,256                          |
| <b>Total other costs</b>                          | 18,443                     | 18,443                           |
| <b>Total cost of delivery</b>                     | <u>180,699</u>             | <u>180,699</u>                   |

**Section 37 Notice**

Grant Aid of £75,709 was received in year 2024/25 from GLA/MOPAC (via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) Towards specialist counselling for women and children at the refuge (Service 2).  
The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|   | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Total staffing costs (Direct and Indirect)</b> | 65,444                     | 65,444                           |
| <b>Total other costs</b>                          | 10,265                     | 10,265                           |
| <b>Total cost of delivery</b>                     | <u>75,709</u>              | <u>75,709</u>                    |

**ASHA PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 294516

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# Accounts

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Company Registration No: 2019000  
Charity Registration No. 294516

**ASHA PROJECTS**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

**BHARAT SHAH & CO**  
Chartered Accountants  
786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey, CR7 6JB

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

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**ASHA PROJECTS**  
**Company Information**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>Charity Number</u></b>                  | 294516  |
| <b><u>Company registration number</u></b>     | 2019000   |
| <b><u>Registered office</u></b>               | 13 Shrubbery Road<br>London<br>SW16 2AS   |
| <b><u>Trustees (Management Committee)</u></b> | P. Vadgama<br>S. Anitha - (resigned 31.03.2024)<br>K. Chahel<br>B. Ahmed<br>C. Dagli<br>J. Kalathil |
| <b><u>Senior staff members</u></b>            | I Patel<br>J Chana<br>V. Maharaj  |
| <b><u>Independent Examiners</u></b>           | Bharat Shah & Co<br>Chartered Accountants<br>786 London Road<br>Thornton Heath<br>Surrey<br>CR7 6JB |
| <b><u>Bankers</u></b>                         | The Co-Operative Bank plc<br>1 Balloon Street<br>Manchester<br>M60 4EP                              |

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, governing documents, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Governing document**

Asha is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in 1986. We are governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. Our charitable objects, as stated in the Memorandum of Association are to advance education, relieve poverty, sickness, the protection of health, and to pursue any other charitable purpose for the benefit of the community with a particular focus on women of South Asian origin in the UK.

##### **Recruitment and Appointment of trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees. Under our Articles of Association, they are known as members of the management committee and hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), with the option of re-election.

We select trustees based on their expertise, knowledge, skills, and dedication to Asha's charitable goals. All new trustees receive training, and ongoing training and support are available to all members.

The trustees meet at least quarterly to:

- Oversee strategic direction,
- Set policies, delegating responsibilities,
- Monitor performance,
- Ensure responsible management of Asha's resources.

##### **Financial Governance**

To enhance financial governance, we have implemented procedures to:

- Establish clear delegations of authority over financial matters
- Control income and expenditure
- Protect our assets
- Implement robust budgeting and financial management practices.

While the management committee bear overall responsibility for Asha, they delegate the day-to-day running of the organisation to the Director.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

#### Risk Management

Risk management is an ongoing priority for Asha. We conduct regular risk assessments including business continuity planning, operational protocols, and health and safety assessments. This proactive approach ensures that risks are identified, assessed and mitigated effectively.

#### Organisational Structure

Asha's Management Committee provides overall direction and strategic focus. The director together with the housing and counselling manager, and front-line staff are responsible for the day-to-day operations.

#### Vision, Aims, and Objectives

- Our vision is to live in a just and sustainable world.
- Our mission is to challenge inequalities and empower South Asian women to build lives free of violence, oppression, and exploitation.

Key aims:

- Support and empower South Asian women experiencing domestic abuse.
- Advocate for justice for women at policy level.
- Strengthen Asha's organisational and economic sustainability.
- Foster partnerships and collaborations with other organisations.

#### Our activities

Asha operates from four sites: a resource centre and three refuges consisting of 19 bed spaces. We offer:

- Safe temporary accommodation (refuges)
- Information and advice
- Counselling programme
- Training programmes on issues relevant to South Asian women

Recognising the unique challenges faced by South Asian women, including cultural, linguistic, and religious barriers, as well as discrimination based on ethnicity, race, and economic inequality, Asha provides culturally sensitive support. This South Asian-led approach ensures women can access support in their preferred languages, within a culturally familiar and safe environment.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

#### Volunteer Support

Asha is committed to volunteers who contribute to our mission. Their diverse knowledge, skills and experiences, enrich and expand the resources of the organisation.

We actively encourage our ex-residents and ex-clients to volunteer. This provides them with opportunities to:

- Develop their skills and knowledge to help build confidence, gain new skills and enhance employability.
- Explore career paths so that volunteers can gain work experience leading to job opportunities within Asha or other organisations.
- Contribute to organisational governance by ex-residents joining the management committee bringing invaluable lived experience to the management committee, informing our decision making and programme delivery.
- Support other women survivors. This input and peer to peer support are crucial in providing support and guidance to current residents.

#### Achievements and Performance

Asha Projects is a "by and for" South Asian women organisation, dedicated to ending gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG). With nearly 40 years of experience, we have an understanding of the complex issues surrounding VAWG within South Asian communities.

We recognise the critical importance of specialised organisations that go beyond simply providing language services and interpretation. Asha offers crucial support grounded in a profound understanding of the unique socio-cultural norms, values, and challenges faced by South Asian women. Our participatory support systems are designed to be women-friendly, empowering individuals to actively engage in their own recovery and empowerment. We address the diverse needs of each woman based on her unique experiences, ensuring a personalised, non-judgemental and culturally sensitive approach.

Shared understanding and peer support are vital components of our approach. This fosters a trusted and safe environment, allowing women to escape violent relationships that have devastating impacts on their physical and mental health. Through our collective efforts, vulnerable women are empowered to rebuild their confidence, strengthen their relationships, and create a brighter future for themselves and their children.

Continued funding received from the GLA/MOPAC safe accommodation domestic abuse funding, facilitated through the OYA consortium, with Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) as the lead has enabled us to provide much-needed wrap-around holistic support to women and their children living in the refuges.

In the year April 2023 to March 2024, Asha provided advice, information, and support to 563 women. During this period, we supported 39 women and their 7 children at our refuges and provided ongoing support to 42. On top of these 5 other women had their children living with their fathers, or grandparents or relatives abroad in their home countries.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

41 women received specialist immigration advice, ensuring their access to statutory support. 28 of these women successfully changed their immigration status. Additionally, 45 women and 10 children received in-house counselling support. Of these, 35 women and 8 children reported improved mental health and overall well-being.

One of the most significant barriers faced by women seeking refuge is the severe shortage of available bed spaces, particularly for those requiring specialized support. The current funding structure for refuges is precarious, with short-term commissioning cycles (typically three years or less) leaving many organisations operating on a year-to-year basis. This lack of long-term funding security creates instability for both us and the women we support. Securing sustainable financial support is crucial but challenging, particularly in the current environment.

Of the 77 women seeking refuge space during this period, we were only able to accommodate 20 new women and their children. This highlights the urgent need for increased refuge capacity to meet the growing demand for safe and supportive accommodation.

Accessing statutory services and support systems remains a significant challenge for many women we support. Barriers such as language barriers, racism, and cultural insensitivity within these systems can create significant obstacles for women in accessing essential services like healthcare and housing. This places a significant burden on our staff who must advocate on behalf of their clients to navigate these complex systems and ensure access to the support they need.

Securing access to safe and affordable housing is crucial for survivors' long-term recovery. However, finding suitable and secure housing remains a significant challenge, particularly for single women.

While we are fortunate to have a strong partnership with Lambeth Council, which provides access to social housing for women leaving our commissioned services, accessing housing in other boroughs can be a complex and distressing experience. Many women encounter significant barriers, including:

- Navigating multiple housing departments and meeting eligibility criteria can be time-consuming and overwhelming.
- Some housing staff may lack the understanding and sensitivity required to support survivors of domestic abuse.
- The lack of affordable and long-term housing options can lead to women being placed in unsuitable accommodation, such as emergency or temporary housing, or expensive private rentals with limited security.
- Women from South Asian backgrounds may face additional barriers due to racism and discrimination within the housing system.

This experience can be incredibly stressful, instilling a sense of powerlessness and resulting in deterioration of their mental and physical health and can significantly impact survivors' recovery and their ability to rebuild their lives.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

To address these critical issues, Asha will continue to advocate for:

- Increased and sustained funding for refuge services.
- Improved inter-agency collaboration.
- Advocating for increased access to affordable and secure housing options
- Challenging systemic racism and discrimination.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to have a compounding impact on women experiencing domestic abuse, exacerbating existing inequalities and increasing vulnerability. Through the Covid-19 extension funding received via the OYA consortium, we were able to continue providing essential support to women experiencing domestic abuse. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis deeply impacts our clients, staff, and the organisation. This funding significantly increased the resources available within the refuge.

To support women facing these unprecedented challenges,

- We partnered with food banks, utilised our internal hardship fund, and actively sought donations.
- We provided food, toiletries, clothing, bedding, and other essential items to women and children residing in the refuge. By addressing these immediate needs, we alleviated financial stress and enabled women to focus on their recovery.

Staff well-being was also prioritised:

- We provided the necessary support for staff to work from home, ensuring their safety and well-being during the pandemic.
- Regular clinical supervision provided staff with guidance and opportunities to develop skills in culturally appropriate, trauma-informed care, leading to improved case management and better outcomes for women.
- Feedback from staff indicated that this structured support significantly improved their mental health and reduced stress levels.

Furthermore, we observed a significant increase in requests for information and advice on:

- Debt management
- Council tax reduction
- Rent arrears
- Escalating utility costs

Recruiting and retaining qualified staff, particularly those who can provide culturally specific, bilingual, and trauma-informed support, remains a significant challenge. To address this, we will continue to invest in staff development and prioritise staff well-being to attract and retain them.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

Asha continues to actively collaborate with agencies and partners who share our vision, fostering solidarity, resource-sharing, and a consistent, holistic approach to meet the needs of South Asian women. We work collaboratively both locally and London-wide, notably contributing to the OYA Consortium, a group of four "by and for" black and minoritised VAWG organisations in London.

#### Looking ahead:

- Continue strengthening our organisational sustainability.
- Continue supporting women during the cost-of-living crisis by building hardship funds to provide essential support to women facing financial difficulty.
- Continue advocating for access to affordable and secure housing.

The trustees would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our funders and supporters for their ongoing support. We also want to acknowledge the dedication, commitment, and inspiring efforts of our staff and volunteers, who have done an exceptional job, especially during these trying times. Also, a thank-you to S. Anitha, management committee member who resigned at the end of the year for her, dedication, commitment and support to Asha.

#### Financial review

The year April 2023 to March 2024 saw a slight increase in the charity's activities, with income rising from £646,319 to £769,147, an increase of £122,828.

The charity provides pension scheme contributions for our employees, which are reflected in the statement of financial activities for the year. The charity has no other liabilities under this scheme beyond these contributions.

The trustees have carefully evaluated the charity's need for reserves and established a policy to build the following funds:

- **Hardship Fund:** To provide critical support to women facing financial hardship, such as those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis.
- **Employer's Contractual Obligations Fund:** To ensure the fulfilment of all employee-related obligations and salary contingency.
- **Property, programme and Capacity Building Fund:** To support future property purchase, the development and implementation of new programmes and enhance the organisation's overall capacity. Owning our own property in the future, will provide greater autonomy, stability, and long-term sustainability for the organisation.

We will continue to build our general funds to ensure that we have sufficient reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies and unplanned expenditure.

## ASHA PROJECTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Asha Projects 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 the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Bharat Shah Chartered Accountant has expressed his willingness to stand for reappointment and a resolution proposing his reappointment will be put forward at the Trustees Meeting.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 27.12.24 signed on their behalf.

On behalf of the board

.....  
Chairperson - P. Vadgama

**ASHA PROJECTS****INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set on pages 11 to 18.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiners' report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 examiners' statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- 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. have not been met, or

ASHA PROJECTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS  
(CONTINUED)

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

*Bharat Shah*

Bharat Shah (Independent Examiner)  
For and on behalf of Bharat Shah & Co  
Chartered Accountants

786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey, CR7 6JB

Date: 30 Dec 2024

Statement of financial activities  
Income and Expenditure accounts  
For the year ended 31 March 2024

| Particulars   | Notes | Unrestricted   | Restricted     | 2024           | 2023           |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   |       | Funds          | Funds          | Total          | Total          |
|   |       | £              |                | £              | £              |
| <u>Incoming resources</u>   |       |                |                |                |                |
| <u>Charitable Trading</u>   |       |                |                |                |                |
| Rental Income   |       | 366,515        |                | 366,515        | 246,468        |
| Income from Solace Women's Aid                                    | [2]   | 93,606         |                | 93,606         | 91,323         |
| Grant Income (LAWA)   | [2]   | -              | 45,066         | 45,066         | 45,066         |
| Management Fee - Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing               |       | 5,304          |                | 5,304          | 5,304          |
| Specialist Refuges Funding  |       | -              | 180,704        | 180,704        | 180,704        |
| Specialist Counselling  |       | -              | 75,709         | 75,709         | 75,709         |
| <u>Other Income</u>   |       |                |                |                |                |
| Bank Interest   |       | 1,265          |                | 1,265          | 142            |
| Sundry Income   |       | 977            |                | 977            | 1,603          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                   |       | <b>467,668</b> | <b>301,479</b> | <b>769,147</b> | <b>646,319</b> |
| <u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>   |       |                |                |                |                |
| Costs of Charitable Activities                                    | [3]   | 244,559        | 296,479        | 541,038        | 499,983        |
| Governance Costs  | [4]   | 6,766          | 5,000          | 11,766         | 9,461          |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                   |       | <b>251,325</b> | <b>301,479</b> | <b>552,804</b> | <b>509,445</b> |
| Surplus /(Deficit) for the year<br>Before transfers between funds |       | 216,343        | -              | 216,343        | 136,875        |
| Transfers between Funds   |       |                |                | -              | -              |
| Total Funds Brought forward                                       |       | 398,594        |                | 398,594        | 261,719        |
| Total Funds Carried forward                                       |       | 614,937        | -              | 614,937        | 398,594        |

**Continuing operations**

None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current and previous years.

**Total recognised gains and losses**

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the current and previous years.

**Statement of Financial Position As At 31 March 2024**

|  | NOTES | 2024             |                | 2023             |                |
|--|-------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|  |       | £                | £              | £                | £              |
| <u>Fixed assets</u>                                  |       |                  |                |                  |                |
| Tangible Assets                                      | [08]  |                  | 4,141          |                  | 4,676          |
| <u>Current assets</u>                                |       |                  |                |                  |                |
| Debtors  | [09]  | 56,536           |                | 19,197           |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             |       | 722,060          |                | 561,695          |                |
|  |       | <u>778,596</u>   |                | <u>580,892</u>   |                |
| <u>Creditors: Amount falling due within one year</u> | [10]  | <u>(167,802)</u> |                | <u>(186,975)</u> |                |
| <u>Net current assets</u>                            |       |                  | 610,796        |                  | 393,918        |
| <u>Net asset</u>                                     |       |                  | <u>614,937</u> |                  | <u>398,594</u> |
| <u>Funds</u>   |       |                  |                |                  |                |
| Unrestricted Funds                                   | [11]  |                  | 614,937        |                  | 398,594        |
| Restricted Funds                                     | [12]  |                  | 0              |                  | 0              |
| <u>Total Funds</u>                                   |       |                  | <u>614,937</u> |                  | <u>398,594</u> |

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

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 27.12.24 and signed on their behalf by

.....  
  
 Chairperson - P. Vadgama

## **1. Accounting policies**

### **1.1 Status of the company**

Asha Projects is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the company being wound up.

### **1.2 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) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees confirm that they have reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

### **1.3 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice**

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

### **1.4 Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

### **1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

### **1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment - 20% Reducing balance

### **1.7 Taxation**

The charity is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is not therefore subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

### **1.8 Funds**

All income and expenditure is dealt with through the SOFA. All funds are classified as restricted or unrestricted, defined as follows:

- (a) Restricted funds are funds subject to specific declaration by the donor and expendable in furtherance of a particular activity.
- (b) Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the aims of the charity.
- (c) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for a particular purpose.

**Notes to financial statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**2. Income**

|                                  | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2024</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2023</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £                                   |                                   | £                           | £                           |
| Receipts from Solace Women's Aid | 93,606                              |                                   | 93,606                      | 91,323                      |
| Grant Aid from MHCLG via LAWA    | 0                                   | 45,066                            | 45,066                      | 45,066                      |
| Specialist Refuge Funding        | 0                                   | 180,704                           | 180,704                     | 180,704                     |
| Specialist Counselling           | 0                                   | 75,709                            | 75,709                      | 75,709                      |
|                                  | <u>93,606</u>                       | <u>301,479</u>                    | <u>395,085</u>              | <u>392,802</u>              |

Income from Solace Women's Aid is as per contractual agreement between Asha Project and Solace Women's Aid.

**3. Cost of Charitable Activities**

|  | <u>2024</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2023</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | £                           | £                           |
| Staff Costs                                | 262,666                     | 230,681                     |
| Premises Costs                             | 141,003                     | 114,143                     |
| Office Costs                               | 18,254                      | 18,888                      |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                     | 3,263                       | 2,122                       |
| Housing Management Expenses                | 99,862                      | 110,136                     |
| Training and Management Committee Expenses | 12,503                      | 16,680                      |
| Travelling and transport                   | 0                           | 580                         |
| Employee Support HR                        | 162                         | 3,353                       |
| Staff Expenses                             | 1,442                       | 1,227                       |
| Bank Charges                               | 848                         | 1,004                       |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets               | 1,035                       | 1,169                       |
|  | <u>541,038</u>              | <u>499,983</u>              |

**4. Governance Costs**

|                             | <u>2024</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2023</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                             | £                           | £                           |
| Payroll Fees                | 714                         | 648                         |
| Independent Examiner's Fees | 2,400                       | 2,400                       |
| Bookkeeping fees            | 6,350                       | 4,500                       |
| Legal and Professional Fees | 2,301                       | 1,913                       |
|                             | <u>11,766</u>               | <u>9,461</u>                |

**5. Net incoming resources for the year**

|  | <u>2024</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
|  | £           | £           |
| Net incoming resources is stated after charging:                 |             |             |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets | 1,035       | 1,169       |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2024**6. Employees**

|                             | <u>2024</u>    | <u>2023</u>    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                             | £              | £              |
| Salaries and Wages          | 190,989        | 185,043        |
| Employer's NI contributions | 16,842         | 17,016         |
| Pension                     | 30,677         | 28,621         |
|                             | <u>238,508</u> | <u>230,681</u> |

**7. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the current or previous year.

The charity is registered with H M Revenue & Customs as charitable so not liable to UK corporation tax.

**8. Tangible fixed assets**

|                     | <u>Fixtures &amp;<br/>Fittings</u> | <u>Total</u>   |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
|                     | £                                  | £              |
| Cost                |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2023     | 119,049                            | 119,049        |
| Additions           | 500                                | 500            |
| Computer Cost       | 0                                  | 0              |
| At 31 March 2024    | <u>119,549</u>                     | <u>119,549</u> |
| Depreciation        |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2023     | 114,373                            | 114,373        |
| Charge for the year | 1,035                              | 1,035          |
| At 31 March 2024    | <u>115,408</u>                     | <u>115,408</u> |
| Net book values     |                                    |                |
| At 31 March 2024    | 4,141                              | 4,141          |
| At 31 March 2023    | <u>4,676</u>                       | <u>4,676</u>   |

**9. Debtors**

|                           | <u>2024</u>   | <u>2023</u>   |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                           | £             | £             |
| Debtors - Rent Receivable | 56,536        | 14,499        |
| Prepayments               | 0             | 4,698         |
|                           | <u>56,536</u> | <u>19,197</u> |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2024**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                     | <u>2024</u>    | <u>2023</u>    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                     | £              | £              |
| Other Creditors and Deferred Income | 78,032         | 86,492         |
| Other Taxation and Social Security  | 5,384          | 5,731          |
| Accruals                            | 84,387         | 94,752         |
|                                     | <u>167,802</u> | <u>186,975</u> |

**11. Unrestricted funds**

|  | Opening<br>Balance | Income         | Expenses         | Transfers     | Closing<br>Balance |
|--|--------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
|  | £                  | £              | £                | £             | £                  |
| Renewal and replacement fund                 | 21,953             |                |                  |               | 21,953             |
| Internal decoration fund                     | 18,000             | 0              |                  | 5,100         | 23,100             |
| Employers contractual obligations            | 75,000             | 0              |                  | 47,000        | 122,000            |
| Hardship                                     | 6,000              | 0              |                  | 2,500         | 8,500              |
| Property, Programme & Capacity Building Fund | 18,000             | 0              |                  | 20,000        | 38,000             |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>                | <u>138,953</u>     | <u>0</u>       | <u>0</u>         | <u>74,600</u> | <u>213,553</u>     |
| General funds                                | 259,641            | 467,668        | (251,325)        | (74,600)      | 401,384            |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>              | <u>398,594</u>     | <u>467,668</u> | <u>(251,325)</u> | <u>0</u>      | <u>614,937</u>     |

**12. Restricted funds**

|                  | Opening<br>Balance | Income | Expenses | Transfers | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                  | £                  | £      | £        | £         | £                  |
| Restricted funds | 0                  | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0                  |

**13. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

|  | <u>Unrestricted<br/>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted<br/>Funds</u> | <u>2024</u>    | <u>2023</u>    |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | £                             |                             | £              | £              |
| Fixed Assets                           | 4,141                         |                             | 4,141          | 4,676          |
| Cash at bank and in hand               | 722,060                       |                             | 722,060        | 561,695        |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | (111,266)                     |                             | (111,266)      | (167,777)      |
|  | <u>614,936</u>                |                             | <u>614,936</u> | <u>398,594</u> |

**Section 37 Notice**

14. Analysis of spend of the Covid extension Grant Aid of £45,066 was received in year 2023/24 from DLUCH GLA (Via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|   | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Total staffing costs (Direct and indirect)</b> | 23,200                     | 23,200                           |
| <b>Additional Covid-19 related costs</b>          | 8,785                      | 8,785                            |
| <b>Office equipment related costs</b>             | 5,000                      | 5,000                            |
| <b>Other costs</b>                                | 8,081                      | 8,081                            |
| <b>Total cost of delivery</b>                     | <u>45,066</u>              | <u>45,066</u>                    |

**Section 37 Notice**

14. Analysis of spend of grant Aid of £180,704 was received in year 2023/24 from GLA/MOPAC (via Latin American Women's Aid(LAWA)) for Domestic Abuse safe accommodation support (Service 1). The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|   | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Total staffing costs (Direct and Indirect)</b> | 162,261                    | 162,261                          |
| <b>Total other costs</b>                          | 18,443                     | 18,443                           |
| <b>Total cost of delivery</b>                     | <u>180,704</u>             | <u>180,704</u>                   |

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**Notes to financial statements (Continued)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Section 37 Notice**

Grant Aid of £75,709 was received in year 2023/24 from GLA/MOPAC (via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) Towards specialist counselling for women and children at the refuge (Service 2).

The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|   | <b><u>Grant</u></b><br><b><u>(£)</u></b> | <b><u>Grant spent</u></b><br><b><u>(£)</u></b> |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Total staffing costs (Direct and Indirect)</b> | 65,444                                   | 65,444   |
| <b>Total other costs</b>                          | 10,265                                   | 10,265   |
| <b>Total cost of delivery</b>                     | <u>75,709</u>                            | <u>75,709</u>                                  |

**ASHA PROJECTS**

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For the year ended 31 March 2024

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS**

|  | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>2024</u>    | <u>2023</u>    |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | <u>Fund</u>         | <u>Fund</u>       | <u>£</u>       | <u>£</u>       |
| <b>INCOME</b>  |                     |                   |                |                |
| Rental Income  | 366,515             |                   | 366,515        | 246,468        |
| Income from Solace Women's Aid - Lambeth VAWG Services | 93,606              |                   | 93,606         | 91,323         |
| Grant Income (LAWA)                                    | 0                   | 45,066            | 45,066         | 45,066         |
| Miscellaneous income - Donation                        | 977                 |                   | 977            | 1,603          |
| Bank interest received                                 | 1,265               |                   | 1,265          | 142            |
| Management Fee -Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing     | 5,304               |                   | 5,304          | 5,304          |
| Specialist Refuge Funding                              | 0                   | 180,704           | 180,704        | 180,704        |
| Specialist Counselling                                 | 0                   | 75,709            | 75,709         | 75,709         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                    | <b>467,668</b>      | <b>301,479</b>    | <b>769,147</b> | <b>646,319</b> |
| <br>   |                     |                   |                |                |
|  |                     |                   | <b>Total</b>   | <b>Total</b>   |
|  |                     |                   | <b>2024</b>    | <b>2023</b>    |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                     |                     |                   |                |                |
| <b>PAYROLL COSTS</b>                                   |                     |                   |                |                |
| Salaries and Wages                                     |                     |                   | 190,989        | 185,043        |
| Staff costs - sessional, freelance                     |                     |                   | 24,158         | 4,884          |
| Employers' Nic   |                     |                   | 16,842         | 17,016         |
| Pension  |                     |                   | 30,677         | 28,621         |
|  |                     |                   | <b>262,666</b> | <b>235,565</b> |
| <b>PREMISES COSTS</b>                                  |                     |                   |                |                |
| Rent   |                     |                   | 11,714         | 17,056         |
| Council Tax and Water Rates                            |                     |                   | 7,954          | 7,564          |
| Light and Heat   |                     |                   | 26,925         | 37,216         |
| Cleaning and Gardening                                 |                     |                   | 10,295         | 7,409          |
| Repairs , Renewals and Maintenance                     |                     |                   | 84,115         | 44,898         |
|  |                     |                   | <b>141,003</b> | <b>114,143</b> |
| <b>OFFICE EXPENSES</b>                                 |                     |                   |                |                |
| Computer Consumables                                   |                     |                   | 3,859          | 5,745          |
| Insurance  |                     |                   | 5,483          | 5,023          |
| Printing, Postage & Stationery                         |                     |                   | 515            | 354            |
| Publication and subscription                           |                     |                   | 2,477          | 2,703          |
| Telephone & E-mail                                     |                     |                   | 5,919          | 5,063          |
|  |                     |                   | <b>18,254</b>  | <b>18,888</b>  |
| <b>OTHER COSTS</b>                                     |                     |                   |                |                |
| Welfare Fund for Service Users                         |                     |                   | 3,263          | 2,122          |
| Housing Management Expenses                            |                     |                   | 99,862         | 110,136        |
| Training & supervision                                 |                     |                   | 5,108          | 4,959          |
| Travel   |                     |                   | 0              | 580            |
| Staff Expenses   |                     |                   | 1,442          | 1,227          |
| Employee Support HR                                    |                     |                   | 162            | 3,353          |
| Management Committee expenses                          |                     |                   | 268            | 135            |
| Depreciation   |                     |                   | 1,035          | 1,169          |
| Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning                    |                     |                   | 7,128          | 6,701          |
|  |                     |                   | <b>118,268</b> | <b>130,382</b> |

**For the year ended 31 March 2024****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS (Continued)****Total  
2024      Total  
2023****LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL COST**

|                                |               |              |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legal and Professional fees    | 2,301         | 1,913        |
| Payroll fees                   | 714           | 648          |
| Accountancy & Bookkeeping fees | 6,350         | 4,500        |
| Independent Examiner's Fees    | 2,400         | 2,400        |
| Consulting                     | 0             | 0            |
| Interpreting and Translating   | 0             | 0            |
|                                | <u>11,766</u> | <u>9,461</u> |

**FINANCIAL EXPENSES**

|              |            |              |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Bank Charges | 848        | 1,004        |
|              | <u>848</u> | <u>1,004</u> |

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

|   |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b> | <b><u>552,804</u></b> | <b><u>509,444</u></b> |
|   | <b><u>216,343</u></b> | <b><u>136,875</u></b> |

**ASHA PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 294516

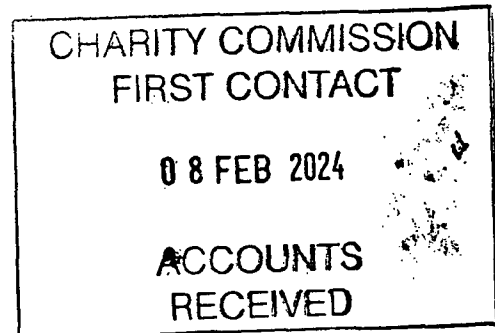
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# Accounts

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Company Registration No: 2019000  
Charity Registration No. 294516

**ASHA PROJECTS**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)



**TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

**BHARAT SHAH & CO**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**786 London Road**  
**Thornton Heath**  
**Surrey, CR7 6JB**

# **ASHA PROJECTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

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**ASHA PROJECTS  
Company Information**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>Charity Number</u></b>                  | 294516  |
| <b><u>Company registration number</u></b>     | 2019000   |
| <b><u>Registered office</u></b>               | 13 Shrubbery Road<br>London<br>SW16 2AS   |
| <b><u>Trustees (Management Committee)</u></b> | P. Vadgama<br>S. Anitha<br>K. Chahel<br>B. Ahmed<br>C. Dagli<br>J. Kalathil                         |
| <b><u>Senior staff members</u></b>            | I Patel<br>J Chana<br>V. Maharaj  |
| <b><u>Independent Examiners</u></b>           | Bharat Shah & Co<br>Chartered Accountants<br>786 London Road<br>Thornton Heath<br>Surrey<br>CR7 6JB |
| <b><u>Bankers</u></b>                         | The Co-Operative Bank plc<br>91 George Street<br>Croydon<br>CR9 3QT                                 |

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, governing documents, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Governing document**

Asha is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in 1986 and governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is established for the objects expressed in the memorandum of Association for the advancement of education, the relief of poverty, sickness, the preservation of health and any other charitable purpose for the benefit of the community (with regard to women of South Asian origin) in the UK.

##### **Recruitment and Appointment of trustees**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law, and under the company's articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, they hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

The trustees are chosen and appointed based on their expertise, their knowledge, skills, and dedication aligned with Asha's charitable goals. All new trustees receive training, and all members have access to ongoing training and support. The trustees meet at least once every three months, overseeing strategic direction, setting policies, delegating responsibilities, monitoring performance, and ensuring responsible management of Asha's resources.

To enhance financial governance, procedures have been implemented to establish the delegation of authority over financial matters; control over the organisation's income and expenditure, the protection of its assets and for budgeting and managing the organisations finances. The Trustees bear overall responsibility of Asha and delegates the day to day running of the organisation to the Director.

##### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have overall responsibility for managing risk management at Asha. The assessment and monitoring of risks constitute an ongoing process throughout the year, seamlessly integrated into governance and organisational systems. This approach empowers both the trustees and the staff team to make well-informed decisions. Business continuity plans, operational protocols, and health and safety risk assessments are diligently reviewed and regularly updated. This proactive approach ensures that risks are continually minimised and addressed as needed.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

#### Organisational Structure

Asha's Management Committee is responsible for the overall direction and the strategic focus of the organisation. The day-to-day responsibility is managed by the director, housing and counselling manager and the front-line staff.

#### Vision, Aims, and Objectives

Asha's vision is to live in a just and sustainable world. Our mission is to challenge inequalities and empower South Asian women to build lives free of violence, oppression, and exploitation.

Our aims include:

1. Supporting and empowering South Asian women experiencing domestic abuse.
2. Ensuring justice for women at policy level.
3. Strengthening Asha to be organisationally and economically sustainable.
4. Working in partnership and in solidarity with other individuals and organisations.

Asha operates from four sites – a resource centre and three refuges consisting of 19 bed spaces. We provide safe temporary accommodation, information, advice, and a volunteering programme for women. One of the refuges (7 bedspaces) is dedicated to young women who are 18 – 25 years old.

We also develop and deliver training based on the needs of South Asian women, the wider community, and other organisations. This includes basic issue-based training on different discriminations especially around the protected characteristics, rights, and the different power dynamics.

Our support is provided both in English and the main South Asian languages, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu

#### Volunteer Help

Asha is committed to volunteers who contribute to our mission with commitment and passion. Their diverse knowledge, skills, and experiences, complement, enrich, and expand the resources of the organisation. Volunteers actively engage in various activities including providing support to women and their children, assisting with practical matters related to the running of the organisation, participating in promotional efforts with stakeholders and local organisations, and contributing to general and financial administration.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)

#### Achievements and Performance

Asha Projects is committed by and for South Asian women, dedicated to ending organisation violence against women and girls (VAWG). With nearly 40 years of experience, Asha has the experience and understanding of the issues surrounding Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Recognising the significance of specialised organisations, we go beyond language-specific provision and interpretation services, offering crucial support grounded in an understanding of socio-cultural norms, values, and issues specific to South Asian communities. Our participatory support systems that are women-friendly, allow us to address the diverse needs of individual women based on their unique experiences. Through our efforts, vulnerable women take the first step in rebuilding their confidence, relationships, and future for themselves and their children.

During 2022/23, Asha has provided support to 560 women. Of the 128 women seeking refuge space, we were only able to accommodate 40 women with their children. Our focus was on consolidating the provision of our current refuge services enhance and fortify these by integrating support received from the GLAMOPAC safe accommodation domestic abuse funding, facilitated through the OYA consortium, with Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) as the lead. This has enabled us to provide much-needed holistic support to women and their children living in the refuges. This includes counselling which the women can now access on arrival whereas before they were referred to other agencies and would be on a waiting list ranging from 2 - 4 months.

Securing access to safe and affordable housing is vital for survivors navigating their path to recovery. The ongoing challenge, particularly for single women, stems from the limited availability of long-term and secure accommodation. Asha is fortunate to have Lambeth Council providing women from commissioned services access to social housing. Among the 23 women leaving the refuge, 16 were successful in securing long-term social housing with and reported feeling settled in their new homes.

However, some women who choose to relocate to areas where they have existing support networks, were presented with significant obstacles. Their only option was to look for privately rented accommodation. The process was incredibly difficult, and overwhelming given the typical requirements of a deposit and/or a month's rent in advance, especially challenging for women on low income. This experience was incredibly stressful, instilling a sense of powerlessness and resulting in deterioration of their mental and physical health.

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is deeply impacting our clients, staff, and organisation. More women are turning to us for support during this crisis. To support these women, we have initiated collaborations with other organisations, liaised with food banks, applied for funding, utilised our internal hardship fund, and reached out for donations. Additionally, we have observed a rise in requests for information and advice on matters such as debt management, council tax reduction, rent arrears, and escalating utility costs.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)**

Asha continues to actively collaborate with agencies and partners who share our vision, fostering solidarity, resource-sharing, and a consistent, holistic approach to meet the needs of South Asian women. We work collaboratively both locally and London-wide, contributing to the OYA Consortium, a group of five "by and for" black and minoritised VAWG organisations in London.

**Our future plans include:**

- Continue strengthening Asha to become more financially and operationally sustainable.
- Expanding our advice and outreach programs to reach more people.
- Building up general reserves for future needs
- Obtaining a quality mark to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.

The trustees would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our funders and supporters for their ongoing support. We also want to acknowledge the dedication, commitment, and inspiring efforts of our staff and volunteers, who have done an exceptional job, especially during these trying times.

**Financial review**

In the year April 2022 to March 2023, the charity saw an increase in its activities.

The additional support required by women and staff members was made possible through MOPAC/GLA Covid extension funding via the OYA Consortium with Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) as the lead.

GLA/MOPAC safe accommodation domestic abuse funding, facilitated through the OYA consortium, with Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) as the lead.

The charity provides pension scheme contributions for our employees, which are reflected in the statement of financial activities for the year. The charity has no other liabilities under this scheme beyond these contributions.

The trustees have carefully evaluated the charity's need for reserves and established a policy to build the general fund to provide 6-12 months of running costs.

## ASHA PROJECTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023 (CONTINUED)**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Asha Projects 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 the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Bharat Shah Chartered Accountant has expressed his willingness to stand for reappointment and a resolution proposing his reappointment will be put forward at the Trustees Meeting.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 28.12.23 signed on their behalf.

On behalf of the board

.....  
  
 Chairperson P Vadgama

**ASHA PROJECTS****INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set on pages 9 to 16.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiners' report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 examiners' statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- 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. have not been met, or

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS  
(CONTINUED)**

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

*Bharat Shah*

Bharat Shah (Independent Examiner)  
For and on behalf of Bharat Shah & Co  
Chartered Accountants

786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey, CR7 6JB

Date: 28 Dec 2023

**Statement of financial activities**  
**Income and Expenditure accounts**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

| Particulars   | <u>Unrestricted</u> |     | <u>2023</u>    | <u>2022</u>    |
|---|---------------------|-----|----------------|----------------|
|   | <u>Funds</u>        |     | <u>Total</u>   | <u>Total</u>   |
| Notes   | £                   |     | £              | £              |
| <u>Incoming resources</u>   |                     |     |                |                |
| <u>Charitable Trading</u>   |                     |     |                |                |
| Rental Income   | 246,468             |     | 246,468        | 317,310        |
| Income from Solace Women's Aid                                    | 91,323              | [2] | 91,323         | 91,323         |
| Grant Income (LAWA)   | 45,066              | [2] | 45,066         | 45,295         |
| Management Fee - Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing               | 5,304               |     | 5,304          | 5,304          |
| Specialist Refuges Funding  | 180,704             |     | 180,704        | -              |
| Specialist Counselling  | 75,709              |     | 75,709         | -              |
| <u>Other Income</u>   |                     |     |                |                |
| Bank Interest   | 142                 |     | 142            | 34             |
| Sundry Income   | 1,603               |     | 1,603          | 10,593         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                   | <b>646,319</b>      |     | <b>646,319</b> | <b>469,859</b> |
| <u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>   |                     |     |                |                |
| Costs of Charitable Activities                                    | 499,983             | [3] | 499,983        | 409,189        |
| Governance Costs  | 9,461               | [4] | 9,461          | 5,622          |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                   | <b>509,445</b>      |     | <b>509,445</b> | <b>414,811</b> |
| Surplus /(Deficit) for the year<br>Before transfers between funds | 136,875             |     | 136,875        | 55,048         |
| Transfers between Funds   | -                   |     | -              | -              |
| Total Funds Brought forward                                       | 261,719             |     | 261,719        | 206,672        |
| Total Funds Carried forward                                       | 398,594             |     | 398,594        | 261,719        |

**Continuing operations**

None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current and previous years.

**Total recognised gains and losses**

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the current and previous years.

Statement of Financial Position As At 31 March 2023

|  | NOTES | 2023             |                | 2022             |                |
|--|-------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|  |       | £                | £              | £                | £              |
| <u>Fixed assets</u>                                  |       |                  |                |                  |                |
| Tangible Assets                                      | [08]  |                  | 4,676          |                  | 5,845          |
| <u>Current assets</u>                                |       |                  |                |                  |                |
| Debtors  | [09]  | 19,197           |                | 26,986           |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             |       | 561,695          |                | 339,352          |                |
|  |       | <u>580,892</u>   |                | <u>366,338</u>   |                |
| <u>Creditors: Amount falling due within one year</u> | [10]  | <u>(186,975)</u> |                | <u>(110,465)</u> |                |
| <u>Net current assets</u>                            |       |                  | 393,918        |                  | 255,873        |
| <u>Net asset</u>                                     |       |                  | <u>398,594</u> |                  | <u>261,719</u> |
| <u>Funds</u>   |       |                  |                |                  |                |
| Unrestricted Funds                                   | [11]  |                  | 398,594        |                  | 261,719        |
| Restricted Funds                                     | [12]  |                  | 0              |                  | 0              |
| <u>Total Funds</u>                                   |       |                  | <u>398,594</u> |                  | <u>261,719</u> |

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

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 28-12-23 and signed on their behalf by

  
 .....  
 Chairperson - P. Vadgama

## **1. Accounting policies**

### **1.1 Status of the company**

Asha Projects is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the company being wound up.

### **1.2 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) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees confirm that they have reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

### **1.3 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice**

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

### **1.4 Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

### **1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

### **1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment - 20% Reducing balance

### **1.7 Taxation**

The charity is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is not therefore subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

### **1.8 Funds**

All income and expenditure is dealt with through the SOFA. All funds are classified as restricted or unrestricted, defined as follows:

- (a) Restricted funds are funds subject to specific declaration by the donor and expendable in furtherance of a particular activity.
- (b) Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the aims of the charity.
- (c) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for a particular purpose.

**Notes to financial statements (Continued)****For the year ended 31 March 2023****2. Income**

|                                  | <u>Funds Received</u> | <u>2023</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2022</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £                     | £                           | £                           |
| Receipts from Solace Women's Aid | 91,323                | 91,323                      | 91,323                      |
| Grant Aid from MHCLG via LAWA    | 45,066                | 45,066                      | 45,295                      |
| Specialist Refuge Funding        | 180,704               | 180,704                     | 0                           |
| Specialist Counselling           | 75,709                | 75,709                      | 0                           |
|                                  | <u>392,802</u>        | <u>392,802</u>              | <u>136,618</u>              |

Income from Solace Women's Aid is as per contractual agreement between Asha Project and Solace Women's Aid.

**3. Cost of Charitable Activities**

|  |                    | <u>2023</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2022</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | <u>Funds spent</u> | £                           | £                           |
|  | £                  | £                           | £                           |
| Staff Costs                                | 230,681            | 230,681                     | 198,772                     |
| Premises Costs                             | 114,143            | 114,143                     | 88,905                      |
| Office Costs                               | 18,888             | 18,888                      | 22,107                      |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                     | 2,122              | 2,122                       | 1,238                       |
| Housing Management Expenses                | 110,136            | 110,136                     | 86,330                      |
| Training and Management Committee Expenses | 16,680             | 16,680                      | 7,185                       |
| Travelling and transport                   | 580                | 580                         | 1,000                       |
| Employee Support HR                        | 3,353              | 3,353                       | 0                           |
| Bank Charges                               | 1,004              | 1,004                       | 592                         |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets               | 1,169              | 1,169                       | 1,461                       |
| Staff Expenses                             | 1,227              | 1,227                       | 1,598                       |
|  | <u>499,983</u>     | <u>499,983</u>              | <u>409,189</u>              |

**4. Governance Costs**

|                              | <u>Funds spent</u> | <u>2023</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2022</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                              | £                  | £                           | £                           |
| Payroll and Bookkeeping Fees | 648                | 648                         | 617                         |
| Independent Examiner's Fees  | 2,400              | 2,400                       | 2,040                       |
| Bookkeeping fees             | 4,500              | 4,500                       | 2,900                       |
| Legal and Professional Fees  | 1,913              | 1,913                       | 65                          |
|                              | <u>9,461</u>       | <u>9,461</u>                | <u>5,622</u>                |

**5. Net incoming resources for the year**

|  | <u>2023</u>  | <u>2022</u>  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
|  | £            | £            |
| Net incoming resources is stated after charging:                 |              |              |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets | <u>1,169</u> | <u>1,461</u> |

**6. Employees**

|                             | <u>2023</u>    | <u>2022</u>    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                             | £              | £              |
| Salaries and Wages          | 185,043        | 155,617        |
| Employer's NI contributions | 17,016         | 13,900         |
| Pension                     | 28,621         | 29,256         |
|                             | <u>230,681</u> | <u>198,772</u> |

**7. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the current or previous year.

The charity is registered with H M Revenue & Customs as charitable so not liable to UK corporation tax.

**8. Tangible fixed assets**

|                     | <u>Fixtures &amp;<br/>Fittings</u> | <u>Total</u>   |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
|                     | £                                  | £              |
| Cost                |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2022     | 119,049                            | 119,049        |
| Additions           | 0                                  | 0              |
| Computer Cost       | 0                                  | 0              |
| At 31 March 2023    | <u>119,049</u>                     | <u>119,049</u> |
| Depreciation        |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2022     | 113,204                            | 113,204        |
| Charge for the year | 1,169                              | 1,169          |
| At 31 March 2023    | <u>114,373</u>                     | <u>114,373</u> |
| Net book values     |                                    |                |
| At 31 March 2023    | 4,676                              | 4,676          |
| At 31 March 2022    | <u>5,845</u>                       | <u>5,845</u>   |

**9. Debtors**

|                           | <u>2023</u>   | <u>2022</u>   |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                           | £             | £             |
| Debtors - Rent Receivable | 14,499        | 26,986        |
| Prepayments               | 4,698         | 0             |
|                           | <u>19,197</u> | <u>26,986</u> |

**Notes to financial statements (Continued)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                     | <u>2023</u>    | <u>2022</u>    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                     | £              | £              |
| Other Creditors and Deferred Income | 86,492         | 51,853         |
| Other Taxation and Social Security  | 5,731          | 4,384          |
| Accruals                            | 94,752         | 54,228         |
|                                     | <u>186,975</u> | <u>110,465</u> |

**11. Unrestricted funds**

|                                    | Opening<br>Balance | Income         | Expenses         | Transfers | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
|                                    | £                  | £              | £                | £         | £                  |
| Renewal and replacement fund       | 21,953             |                |                  |           | 21,953             |
| Internal decoration fund           | 18,000             |                |                  |           | 18,000             |
| Employers contractual obligations  | 75,000             |                |                  |           | 75,000             |
| Residents recreation               | 0                  |                |                  |           | 0                  |
| Hardship                           | 6,000              |                |                  |           | 6,000              |
| Project and capacity building fund | 18,000             |                |                  |           | 18,000             |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>      | <u>138,953</u>     | 0              | 0                | 0         | <u>138,953</u>     |
| General funds                      | 122,766            | 646,319        | (509,445)        |           | 259,641            |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>    | <u>261,719</u>     | <u>646,319</u> | <u>(509,445)</u> | 0         | <u>398,594</u>     |

**12. Restricted funds**

|                  | Opening<br>Balance | Income | Expenses | Transfers | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                  | £                  | £      | £        | £         | £                  |
| Restricted funds | 0                  | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0                  |

**13. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

|  | <u>Funds</u>   | <u>2023</u>    | <u>2022</u>    |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | £              | £              | £              |
| Fixed Assets                           | 4,676          | 4,676          | 5,845          |
| Cash at bank and in hand               | 561,696        | 561,696        | 339,352        |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | (167,778)      | (167,778)      | (83,479)       |
|  | <u>398,594</u> | <u>398,594</u> | <u>261,719</u> |

**Notes to financial statements (Continued)****For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**14. Analysis of Spend of MOPAC/GLA COVID extention funding (via LAWA) for By and for BME specialist refuge provision**  
**- Section 37 Notice**

Grant Aid of £45,066 was received in year 2022/23 from GLA/MOPAC (via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) for Domestic Abuse safe accommodation support. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|  | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing cover</b><br>(cost of additional staff hours and to cover Covid-19 related absences )  | 23,200                     | 23,200                           |
| <b>Additional Covid-19 related costs</b><br>(such as deep cleaning and the purchasing of essential items and hardship for service users) | 8,785                      | 8,785                            |
| <b>Office equipment related costs</b><br>(to enable remote working where relevant)   | 5,000                      | 5,000                            |
| <b>Other costs</b><br>(additional clinical supervision, IT remote support, monitoring and evaluation and management and admin costs)     | 8,081                      | 8,081                            |
|  | <u>45,066</u>              | <u>45,066</u>                    |

**14. Analysis of Spend of MOPAC/GLA Domestic Abuse Safe Accomodation funding (via LAWA) for By and for BME specialist refuge provision**  
**- Section 37 Notice**

**Service 1**

Grant Aid of £180,704 was received in year 2022/23 from GLA/MOPAC (via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) for Domestic Abusesafe accommodation support. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|  | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total staffing costs (Direct and Indirect) | 136,990                    | 136,990 *                        |
| Total other costs                          | 43,714                     | 43,714                           |
| Total cost of delivery                     | <u>180,704</u>             | <u>180,704</u>                   |

**Notes to financial statements (Continued)****For the year ended 31 March 2023****14. Analysis of Spend of MOPAC/GLA Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation funding (via LAWA) for By and for BME specialist refuge provision  
- Section 37 Notice****Service 2**

Grant Aid of £75,710 was received in year 2022/23 from GLA/MOPAC (via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) for Domestic Abuse safe accommodation support. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|   | <b><u>Grant</u></b><br><b><u>(£)</u></b> | <b><u>Grant spent</u></b><br><b><u>(£)</u></b> |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Total staffing costs (Direct and Indirect)</b> | 48,216                                   | 48,216   |
| <b>Total other costs</b>                          | 27,494                                   | 27,494   |
| <b>Total cost of delivery</b>                     | <u>75,710</u>                            | <u>75,710</u>                                  |

**ASHA PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 294516

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# Accounts

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**Company Registration No: 2019000**  
**Charity Registration No. 294516**

**ASHA PROJECTS**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

**BHARAT SHAH & CO**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**786 London Road**  
**Thornton Heath**  
**Surrey, CR7 6JB**

# **ASHA PROJECTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

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**ASHA PROJECTS**  
**Company Information**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>Charity Number</u></b>                  | 294516  |
| <b><u>Company registration number</u></b>     | 2019000   |
| <b><u>Registered office</u></b>               | 13 Shrubbery Road<br>London<br>SW16 2AS   |
| <b><u>Trustees (Management Committee)</u></b> | P. Vadgama<br>S. Anitha<br>K.Chahel<br>B. Ahmed<br>C. Dagli<br>J. Kalathil                          |
| <b><u>Senior staff members</u></b>            | I Patel<br>J Chana  |
| <b><u>Independent Examiners</u></b>           | Bharat Shah & Co<br>Chartered Accountants<br>786 London Road<br>Thornton Heath<br>Surrey<br>CR7 6JB |
| <b><u>Bankers</u></b>                         | The Co-Operative Bank plc<br>91 George Street<br>Croydon<br>CR9 3QT                                 |

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, governing documents, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **Structure Governance and Management**

Asha is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in 1986 and governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is established for the objects expressed in the memorandum of Association for the advancement of education, the relief of poverty, sickness, the preservation of health and any other charitable purpose for the benefit of the community (with particular regard to women of South Asian origin) in the UK.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee members**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law, and under the company's articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, they hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

The Management Committee is appointed for the knowledge, skills, experience, and commitment they bring to meet Asha's charitable aims and objectives. Asha has an induction programme for new committee members, and they all have the opportunity of accessing training and on-going support. The Management Committee meet at least once every three months and are responsible for strategic direction, setting, delegating, and overseeing systems and controls, policy work, monitoring performance, and managing Asha's resources responsibly.

Financial procedures have been implemented to establish the delegation of authority over financial matters; control over the organisation's income and expenditure, the protection of its assets and for budgeting and managing the organisations finances.

The Management Committee bears overall responsibility of Asha and delegates the day to day running of the organisation to the Director.

#### **Risk Management**

The Management Committee have overall responsibility for managing risks at Asha. Assessing and monitoring, risks is an ongoing process throughout the year and embedded in governance and the organisational systems. This enables the management committee and staff team to make informed decisions. Since Covid-19 we have ensured that business continuity plans, operational and health and safety risk assessments are reviewed and updated regularly and as and when needed.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

#### Organisational Structure

Asha's Management Committee is responsible for the overall direction and the strategic focus of the organisation. The day-to-day responsibility is managed by the director, housing manager and the front-line staff.

#### Objectives and Activities

Asha's vision is to live in a just and sustainable world. Our mission is to challenge inequalities and empower South Asian women to build lives free of violence, oppression, and exploitation.

Our aims include:

1. Supporting and empowering South Asian women experiencing domestic abuse.
2. Ensuring justice for women at policy level.
3. Strengthening Asha to be organisationally and economically sustainable.
4. Working in partnership and in solidarity with other individuals and organisations.

Asha operates from four sites – a resource centre and three refuges consisting of 19 bed spaces. We provide safe temporary accommodation, information, advice, and a volunteering programme for women. One of the refuges (7 bedspaces) is dedicated to young women who are 18 – 25 years old.

We also develop and deliver training based on the needs of South Asian women, the wider community, and other organisations. This includes basic issue-based training on different discriminations especially around the protected characteristics, rights, and the different power dynamics.

Our support is provided both in English and the main South Asian languages, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu

#### Volunteer Help

Asha is committed to volunteers helping us support our work. With their varied knowledge, skills and experience they complement, enrich, and extend the resources of the organisation. Volunteers are involved in activities such as supporting the work with women and their children, helping with practical issues relating to the upkeep of the organisation, promotional work with stakeholders and local organisations, and general and financial administration.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

#### Achievements and Performance

Asha Projects is a dedicated by and for South Asian women's organisation working to end violence against women and girls (VAWG). During this year we supported 485 women and 38 stayed at our refuges.

Asha has over 40 years of experience and understanding of the issues and has developed unique participatory systems that are women-friendly and enable us to respond to the needs of individual women. These will be different due to their unique and varied experiences. We recognise the importance of specialist organisations, which play a crucial role beyond language-specific provision and interpretation services. Asha provides much needed support based on an understanding of socio-cultural norms, values and issues relating to forms of violence against women and girls that are specific to South Asian communities. Through Asha, vulnerable women take the first step in rebuilding their confidence, wider relationships and ultimately the future for themselves and their children.

Asha collaborates with agencies and partners who share our vision to build solidarity, support each other, share resources, and ensure a consistent and holistic approach to meet the needs of South Asian women. We work in collaboratively locally and London-wide, and are a member of the OYA Consortium, a group of five "by and for" black and minority VAWG organisations in London.

The challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic continued to affect us. Our priority remained the safety of our residents, children, and staff members. We kept in place the same safety measures such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing, deep cleaning at the refuges, and regular testing. Staff members continued to work remotely and from the refuges and office. We worked together to manage risks, review our risk assessments and business continuity plan, and solve any issues that arise. Front-line agencies are providing more support online, which has resulted in longer wait times for clients seeking support. Demand for refuge space remains high, and we have seen an increase in clients with complex needs.

In addition to the ongoing pandemic, we are also facing a cost-of-living crisis that affects our clients, staff, and organization. To help those in need, we have worked with other organisations, food banks, applied for individual grants, and extended our internal hardship fund.

Having access to secure and affordable housing plays a crucial role in a survivor's journey towards recovery and rebuilding their lives. Of the 21 women who left the refuge, 15 were successfully housed by Lambeth Council in long-term social housing. The process of application and assessment was efficient, and the women were given the option to decline a property if they deemed it unsuitable. They reported feeling settled in their new homes. However, for the 4 women who moved to temporary accommodation provided by other local authorities, the process was incredibly difficult. They faced obstacles such as difficulty contacting the borough and receiving little to no response, as well as gatekeeping, at every stage. As a result, their mental and physical health deteriorated, and they do not feel settled.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)****Our plans for the future include:**

- Continue strengthening Asha to become more financially and operationally sustainable.
- Expanding our advice and outreach programs to reach more people.
- Launching a counselling programme to provide additional support.
- Building up general reserves for future needs
- Obtaining a quality mark to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.

The Management Committee would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our funders and supporters for their ongoing support. We also want to acknowledge the dedication, commitment, and inspiring efforts of our staff and volunteers, who have done an exceptional job, especially during these trying times.

**Financial review**

In the year April 2021 to March 2022, the charity saw an increase in its activities.

The additional support required by women and staff members due to the Covid-19 pandemic was made possible through the continued funding from MHCLG via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA).

The charity provides pension scheme contributions for our employees, which are reflected in the statement of financial activities for the year. The charity has no other liabilities under this scheme beyond these contributions.

The Management Committee has carefully evaluated the charity's need for reserves and established a policy to build the general fund to provide 6-12 months of running costs.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)****Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Asha Projects 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 the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Bharat Shah, Chartered Accountant has expressed his willingness to stand for reappointment and a resolution proposing his reappointment will be put forward at the Trustees Meeting.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 6.02.23 signed on their behalf.

On behalf of the board

  
.....

Chairperson – P Vадgama

**ASHA PROJECTS****INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set on pages 9 to 15.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiners' report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 examiners' statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- 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 have not been met, or

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS  
(CONTINUED)**

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

*Bharat Shah*

Bharat Shah (Independent Examiner)  
For and on behalf of Bharat Shah & Co  
Chartered Accountants

786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey , CR7 6JB

Date: 07/02/23

Statement of financial activitiesIncome and Expenditure accountsFor the year ended 31 March 2022

| Particulars   | Notes | Unrestricted   | Restricted | 2022           | 2021           |
|---|-------|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|   |       | Funds          | Funds      | Total          | Total          |
|   |       | £              | £          | £              | £              |
| <u>Incoming resources</u>   |       |                |            |                |                |
| <u>Charitable Trading</u>   |       |                |            |                |                |
| Rental Income   |       | 317,310        | -          | 317,310        | 303,390        |
| Income from Solace Women's Aid                                    | [2]   | 91,323         | -          | 91,323         | 84,915         |
| Grant Income (LAWA)   | [2]   | 45,295         | -          | 45,295         | 71,499         |
| Management Fee - Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing               |       | 5,304          | -          | 5,304          | 7,514          |
| <u>Other Income</u>   |       |                |            |                |                |
| Bank Interest   |       | 34             | -          | 34             | 380            |
| Sundry Income   |       | 10,593         | -          | 10,593         | 905            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                   |       | <b>469,859</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>469,859</b> | <b>468,603</b> |
| <u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>   |       |                |            |                |                |
| Costs of Charitable Activities                                    | [3]   | 409,189        | -          | 409,189        | 417,003        |
| Governance Costs  | [4]   | 5,622          | -          | 5,622          | 10,418         |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                   |       | <b>414,811</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>414,811</b> | <b>427,421</b> |
| Surplus /(Deficit) for the year<br>Before transfers between funds |       | 55,048         | 0          | 55,048         | 41,182         |
| Transfers between Funds   |       | -              | -          | -              | -              |
| Total Funds Brought forward                                       |       | 206,672        | -          | 206,672        | 165,490        |
| Total Funds Carried forward                                       |       | 261,719        | 0          | 261,719        | 206,672        |

**Continuing operations**

None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current and previous years.

**Total recognised gains and losses**

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the current and previous years.

Statement of Financial Position As At 31 March 2022

|  | NOTES | 2022             |                | 2021            |                |
|--|-------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|  |       | £                | £              | £               | £              |
| <u>Fixed assets</u>                                  |       |                  |                |                 |                |
| Tangible Assets                                      | [08]  |                  | 5,845          |                 | 2,626          |
| <u>Current assets</u>                                |       |                  |                |                 |                |
| Debtors  | [09]  | 26,986           |                | 16,632          |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             |       | <u>339,352</u>   |                | <u>243,079</u>  |                |
|  |       | 366,338          |                | 259,711         |                |
| <u>Creditors: Amount falling due within one year</u> | [10]  | <u>(110,465)</u> |                | <u>(55,665)</u> |                |
| <u>Net current assets</u>                            |       |                  | 255,873        |                 | 204,046        |
| <u>Net asset</u>                                     |       |                  | <u>261,719</u> |                 | <u>206,672</u> |
| <u>Funds</u>   |       |                  |                |                 |                |
| Unrestricted Funds                                   | [11]  |                  | 261,719        |                 | 206,672        |
| Restricted Funds                                     | [12]  |                  | 0              |                 | 0              |
| <u>Total Funds</u>                                   |       |                  | <u>261,719</u> |                 | <u>206,672</u> |


For the year ending 31 March 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- 1) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- 2) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 6.02.23 and signed on their behalf by



Chairperson - P Vadgama

**Notes to financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2022****1. Accounting policies****1.1 Status of the company**

Asha Projects is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the company being wound up.

**1.2 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) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees confirm that they have reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

**1.3 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice**

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

**1.4 Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment - 20% Reducing balance

**1.7 Taxation**

The charity is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is not therefore subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

**1.8 Funds**

All income and expenditure is dealt with through the SOFA. All funds are classified as restricted or unrestricted, defined as follows:

- (a) Restricted funds are funds subject to specific declaration by the donor and expendable in furtherance of a particular activity.
- (b) Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the aims of the charity.
- (c) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for a particular purpose.

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2022**2. Income**

|                                  | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2022</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £                                   | £                                 | £                           | £                           |
| Receipts from Solace Women's Aid | 91,323                              | 0                                 | 91,323                      | 84,915                      |
| Grant Aid from MHCLG via LAWA    | 45,295                              | 0                                 | 45,295                      | 71,499                      |
|                                  | <u>136,618</u>                      | <u>0</u>                          | <u>136,618</u>              | <u>156,414</u>              |

Income from Solace Women's Aid is as per contractual agreement between Asha Project and Solace Women's Aid.

**3. Cost of Charitable Activities**

|  |        | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2022</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  |        | £                                   | £                                 | £                           | £                           |
| Staff Costs                                | Note 6 | 198,772                             | 0                                 | 198,772                     | 200,493                     |
| Premises Costs                             |        | 88,905                              | 0                                 | 88,905                      | 82,729                      |
| Office Costs                               |        | 22,107                              | 0                                 | 22,107                      | 22,771                      |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                     |        | 1,238                               | 0                                 | 1,238                       | 17,154                      |
| Housing Management Expenses                |        | 86,330                              | 0                                 | 86,330                      | 88,753                      |
| Training and Management Committee Expenses |        | 7,185                               | 0                                 | 7,185                       | 940                         |
| Travelling and transport                   |        | 1,000                               | 0                                 | 1,000                       | 1,090                       |
| Bank Charges                               |        | 592                                 | 0                                 | 592                         | 810                         |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets               |        | 1,461                               | 0                                 | 1,461                       | 656                         |
| Staff Expenses                             |        | 1,598                               | 0                                 | 1,598                       | 1,605                       |
|  |        | <u>409,189</u>                      | <u>0</u>                          | <u>409,189</u>              | <u>417,003</u>              |

**4. Governance Costs**

|                              | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2022</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                              | £                                   | £                                 | £                           | £                           |
| Payroll and Bookkeeping Fees | 617                                 | 0                                 | 617                         | 602                         |
| Independent Examiner's Fees  | 2,040                               | 0                                 | 2,040                       | 2,040                       |
| Accountancy fees             | 2,900                               | 0                                 | 2,900                       | 3,500                       |
| Legal and Professional Fees  | 65                                  | 0                                 | 65                          | 4,276                       |
|                              | <u>5,622</u>                        | <u>0</u>                          | <u>5,622</u>                | <u>10,418</u>               |

**5. Net incoming resources for the year**

|  | <u>2022</u>  | <u>2021</u> |
|--|--------------|-------------|
|  | £            | £           |
| Net incoming resources is stated after charging:                 |              |             |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets | <u>1,461</u> | <u>656</u>  |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2022**6. Employees**

|                             | <u>2022</u>    | <u>2021</u>    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                             | £              | £              |
| Salaries and Wages          | 155,617        | 157,727        |
| Employer's NI contributions | 13,900         | 14,233         |
| Pension                     | 29,256         | 28,533         |
|                             | <u>198,772</u> | <u>200,493</u> |

**7. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the current or previous year.

The charity is registered with H M Revenue & Customs as charitable so not liable to UK corporation tax.

**8. Tangible fixed assets**

|                     | <u>Fixtures &amp;<br/>Fittings</u> | <u>Total</u>   |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
|                     | £                                  | £              |
| Cost                |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2021     | 114,368                            | 114,368        |
| Additions           | 4,681                              | 4,681          |
| At 31 March 2022    | <u>119,049</u>                     | <u>119,049</u> |
| Depreciation        |                                    |                |
| At 1 April 2021     | 111,742                            | 111,742        |
| Charge for the year | 1,461                              | 1,461          |
| At 31 March 2022    | <u>113,204</u>                     | <u>113,204</u> |
| Net book values     |                                    |                |
| At 31 March 2022    | <u>5,845</u>                       | <u>5,845</u>   |
| At 31 March 2021    | <u>2,626</u>                       | <u>2,626</u>   |

**9. Debtors**

|                           | <u>2022</u>   | <u>2021</u>   |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                           | £             | £             |
| Debtors - Rent Receivable | 26,986        | 16,632        |
|                           | <u>26,986</u> | <u>16,632</u> |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2022**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                     | <b>2022</b>    | <b>2021</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                     | £              | £             |
| Other Creditors and Deferred Income | 51,853         | 17,007        |
| Other Taxation and Social Security  | 4,384          | (0)           |
| Accruals                            | 54,228         | 38,658        |
|                                     | <u>110,465</u> | <u>55,665</u> |

**11. Unrestricted funds**

|                                    | Opening<br>Balance | Income         | Expenses         | Transfers | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
|                                    | £                  | £              | £                | £         | £                  |
| Renewal and replacement fund       | 21,953             |                |                  | 0         | 21,953             |
| Internal decoration fund           | 18,000             |                |                  | 0         | 18,000             |
| Employers contractual obligations  | 75,000             |                |                  | 0         | 75,000             |
| Residents recreation               | 0                  |                |                  | 0         | 0                  |
| Hardship                           | 6,000              | 0              |                  | 0         | 6,000              |
| Project and capacity building fund | 18,000             |                |                  | 0         | 18,000             |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>      | <u>138,953</u>     | <u>0</u>       | <u>0</u>         | <u>0</u>  | <u>138,953</u>     |
| General funds                      | 67,719             | 469,859        | (414,811)        | 0         | 122,766            |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>    | <u>206,672</u>     | <u>469,859</u> | <u>(414,811)</u> | <u>0</u>  | <u>261,719</u>     |

**12. Restricted funds**

|                  | Opening<br>Balance | Income | Expenses | Transfers | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                  | £                  | £      | £        | £         | £                  |
| Restricted funds | 0                  | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0                  |

**13. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

|  | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> |             | <b>Restricted Funds</b> |                |
|--|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|
|  | <b>2022</b>               | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b>             | <b>2021</b>    |
|  | £                         | £           | £                       | £              |
| Fixed Assets                           | 5,845                     | 0           | 5,845                   | 2,626          |
| Cash at bank and in hand               | 339,352                   | 0           | 339,352                 | 243,079        |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | (83,479)                  | 0           | (83,479)                | (39,033)       |
|  | <u>261,719</u>            | <u>0</u>    | <u>261,719</u>          | <u>206,672</u> |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2022**14. Analysis of Spend of MHCLG Covid-19 emergency funding (via LAWA) for By and for BME specialist refuge provision  
- Section 37 Notice**

Grant Aid of £45,295 was received in year 2021/22 from MHCLG (via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)) for Domestic Abuse safe accommodation Covid-19 emergency support. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|  | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing cover</b><br>(cost of additional staff hours and to cover Covid-19 related absences )  | 20,278                     | 20,278                           |
| <b>Additional Covid-19 related costs</b><br>(such as deep cleaning and the purchasing of essential items and hardship for service users) | 15,400                     | 15,400                           |
| <b>Office equipment related costs</b><br>(to enable remote working where relevant)   | 1,936                      | 1,936                            |
| <b>Other costs</b><br>(additional clinical supervision, IT remote support, monitoring and evaluation and management and admin costs)     | 7,681                      | 7,681                            |
|  | <u>45,295</u>              | <u>45,295</u>                    |

**ASHA PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 294516

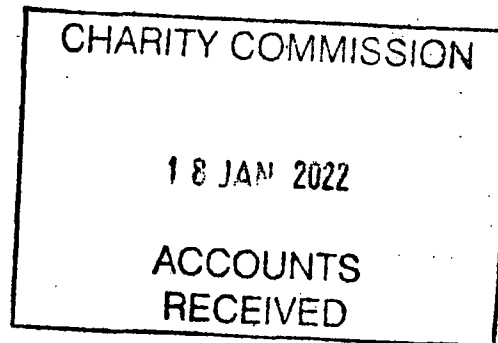
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# Accounts

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Company Registration No: 2019000  
Charity Registration No. 294516

**ASHA PROJECTS**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)



**TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

**BHARAT SHAH & CO**  
Chartered Accountants  
786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey, CR7 6JB

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

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**ASHA PROJECTS**  
**Company Information**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>Charity Number</u></b>                  | 294516  |
| <b><u>Company registration number</u></b>     | 2019000   |
| <b><u>Registered office</u></b>               | 13 Shrubbery Road<br>London<br>SW16 2AS   |
| <b><u>Trustees (Management Committee)</u></b> | P. Vadgama<br>S. Anitha<br>K. Chahel<br>B. Ahmed<br>C. Dagli<br>J. Kalathil                         |
| <b><u>Senior staff members</u></b>            | I Patel<br>J Chana  |
| <b><u>Independent Examiners</u></b>           | Bharat Shah & Co<br>Chartered Accountants<br>786 London Road<br>Thornton Heath<br>Surrey<br>CR7 6JB |
| <b><u>Bankers</u></b>                         | The Co-Operative Bank plc<br>91 George Street<br>Croydon<br>CR9 3QT                                 |

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, governing documents, 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).

### **Structure Governance and Management**

Asha is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in 1986 and governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is established for the objects expressed in the memorandum of Association for the advancement of education, the relief of poverty, sickness, the preservation of health and any other charitable purpose for the benefit of the community (with particular regard to women of South Asian origin) in the UK.

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee members**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, they hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

The Management Committee is appointed for the knowledge, skills, experience and commitment they bring to meet Asha's charitable aims and objectives. Asha has an induction programme for new committee members, and they all have the opportunity of accessing training and on-going support. The Management Committee meet at least once every three months and are responsible for strategic direction, setting, delegating, and overseeing systems and controls, policy work, monitoring performance, and managing Asha's resources responsibly.

Financial procedures have been implemented to establish the delegation of authority over financial matters; control over the organisation's income and expenditure, the protection of its assets and for budgeting and managing the organisations finances.

The Management Committee delegates the day to day running of the organisation to the Director.

### **Risk Management**

The Management Committee have overall responsibility for management of risks at Asha. They have developed policies and procedures to manage potential risks at all levels within the organisation and these are reviewed on a regular basis. Assessing, reviewing, and planning for the management of risks is an ongoing process.

### **Organisational Structure**

Asha's Management Committee is responsible for the overall direction and the strategic focus of the organisation. The day-to-day responsibility is managed by the director, housing manager and the front-line staff.

## ASHA PROJECTS

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)

#### Objectives and Activities

Asha's vision is to live in a just and sustainable world. Our mission is to challenge inequalities and empower South Asian women to build lives free of violence, oppression, and exploitation.

Our aims:

1. Support and empower South Asian women experiencing domestic abuse.
2. Ensure justice for women at policy level.
3. Strengthen Asha to be organisationally and economically sustainable.
4. Work in partnership and in solidarity.

Asha operates from four sites – a resource centre and three refuges consisting of 19 bed spaces. We provide safe temporary accommodation, information, advice, and a volunteering programme for women. We also develop and deliver basic issue-based training based on the needs of South Asian women, the wider community, and other organisations.

#### Volunteer Help

Asha is committed to volunteers helping us support our work. With their varied knowledge, skills and experience they compliment, enrich, and extend the resources of the organisations.

The types of activities that volunteers are involved in:

- Support the work with women and their children
- Help with practical issues relating to the upkeep of the organisation
- Promotional work with stakeholders and local organisations
- General and financial administration.

#### Achievements and Performance

Asha Projects is a dedicated women's organisation run for and managed by local South Asian women. During this year we supported 336 women and 49 stayed at our refuges. The part-time advice and information programme supported 159 women.

We recognise the importance of specialist services, which play a crucial role beyond language-specific provision and interpretation services. Asha provides much needed support based on an understanding of socio-cultural norms, values and issues relating to forms of violence against women and girls that are specific to South Asian communities. Asha helps women and their children recover from the impact of domestic abuse and empowers them to take control of their lives so that when they move on, they can live independently. Through Asha, vulnerable women take the first step in rebuilding their confidence, wider relationships and ultimately the future for themselves and their children.

Coffee mornings gave the women an opportunity to build peer support networks. Peer to peer support and shared experiences are vital. The aim of peer to peer support is to build lifelong networks, empower each other, help with mental health, and prevent isolation at a time when they have left all other relationships behind.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)**

Asha works collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders who share our vision. We aim to build solidarity, support each other, share resources, and ensure a consistent and holistic approach to meet the needs of South Asian women. We are members of the OYA Consortium made up of a "by and for" BME VAWG organisation and joined the London VAWG consortium as partners.

This year presented new challenges, uncertainty, and obstacles, given that no one was prepared for the global Covid 19 pandemic and its long-term effects.

When the first lockdown was announced the priority became safety of our residents, children, and staff members. Everyone worked together to ensure ongoing management of risks, including daily updates from both residents and staff. The management committee met regularly to share information, review the organisations business continuity plan, and solve any issues together. This became all the more crucial considering that BME communities were being disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. We had to adapt and adjust very quickly to work remotely which meant setting up systems for working from home including purchasing equipment, carrying out risk assessments, updating IT and the cleaning rotas.

During lockdown most of the work with our clients was delivered remotely. It was a challenging period, especially for our clients. Most of the agencies including statutory agencies were closed and the ones that were open had lengthy waiting times on the phone responses to applications and inquiries were slow resulting in further hardship and distress. Unfortunately, women from the refuge suffered during this period with difficulties in re-housing. Yet the demand for our places remained extremely high. Both physical and mental health of many of the residents deteriorated which was exacerbated because access to appropriate support was more difficult.

Demand for advice and information increased and support was provided to 159 women in the community through regular contact. It was very hard to find spaces for clients who wanted to leave abusive relationships because refuge spaces were not available, leaving many of them trapped with perpetrators and nowhere to go. The contact from ex-residents also increased. We found ourselves supporting them consistently and many of them lost their jobs causing greater hardship.

We ensured that there was sufficient food, PPE, and essentials for vulnerable women. We received donations of food vouchers and various other supplies from charities which were most appreciated.

The whole process has been a learning experience, for all of us. However, on the positive side, it has made us stronger, strengthened our partnerships, and most importantly we know that we can adjust and respond to challenges more quickly in the future.

The Management Committee would like to thank our funders and all our supporters and a special thank-you to the staff and volunteers for their dedication, commitment, and inspiring efforts in our work, especially through such testing times.

**Financial review**

Against the backdrop of limited resources and insecurities over future funding it has continued to be difficult to plan and develop the programmes further. The cost of meeting the extra support that women and staff members needed was substantial and this would not have been possible without the funding received from MHCLG via Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA) and donations.

Despite the difficulties because of the pandemic the quality of our work was sustained. This is because of the commitment of the staff team, volunteers and the women who help and support each other and Asha.

The Management Committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves and established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not designated should be held as between 3 and 6 months of the expenditure. The designated reserves shall be used for the forthcoming financial realisations and shortfalls for Asha's programme provision whilst keeping abreast of all the requirements intact.

**ASHA PROJECTS****TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021 (CONTINUED)****Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Asha Projects 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 the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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


**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Bharat Shah, Chartered Accountant has expressed his willingness to stand for reappointment and a resolution proposing his reappointment will be put forward at the Trustees Meeting.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24.12.21 signed on their behalf.

On behalf of the board

  
 .....  
 Chairperson – P Vadgama

**ASHA PROJECTS****INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set on pages 10 to 18.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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 Charities Act 2011;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiners' report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 examiners' statement**

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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 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
- 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)].

**ASHA PROJECTS**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASHA PROJECTS  
(CONTINUED)**

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.

*Bharat Shah*

Bharat Shah (Independent Examiner)  
For and on behalf of Bharat Shah & Co  
Chartered Accountants

786 London Road  
Thornton Heath  
Surrey, CR7 6JB

Date: 24 December 2021

**Statement of financial activities**  
**Income and Expenditure accounts**

**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

| Particulars   | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>2021</u>    | <u>2020</u>    |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | <u>Funds</u>        | <u>Funds</u>      | <u>Total</u>   | <u>Total</u>   |
| Notes   | £                   | £                 | £              | £              |
| <b><u>Incoming resources</u></b>                                  |                     |                   |                |                |
| <b><u>Charitable Trading</u></b>                                  |                     |                   |                |                |
| Rental Income   | 303,390             | -                 | 303,390        | 290,383        |
| Income from Solace Women's Aid                                    | 84,915              | -                 | 84,915         | 82,308         |
| Grant Income (LAWA)   | 71,499              | -                 | 71,499         | -              |
| Fund -Grant Income (Bromley & Croydon)                            | -                   | -                 | -              | 8,033          |
| Management Fee - Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing               | 7,514               | -                 | 7,514          | -              |
| <b><u>Other Income</u></b>  |                     |                   |                |                |
| Bank Interest   | 380                 | -                 | 380            | 459            |
| Sundry Income   | 905                 | -                 | 905            | 3,927          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>                                   | <b>468,603</b>      | <b>0</b>          | <b>468,603</b> | <b>385,110</b> |
| <b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>                                  |                     |                   |                |                |
| Costs of Charitable Activities                                    | 417,003             | -                 | 417,003        | 358,990        |
| Governance Costs  | 10,418              | -                 | 10,418         | 6,168          |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>                                   | <b>427,421</b>      | <b>-</b>          | <b>427,421</b> | <b>365,158</b> |
| Surplus /(Deficit) for the year<br>Before transfers between funds | 41,182              | 0                 | 41,182         | 19,952         |
| Transfers between Funds   | -                   | -                 | -              | -              |
| Total Funds Brought forward                                       | 165,490             | -                 | 165,490        | 145,537        |
| Total Funds Carried forward                                       | 206,672             | 0                 | 206,672        | 165,490        |

**Continuing operations**

None of the company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current and previous years.

**Total recognised gains and losses**

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the current and previous years.

Statement of Financial Position As At 31 March 2021

|  | NOTES | 2021            |                | 2020            |                |
|--|-------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|  |       | £               | £              | £               | £              |
| <u>Fixed assets</u>                                  |       |                 |                |                 |                |
| Tangible Assets                                      | [08]  |                 | 2,626          |                 | 1,633          |
| <u>Current assets</u>                                |       |                 |                |                 |                |
| Debtors  | [09]  | 16,632          |                | 11,932          |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             |       | 243,079         |                | 190,217         |                |
|  |       | <u>259,710</u>  |                | <u>202,150</u>  |                |
| <u>Creditors: Amount falling due within one year</u> | [10]  | <u>(55,665)</u> |                | <u>(38,293)</u> |                |
| <u>Net current assets</u>                            |       |                 | 204,046        |                 | 163,857        |
| <u>Net asset</u>                                     |       |                 | <u>206,672</u> |                 | <u>165,490</u> |
| <u>Funds</u>   |       |                 |                |                 |                |
| Unrestricted Funds                                   | [11]  |                 | 206,672        |                 | 165,490        |
| Restricted Funds                                     | [12]  |                 | 0              |                 | 0              |
| <u>Total Funds</u>                                   |       |                 | <u>206,672</u> |                 | <u>165,490</u> |

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under the provisions of section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ending 31 March 2021.


Members have not required the company, under section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- i) Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- ii) Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 24.12.21 and signed on their behalf by

  
 .....  
 Chairperson - P Vadgama

**ASHA PROJECTS****Notes to financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2021****1. Accounting policies****1.1 Status of the company**

Asha Projects is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the company being wound up.

**1.2 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) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees confirm that they have reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

**1.3 Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice**

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required.

**1.4 Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**1.5 Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment - 20% Reducing balance

**1.7 Taxation**

The charity is recognised as a charity for the purposes of applicable taxation legislation and is not therefore subject to taxation on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT and resources expended therefore include irrecoverable input VAT.

**1.8 Funds**

All income and expenditure is dealt with through the SOFA. All funds are classified as restricted or unrestricted, defined as follows:

- (a) Restricted funds are funds subject to specific declaration by the donor and expendable in furtherance of a particular activity.
- (b) Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the aims of the charity.
- (c) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for a particular purpose.

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2021**2. Income**

|                                  | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2020</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £                                   | £                                 | £                           | £                           |
| Receipts from Solace Women's Aid | 84,915                              | 0                                 | 84,915                      | 82,308                      |
| Grant Aid from MHCLG via LAWA    | 71,499                              | 0                                 | 71,499                      |                             |
|                                  | <u>156,414</u>                      | <u>0</u>                          | <u>156,414</u>              | <u>82,308</u>               |

Income from Solace Women's Aid is as per contractual agreement between Asha Project and Solace Women's Aid.

**3. Cost of Charitable Activities**

|  |        | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2020</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  |        | £                                   | £                                 | £                           | £                           |
| Staff Costs                                | Note 6 | 200,493                             | 0                                 | 200,493                     | 192,694                     |
| Premises Costs                             |        | 82,729                              | 0                                 | 82,729                      | 55,677                      |
| Office Costs                               |        | 22,771                              | 0                                 | 22,771                      | 21,535                      |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                     |        | 17,154                              | 0                                 | 17,154                      | 3,362                       |
| Housing Management Expenses                |        | 88,753                              | 0                                 | 88,753                      | 77,610                      |
| Training and Management Committee Expenses |        | 940                                 | 0                                 | 940                         | 6,193                       |
| Travelling and transport                   |        | 1,090                               | 0                                 | 1,090                       | 764                         |
| Bank Charges                               |        | 810                                 | 0                                 | 810                         | 745                         |
| Depreciation of Fixed Assets               |        | 656                                 | 0                                 | 656                         | 408                         |
| Staff Expenses                             |        | 1,605                               | 0                                 | 1,605                       | 0                           |
|  |        | <u>417,003</u>                      | <u>0</u>                          | <u>417,003</u>              | <u>358,990</u>              |

**4. Governance Costs**

|                              | <u>Unrestricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u><br><u>Funds</u> | <u>2021</u><br><u>Total</u> | <u>2020</u><br><u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                              | £                                   | £                                 | £                           | £                           |
| Payroll and Bookkeeping Fees | 602                                 | 0                                 | 602                         | 598                         |
| Independent Examiner's Fees  | 2,040                               | 0                                 | 2,040                       | 1,680                       |
| Accountancy fees             | 3,500                               | 0                                 | 3,500                       | 2,500                       |
| Legal and Professional Fees  | 4,276                               | 0                                 | 4,276                       | 1,390                       |
|                              | <u>10,418</u>                       | <u>0</u>                          | <u>10,418</u>               | <u>6,168</u>                |

**5. Net Incoming resources for the year**

|  | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
|  | £           | £           |
| Net incoming resources is stated after charging:                 |             |             |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets | <u>656</u>  | <u>408</u>  |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2021**6. Employees**

|                             | <u>2021</u>    | <u>2020</u>    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                             | £              | £              |
| Salaries and Wages          | 157,727        | 149,681        |
| Employer's NI contributions | 14,233         | 14,230         |
| Pension                     | 28,533         | 28,783         |
|                             | <u>200,493</u> | <u>192,694</u> |

**7. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the current or previous year.

The charity is registered with H M Revenue & Customs as charitable so not liable to UK corporation tax.

**8. Tangible fixed assets**

|                     | <u>Fixtures &amp;</u> |                |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
|                     | <u>Fittings</u>       | <u>Total</u>   |
|                     | £                     | £              |
| Cost                |                       |                |
| At 1 April 2020     | 112,719               | 112,719        |
| Additions           | 649                   | 649            |
| Computer Cost       | 1,000                 | 1,000          |
| At 31 March 2021    | <u>114,368</u>        | <u>114,368</u> |
| Depreciation        |                       |                |
| At 1 April 2020     | 111,086               | 111,086        |
| Charge for the year | 656                   | 656            |
| At 31 March 2021    | <u>111,742</u>        | <u>111,742</u> |
| Net book values     |                       |                |
| At 31 March 2021    | <u>2,626</u>          | <u>2,626</u>   |
| At 31 March 2020    | <u>1,633</u>          | <u>1,633</u>   |

**9. Debtors**

|                           | <u>2021</u>   | <u>2020</u>   |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                           | £             | £             |
| Debtors - Rent Receivable | 16,631        | 11,932        |
|                           | <u>16,632</u> | <u>11,932</u> |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2021**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                     | <u>2021</u>   | <u>2020</u>   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                     | £             | £             |
| Other Creditors and Deferred Income | 17,007        | 25,717        |
| Other Taxation and Social Security  | (0)           | 3,837         |
| Accruals                            | 38,658        | 8,740         |
|                                     | <u>55,665</u> | <u>38,293</u> |

**11. Unrestricted funds**

|                                    | Opening<br>Balance | Income         | Expenses         | Transfers      | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                                    | £                  | £              | £                | £              | £                  |
| Renewal and replacement fund       | 21,953             |                |                  | 0              | 21,953             |
| Internal decoration fund           | 18,000             |                |                  | 0              | 18,000             |
| Employers contractual obligations  | 71,000             |                |                  | 4,000          | 75,000             |
| Residents recreation               | 2,000              |                |                  | (2,000)        | 0                  |
| Hardship                           | 4,000              | 2,000          |                  | 0              | 6,000              |
| Project and capacity building fund | 18,000             |                |                  | 0              | 18,000             |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>      | <u>134,953</u>     | <u>2,000</u>   | <u>0</u>         | <u>2,000</u>   | <u>138,953</u>     |
| General funds                      | 30,536             | 468,603        | (427,421)        | (4,000)        | 67,719             |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>    | <u>165,490</u>     | <u>470,603</u> | <u>(427,421)</u> | <u>(2,000)</u> | <u>206,672</u>     |

**12. Restricted funds**

|                  | Opening<br>Balance | Income | Expenses | Transfers | Closing<br>Balance |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
|                  | £                  | £      | £        | £         | £                  |
| Restricted funds | 0                  | 0      | 0        | 0         | 0                  |

**13. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

|  | <u>Unrestricted<br/>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted<br/>Funds</u> | <u>2021</u>    | <u>2020</u>    |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | £                             | £                           | £              | £              |
| Fixed Assets                           | 2,626                         | 0                           | 2,626          | 1,633          |
| Cash at bank and in hand               | 243,079                       | 0                           | 243,079        | 190,217        |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | (39,033)                      | 0                           | (39,033)       | (26,361)       |
|  | <u>206,672</u>                | <u>0</u>                    | <u>206,672</u> | <u>165,490</u> |

Notes to financial statements (Continued)For the year ended 31 March 2021**14. Analysis of Spend of MHCLG Grant for By and for BME specialist refuge provision In Covid 19 response  
- Section 37 Notice**

Grant Aid of £71,499 was received in year 2020/21 from MHCLG (via Latin American Women's Aid LAWA) for Domestic Abuse safe accommodation Covid-19 emergency support. The following table illustrates what the money was awarded for and that it has been used for these purposes.

|  | <u>Grant</u><br><u>(£)</u> | <u>Grant spent</u><br><u>(£)</u> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Staffing cover</b><br>(cost of additional staff hours and to cover Covid-19 related absences )  | 21,120                     | 20,825                           |
| <b>Additional Covid-19 related costs</b><br>(such as deep cleaning and the purchasing of essential items and hardship for service users) | 30,334                     | 30,629                           |
| <b>Office equipment related costs</b><br>(to enable remote working where relevant)   | 4,819                      | 4,819                            |
| <b>Other costs</b><br>(additional clinical supervision, IT remote support, monitoring and evaluation and management and admin costs)     | 15,226                     | 15,226                           |
|  | <u>71,499</u>              | <u>71,499</u>                    |