VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 702458

Details

Other names	VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE, VAUXHALL LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE, Vauxhall Law Centre
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02252255
Registered	1990-01-31
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Ms Ngaryan Li Vnc Millennium Resource Centre Blenheim Street Liverpool L5 8UX
Phone	0151 360 7777
Email	advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk
Website	vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) RELIEVE PERSONS RESIDENT OR EMPLOYED IN THE MERSEYSIDE AND SURROUNDING AREAS (THE AREA OF BENEFIT) BY PROVIDING THEM WITH FREE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ON ALL LEGAL MATTERS CONCERNING WHICH IT IS NOT PRACTICAL OR APPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO OBTAIN ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FROM ELSEWHERE OWING TO THEIR FINANCIAL NEED OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES; (2) UNDERTAKE OR CO-OPERATE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF PERSONS RESIDENT OR EMPLOYED IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN THE LAW AND ITS OPERATION; (3) ADVANCE SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY FOR PERSONS WORKING OR RESIDENT IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT;

Activities: We provide legal advice and assistance free of charge. Where appropriate, we provide representation in proceedings, in particular social security appeal tribunals.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** VAUXHALL DISTRICT OF LIVERPOOL
- Knowsley
- Liverpool City
- Sefton
- St Helens
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£664,168	£634,749	£138,061	17
2024-03-31	£472,235	£492,195	-	-
2023-03-31	£402,507	£421,147	-	-
2022-03-31	£292,498	£254,046	-	-
2021-03-31	£274,634	£207,482	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAULINE CONNOLLY	Chair	
Alan Kelly		2024-09-25
Amanda Stewart		2019-09-26
Christopher Topping		2024-03-28
Dr Abigail O'Connor		2025-01-30
Emily Freeman		2024-03-28
GERALDINE OAKFORD		2017-11-06
Julie Ann O'Hare		2019-09-26
Raymond James Howard		2019-09-26

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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 702458

Accounts

Docusign Envelope ID: A3E3B75E-D49B-42BC-8DB9-046C024228E5

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

Company Registration No: 02252255
Charity Number: 702458

Docusign Envelope ID: A3E3B75E-D49B-42BC-8DB9-046C024228E5

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

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The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are:

- To relieve persons resident or employed in the Merseyside and surrounding areas by providing them with free advice and assistance on all legal matters concerning which it is not practical or appropriate for them to obtain advice and assistance from elsewhere owing to their financial need or social and economic circumstance.
- To undertake or co-operate in the advancement of the education of persons resident or employed in the area of benefit in the law and its operation.
- To advance such other charitable purposes as are beneficial to the community for persons working or resident in the area of benefit.
- To provide and support a law centre in the Vauxhall district of Liverpool for the purpose of providing legal advice, assistance and representation free to all manner of person where such advice, assistance or representation is not readily available.

In considering the objectives and activities, the Trustees have considered Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the organisation is meeting its Public Benefit requirements.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We would like to take a moment to remember **Annie Goodman**, our former Trustee and long-time supporter, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Annie was part of the Law Centre from the very beginning and gave so much of her time as volunteer, employee and later, care as a Trustee and Treasurer. Her warmth, dedication, and friendship will be deeply missed.

The Centre has continued to grow and has seen an increase in provision of face-to-face advice through our growing outreach advice clinics. We have had to pull together to support our community in the face of a cost-of-living crisis, housing crisis, racial riots and prolonged period of inflation.

Having settled back into our open-door policy since covid restrictions ended we are seeing clients face to face on a daily basis. We are ensuring that the staff rota allows for the Centre to be open to the public every day. The Centre has kept the remote advice provisions which allow for those further afield to receive much needed advice and assistance in relation to their Welfare Benefits and Housing issues.

We started the financial year with 14 paid employees and have ended the year with 18 staff. Over 50 volunteers still regularly support the work of the centre, by assisting with casework, research, blog writing, fundraising and helping to develop projects.

The Centre was successful in recruiting a new Justice First Fellow, funded by The Legal Education Foundation.

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Esther Sills started with the centre and provided extra capacity in the Welfare Benefit and Development teams. Esther now begins her 2-year training contract in order to qualify as a Social Welfare Solicitor.

Thanks again to the Legal Education Foundation, their funding enabled the recruitment of a new finance officer, Vicky Leung, who brings with her not only accounting experience, but a background of compliance. This role ensures the financial accountability but also helps to streamline the Senior Management Team of the Centre.

Although we were successful in obtaining funding from the Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities for Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme (VCSE) Grant 2023/2024, this grant sadly came to an end. We were able to retain Candy Chan as our Hong Kong BN(O) Caseworker who provided advice and assistance to visa holders on Welfare Benefits and Housing related issues until she left for opportunities in the Isle of Mann, we wish her all the best as Solicitor Advocate in the Isle of Mann and for her to continue promoting access to justice.

In the past year we were delighted to have been able to expand our housing provision by recruiting Shannon Donnelly and Joe Bowly as Migrant & Asylum Support Caseworker and Housing Caseworkers. They both successfully obtained funding via the Social Welfare Solicitors Qualification Fund, which has allowed them to study the SQE in order to qualify as Solicitors. Joe successfully passed his SQE1 and is now preparing for his SQE2 course and exams. Good luck Joe. Shannon will be starting her SQE journey very soon.

This year saw the recruitment of 2 further solicitors, bringing the total of solicitors in the Centre to 5. David Kenny, our existing Welfare Rights Caseworker, successfully passed his SQE2 training (having had funding via the social welfare solicitor's qualification fund) and became a qualified solicitor within the welfare benefits team in September 2024. Tom Lavin, a former Justice First Fellow, joins us from Greater Manchester Law Centre as our new Housing supervising solicitor and will guide his team through the legal aid housing cases.

We were successful in our application to The National Lottery for funding in order to develop our project of increased outreach work. We recruited Danielle Kazandis (welfare benefits) and Steven Williams (debt) who provide extra capacity in our advice teams. We especially welcome them both, one reviving our Debt team and the other allowing us to consolidate and expand our outreach work into the community in order to provide people with help during the cost-of-living crisis in the places they feel most comfortable. We have had services based in Homebaked at Anfield (in partnership with Spirit of Shankly), VNC Food Pantry, Tibre Square, Women's Enterprise Business in the Wirral, Ash Grange, British Red Cross and Woodlands Hospice.

We obtained funding to deliver an innovative project "Giz a Job", a community heritage project, documenting the first People's March for Jobs. The 30-day march to London was an evocative anti-unemployment protest that left Liverpool Pier Head on 1 May 1981. We successfully recruited Dr Greig Campbell as project coordinator to oversee the development and completion of the project alongside volunteers. This project was displayed at the Central Library and very well received.

Volunteers are and have always been the backbone of the Centre. We have 9 active volunteers providing a high level of support to our case workers and other paid staff. In order to maximise the impact of volunteers upon our service provision and to ensure the most valuable and positive experience for the volunteers themselves we were able to successfully secure funding towards the end of the year to recruit Simon Petty as our volunteer coordinator.

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Joe had developed and streamlined our volunteering process ensuring that all volunteers received extensive training and support throughout their placement and Simon has ensured this has carried on.

In the past year we have generated a great amount of publicity in the local and national legal press with reporters seeking to understand the impacts of poverty, austerity and the cost-of-living crisis on our clients. We have worked with M.P.'s across the North West to lobby the government on their poor record on legal aid and access to justice for people living in the North West. We will continue to campaign against legal aid cuts and the managed decline of the social justice sector.

We have also ensured that our supervising solicitors are all ready to meet the supervisor standards for Legal Aid in Housing, Welfare Benefits and Public Law. We successfully tendered for and secured Legal Aid contracts in Housing and debt, Public Law and Welfare Benefits.

We were able to successfully maintain our Lexcel accreditation with the following comments from the assessor:

The Centre's ability to identify the increasing needs of the many underprivileged people who are trying to survive within local communities that have been ravaged over the past years by successive government policies, and its expertise in obtaining funding to finance its activities, have resulted in the Centre's continuing success. Interviews conducted with its people, at all levels of the Organisation, revealed an acute awareness of the importance of empathy towards clients and the accompanying need to make sure that their needs are properly satisfied by attention to detail and by being attentive to matters of compliance.

These attitudes are supported by a very efficient client management system and a supportive top management structure. The imperative of ensuring the efficient implementation of the Centre's policies and procedures resulting especially from the nature of the Centre's work is constantly addressed and this has resulted once again this year in a very successful Lexcel assessment during which a high standard of compliance was detected from the samples taken.

Areas of Good Practice: *there are ten, and these represent areas where the Centre has notably exceeded what the Lexcel Standard requires. Areas of good practice mentioned in previous assessment reports continue to exist but are not reiterated here.*

Suggestions for Best Practice: *no suggestions are included this year possibly as a result of the continual striving for improvement exercised by everyone and led by the Senior Solicitor with Board guidance. Suggestions made in previous assessment reports have been adopted*

Our Impact

A summary of our key figures from the last 12 months

Key figures
469,906 case minutes (7,831.76 hours) spent upholding our clients rights
£4,620,867.42 financial gains and debt manged for our clients
2,413 cash and enquiries opened and 2,363 closed

Clients by department
Housing 43.8%
Welfare Rights 51.1%
Debt 5.1%

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If you experienced a similar problem in the future, would you feel more or less confident about knowing what to do

The same level 10%
A little more confident 26.7%
Much more confident 63.3%

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year was £664,168 (2024: £472,235) of which £389,370 (2024: £230,527) related to funding for projects upon which restrictions are placed.

Total expenditure for the year was £634,749 (2024: £492,195), leaving a surplus for the year of £29,419 (2024: deficit £19,960).

At 31st March 2025 the charitable company's reserves stood at £138,061 (2024: £108,642) of which £103,160 (2024: £65,917) represented restricted funds.

Risk Assessment

The main risks to which the charity is exposed as identified by the Trustees have been considered and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charitable company to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a level to cover redundancy provision and three months' running costs (should no further funding be received) and run on insurance costs.

As at the end of the financial year the unrestricted funds totalled £34,901. The charitable company requires £26,467 for redundancy provision, £70,656 for three months' running costs and run-on insurance for files, estimated at £6,000 (total £103,123).

The trustees plans to increase the unrestricted reserves by pursuing grant funding dedicated to Core costs and unrestricted funds, we intend to seek donations from organisations and businesses who have a history of providing us with support.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Centre will continue to provide support and assistance in relation to welfare rights, housing and debt advice to persons in the Merseyside area for whom it is not practical to seek help elsewhere owing to financial needs or social and economic circumstances. We aim to expand our debt service to include assisting clients with bankruptcies, Debt Relief Orders.

The Centre aims to deliver further outreach sessions, mainly across food pantries to enable more people becoming aware of their legal rights.

The Centre seeks to expand the range of services it offers to include Community Care, Employment, Immigration and Family law, and funds are being raised to expand the work of the organisation.

The Centre also intends to become more involved in social policy campaigns, working collaboratively with other organisations regarding topical issues as well as providing public legal education by providing training to such organisations and its users.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales, No. (02252255) incorporated on 6th May 1988 and registered as a charity (number 702458) on 31st January 1990.

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 26th November 1998 and amended by special resolution on 26th September 2019 and 16th December 2021.

Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who: apply to the Centre in the form required by the trustees; and are approved by the trustees which nominates members of the Executive Committee and those members who are also trustees and directors of the company. The Executive Committee has the power to admit to associate membership of the Centre such elected representatives of organisations as shall support the objects of the Centre.

The Centre is managed by the Executive Committee of trustees, which holds meetings bi-monthly at which agenda items include finance and staff reports.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name	Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre	
Company Number	02252255	
Charity Number	702458	
Registered Office	Vnc Millennium Resource Centre Blenheim Street Liverpool Merseyside L5 8UX	
Trustees	P Connolly (Chair)	
	S Currie	(Resigned 25th September 2024)
	A Gibbons	(Resigned 30th September 2024)
	A Goodman	(Resigned 31st January 2025)
	E Freeman	(Appointed 25th September 2024)
	R Howard	
	A Kelly	(Appointed 25th September 2024)
	K Lee	(Resigned 25th September 2024)
	Dr A O'Connor	(Appointed 30th January 2025)
	J O'Hare	
	G Oakford	
	A Stewart	
	C Topping	(Appointed 25th September 2024)
Company Secretary	N Higham	
Independent Examiner	Mrs Ying Huang ACCA c/o LCVS 151 Dale Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 2AH	

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Bankers

Lloyds TSB Plc
Merchant Court
2-12 Lord Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 1TB

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

P. Connolly

P Connolly – Trustee and Chair

Date: 19/12/25

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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

By Order of the Board

P Connolly

P Connolly – Trustee and Chair

Vnc Millennium Resource Centre
Blenheim Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L5 8UX

Date: 19/12/25

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 10 to 28.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The 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.
It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In 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 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.

Signed by:
DF051AE92EBD4B6...

Name: **Mrs Ying Huang**

Relevant professional qualification or body: **ACCA**

Address: **c/o LCVS 151, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH**

Dated: 22 December 2025

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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
Income and endowments from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3a	98,735	-	98,735	62,267
Charitable activities	3b	176,061	389,370	565,431	409,968
Investments	3c	2	-	2	-
Total income		**274,798**	**389,370**	**664,168**	**472,235**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	282,622	352,127	634,749	492,195
Total expenditure		**282,622**	**352,127**	**634,749**	**492,195**
Net (expenditure)/income, net movement in funds		**(7,824)**	**37,243**	**29,419**	**(19,960)**
Total funds brought forward	11,12	42,725	65,917	108,642	128,602
Total funds carried forward	10-12	**34,901**	**103,160**	**138,061**	**108,642**

The notes on pages 13 to 28 form part of these accounts.

All the above amounts relate to continuing activities of the charitable company.

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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

Company No: 02252255

	Notes	31st March 2025		31st March 2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		18,030		16,912
Intangible assets	6		4,259		5,678
			22,289		22,590
Current assets					
Debtors	7	19,148		22,310	
Cash at bank and in hand		119,564		72,216	
		138,712		94,526	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(22,940)		(8,474)	
Net current assets			115,772		86,052
Total assets less current liabilities			**138,061**		**108,642**
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds	10,11		34,901		42,725
Restricted funds	10-12		103,160		65,917
			138,061		**108,642**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the period covered by these accounts the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Trustees, who are the Directors of the charitable company, acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Approved by the Board on ....19/12/25....., and signed on their behalf by:

P Connolly

P Connolly
Trustee and Chair

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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	31st March 2025		31st March 2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated/(used) from operations	17		54,449		(25,216)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,101)		(880)	
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(7,101)		(880)
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			**47,348**		**(26,096)**
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			72,216		98,312
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			**119,564**		**72,216**

Represented by:

	31st March 2025		31st March 2024	
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand		**119,564**		**72,216**

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1. Limited Liability

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. Each member's liability is limited to £1.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019 and Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company trustees plan to build up adequate reserves to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are confident that the levels of liquidity and free reserves will not affect the charity's operations. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves available for the trustees to apply in accordance with the charitable company's charitable objectives. Designated fund are funds set aside for a specific purpose,

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by the donor. All restricted funds are accounted for as restricted income and expenditure for the purposes is charged to the fund.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies comprise of donations and general grants which are recognised in the accounts when received, with the exception of known legacies which are accounted for when their receipt is certain.

Income from charitable activities is recognised on an accrual's basis except for grants receivable, which are recognised on the date on which their unconditional payment is confirmed by the donor.

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Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the Statement of Financial Activities. Support and governance costs are applied to unrestricted funds unless specifically included in the restrictions, as specified by the donor.

Expenditure on charitable activities relates to the operation of the charity comprising of direct charitable expenditure to meet the objectives of the charitable company. Support and governance costs relate to the management and operation of the organisation and also compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements in producing the annual report. These are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities when payment has been approved by the charitable company.

Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure over £250 and above is stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as below:

Fixture & Fittings	20% per annum reducing balance basis.
Equipment	25% per annum reducing balance basis.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure is treated as a fixed asset and amortised to write off each asset over its estimated useful life as follows.

Legal Software	7 years

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

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Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation

Income and gains are exempt from taxation as they are received and applied for charitable purposes only. The charitable company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3. Income and endowments from

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
a. Donations and Legacies	£	£	£	£
Donations	16,356	-	16,356	27,267
General grants	82,379	-	82,379	35,000
	98,735	**-**	**98,735**	**62,267**

Donations and legacies income for year end 2024 related wholly to unrestricted funds.

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	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
a. Charitable Activities	£	£	£	£
A B Charitable Trust	-	4,000	4,000	-
Access to Justice Foundation	-	4,000	4,000	5,492
AO Sherman Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-
Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund	-	-	-	7,500
Contract and sales income	176,061	-	176,061	179,191
Community Foundation	-	-	-	2,000
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	-	-	-	30,000
Grantscape	-	7,500	7,500	-
Independent Age	-	18,750	18,750	18,750
John Moores Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
Kickstart and secondment	-	-	-	250
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,500	2,500	3,000
Legal Education Foundation	-	60,142	60,142	37,218
Legal Education Foundation – Justice Followship Fund	-	42,310	42,310	-
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	-	14,250	14,250	30,500
Liverpool City Council -Make it Happen	-	-	-	3,000
Local Neighbourhood Fund	-	4,549	4,549	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	106,992	106,992	20,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	52,377	52,377	28,067
P H Holt Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	-	45,000	45,000	45,000
Skelton Charity	-	2,000	2,000	-
	176,061	**389,370**	**565,431**	**409,968**

Income from charitable activities for year end 2024 comprised £179,441 for unrestricted funds and £230,527 related to restricted funds.

c. Investments	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	2	-	2	-

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4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Charitable Expenditure	Support & Governance Costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
To provide legal advice and assistance free of charge	251,628	383,121	634,749	492,195

a. Analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
Direct charitable expenditure:	£	£
Staff salary costs	212,186	173,448
Pensions	6,072	5,402
Office costs	14,398	11,273
Subscriptions and memberships	12,004	6,170
Interpreters	6,144	1,904
Volunteer expenses	204	844
Equipment	568	96
DBS fees	52	152
Events	-	6,933
	251,628	**206,222**

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	2025	2024
Support & Governance costs:	£	£
Staff salary costs	277,872	173,299
Pensions	6,441	11,950
Office costs	1,600	1,253
Building running costs	34,362	27,878
Training	3,339	3,472
Insurance	6,207	2,319
Travel & Subsistence	2,376	778
Legal fees	1,042	924
Professional fees	-	2,674
Consultancy fees	24,142	37,133
Sundry expenses	134	152
Donation	29	-
Bank charges	199	92
Computer support costs	15,252	14,855
Payroll fees	1,080	1,080
Accountancy	1,644	1,325
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	700	-
Amortisation charge	1,419	1,420
Depreciation	5,283	5,369
	383,121	**285,973**
Total expenditure on charitable activities	**634,749**	**492,195**

£352,127 (2024: £252,333) of the above expenditure relates to restricted funding.

d. Analysis of staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross salary	452,665	322,808
Social security	37,393	23,939
Pension costs	12,513	17,352
	502,571	**364,099**

c. Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year 17.17 (2024: 12.75), and calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2025	2024
Charitable activities	**13.87**	**12.9**

One employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 the rest of the employees under £60,000 during the year (2024: no employee received over £60,000)

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The Trustees, being also directors, are not remunerated for their services and are not included in the above number of employees.

No out-of-pocket expenses were reimbursed to trustees in the year (2024: £nil)

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£
Balance as at 1st April 2024	43,849	43,849
Additions	7,101	7,101
Disposals	(1,765)	(1,765)
Balance as at 31st March 2025	**49,185**	**49,185**
Depreciation		
Balance as at 1st April 2024	26,937	26,937
Charge for the year	5,283	5,283
Disposals	(1,065)	(1,065)
Balance as at 31st March 2025	**31,155**	**31,155**
Net book value at 31st March 2025	**18,030**	**18,030**
Net book value at 31st March 2024	16,912	16,912

6. Intangible fixed assets

	Legal Software	Total
Cost	£	£
Brought forward at 1st April 2024	9,936	9,936
Additions during the year	-	-
Balance as at 31st March 2025	**9,936**	**9,936**
Accumulated Amortisation		
Brought forward at 1st April 2024	4,258	4,258
Charge for the year	1,419	1,419
Balance as at 31st March 2025	**5,677**	**5,677**
Net Book Value at 31st March 2025	**4,259**	**4,259**

Net Book Value at 31st March 2024	5,678	5,678

7. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors	17,600	-
Prepayments	1,548	2,310
Accrued income	-	20,000
	19,148	**22,310**

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	-	389
Accruals	1,399	1,325
Tax and social security	-	6,760
Pension	2,161	-
Fans Supporting Foodbank	19,380	-
	22,940	**8,474**

9. Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance at 1st April 2024	-	6,000
Amount deferred in the year	-	-
Amount released to income	(-)	(6,000)
Balance at 31st March 2025	**-**	**-**

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10. Analysis of net assets between funds

2025	Tangible Fixed Assets	Intangible Assets	Net Current Assets	Total
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£	£
General Fund	2,114	-	6,324	8,438
Designated Fund	-	-	26,463	26,463
	2,114	**-**	**32,787**	**34,901**
Restricted Funds				
A B Charitable Trust	2,138	-	5,015	7,153
Access to Justice Foundation	-	4,259	1,419	5,678
Legal Education Foundation	2,216	-	26,763	28,979
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	230	-	-	230
Local Neighbourhood Fund	-	-	995	995
National Lottery Award for All	81	-	-	81
National Lottery Community Fund	1,632	-	18,592	20,224
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	-	30,201	30,201
P H Holt Foundation	816	-	-	816
Steve Morgan Foundation	8,803	-	-	8,803
	15,916	**4,259**	**82,985**	**103,160**
Totals	**18,030**	**4,259**	**115,772**	**138,061**

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2024	Tangible Fixed Assets	Intangible Assets	Net Current Assets	Total
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£	£
General Fund	2,193	-	20,600	22,793
Designated Fund	-	-	19,932	19,932
	2,193	**-**	**40,532**	**42,725**
Restricted Funds				
A B Charitable Trust	-	-	5,015	5,015
Access to Justice Foundation	-	5,678	-	5,678
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	750	750
Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund	-	-	250	250
Legal Education Foundation	1,866	-	-	1,866
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	614	-	-	614
Liverpool City Council- Make it Happen	-	-	5	5
National Lottery Award for All	108	-	-	108
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	1,150	1,150
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	-	-	38,350	38,350
Steve Morgan Foundation	12,131	-	-	12,131
	14,719	**5,678**	**45,520**	**65,917**
Totals	**16,912**	**5,678**	**86,052**	**108,642**

11. Unrestricted Funds

		Movements in the Year			
2025	Reserves at Beginning of year	Income	Expenditure	Transfer of funds	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	22,793	274,798	(282,622)	(6,531)	8,438
Designated Fund	19,932	-	(-)	6,531	26,463
	42,725	**274,798**	**(282,622)**	**-**	**34,901**

Docusign Envelope ID: A3E3B75E-D49B-42BC-8DB9-046C024228E5

2024	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Expenditure	Transfer of funds	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	21,065	241,708	(239,862)	(118)	22,793
Designated Fund	19,814	-	-	118	19,932
	40,879	**241,708**	**(239,862)**	**-**	**42,725**

General Fund is used to finance the charitable company's general activities and core costs as outlined in the Trustees' Report.

Designated Fund is set aside to cover redundancy provision.

Transfer of funds is the movement of the designated fund for redundancy provision.

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12. Restricted Funds

2025	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Movements in the Year: Expenditure	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
A B Charitable Trust	5,015	4,000	(1,862)	7,153
Access to Justice Foundation	5,678	4,000	(4,000)	5,678
Alex Ferry Foundation	750	-	(750)	-
A O Sherman Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund	250	-	(250)	-
Grantscape	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Independent Age	-	18,750	(18,750)	-
John Moores Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Legal Education Foundation	1,866	60,142	(33,029)	28,979
Legal Education Foundation – Justice Fellowship Fund	-	42,310	(42,310)	
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	614	14,250	(14,634)	230
Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen	5	-	(5)	-
Local Neighbourhood Fund	-	4,549	(3,554)	995
National Lottery Award for All	108	-	(27)	81
National Lottery Community Fund	1,150	106,992	(87,918)	20,224
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	52,377	(22,176)	30,201
PH Holt Foundation	-	10,000	(9,184)	816
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	38,350	45,000	(83,350)	-
Skelton Charity	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	12,131	-	(3,328)	8,803
	65,917	**389,370**	**(352,127)**	**103,160**

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2024	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Movements in the Year: Expenditure	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
A B Charitable Trust	15,000	-	(9,985)	5,015
Access to Justice Foundation	7,098	5,492	(6,912)	5,678
Alex Ferry Foundation	10,000	-	(9,250)	750
Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund	-	7,500	(7,250)	250
Community Foundation	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
Independent Age	-	18,750	(18,750)	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Legal Education Foundation	2,488	37,218	(37,840)	1,866
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	818	30,500	(30,704)	614
Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen	-	3,000	(2,995)	5
National Lottery Award for All	144	-	(36)	108
National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,000	(18,850)	1,150
National Lottery Heritage Fund	35,083	28,067	(63,150)	-
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	-	45,000	(6,650)	38,350
Steve Morgan Foundation	17,092	-	(4,961)	12,131
	87,723	**230,527**	**(252,333)**	**65,917**

These are monies given to the company to be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for specific charitable purposes.

A B Charitable Trust – Contribution towards to provide legal and welfare advice and work responding to additional needs deriving from widespread violence across the UK in August 2024.

Access to Justice Foundation – Contribution towards 'Funder Plus Scheme' and employing SWSQF funded students.

Alex Ferry Foundation – Contribution towards better conditions of gig economy and zero hours contract project.

A O Sherman Foundation - Contribution towards employing SWSQF funded students.

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Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund- Contribution towards supporting clients during the cost-of-living crisis.

Community Foundation- Contribution towards purchasing IT equipment & furniture

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities- Contribution towards Provide advice and support for HK BN(O) in relation to benefits and housing.

Grantscape - Contribution towards supporting clients during the cost-of-living crisis.

Independent Age- Provide advice and support in relation to welfare benefits for those over state pension age

John Moores Foundation - Contribution towards 'Welfare Rights Advisor'

LCVS Community Impact Fund – Contribution towards welfare, housing and debt advice

Legal Education Foundation – Contribution towards Core support for finance officer.

Legal Education Foundation Justice Fellowship Fund – Contribution toward the cost of a Justice Fist fellow/trainee solicitor and associated cost

Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant – Contribution towards salary costs of Welfare rights caseworker.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff salary costs	30,704	30,705

Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen - Contribution towards 'Housing Advice' project.

Local Neighbourhood Fund – Contribution towards general service and welfare rights advisor.

National Lottery Award for All – Contribution towards to purchase computer equipment and contribution towards salaries costs.

National Lottery Community Fund – Contribution towards the development of outreach services.

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Contribution towards 'Don't Mourn', Organise' an oral history of Kirby Unemployed Centre set up after the people's March for Jobs. 18-month project.

P H Holt Foundation – Contribution towards core and salary costs

Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust- Contribution towards case worker salary & development of the law centre.

Skelton Charity – Contribution towards IT infrastructure for new offices.

Steve Morgan Foundation – Contribution towards salary costs of new solicitor, equipment, computers and furniture

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13. Operating Lease Commitments

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre has a rental commitment in relation to the premises at VNC Millennium Resource Centre, Blenheim Street, Liverpool, L5 8UX, from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2028 There are also lease commitments for a photocopier

	2025 £	2024 £
Premises		
Due in one year	25,000	25,000
Due in one to two years	25,000	25,000
Due two to five years	25,000	50,000
Photocopier		
Due in one year	4,152	2,647
Due in one to two years	3,159	1,512
Due two to five years	7,921	519
	90,232	**104,678**

14. Contingent Liabilities

The Charitable Company did not have any contingent liabilities at 31st March 2025 or 31st March 2024.

15. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31st March 2025 (2024: none)

16. Guarantees

As at 31st March 2025, 9 members had given a guarantee of £1 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total £9 (2024: 9 members: £9).

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17. Cash generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Surplus/(used) for the year	29,419	(19,960)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	5,283	5,369
Amortisation	1,419	1,420
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed asset	700	
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	3,162	(10,689)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	14,466	(1,356)
Cash generated from operations	**54,449**	**(25,216)**

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 702458

Accounts

Docusign Envelope ID: 6FE17C04-8AE4-4CF3-9EF4-48B9889B58AE

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

Company Registration No: 02252255

Charity Number: 702458

Docusign Envelope ID: 6FE17C04-8AE4-4CF3-9EF4-48B9889B58AE

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The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are:

- To relieve persons resident or employed in the Merseyside and surrounding areas by providing them with free advice and assistance on all legal matters concerning which it is not practical or appropriate for them to obtain advice and assistance from elsewhere owing to their financial need or social and economic circumstance.
- To undertake or co-operate in the advancement of the education of persons resident or employed in the area of benefit in the law and its operation.
- To advance such other charitable purposes as are beneficial to the community for persons working or resident in the area of benefit.
- To provide and support a law centre in the Vauxhall district of Liverpool for the purpose of providing legal advice, assistance and representation free to all manner of person where such advice, assistance or representation is not readily available.

In considering the objectives and activities, the Trustees have considered Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the organisation is meeting its Public Benefit requirements.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We would like to take this opportunity to honour our former Trustee and ongoing supporter, Nigel Mellor who sadly passed away earlier this year.

50th Anniversary Celebration Events



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This year is our 50th anniversary and to celebrate a week of celebrations for all our friends and supporters

Our events highlighted the lack of access to social justice and appalling levels of poverty and disadvantage which have become much worse in the recent past.

Vauxhall Law Centre has provided support to community struggles for 50 years now. Initially established to provide housing advice to people living in the local Scotland Road community when many houses were not fit for human habitation, we continued to work challenging poverty and injustices in the community and with workers in their struggles for better conditions. The Law Centre, a charity, still provides free advice to people, particularly those who need advice or representation at appeal for disability benefits or eviction notices. We have and continue to support sick, disabled and vulnerable people in the community. Please join us at one of our events to find out more about our work and celebrate our history.

Below is a list of our events including.

2nd June at 12:00pm - Opening Session and talk with guest speaker Ian Byrne M.P.

- Taking place at Vauxhall Law Centre and open to all.

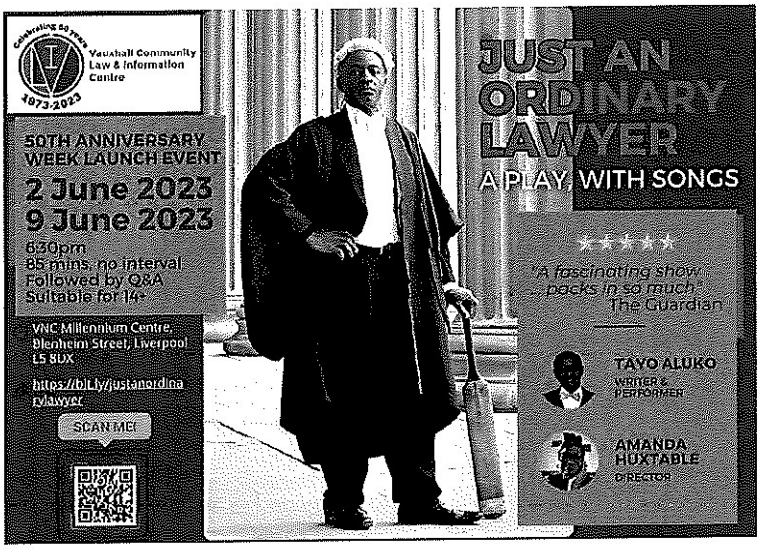
2nd June at 1pm - Special in person edition of Liverpool Law Society's Access to Justice Committee meeting.

2nd June at 6:30 pm- 'Just an Ordinary Lawyer' by Tayo Aluko. Free and open to all

3rd June at 7pm - a screening of 'I, Daniel Blake' at Kitty's Laundrette. Free and open to all

7th June at 6pm - Know Your Rights session with Acorn Liverpool and VLC Housing Solicitor Siobhan Taylor Ward on tenant's rights. Free and open to all

9th June at 6:30pm - Final performance of 'Just an Ordinary Lawyer' by Tayo Aluko. Free and open to all



The Centre has continued to grow as we have returned to a world without covid restrictions. We have had to pull together to support our community in the face of a cost-of-living crisis, housing crisis and prolonged period of inflation. Having settled back into our open-door policy since covid restrictions ended we are seeing clients face to face on a daily basis. We are ensuring that the staff rota allows for the Centre to be open to the public every day.

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The Centre has kept the remote advice provisions which allow for those further afield to receive much needed advice and assistance in relation to their Welfare Benefits and Housing issues.

We started the financial year with 14 paid employees and have ended the year with 17 staff. Over 50 volunteers still regularly support the work of the centre, by assisting with casework, research, blog writing, fundraising and helping to develop projects.

We were successful in obtaining funding from the Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities for Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme (VCSE) Grant 2023/2024. We were able to successfully recruit Candy Chan as our Hong Kong BN(O) Caseworker who provided advice and assistance to visa holders on Welfare Benefits and Housing related issues.

This year we were delighted to have been able to expand our housing provision by recruiting Shannon Donnelly and Joe Bowly as Migrant & Asylum Support Caseworker and Housing Caseworkers. We have expanded our Welfare Benefits team with the recruitment of Emanuele Sanna to provide tailored advice to people of pension age.

We were extremely pleased that our former Kickstart Office Administrator was promoted to Office Manager during the course of the year. Jade has shown resilience and outstanding skills deserving of this promotion.

Unfortunately, our Senior Solicitor and Centre Director was unexpectedly taken ill and hospitalised mid-year. Our Housing Solicitor, Development Officer and Office Manager took charge and ensured services were not impacted by the loss of personnel. The temporary Senior Management team made sure that staff well-being, stakeholder engagement, regulatory matters were not negatively impacted as well as helping to maintain the Centre's operations. A big thank you to all staff members who pulled together in this tough period to ensure services remained ongoing and to a very high standard.

Furthermore we have been able to consolidate and expand our outreach work into the community in order to provide people with help during the cost of living crisis in the places they feel most comfortable. We have had services based in Homebaked at Anfield (in partnership with Spirit of Shankly), Maghull Advice Centre (funded by Maghull Town Council), Pontac Community Centre (funded by 64 Trust), VNC Food Pantry, Adlington House (in partnership with the Eldonian Village and Woodlands Hospice as above.

We have been able to recruit a part time Welfare Rights Caseworker for the Maghull Advice Centre and the team have pulled together to provide advice in all other outreach locations.

We obtained funding to deliver an innovative project "Giz a Job", a community heritage project, documenting the first People's March for Jobs. The 30-day march to London was an evocative anti-unemployment protest that left Liverpool Pier Head on 1 May 1981. We successfully recruited Dr Greig Campbell as project coordinator to oversee the development and completion of the project alongside volunteers.

Volunteers are and have always been the backbone of the Centre. We have 7 active volunteers providing a high level of support to our case workers and other paid staff. In order to maximise the impact of volunteers upon our service provision and to ensure the most valuable and positive experience for the volunteers themselves we were able to successfully secure funding towards the end of the year to recruit Joe Bowly as our volunteer coordinator.

Joe developed and streamlined our volunteering process ensuring that all volunteers received extensive training and support throughout their placement.

Public legal education and upskilling the sector is extremely important to us as a Centre. As our team has grown we have been able to offer more training and information sessions for our

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local community. Our Housing Solicitor has been commissioned to provide in-depth Homelessness law training to Whitechapel Centre, the largest homeless charity in the area. She has also provided training on migrant rights in relation to housing an asylum support to third sector organisations working with asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants. The housing and development team has strengthened its work with the Liverpool branch of Acorn Tenant and Community Union and has provided housing rights training to members of the local community in a number of "Know your rights" sessions.

In the past year we have generated a great amount of publicity in the local and national legal press with reporters seeking to understand the impacts of poverty, austerity and the cost-of-living crisis on our clients. We have worked with M.P.'s across the North West to lobby the government on their poor record on legal aid and access to justice for people living in the North West. We will continue to campaign against legal aid cuts and the managed decline of the social justice sector.

We have also ensured that our supervising solicitors are all ready to meet the supervisor standards for Legal Aid in Housing, Welfare Benefits and Public Law. We successfully tendered for and secured Legal Aid contracts in Housing and debt, Public Law and Welfare Benefits.

We were able to successfully maintain our Lexcel accreditation with the following comments from the assessor:

The Centre operates within the voluntary sector as a not-for-profit charitable company limited by guarantee and provides legal services relating to a wide range of welfare issues during a period of history that presents huge challenges to a polarised society in which there are unsustainable gaps between those who have, and those who have not, the means to cope. Caseworkers are therefore under considerable stress as a result of increasing demand for the Centre's services. Reference is made further in this report (Chapter 8, Section 4) to the empathetic style of management and the attention given to staff welfare that contribute considerably towards maintaining a high level of sustainable service to clients. The Centre's activities are supported by a team of volunteers and are overseen by a Management Committee whose members represent the community in which the Centre operates.

The evidence obtained during this AMV shows a very high standard of management, reflected in the relatively low incidents of non-compliances detected.

It is consequently the Assessor's strong recommendation that the Centre continues to be accredited with Lexcel certification.

We have been able to support our Justice First Fellow, Alex Feery in successfully completing his fellowship. He successfully completed a 2 year training contract, after experiencing working in and with our welfare benefits, debt, housing and development team. Alex has taken post at another agency in Scarborough and we wish him all the best in his future career. We have successfully secured funding for a further Justice First Fellow to start in April 2024.

Our 2023/2024 success story

1,220 opened to deal with housing and benefit related issues.

1,163 closed cases where we brought these issues to a satisfactory conclusion.

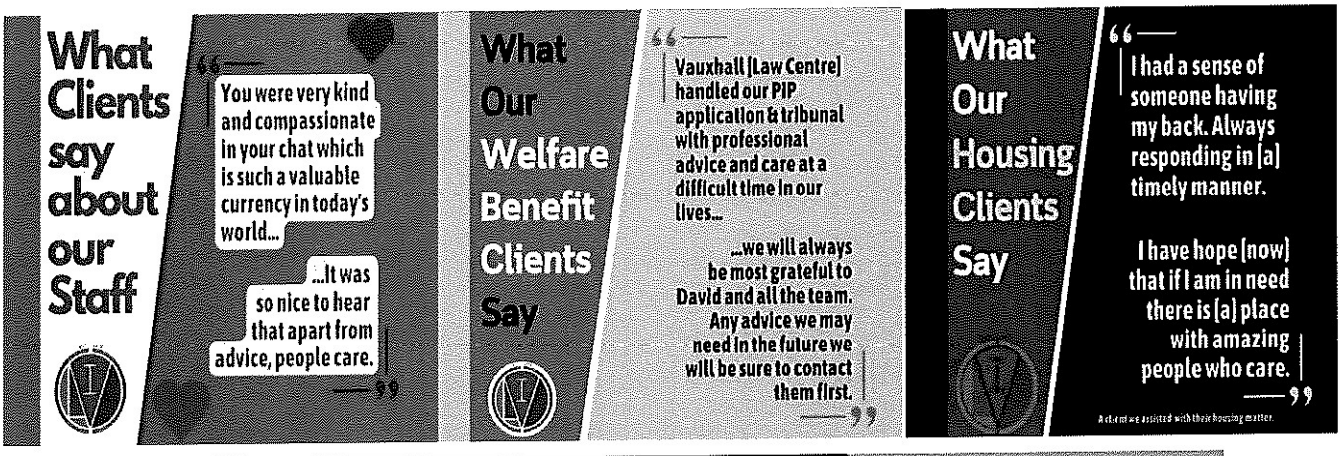
1,011 Welfare Benefit cases were opened and we closed 1,063

187 Housing cases were opened and we closed 100

Total Financial Gains - £3,121,644.90

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Our teams had the following feedback:



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mary & Anthony

Housing Volunteers



Mary

"Volunteering really feels like worthwhile work. I've learnt so much about the city's ongoing housing issues, and the work has helped me develop some new, useful skills in a professional environment."

Anthony

"It's always kids that suffer in these situations, and speaking as a Dad I know how that must impact on families". "I just want to see better built and maintained housing stock for families. I get a real sense of satisfaction knowing my work is directly helping people in these situations."

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year was £472,235 (2023: £402,507) of which £230,527 (2023: £225,650) related to funding for projects upon which restrictions are placed.

Total expenditure for the year was £492,195 (2023: £421,147), leaving a deficit for the year of £19,960 (2023: deficit £18,640).

At 31st March 2024 the charitable company's reserves stood at £108,642 (2023: £128,602) of which £65,917 (2023: £87,723) represented restricted funds.

Risk Assessment

The main risks to which the charity is exposed as identified by the Trustees have been considered and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charitable company to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a level to cover redundancy provision and three months' running costs (should no further funding be received) and run on insurance costs.

As at the end of the financial year the unrestricted funds totalled £42,725. The charitable company requires £19,932 for redundancy provision, £59,965 for three months' running costs and run-on insurance for files, estimated at £6,000 (total £85,897).

The trustees are aware that the reserves required by our "Reserves Policy" of three months' running costs, a total of £85,896, is short by £43,170 at the start of the financial year 24/25. In order to comply with our policy and ensure that costs are covered in the event that they are required we intend to pursue grant funding dedicated to Core costs and unrestricted funds, we intend to seek donations from organisations and businesses who have a history of providing us with support.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Centre will continue to provide support and assistance in relation to welfare rights, housing and debt advice to persons in the Merseyside area for whom it is not practical to seek help elsewhere owing to financial needs or social and economic circumstances. We aim to expand our debt service to include assisting clients with bankruptcies, Debt Relief Orders.

The Centre will be relaunching the Bereavement Support Advice project aimed at delivering wraparound advice to those who have suffered a recent bereavement. The Centre is currently recruiting an advice worker to lead on this project. We will also be launching a project aimed at delivering advice and support to those who have been diagnosed as Terminally Ill and we will be recruiting for an advice worker to lead on this project.

The Centre aims to deliver further outreach sessions, mainly across food pantries to enable more people becoming aware of their legal rights.

The Centre seeks to expand the range of services it offers to include Employment, Immigration and Family law, and funds are being raised to expand the work of the organisation.

The Centre also intends to become more involved in social policy campaigns, working collaboratively with other organisations regarding topical issues as well as providing public legal education by providing training to such organisations and it's users.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales, No. (02252255) incorporated on 6th May 1988 and registered as a charity (number 702458) on 31st January 1990.

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 26th November 1998 and amended by special resolution on 26th September 2019 and 16th December 2021.

Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who: apply to the Centre in the form required by the trustees; and are approved by the trustees which nominates members of the Executive Committee and those members who are also trustees and directors of the company. The Executive Committee has the power to admit to associate membership of the Centre such elected representatives of organisations as shall support the objects of the Centre.

The Centre is managed by the Executive Committee of trustees, which holds meetings bi-monthly at which agenda items include finance and staff reports.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name	Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre	
Company Number	02252255	
Charity Number	702458	
Registered Office	Vnc Millennium Resource Centre Blenheim Street Liverpool Merseyside L5 8UX	
Trustees	P Connolly (Chair)	
	S Currie	(Resigned 25th September 2024)
	A Gibbons	(Resigned 1st November 2024)
	A Goodman	
	E Freeman	(Appointed 25th September 2024)
	R Howard	
	A Kelly	(Appointed 25th September 2024)
	K Lee	(Resigned 25th September 2024)
	J O'Hare	
	G Oakford	
	A Stewart	
	C Topping	(Appointed 25th September 2024)
Company Secretary	N Higham	
Independent Examiner	Mrs Ying Huang ACCA c/o LCVS 151 Dale Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 2AH	

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Bankers

Lloyds TSB Plc
Merchant Court
2-12 Lord Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 1TB

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

P Connolly

P Connolly – Trustee and Chair

Date: 19/12/24

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

By Order of the Board

P Connolly

P Connolly – Trustee and Chair

Vnc Millennium Resource Centre
Blenheim Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L5 8UX

Date: 19/12/24

Docusign Envelope ID: 6FE17C04-8AE4-4CF3-9EF4-48B9889B58AE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The 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.
It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In 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 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.

Name: **Mrs Ying Huang**

Relevant professional qualification or body: **ACCA**

Address: **c/o LCVS 151, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH**

Signed by: DF051AE92EBD4B6...

Dated: .....

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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Income and endowments from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3a	62,267	-	62,267	75,753
Charitable activities	3b	179,441	230,527	409,968	326,754
Total income		**241,708**	**230,527**	**472,235**	**402,507**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	239,862	252,333	492,195	421,147
Total expenditure		**239,862**	**252,333**	**492,195**	**421,147**
Net income/(expenditure), net movement in funds		**1,846**	**(21,806)**	**(19,960)**	**(18,640)**
Total funds brought forward	11,12	40,879	87,723	128,602	147,242
Total funds carried forward	10-12	**42,725**	**65,917**	**108,642**	**128,602**

The notes on pages 14 to 26 form part of these accounts.

All the above amounts relate to continuing activities of the charitable company.

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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024 — Company No: 02252255

	Notes	31st March 2024		31st March 2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		16,912		21,401
Intangible assets	6		5,678		7,098
			22,590		28,499
Current assets					
Debtors	7	22,310		11,621	
Cash at bank and in hand		72,216		98,312	
		94,526		109,933	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(8,474)		(9,830)	
Net current assets			86,052		100,103
Total assets less current liabilities			**108,642**		**128,602**
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds	10,11		42,725		40,879
Restricted funds	10-12		65,917		87,723
			108,642		**128,602**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the period covered by these accounts the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Trustees, who are the Directors of the charitable company, acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Approved by the Board on 19/12/24, and signed on their behalf by:

P Connolly

P Connolly
Trustee and Chair

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1. Limited Liability

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. Each member's liability is limited to £1.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019 and Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company trustees plan to build up adequate reserves to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are confident that the levels of liquidity and free reserves will not affect the charity's operations. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves available for the trustees to apply in accordance with the charitable company's charitable objectives. Designated fund are funds set aside for a specific purpose,

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by the donor. All restricted funds are accounted for as restricted income and expenditure for the purposes is charged to the fund.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies comprise of donations and general grants which are recognised in the accounts when received, with the exception of known legacies which are accounted for when their receipt is certain.

Income from charitable activities is recognised on an accrual's basis except for grants receivable, which are recognised on the date on which their unconditional payment is confirmed by the donor.

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Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the Statement of Financial Activities. Support and governance costs are applied to unrestricted funds unless specifically included in the restrictions, as specified by the donor.

Expenditure on charitable activities relates to the operation of the charity comprising of direct charitable expenditure to meet the objectives of the charitable company. Support and governance costs relate to the management and operation of the organisation and also compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements in producing the annual report. These are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities when payment has been approved by the charitable company.

Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure over £250 and above is stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as below:

Fixture & Fittings	20% per annum reducing balance basis.
Equipment	25% per annum reducing balance basis.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure is treated as a fixed asset and amortised to write off each asset over its estimated useful life as follows.

Legal Software	7 years

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

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Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation

Income and gains are exempt from taxation as they are received and applied for charitable purposes only. The charitable company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3. Income and endowments from

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
a. Donations and Legacies	£	£	£	£
Donations	27,267	-	27,267	39,753
General grants	35,000	-	35,000	36,000
	62,267	**-**	**62,267**	**75,753**

Donations and legacies income for 2023 related wholly to unrestricted funds.

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	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
a. Charitable Activities	£	£	£	£
A B Charitable Trust	-	-	-	15,000
Access to Justice Foundation	-	5,492	5,492	16,325
Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund	-	7,500	7,500	-
Contract and sales income	179,191	-	179,191	99,748
Community Foundation	-	2,000	2,000	-
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	-	30,000	30,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	20,000
Independent Age	-	18,750	18,750	-
Kickstart and secondment	250	-	250	1,356
Legal Education Foundation	-	37,218	37,218	42,742
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	3,000	3,000	-
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund	-	-	-	14,250
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	-	30,500	30,500	28,500
Liverpool City Council -Make it Happen	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Mayoral Neighbourhood Funds	-	-	-	10,000
National Lottery Award for All	-	-	-	10,000
National Lottery Community Fund		20,000	20,000	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	28,067	28,067	35,083
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	-	45,000	45,000	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	-	-	30,000
Torus Foundation	-	-	-	750
	179,441	**230,527**	**409,968**	**326,754**

Income from charitable activities in 2023 comprised £101,104 for unrestricted funds and £225,650 related to restricted funds.

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Charitable Expenditure	Support & Governance Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
To provide legal advice and assistance free of charge	206,222	285,973	**492,195**	**421,147**

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a. Analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
Direct charitable expenditure:	£	£
Staff salary costs	173,448	314,856
Pensions	5,402	8,166
Office costs	11,273	12,228
Subscriptions	6,170	6,221
Interpreters	1,904	2,101
Volunteer expenses	844	136
Equipment	96	250
DBS fees	152	96
Events	6,933	-
	206,222	**344,054**

	2024	2023
Support & Governance costs:	£	£
Staff salary costs	173,299	25,964
Pensions	11,950	880
Office costs	1,253	1,359
Building running costs	27,878	10,526
Training	3,472	4,600
Insurance	2,319	1,629
Travel & Subsistence expenses	778	902
Publicity and promotions	-	587
Legal	924	14
Professional fees	2,674	-
Consultancy fees	37,133	7,700
Sundry expenses	152	338
Bank charges	92	89
Computer support costs	14,855	11,583
Payroll fees	1,080	1,080
Accountancy	1,325	1,330
Amortisation charge	1,420	1,419
Depreciation	5,369	7,093
	285,973	**77,093**
Total expenditure on charitable activities	**492,195**	**421,147**

£252,333 (2023: £234,493) of the above expenditure relates to restricted funding.

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d. Analysis of staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross salary	322,808	317,577
Social security	23,939	23,243
Pension costs	17,352	9,046
	364,099	**349,866**

c. Particulars of employees:
The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
Charitable activities	**12.9**	**14.7**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: nil)

The Trustees, being also directors, are not remunerated for their services and are not included in the above number of employees.

No out-of-pocket expenses were reimbursed to trustees in the year (2023: £nil)

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£
Balance as at 1st April 2023	42,969	42,969
Additions	880	880
Disposals	(-)	(-)
Balance as at 31st March 2024	**43,849**	**43,849**
Depreciation		
Balance as at 1st April 2023	21,568	21,568
Charge for the year	5,369	5,369
Disposals	(-)	(-)
Balance as at 31st March 2024	**26,937**	**26,937**
Net book value at 31st March 2024	**16,912**	**16,912**
Net book value at 31st March 2023	21,401	21,401

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6. Intangible fixed assets

	Legal Software	Total
	£	£
Cost		
Brought forward at 1st April 2023	9,936	9,936
Additions during the year	-	-
Balance as at 31st March 2024	**9,936**	**9,936**
Accumulated Amortisation		
Brought forward at 1st April 2023	2,838	2,838
Charge for the year	1,420	1,420
Balance as at 31st March 2024	**4,258**	**4,258**
Net Book Value at 31st March 2024	**5,678**	**5,678**
Net Book Value at 31st March 2023	7,098	7,098

7. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	2,310	2,996
Accrued income	20,000	8,625
	22,310	**11,621**

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	389	
Accruals	1,325	3,830
Tax and social security	6,760	-
Deferred income (see note 9)	-	6,000
	8,474	**9,830**

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9. Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance at 1st April 2023	6,000	-
Amount deferred in the year		6,000
Amount released to income	(6,000)	(-)
Balance at 31st March 2024	**-**	**6,000**

10. Analysis of net assets between funds

2024	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Intangible Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	2,193	-	20,600	22,793
Designated Fund	-	-	19,932	19,932
	2,193	**-**	**40,532**	**42,725**
Restricted Funds				
A B Charitable Trust	-	-	5,015	5,015
Access to Justice Foundation	-	5,678	-	5,678
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	750	750
Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund	-	-	250	250
Legal Education Foundation	1,866	-	-	1,866
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	614	-	-	614
Liverpool City Council- Make it Happen	-	-	5	5
National Lottery Award for All	108	-	-	108
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	1,150	1,150
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	-	-	38,350	38,350
Steve Morgan Foundation	12,131	-	-	12,131
	14,719	**5,678**	**45,520**	**65,917**
Totals	**16,912**	**5,678**	**86,052**	**108,642**

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2023	Tangible Fixed Assets	Intangible Assets	Net Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	1,776	-	19,289	21,065
Designated Fund	-	-	19,814	19,814
	1,776	**-**	**39,103**	**40,879**
Restricted Funds				
A B Charitable Trust	-	-	15,000	15,000
Access to Justice Foundation	-	7,098	-	7,098
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	10,000	10,000
Legal Education Foundation	2,488	-	-	2,488
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	818	-	-	818
National Lottery Award for All	144	-	-	144
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	-	35,083	35,083
Steve Morgan Foundation	16,175	-	917	17,092
	19,625	**7,098**	**61,000**	**87,723**
Totals	**21,401**	**7,098**	**100,103**	**128,602**

11. Unrestricted Funds

2024	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Expenditure	Transfer of funds	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	21,065	241,708	(239,862)	(118)	22,793
Designated Fund	19,814	-	-	118	19,932
	40,879	**241,708**	**(239,862)**	**-**	**42,725**

2023	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Expenditure	Transfer of funds	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	30,928	176,857	(186,654)	(66)	21,065
Designated Fund	19,748	-	-	66	19,814
	50,676	**176,857**	**(186,654)**	**-**	**40,879**

General Fund is used to finance the charitable company's general activities and core costs as outlined in the Trustees' Report.

Designated Fund is set aside to cover redundancy provision.

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Transfer of funds is the movement of the designated fund for redundancy provision.

12. Restricted Funds

2024	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Movements in the Year: Expenditure	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
A B Charitable Trust	15,000	-	(9,985)	5,015
Access to Justice Foundation	7,098	5,492	(6,912)	5,678
Alex Ferry Foundation	10,000	-	(9,250)	750
Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund	-	7,500	(7,250)	250
Community Foundation	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
Independent Age	-	18,750	(18,750)	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Legal Education Foundation	2,488	37,218	(37,840)	1,866
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	818	30,500	(30,704)	614
Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen	-	3,000	(2,995)	5
National Lottery Award for All	144	-	(36)	108
National Lottery Community Fund	-	20,000	(18,850)	1,150
National Lottery Heritage Fund	35,083	28,067	(63,150)	-
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	-	45,000	(6,650)	38,350
Steve Morgan Foundation	17,092	-	(4,961)	12,131
	87,723	**230,527**	**(252,333)**	**65,917**

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2023	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Movements in the Year: Expenditure	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
A B Charitable Trust	-	15,000	(-)	15,000
Access to Justice Foundation	8,654	16,325	(17,881)	7,098
Alex Ferry Foundation	10,000	-	(-)	10,000
Education Skills Fund Agency	1,500	-	(1,500)	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	867	20,000	(20,867)	-
Hill Dickinson Fund	329	-	(329)	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	2,910	-	(2,910)	-
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding	5,181	-	(5,181)	-
Legal Education Foundation	14,100	42,742	(54,354)	2,488
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund	14,250	14,250	(28,500)	-
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	2,215	28,500	(29,897)	818
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	80	-	(80)	-
Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund	3,700	10,000	(13,700)	-
National Lottery Award for All	6,892	10,000	(16,748)	144
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	35,083	(-)	35,083
P H Holt Foundation	2,912	-	(2,912)	-
Skelton Charity	1,410	-	(1,410)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	21,566	30,000	(34,474)	17,092
Torus Foundation	-	750	(750)	-
	96,566	**225,650**	**(234,493)**	**87,723**

These are monies given to the company to be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for specific charitable purposes.

A B Charitable Trust – Contribution towards to provide legal and welfare advice.

Access to Justice Foundation – Contribution towards 'Funder Plus Scheme'.

Alex Ferry Foundation – Contribution towards better conditions of gig economy and zero hours contract project.

Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund- Contribution towards supporting clients during the cost of living crisis.

Community Foundation- Contribution towards purchasing IT equipment & furniture

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities- Contribution towards Provide advice and support for HK BN(O) in relation to benefits and housing.

Education Skills Fund Agency – Contribution towards core costs.

Docusign Envelope ID: 6FE17C04-8AE4-4CF3-9EF4-48B9889B58AE

Garfield Weston Foundation – Contribution towards core costs.

Hill Dickinson Fund – Contribution to enhance the sustainability of the Law Centre.

Independent Age- Provide advice and support in relation to welfare benefits for those over state pension age

LCVS Community Impact Fund – Contribution towards welfare, housing and debt advice.
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding – Contribution towards additional support for housing solicitor
Legal Education Foundation – Contribution toward the cost of a Justice Fist fellow/trainee solicitor and associated cost

Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund – Contribution towards the Welfare Right Advise caseworker.

Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant – Contribution towards salary costs of Welfare rights caseworker.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff salary costs	30,705	28,665

Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund – Contribution towards salary costs.

Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen - Contribution towards 'Housing Advice' project.

Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund – Contribution towards the Welfare Right Advise caseworker.

National Lottery Award for All – Contribution towards to purchase computer equipment and contribution towards salaries costs.

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Contribution towards 'Giz a Job' project

P H Holt Foundation – Contribution towards core costs

Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust- Contribution towards case worker salary & development of the law centre.

Skelton Charity – Contribution towards the development of the law centre.

Steve Morgan Foundation – Contribution towards salary costs of new solicitor, equipment, computers and furniture

Torus Foundation – Contribution towards translation and interpreting services

13. Operating Lease Commitments

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre has a rental commitment in relation to the premises at VNC Millennium Resource Centre, Blenheim Street, Liverpool, L5 8UX, six months' notice. There are also lease commitments for a photocopier

	2023	2023
	£	£
Premises	5,000	5,000
Photocopier	4,018	6,979
	9,018	11,979

Docusign Envelope ID: 6FE17C04-8AE4-4CF3-9EF4-48B9889B58AE

14. Contingent Liabilities

The Charitable Company did not have any contingent liabilities at 31st March 2024 or 31st March 2023.

15. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31st March 2024 (2023: none)

16. Guarantees

As at 31st March 2024, 9 members had given a guarantee of £1 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total £9 (2023: 9 members: £9).

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 702458

Accounts

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

Company Registration No: 02252255

Charity Number: 702458

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The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are:

- To relieve persons resident or employed in the Merseyside and surrounding areas by providing them with free advice and assistance on all legal matters concerning which it is not practical or appropriate for them to obtain advice and assistance from elsewhere owing to their financial need or social and economic circumstance.
- To undertake or co-operate in the advancement of the education of persons resident or employed in the area of benefit in the law and its operation.
- To advance such other charitable purposes as are beneficial to the community for persons working or resident in the area of benefit.
- To provide and support a law centre in the Vauxhall district of Liverpool for the purpose of providing legal advice, assistance and representation free to all manner of person where such advice, assistance or representation is not readily available.

In considering the objectives and activities, the Trustees have considered Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the organisation is meeting its Public Benefit requirements.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Centre has continued to grow as we have returned to a world without covid restrictions. We have had to pull together to support our community in the face of a cost-of-living crisis, housing crisis and prolonged period of inflation.

Having settled back into our open-door policy since covid restrictions ended we are seeing clients face to face on a daily basis. We are ensuring that the staff rota allows for the Centre to be open to the public every day. The Centre has kept the remote advice provisions which allow for those further afield to receive much needed advice and assistance in relation to their Welfare Benefits and Housing issues.

The centre has over 50 volunteers still regularly support the work of the centre, by assisting with casework, research, blog writing, fundraising and helping to develop projects.

This year we are delighted to have been able to recruit Mary Heery as our second Housing Solicitor, she is employed for three days per week and is supporting our Supervising Solicitor to increase capacity in that department. Her post has been funded by The Barings Foundation.

We have also secured funding to commence an advice service to support terminally ill people. The project was initially funded by the 64 Trust and was later expanded through funding from T.U.U.T Charitable Trust.

We have welcomed two welfare rights workers for this project. One of whom has started an outreach project based in Woodlands Hospice and has worked with the NHS to provide very important advice to people at their most vulnerable.

Furthermore, we've been able to consolidate and expand our outreach work into the community in order to provide people with help during the cost-of-living crisis in the places they feel most comfortable. We have had services based in Home baked at Anfield (in partnership with Spirit of Shankly), Maghull Advice Centre (funded by Maghull Town Council), Pontac Community Centre (funded by 64 Trust) and Woodlands Hospice as above.

We have been able to recruit a part time Welfare Rights Caseworker for the Maghull Advice Centre and the team have pulled together to provide advice in all other outreach locations.

We obtained funding to deliver an innovative project "Giz a Job", a community heritage project, documenting the first People's March for Jobs. The 30-day march to London was an evocative anti-unemployment protest that left Liverpool Pier Head on 1 May 1981. We successfully recruited Dr Greig Campbell as project coordinator to oversee the development and completion of the project alongside volunteers.

Volunteers are and have always been the backbone of the Centre. We have 7 active volunteers providing a high level of support to our case workers and other paid staff. In order to maximise the impact of volunteers upon our service provision and to ensure the most valuable and positive experience for the volunteers themselves we were able to successfully secure funding towards the end of the year to recruit Joe Bowly as our volunteer coordinator.

In September 2022 we took part in the Liverpool Legal Walk as a centre raised a record breaking £1,584 for the North West Legal Support Trust. These funds are vital for advice agencies who are working flat out to support vulnerable people in Liverpool through the ongoing cost of living crisis. We had a great turnout, and we were proud to walk with members of Dan Carden and Ian Byrne MPs' offices and our trustee Sammie Currie as well as most of our staff team.

In the past year we have continued to generate considerable press interest with members of our Housing and Welfare teams, and Alan Kelly on behalf of the Centre, speaking to local press including BBC Radio Merseyside and The Liverpool Echo about current affairs relating to our work. We have spoken to local and national legal press on numerous issues. We were proud to see our Housing Solicitor appear on The Martin Lewis Money Show at the start of 2023 as their Renter's Rights expert in an episode focused on housing.

Public legal education and upskilling the sector is extremely important to us as a Centre. As our team has grown, we have been able to offer more training and information sessions for our local community. Our Housing Solicitor has been commissioned to provide in-depth Homelessness law training to Whitechapel Centre, the largest homeless charity in the area. She has also provided training on migrant rights in relation to housing an asylum support to third sector organisations working with asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants. The housing and development team has strengthened its work with the Liverpool branch of Acorn Tenant and Community Union and has provided housing rights training to members of the local community in a number of "Know your rights" sessions.

In the past year we have generated a great amount of publicity in the local and national legal press with reporters seeking to understand the impacts of poverty, austerity and the cost-of-living crisis on our clients. We have worked with M.P.'s across the North West to lobby the government on their poor record on legal aid and access to justice for people living in the North West. We will continue to campaign against legal aid cuts and the managed decline of the social justice sector.

Last year we were able to confirm that we intended to obtain a Legal Aid contract. We have begun the process of ensuring that the Centre is ready for this contract when it becomes available and are proud to confirm that we obtained Lexcel accreditation on 31st May 2022.

We have also ensured that our supervising solicitors are all ready to meet the supervisor standards for Legal Aid in Housing, Welfare Benefits and Public Law.

Unfortunately, we were unable to retain our debt advice service which had to be closed in January 2023 when the funding came to an end. Despite hard work from our Debt Adviser and from our funding team we were not able to obtain the funding needed to renew the scheme and the service has sadly had to be closed. We continue to look out for suitable grants to enable us to reopen our debt service and recognize that alongside Housing and Benefits Debt is the area that our clients most often require advice on. We have managed this loss by ensuring staff are aware of what to look out for in debt matters and are able to refer straight away for advice from other organisations operating locally.

Our 2022/2023 success story

- 180 Housing Cases opened (and 164 signposted or given one-off advice)
- 43 Asylum Support cases opened (and 21 signposted or given one-off advice)
- Nancy Hatenboer has recovered £563,114.72 in welfare benefits, dealt with 307 enquiries, 194 cases and 33 tribunals.
- David Taylor has recovered £658,855.00 in unpaid benefits, dealt with 320 enquiries, 198 cases and 35 Tribunals (28 won, 7 adjourned, none lost)
- David Kenny (who started in December 2022) opened 58 cases and recovered £11,079.59 in welfare benefits.
- £91,471.65 of debt was managed.

Our teams had the following feedback:

- **Homebaked -** *I'm so glad you are here, I wouldn't been able to go into the Law Centre, it's too scary. It's taken me 2 attempts to come and see you as seeing a solicitor is scary enough."*
- **Housing –** *'I'm so happy at my new address and Thankyou with all my heart for the help yourselves and especially Siobhan showed me she's a credit to your team xxx.*
- *'All is good and great services, amazing staff and friendly environment. I must say a grateful thank you to Alice, Siobhan, and the other members of staff. God Bless you All.'*
- **Welfare benefits –** *'Good Morning Nancy. Hope this finds you well. Received backdated PIP of £10, 746. Can't thank you enough for the patience and help you have shown me in helping with this. Brings a sense of security I never had before. Once again thank you & VLC for your understanding and help.'*
- *- "It sounds cliché, but this is a life changing amount of money for someone in my situation, I would have never knew anything about this if it weren't for this service" - Miss M*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year was £402,507 (2022: £292,498) of which £225,650 (2022: £207,038) related to funding for projects upon which restrictions are placed.

Total expenditure for the year was £421,147 (2022: £254,046), leaving a deficit for the year of £18,640 (2022: surplus £38,452).

At 31st March 2023 the charitable company's reserves stood at £128,602 (2022: £147,242) of which £87,723 (2022: £96,566) represented restricted funds.

Risk Assessment

The main risks to which the charity is exposed as identified by the Trustees have been considered and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charitable company to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a level to cover redundancy provision and three months' running costs (should no further funding be received) and run on insurance costs.

As at the end of the financial year the unrestricted funds totalled £40,879. The charitable company requires £19,814 for redundancy provision, £46,664 for three months' running costs and run-on insurance for files, estimated at £6,000 (total £72,478).

The trustees are aware that the reserves required by our "Reserves Policy" of three months' running costs, a total of £72,478, is short by £31,599 at the start of the financial year 23/24. In order to comply with our policy and ensure that costs are covered in the event that they are required we intend to pursue grant funding dedicated to Core costs and unrestricted funds, we intend to raise funds from the community during our 50th Anniversary celebrations and we intend to seek donations from organisations and businesses who have a history of providing us with support.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Centre will continue to provide support and assistance in relation to welfare rights and housing to persons in the Merseyside area for whom it is not practical to seek help elsewhere owing to financial needs or social and economic circumstances. We continue to see our demand rapidly rise due to the aftermath of the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis and anticipate ongoing conflicts across the world to also have an impact on the demand for our services. In light of this, we aim to consolidate our existing services after a period of growth and development to ensure a sustainable and high-quality service for our clients.

We intend to expand our outreach services and will be bidding for a Civil Legal Aid contract in Housing Welfare Benefits and Public Law in the coming months. We continue to look for ways to fund and re-open our Debt services.

The Centre will continue to work to obtain additional funds to expand our services and allow us to meet the needs of our community during this period of increased need.

The Centre seeks to obtain Legal Aid Funding for Housing, Welfare Benefits and Public Law and will undergo a Lexcel Quality Assessment.

The Centre also intends to become more involved in social policy campaigns, working collaboratively with other organisations regarding topical issues as well as providing public legal education by providing training to such organisations and its users.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales, No. (02252255) incorporated on 6th May 1988 and registered as a charity (number 702458) on 31st January 1990.

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 26th November 1998 and amended by special resolution on 26th September 2019 and 16th December 2021.

Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who: apply to the Centre in the form required by the trustees; and are approved by the trustees which nominates members of the Executive Committee and those members who are also trustees and directors of the company. The Executive Committee has the power to admit to associate membership of the Centre such elected representatives of organisations as shall support the objects of the Centre.

The Centre is managed by the Executive Committee of trustees, which holds meetings bi-monthly at which agenda items include finance and staff reports.

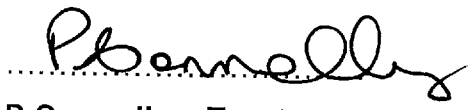
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name	Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre
Company Number	02252255
Charity Number	702458
Registered Office	Vnc Millennium Resource Centre Blenheim Street Liverpool Merseyside L5 8UX
Trustees	P Connolly (Chair) S Currie A Gibbons A Goodman R Howard K Lee J O'Hare G Oakford A Stewart
Company Secretary	N Higham
Independent Examiner	Paula Sanchez ACCA c/o LCVS 151 Dale Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 2AH

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Plc
Merchant Court
2-12 Lord Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 1TB

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



P Connolly – Trustee and Chair

Date: 19/12/22

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

By Order of the Board

P Connolly

P Connolly – Trustee and Chair

Vnc Millennium Resource Centre
Blenheim Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L5 8UX

Date: 19/12/23

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The 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.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In 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 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.

Name: **Paula Sanchez**

Relevant professional qualification or body: **ACCA**

Address: **c/o LCVS 151, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH**

Dated: *20th December 2023*

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Income and endowments from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3a	75,753	-	75,753	41,501
Charitable activities	3b	101,104	225,650	326,754	250,997
Total income		**176,857**	**225,650**	**402,507**	**292,498**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	186,654	234,493	421,147	254,046
Total expenditure		**186,654**	**234,493**	**421,147**	**254,046**
Net (expenditure)/income, net movement in funds		**(9,797)**	**(8,843)**	**(18,640)**	**38,452**
Total funds brought forward	11,12	50,676	96,566	147,242	108,790
Total funds carried forward	10-12	**40,879**	**87,723**	**128,602**	**147,242**

The notes on pages 12 to 23 form part of these accounts.

All the above amounts relate to continuing activities of the charitable company.

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

Company No: 02252255

	Notes	31st March 2023		31st March 2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		21,401		27,042
Intangible assets	6		7,098		8,517
			28,499		35,559
Current assets					
Debtors	7	11,621		9,248	
Cash at bank and in hand		98,312		103,445	
		109,933		112,693	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(9,830)		(1,010)	
Net current assets			100,103		111,683
Total assets less current liabilities			**128,602**		**147,242**
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds	10, 11		40,879		50,676
Restricted funds	10-12		87,723		96,566
			128,602		**147,242**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the period covered by these accounts the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Trustees, who are the Directors of the charitable company, acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Approved by the Board on 18/12/23, and signed on their behalf by:

P Connolly

P Connolly
Trustee and Chair

1. Limited Liability

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. Each member's liability is limited to £1.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019 and Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company trustees plan to build up adequate reserves to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are confident that the levels of liquidity and free reserves will not affect the charity's operations. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves available for the trustees to apply in accordance with the charitable company's charitable objectives. Designated fund are funds set aside for a specific purpose,

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by the donor. All restricted funds are accounted for as restricted income and expenditure for the purposes is charged to the fund.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies comprise of donations and general grants which are recognised in the accounts when received, with the exception of known legacies which are accounted for when their receipt is certain.

Income from charitable activities is recognised on an accrual's basis except for grants receivable, which are recognised on the date on which their unconditional payment is confirmed by the donor.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the Statement of Financial Activities. Support and governance costs are applied to unrestricted funds unless specifically included in the restrictions, as specified by the donor.

Expenditure on charitable activities relates to the operation of the charity comprising of direct charitable expenditure to meet the objectives of the charitable company. Support and governance costs relate to the management and operation of the organisation and also compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements in producing the annual report. These are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities when payment has been approved by the charitable company.

Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure over £250 and above is stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as below:

Fixture & Fittings	20% per annum reducing balance basis.
Equipment	25% per annum reducing balance basis.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure is treated as a fixed asset and amortised to write off each asset over its estimated useful life as follows.

Legal Software	7 years

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation

Income and gains are exempt from taxation as they are received and applied for charitable purposes only. The charitable company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3. Income and endowments from

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
a. Donations and Legacies	£	£	£	£
Donations	39,753	-	39,753	6,501
General grants	36,000	-	36,000	35,000
	75,753	**-**	**75,753**	**41,501**

Donations and legacies income for 2022 related wholly to unrestricted funds.

a. Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
A B Charitable Trust	-	15,000	15,000	-
Access to Justice Foundation	-	16,325	16,325	55,000
Contract and sales income	99,748	-	99,748	35,125
Education Skills Fund Agency	-	-	-	1,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Kickstart and secondment	1,356	-	1,356	8,834
Legal Education Foundation	-	42,742	42,742	25,588
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	-	-	2,000
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding	-	-	-	10,000
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund	-	14,250	14,250	14,250
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	-	28,500	28,500	28,500
Liverpool City Council -Make it Happen	-	3,000	3,000	-
Mayoral Neighbourhood Funds	-	10,000	10,000	3,700
National Lottery Award for All	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	35,083	35,083	-
P H Holt Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
Skelton Charity	-	-	-	1,500
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Torus Foundation	-	750	750	-
	101,104	**225,650**	**326,754**	**250,997**

Income from charitable activities in 2022 comprised £43,959 for unrestricted funds and £207,038 related to restricted funds.

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Charitable Expenditure £	Support & Governance Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
To provide legal advice and assistance free of charge	344,054	77,093	**421,147**	**254,046**

a. Analysed as follows:

Direct charitable expenditure:	2023 £	2022 £
Staff salary costs	314,856	109,370
Pensions	8,166	3,081
Office costs	12,228	10,519
Subscriptions	6,221	3,322
Interpreters	2,101	1,090
Volunteer expenses	136	1,350
Equipment	250	399
DBS fees	96	-
	344,054	**129,131**

Support & Governance costs:	2023 £	2022 £
Staff salary costs	25,964	90,894
Pensions	880	1,425
Office costs	1,359	1,169
Building running costs	10,526	10,714
Training	4,600	1,658
Library	-	608
Insurance	1,629	1,513
Travel expenses	902	111
Publicity and promotions	587	-
Legal	14	-
Hampers	-	251
Professional fees	-	270
Consultancy fees	7,700	-
Sundry expenses	338	115
Bank charges	89	90
Computer support costs	11,583	5,288
Payroll fees	1,080	415
Accountancy	1,330	1,010
Amortisation charge	1,419	1,419
Depreciation	7,093	7,965
	77,093	**124,915**
Total expenditure on charitable activities	**421,147**	**254,046**

£234,493 (2022: £162,162) of the above expenditure relates to restricted funding.

d. Analysis of staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross salary	317,577	188,488
Social security	23,243	11,776
Pension costs	9,046	4,506
	349,866	**204,770**

c. Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023	2022
Charitable activities	**14.7**	**6.8**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: nil)

The Trustees, being also directors, are not remunerated for their services and are not included in the above number of employees.

No out-of-pocket expenses were reimbursed to trustees in the year (2022: £nil)

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£
Balance as at 1st April 2022	41,517	41,517
Additions	1,452	1,452
Disposals	(-)	(-)
Balance as at 31st March 2023	**42,969**	**42,969**
Depreciation		
Balance as at 1st April 2022	14,475	14,475
Charge for the year	7,093	7,093
Disposals	(-)	(-)
Balance as at 31st March 2023	**21,568**	**21,568**
Net book value at 31st March 2023	**21,401**	**21,401**
Net book value at 31st March 2022	27,042	27,042

6. Intangible fixed assets

	Legal Software	Total
Cost	£	£
Brought forward at 1st April 2022	9,936	9,936
Additions during the year	-	-
Balance as at 31st March 2023	**9,936**	**9,936**
Accumulated Amortisation		
Brought forward at 1st April 20212	1,419	1,419
Charge for the year	1,419	1,419
Balance as at 31st March 2023	**2,838**	**2,838**
Net Book Value at 31st March 2023	**7,098**	**7,098**
Net Book Value at 31st March 2022	8,517	8,517

7. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors	-	1,011
Prepayments	2,996	8,237
Accrued income	8,625	-
	11,621	**9,248**

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	3,830	1,010
Deferred income (see note 9)	6,000	-
	9,830	**1,010**

9. Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance at 1st April 2022	-	-
Amount deferred in the year	6,000	-
Amount released to income	(-)	(-)
Balance at 31st March 2023	**6,000**	**-**

10. Analysis of net assets between funds

2023	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Intangible Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	1,776	-	19,289	21,065
Designated Fund	-	-	19,814	19,814
	1,776	**-**	**39,103**	**40,879**
Restricted Funds				
A B Charitable Trust	-	-	15,000	15,000
Access to Justice Foundation	-	7,098	-	7,098
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	10,000	10,000
Legal Education Foundation	2,488	-	-	2,488
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	818	-	-	818
National Lottery Award for All	144	-	-	144
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	-	35,083	35,083
Steve Morgan Foundation	16,175	-	917	17,092
	19,625	**7,098**	**61,000**	**87,723**
Totals	**21,401**	**7,098**	**100,103**	**128,602**

2022	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Intangible Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	876	-	30,052	30,928
Designated Fund	-	-	19,748	19,748
	876	**-**	**49,800**	**50,676**

(Continues 2022)

Restricted Funds	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Intangible Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Access to Justice Foundation	-	8,517	137	8,654
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	10,000	10,000
Education Skills Fund Agency	-	-	1,500	1,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	867	867
Hill Dickinson Fund	-	-	329	329
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	-	2,910	2,910
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding	-	-	5,181	5,181
Legal Education Foundation	3,317	-	10,783	14,100
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund	-	-	14,250	14,250
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	1,091	-	1,124	2,215
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	-	-	80	80
Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund	-	-	3,700	3,700
National Lottery Award for All	192	-	6,700	6,892
P H Holt Foundation	-	-	2,912	2,912
Skelton Charity	-	-	1,410	1,410
Steve Morgan Foundation	21,566	-	-	21,566
	26,166	**8,517**	**61,883**	**96,566**
Totals	**27,042**	**8,517**	**111,683**	**147,242**

11. Unrestricted Funds

2023	Reserves at Beginning of year £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer of funds £	Reserves at End of Year £
		Movements in the Year			
General Fund	30,928	176,857	(186,654)	(66)	21,065
Designated Fund	19,748	-	-	66	19,814
	50,676	**176,857**	**(186,654)**	**-**	**40,879**

2022	Reserves at Beginning of year £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer of funds £	Reserves at End of Year £
		Movements in the Year			
General Fund	42,992	85,460	(91,884)	(5,640)	30,928
Designated Fund	14,108	-	(-)	5,640	19,748
	57,100	**85,460**	**(91,884)**	**-**	**50,676**

General Fund is used to finance the charitable company's general activities and core costs as outlined in the Trustees' Report.

Designated Fund is set aside to cover redundancy provision.

Transfer of funds is the movement of the designated fund for redundancy provision.

12. Restricted Funds

2023	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Movements in the Year: Expenditure	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
A B Charitable Trust	-	15,000	(-)	15,000
Access to Justice Foundation	8,654	16,325	(17,881)	7,098
Alex Ferry Foundation	10,000	-	(-)	10,000
Education Skills Fund Agency	1,500	-	(1,500)	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	867	20,000	(20,867)	-
Hill Dickinson Fund	329	-	(329)	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	2,910	-	(2,910)	-
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding	5,181	-	(5,181)	-
Legal Education Foundation	14,100	42,742	(54,354)	2,488
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund	14,250	14,250	(28,500)	-
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	2,215	28,500	(29,897)	818
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	80	-	(80)	-
Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund	3,700	10,000	(13,700)	-
National Lottery Award for All	6,892	10,000	(16,748)	144
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	35,083	(-)	35,083
P H Holt Foundation	2,912	-	(2,912)	-
Skelton Charity	1,410	-	(1,410)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	21,566	30,000	(34,474)	17,092
Torus Foundation	-	750	(750)	-
	96,566	**225,650**	**(234,493)**	**87,723**

2022	Reserves at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Movements in the Year: Expenditure	Reserves at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
Access to Justice Foundation	-	55,000	(46,346)	8,654
Alex Ferry Foundation	10,000	-	(-)	10,000
CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund	4,222	-	(4,222)	-
Education Skills Fund Agency	-	1,500	(-)	1,500
Garfield Weston Foundation		20,000	(19,133)	867
Hill Dickinson Fund	329		(-)	329
LCVS Community Impact Fund	2,000	2,000	(1,090)	2,910
LCVS Negative Cessations	-	10,000	(4,819)	5,181
Legal Education Foundation	-	25,588	(11,488)	14,100
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund		14,250	(-)	14,250
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	2,380	28,500	(28,665)	2,215
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	80	-	(-)	80
Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund	-	3,700	(-)	3,700
National Lottery Award for All	256	10,000	(3,364)	6,892
P H Holt Foundation	1,668	5,000	(3,756)	2,912
Skelton Charity	-	1,500	(90)	1,410
Steve Morgan Foundation	28,755	30,000	(37,189)	21,566
Tudor Trust	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
	51,690	**207,038**	**(162,162)**	**96,566**

These are monies given to the company to be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for specific charitable purposes.

A B Charitable Trust – Contribution towards to provide legal and welfare advice.

Access to Justice Foundation – Contribution towards 'Funder Plus Scheme'.

Alex Ferry Foundation – Contribution towards better conditions of gig economy and zero hours contract project.

CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund – Contribution towards core costs.

Education Skills Fund Agency – Contribution towards core costs.

Garfield Weston Foundation – Contribution towards core costs.

Hill Dickinson Fund – Contribution to enhance the sustainability of the Law Centre.

LCVS Community Impact Fund – Contribution towards welfare, housing and debt advice.
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding – Contribution towards additional support for housing solicitor
Legal Education Foundation – Contribution toward the cost of a Justice Fist fellow/trainee solicitor and associated cost

Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund – Contribution towards the Welfare Right Advise caseworker.

Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant – Contribution towards salary costs of Welfare rights caseworker.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff salary costs	28,665	28,665

Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund – Contribution towards salary costs.

Liverpool City Council – Make it Happen - Contribution towards 'Housing Advice' project.

Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund – Contribution towards the Welfare Right Advise caseworker.

National Lottery Award for All – Contribution towards to purchase computer equipment and contribution towards salaries costs.

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Contribution towards 'Giz a Job' project

P H Holt Foundation – Contribution towards core costs

Skelton Charity – Contribution towards the development of the law centre.

Steve Morgan Foundation – Contribution towards salary costs of new solicitor, equipment, computers and furniture

Tudor Trust – Contribution towards staff, volunteer and trustee wellbeing

Torus Foundation – Contribution towards translation and interpreting services

13. Operating Lease Commitments

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre has a rental commitment in relation to the premises at VNC Millennium Resource Centre, Blenheim Street, Liverpool, L5 8UX, six months' notice. Also there are lease commitments for a photocopier

	2023	2022
	£	£
Premises	5,000	5,000
Photocopier	6,979	9,941
	11,979	14,941

14. Contingent Liabilities

The Charitable Company did not have any contingent liabilities at 31st March 2023 or 31st March 2022.

15. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31st March 2023 (2022: none)

16. Guarantees

As at 31st March 2023, 9 members had given a guarantee of £1 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total £9 (2022: 9 members: £9).

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 702458

Accounts

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

Company Registration No: 02252255

Charity Number: 702458

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The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are:

- To relieve persons resident or employed in the Merseyside and surrounding areas by providing them with free advice and assistance on all legal matters concerning which it is not practical or appropriate for them to obtain advice and assistance from elsewhere owing to their financial need or social and economic circumstance.
- To undertake or co-operate in the advancement of the education of persons resident or employed in the area of benefit in the law and its operation.
- To advance such other charitable purposes as are beneficial to the community for persons working or resident in the area of benefit.
- To provide and support a law centre in the Vauxhall district of Liverpool for the purpose of providing legal advice, assistance and representation free to all manner of person where such advice, assistance or representation is not readily available.

In considering the objectives and activities, the Trustees have considered Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the organisation is meeting its Public Benefit requirements.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Centre has undergone a significant period of development during the pandemic. The Centre was able to offer hybrid working throughout this period of uncertainty whilst the Government imposed periods of lockdown and restrictions.

The Centre is pleased to offer face-face advice once more to those who most need it from January 2022. However, the Centre has kept the remote advice provisions which allow for those further afield to receive much needed advice and assistance in relation to their Welfare Benefits, Housing and Debt issues.

The staff team has continually grown to 11 paid members of staff, with recruitment ongoing for two further caseworkers, bringing the staff team to 13 paid members of staff (2021: 8 staff). Over 50 volunteers still regularly support the work of the centre, by assisting with casework, research, blog writing and helping to develop projects.

The Centre is extremely pleased to announce that Elly Smith successfully completed her Apprenticeship in Fundraising with a Distinction and has now accepted a role as full time Development Officer. Furthermore, in September 2021, we recruited a Kickstart Office Administrator, Jade Skilling and we are extremely proud to announce that Jade completed her 6-month placement and is now our Apprentice Trainee Office Manager, looking at completing her Business Admin level 3.

In January 2022 we recruited a Justice First Fellow/Trainee Solicitor funded by The Legal Education Foundation. This marks the start of our campaign to inspire the new generation of Social Welfare Lawyers and bringing more people into this sector.

It is important to us that our work makes a difference, we seek to support disadvantaged groups in the community and these groups are the focus of our work. As the energy crisis deepens, we are extremely proud to appoint a full time Debt Caseworker who will assist those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Our core advice service is to maximise the income of people who are claiming benefits, primarily sick, disabled and vulnerable people. We are seeking to develop our advice activities and have engaged with people working with other marginalised groups within the community.

This year, we have started two outreach sessions, one based at Homebaked in Anfield, supported by the Spirit of Shankly Foundation and the other within the VNC/VLC Food pantry. These sessions have been well attended and we want to ensure that those who attend, that we can maximise their incomes wherever possible and enable them to access their legal rights and more.

In March 2022, we launched the Low Income Support project aimed at helping those on low incomes, (not necessarily just on benefits) to access support services across Merseyside. This project was supported by a team of volunteers who will assist the caseworkers in helping those to access further grants/support. In March, our Welfare Benefits Caseworker successfully assisted our client in obtaining a brand-new mattress, £50 towards bedding and a further £250 towards a fridge/freezer.

Our 2021/2022 success story

- 915 Welfare Benefit cashes opened
- 51 Debt cases Opened
- 150 Housing Cases opened
- 2,729 Enquires
- 3,695 people helped
- £1,498,026 recovered in benefits
- £467,645 debt management
- 966 Cases

We support people and communities to get access to advice, and we successfully helped 3,695 in 2021/2022. Last year we opened 915 Welfare Benefit cases (2021: 477). Our Tribunal representation dropped significantly, and this is representative of the successful mandatory reconsideration requests submitted and the significant delay in hearings being listed.

Our housing team opened 150 cases & helped 48 clients with homelessness issues, 31 clients with possession relation matters, 50 people on matters related to rehousing & 21 cases of disrepair the housing team received the following feedback:

Housing Feedback

"Ahh thank you so much Siobhan I feel like a massive weight has been lifted off my shoulders and it's all down to your hard work, I am so grateful!'

In September 2021 we took part in the Liverpool Legal Walk as a centre raised £1,209.75 for the North West Legal Support Trust to support access to justice and independent advice agencies like our own in the North West! We were joined by members of the office of Dan Carden M.P. and Councillors Laura Melia and Sam Gorst.

In the past year we have generated a great amount of publicity in the local and national legal press with reporters seeking to understand the impacts of poverty, austerity and the cost of living crisis on our clients. We have worked with M.P.'s across the North West to lobby the government on their poor record on legal aid and access to justice for people living in the North West. We will continue to campaign against legal aid cuts and the managed decline of the social justice sector.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year was £292,498 (2021: £274,634) of which £207,038 (2021: £213,026) related to funding for projects upon which restrictions are placed.

Total expenditure for the year was £254,046 (2021: £207,482), leaving a surplus for the year of £38,452 (2021: surplus £67,152).

At 31st March 2022 the charitable company's reserves stood at £147,242 (2021: £108,790) of which £96,566 (2021: £51,690) represented restricted funds.

Risk Assessment

The main risks to which the charity is exposed as identified by the Trustees have been considered and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charitable company to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a level to cover redundancy provision and three months' running costs (should no further funding be received) and run on insurance costs.

As at the end of the financial year the unrestricted funds totalled £50,676. The charitable company requires £19,748 for redundancy provision, £22,971 for three months' running costs and run-on insurance for files, estimated at £6,000 (total £48,719).

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Centre will continue to provide support and assistance in relation to welfare rights, housing, and debt advice to persons in the Merseyside area for whom it is not practical to seek help elsewhere owing to financial needs or social and economic circumstances. We aim to expand our debt service to include assisting clients with bankruptcies, Debt Relief Orders.

The Centre will be relaunching the Bereavement Support Advice project aimed at delivering wraparound advice to those who have suffered a recent bereavement. The Centre is currently recruiting an advice worker to lead on this project. We will also be launching a project aimed at delivering advice and support to those who have been diagnosed as Terminally Ill and we will be recruiting for an advice worker to lead on this project.

The Centre aims to deliver further outreach sessions, mainly across food pantries to enable more people becoming aware of their legal rights.

The Centre seeks to expand the range of services it offers to include Employment, Immigration and Family law, and funds are being raised to expand the work of the organisation.

The Centre seeks to obtain Legal Aid Funding for Housing, Welfare Benefits and Public Law and will undergo a Lexcel Quality Assessment.

The Centre also intends to become more involved in social policy campaigns, working collaboratively with other organisations regarding topical issues as well as providing public legal education by providing training to such organisations and its users.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales, No. (02252255) incorporated on 6th May 1988 and registered as a charity (number 702458) on 31st January 1990.

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 26th November 1998 and amended by special resolution on 26th September 2019 and 16th December 2021.

Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who: apply to the Centre in the form required by the trustees; and are approved by the trustees which nominates members of the Executive Committee and those members who are also trustees and directors of the company. The Executive Committee has the power to admit to associate membership of the Centre such elected representatives of organisations as shall support the objects of the Centre.
The Centre is managed by the Executive Committee of trustees, which holds meetings bi-monthly at which agenda items include finance and staff reports.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name	Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre
Company Number	02252255
Charity Number	702458
Registered Office	Vnc Millennium Resource Centre Blenheim Street Liverpool Merseyside L5 8UX
Trustees	P Connolly (Chair) S Currie A Gibbons A Goodman R Howard K Lee (Appointment 16th December 2021) J O'Hare G Oakford A Stewart
Company Secretary	N Higham
Independent Examiner	Paula Sanchez ACCA c/o LCVS 151 Dale Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 2AH
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Plc Merchant Court 2-12 Lord Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 1TB

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

.....PConnolly.....

P Connolly
Director

Date: 5.12.22

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

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

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 published (FRS 102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019.

By Order of the Board

.....

N Higham
Company Secretary

Vnc Millennium Resource Centre
Blenheim Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L5 8UX

Date: 5/12/2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 9 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The 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.
It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In 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 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.

Name: **Mrs Paula Sanchez**

Relevant professional qualification or body: **ACCA**

Address: **c/o LCVS 151, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH**

Dated: 06 Dec 2022

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Income and endowments from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3a	41,501	-	41,501	10,136
Charitable activities	3b	43,959	207,038	250,997	264,498
Total income		**85,460**	**207,038**	**292,498**	**274,634**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	91,884	162,162	254,046	207,482
Total expenditure		**91,884**	**162,162**	**254,046**	**207,482**
Net (expenditure)/income, net movement in funds		**(6,424)**	**44,876**	**38,452**	**67,152**
Total funds brought forward	10,11	57,100	51,690	108,790	41,638
Total funds carried forward	9-11	**50,676**	**96,566**	**147,242**	**108,790**

The notes on pages 11 to 23 form part of these accounts.

All the above amounts relate to continuing activities of the charitable company.

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022 **Company No: 02252255**

	Notes	31st March 2022		31st March 2021	
Fixed assets		£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	5		27,042		31,128
Intangible assets	6		8,517		-
			35,559		31,128
Current assets					
Debtors	7	9,248		22,204	
Cash at bank and in hand		103,445		56,183	
		112,693		78,387	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,010)		(725)	
Net current assets			111,683		77,662
Total assets less current liabilities			**147,242**		**108,790**
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds	9, 10		50,676		57,100
Restricted funds	9-11		96,566		51,690
			147,242		**108,790**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

For the period covered by these accounts the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

The trustees, who are the directors of the company, acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Approved by the Board on ....2/12/2022....., and signed on their behalf by:

.....Pconnolly.....
P Connolly
Director and Chair

1. Limited Liability

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. Each member's liability is limited to £1.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019 and Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate reserves to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are confident that the levels of liquidity and free reserves will not affect the charity's operations. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves available for the trustees to apply in accordance with the charitable company's charitable objectives. Designated fund are funds set aside for a specific purpose,

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by the donor. All restricted funds are accounted for as restricted income and expenditure for the purposes is charged to the fund.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies comprise of donations and general grants which are recognised in the accounts when received, with the exception of known legacies which are accounted for when their receipt is certain.

Income from charitable activities is recognised on an accruals basis except for grants receivable, which are recognised on the date on which their unconditional payment is confirmed by the donor.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the Statement of Financial Activities. Support and governance costs are applied to unrestricted funds unless specifically included in the restrictions, as specified by the donor.

Expenditure on charitable activities relate to the operation of the charity comprising of direct charitable expenditure to meet the objectives of the charitable company. Support and governance costs relate to the management and operation of the organisation and also compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements in producing the annual report. These are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities when payment has been approved by the charitable company.

Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure over £250 and above is stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as below:

Fixture & Fittings	20% per annum reducing balance basis
Equipment	25% per annum reducing balance basis

Intangible Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure is treated as a fixed asset and amortised to write off each asset over its estimated useful life as follows

Legal Software	7 years

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation

Income and gains are exempt from taxation as they are received and applied for charitable purposes only. The charitable company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3. Income and endowments from

	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
a. Donations and Legacies	£	£	£	£
Donations	6,501	-	6,501	10,136
General grants	35,000	-	35,000	-
	41,501	**-**	**41,501**	**10,136**

Donations and legacies income for 2021 related wholly to unrestricted funds

a. Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Access to Justice Foundation	-	55,000	55,000	4,200
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund	-	-	-	7,240
Contract and sales income	35,125	-	35,125	41,500
Education Skills Fund Agency	-	1,500	1,500	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	2,472
Kickstart and secondment	8,834	-	8,834	-
Legal Education Foundation	-	25,588	25,588	-
LCN Community Justice Fund	-	-	-	71,000
LCR Cares Covid 19 Community Support Fund	-	-	-	5,000
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding	-	10,000	10,000	-
Liverpool City Council Business Support Scheme	-	-	-	7,500
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund	-	14,250	14,250	-
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	-	28,500	28,500	28,500
Liverpool City Council ILM	-	-	-	1,306
Mayoral Neighbourhood Funds	-	3,700	3,700	-
National Lottery Award for All	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
P H Holt Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Skelton Charity	-	1,500	1,500	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	66,780
Tudor Trust	-	-	-	2,000
	43,959	**207,038**	**250,997**	**264,498**

Income from charitable activities in 2021 comprised £51,472 for unrestricted funds and £213,026 related to restricted funds.

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Charitable Expenditure £	Support & Governance Costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
To provide legal advice and assistance free of charge	129,131	124,915	**254,046**	**207,482**

a. Analysed as follows:

Direct charitable expenditure:	**2022** £	**2021** £
Staff salary costs	109,370	79,688
Pensions	3,081	1,865
Office costs	10,519	8,492
Subscriptions	3,322	2,649
Interpreters	1,090	-
Volunteer expenses	1,350	-
Equipment	399	1,136
	129,131	**93,830**

Support & Governance costs:	**2022** £	**2021** £
Staff salary costs	90,894	49,102
Pensions	1,425	565
Office costs	1,169	943
Building running costs	10,714	22,306
Training	1,658	3,693
Library	608	646
Insurance	1,513	2,617
Travel expenses	111	260
Advertising	-	1,987
Hampers	251	234
Professional fees	270	-
Consultancy fees	-	6,000
Sundry expenses	115	35
Bank charges	90	90
Computer support costs	5,288	23,444
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	154
Payroll fees	415	220
Accountancy	1,010	725
Amortisation charge	1,419	-
Depreciation	7,965	631
	124,915	**113,652**

Total expenditure on charitable activities	**254,046**	**207,482**

£162,162 (2021: £165,959) of the above expenditure relates to restricted funding.

d. Analysis of staff costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross salary	188,488	123,120
Social security	11,776	5,670
Pension costs	4,506	2,430
	204,770	**131,220**

c. Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2022	2021
Charitable activities	**6.8**	**5.0**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: nil)

The Trustees, being also directors, are not remunerated for their services and are not included in the above number of employees.

No out of pocket expenses were reimbursed to trustees in the year (2021: £nil)

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£
Balance as at 1st April 2021	4,917	37,638	42,555
Additions in the year	-	3,879	3,879
Disposals in the year	(4,917)	(-)	(4,917)
Balance as at 31st March 2022	**-**	**41,517**	**41,517**
Depreciation			
Balance as at 1st April 2021	4,917	6,510	11,427
Charge for the year	-	7,965	7,965
Disposals in the year	(4,917)	(-)	(4,917)
Balance as at 31st March 2022	**-**	**14,475**	**14,475**
Net book value at 31st March 2022	**-**	**27,042**	**27,042**
Net book value at 31st March 2021	-	31,128	31,128

6. Intangible fixed assets

	Legal Software	Total
Cost	**£**	**£**
Brought forward at 1st April 2021	-	-
Additions during the year	9,936	9,936
Balance as at 31st March 2022	**9,936**	**9,936**
Accumulated Amortisation		
Brought forward at 1st April 2021	-	-
Charge for the year	1,419	1,419
Balance as at 31st March 2022	**1,419**	**1,419**
Net Book Value at 31st March 2022	**8,517**	**8,517**
Net Book Value at 31st March 2021	-	-

7. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors	1,011	-
Prepayments	8,237	22,204
	9,248	**22,204**

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals	**1,010**	**725**

9. Analysis of net assets between funds

2022	Tangible Fixed Assets	Intangible Assets	Net Current Assets	Total
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£	£
General Fund	876	-	30,052	30,928
Designated Fund	-	-	19,748	19,748
	876	**-**	**49,800**	**50,676**
Restricted Funds				
Access to Justice Foundation	-	8,517	137	8,654
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	-	10,000	10,000
Education Skills Fund Agency	-	-	1,500	1,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	867	867
Hill Dickinson Fund	-	-	329	329
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	-	2,910	2,910
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding	-	-	5,181	5,181
Legal Education Foundation	3,317	-	10,783	14,100
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund	-	-	14,250	14,250
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	1,091	-	1,124	2,215
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	-	-	80	80
Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund	-	-	3,700	3,700
National Lottery Award for All	192	-	6,700	6,892
P H Holt Foundation	-	-	2,912	2,912
Skelton Charity	-	-	1,410	1,410
Steve Morgan Foundation	21,566	-	-	21,566
	26,166	**8,517**	**61,883**	**96,566**
Totals	**27,042**	**8,517**	**111,683**	**147,242**

2021	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£
General Fund	662	42,330	42,992
Designated Fund	-	14,108	14,108
	662	**56,438**	**57,100**
Restricted Funds			
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	10,000	10,000
CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund	-	4,222	4,222
Hill Dickinson Fund	-	329	329
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,000	2,000
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	1,455	925	2,380
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	-	80	80
National Lottery Award for All	256	-	256
P H Holt Foundation	-	1,668	1,668
Steve Morgan Foundation	28,755	-	28,755
Tudor Trust	-	2,000	2,000
	30,466	**21,224**	**51,690**
Totals	**31,128**	**77,662**	**108,790**

10. Unrestricted Funds

		Movements in the Year			
2022	Funds at Beginning of year	Income	Expenditure	Transfer of funds	Funds at End of Year
	£	£	£		£
General Fund	42,992	85,460	(91,884)	(5,640)	30,928
Designated Fund	14,108	-	(-)	5,640	19,748
	57,100	**85,460**	**(91,884)**	**-**	**50,676**

2021	Funds at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Expenditure	Transfer of funds	Funds at End of Year
	£	£	£		£
General Fund	23,900	61,608	(41,523)	(993)	42,992
Designated Fund	13,115	-	(-)	993	14,108
	37,015	**61,608**	**(41,523)**	**-**	**57,100**

General Fund is used to finance the charitable company's general activities and core costs as outlined in the Trustees' Report.

Designated Fund is set aside to cover redundancy provision.

Transfer of funds is the movement of the designated fund for redundancy provision

11. Restricted Funds

2022	Funds at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Expenditure	Funds at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
Access to Justice Foundation	-	55,000	(46,346)	8,654
Alex Ferry Foundation	10,000	-	(-)	10,000
CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund	4,222	-	(4,222)	-
Education Skills Fund Agency	-	1,500	(-)	1,500
Garfield Weston Foundation		20,000	(19,133)	867
Hill Dickinson Fund	329		(-)	329
LCVS Community Impact Fund	2,000	2,000	(1,090)	2,910
LCVS Negative Cessations Funding	-	10,000	(4,819)	5,181
Legal Education Foundation	-	25,588	(11,488)	14,100
Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund		14,250	(-)	14,250
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	2,380	28,500	(28,665)	2,215
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	80	-	(-)	80
Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund	-	3,700	(-)	3,700
National Lottery Award for All	256	10,000	(3,364)	6,892
P H Holt Foundation	1,668	5,000	(3,756)	2,912
Skelton Charity	-	1,500	(90)	1,410
Steve Morgan Foundation	28,755	30,000	(37,189)	21,566
Tudor Trust	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
	51,690	**207,038**	**(162,162)**	**96,566**

2021	Funds at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Movements in the Year: Expenditure	Funds at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
Access to Justice Foundation	-	4,200	(4,200)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	10,000	(-)	10,000
CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund	-	7,240	(3,018)	4,222
Hill Dickinson Fund	542	-	(213)	329
LCN Community Justice Fund	-	71,000	(71,000)	-
LCR Cares Covid 19 Community Support Fund	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,000	(-)	2,000
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	-	28,500	(26,120)	2,380
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	882	-	(802)	80
Liverpool City Council ILM	-	1,306	(1,306)	-
National Lottery Award for All	341	10,000	(10,085)	256
P H Holt Foundation	1,849	5,000	(5,181)	1,668
Steve Morgan Foundation	1,009	66,780	(39,034)	28,755
Tudor Trust	-	2,000	(-)	2,000
	4,623	**213,026**	**(165,959)**	**51,690**

These are monies given to the company to be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for specific charitable purposes.

Access to Justice Foundation – Contribution towards 'Funder Plus Scheme'

Alex Ferry Foundation – Contribution towards better conditions of gig economy and zero hours contract project

CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund – Contribution towards core costs

Education Skills Fund Agency – Contribution towards core costs

Garfield Weston Foundation – Contribution towards core costs

Hill Dickinson Fund – Contribution to enhance the sustainability of the Law Centre.

Legal Education Foundation – Contribution toward the cost of a Justice Fist fellow/trainee solicitor and associated cost

LCN Community Justice Fund – Contribution towards core costs and personal protection equipment

LCR Cares Covid 19 Community Support Fund – Contribution towards salary costs for advisor

LCVS Community Impact Fund – Contribution towards welfare, housing and debt advice

LCVS Negative Cessations Funding – Contribution towards additional support for housing solicitor

Liverpool City Council Community Mental Health Fund – Contribution towards the Welfare Right Advise caseworker

Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant – Contribution towards salary costs of Welfare rights caseworker

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff salary costs	28,665	26,120

Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund – Contribution towards salary costs

Liverpool City Council ILM – Contribution towards salary costs

Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund – Contribution towards the Welfare Right Advise caseworker

National Lottery Award for All – Contribution towards to purchase computer equipment and contribution towards salaries costs

P H Holt Foundation – Contribution towards core costs

Skelton Charity – Contribution towards the development of the law centre.

Steve Morgan Foundation – Contribution towards salary costs of new solicitor, equipment, computers and furniture

Tudor Trust – Contribution towards staff, volunteer and trustee wellbeing

12. Operating Lease Commitments

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre has a rental commitment in relation to the premises at VNC Millennium Resource Centre, Blenheim Street, Liverpool, L5 8UX, six months' notice. Also there are lease commitments for a photocopier

	2022	2021
	£	£
Premises	5,000	5,000
Photocopier	9,941	12,384
	14,941	17,384

13. Contingent Liabilities

The Charitable Company did not have any contingent liabilities at 31st March 2022 or 31st March 2021.

14. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31st March 2022 (2021: none)

15. Guarantees

As at 31st March 2022, 9 members had given a guarantee of £1 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total £9 (2021: 9 members: £9).

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 702458

Accounts

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021

Company Registration No: 02252255

Charity Number: 702458

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The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006, Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice (Sorp 2015) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1st January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are:

- To relieve persons resident or employed in the Vauxhall District of Liverpool (the area of benefit) by providing them with free advice and assistance on all legal matters concerning which it is not practical or appropriate for them to obtain advice and assistance from elsewhere owing to their financial need or social and economic circumstance.
- To undertake or co-operate in the advancement of the education of persons resident or employed in the area of benefit in the law and its operation.
- Advance such other charitable purposes as are beneficial to the community for persons working or resident in the area of benefit.
- To provide and support a law centre in the Vauxhall district of Liverpool for the purpose of providing legal advice, assistance and representation free to all manner of person where such advice, assistance or representation is not readily available.

In considering the objectives and activities, the Trustees have considered Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the organisation is meeting its Public Benefit requirements.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Centre has shown great resilience in a very tough year caused by the global pandemic. The Centre made a decision to close its face-face service on 17th March 2020, few days prior to the Government introducing a national lockdown. The Centre was able to move its services remotely and all staff could continue providing telephone advice with minimal disruption.

The Centre has flourished, under the management of the Senior Solicitor & Centre Director and this is a fantastic achievement by any voluntary organisation in these difficult times. The Centre has increased staff levels to 8 (2020: 6 staff) paid members and to recruiting over 50 volunteers to help with a variety of activities. The Centre has recruited a full time Housing Solicitor as well as an Apprentice Development Support Officer and an ILM Administrator.

We have continuously raised our profile and have successfully relaunched our Website and Social Media accounts following the appointment of our Apprentice Development Support Officer.

We have developed good partnerships with the five universities based in Liverpool and the surrounding areas, especially within the law and business schools. We are also looking to develop projects with the media and IT faculties of these universities. We have successfully developed two student led projects which allows us to train students on issues surrounding 'social welfare' law. Students are interviewing and advising clients as well as representing those at tribunals.

Project results

• 18 cases were handled by students, 16 Personal Independence Payments and 2 Universal Credit Work Capability.
• 10 cases were dealt with up to Mandatory Reconsideration stage. 7 of these were successful and DWP overturned decisions, 2 cases are still pending and one client withdrew.
• 8 cases were dealt with up to Appeal stage. 5 of these were successful, 3 cases are still pending.
•Collective Financial gain for all clients to date = £60, 853.12

Student feedback:

Extremely rewarding and insightful.

'I was given all the information I needed to perform in easily digestible pieces at a comfortable pace. Anyone coming to them for help will not be disappointed.'

'I have really enjoyed working on this project during my time at Liverpool University as it has enabled me with key skills on how to handle client casework and how to conduct client online appeals and submissions for tribunals. These are key attributes I will need in my career in Law and I cannot thank Vauxhall enough for this opportunity'.

It is important to us that our work makes a difference, we seek to support disadvantaged groups in the community and these groups are the focus of our work. Our core advice service is to maximise the incomes of people who are claiming benefits, primarily sick, disabled and vulnerable people. We are seeking to develop our advice activities and will be engaging with people working other marginalised groups within the community. We want to ensure that we can maximise incomes wherever possible and enable people to get their legal rights and more.

With the consent of the family of the late Tommy Monaghan, and in remembrance of our late board member and long-standing local community supporter, we set up "The Tommy Monaghan Bereavement Support Service" to provide advice and assistance to families and friends of those who have suffered bereavement on welfare benefits, debt and housing issues.

We support people and communities to get access to advice, last year we gave information relating to welfare benefits to 1,846 people (2020:1,898) with 477 cases opened. We represented clients at 78 Tribunals, 66 of these being successful. The numbers have declined from previous years. This is mainly due to the global pandemic and the effect that DWP postponed most decision makings and the overall number of appeals declined. Furthermore, there was a big delay from the start of the pandemic in March 2020 before remote telephone hearings were introduced.

We aim to increase our provisions of advice to reduce poverty and inequality within our community and to promote well-being and financial stability along with access to justice. We support many vulnerable, sick and disabled people with advice and support that enables them to live independently.

Clients reported that a total of £1,988,297 in benefits had been recovered with the Centre's help.

Clients also reported that our part-time Debt Advisor (18 hours per week) helped them to manage debts amounting to £536,768.

Therefore the Centre brought back a total of £2,525,065 into the local community.

The Centre has also worked collaboratively with trade unions such as GMB NW&I and Unite along with local campaign groups such as DPAC, Merseyside Congolese association, and Acorn Liverpool. We have expanded our collaborative work such as Refugee Women Connect, MRSN and British Red Cross. Our Housing Solicitor is regularly providing training sessions to Social Workers. This is an important aspect to our work, especially when it is aimed at groups who are living with poverty and/or other disadvantage.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year was £274,634 (2020: £114,810) of which £213,026 (2020: £63,119) related to funding for projects upon which restrictions are placed.

Total expenditure for the year was £207,482 (2020: £132,320), leaving a surplus for the year of £67,152 (2020: deficit £17,520).

At 31st March 2021 the charitable company's reserves stood at £108,790 (2020: £41,638) of which £51,690 (2020: £4,623) represented restricted funds.

Risk Assessment

The main risks to which the charity is exposed as identified by the Trustees have been considered and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charitable company to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a level to cover redundancy provision and three months' running costs (should no further funding be received) and run on insurance costs.

As at the end of the financial year the unrestricted funds totalled £57,100. The charitable company requires £14,108 for redundancy provision, £10,381 for three months' running costs and run on insurance for files, estimated at £6,000 (total £30,489).

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Centre will continue to provide support and assistance in relation to welfare rights, housing and debt advice to persons in the Liverpool area for whom it is not practical to seek help elsewhere owing to financial needs or social and economic circumstances. We aim to expand our debt service to include assisting clients with bankruptcies, Debt Relief Orders.

The pandemic forced the Centre to close its face-to-face advice provision on 17th March 2020 just prior to the lockdown measures introduced by the Government. This led to work being moved off-site and staff working remotely from home. We are looking at introducing options for clients who want to access advice provisions remotely as well as working on plans for a safe return to the Centre.

The Centre seeks to expand the range of services it offers to include Employment, Immigration and Family law, and funds are being raised to expand the work of the organisation.

The Centre seeks to obtain Legal Aid Funding for Housing, Welfare Benefits and Public Law and will undergo a Lexcel Quality Assessment.

The Centre also intends to become more involved in social policy campaigns, working collaboratively with other organisations regarding topical issues as well as providing public legal education by providing training to such organisations and it's users.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales, No. (02252255) incorporated on 6th May 1988 and registered as a charity (number 702458) on 31st January 1990.

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 26th November 1998 and amended by special resolution on 26th September 2019.

Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who: apply to the Centre in the form required by the trustees; and are approved by the trustees which nominates members of the Executive Committee and those members who are also trustees and directors of the company. The Executive Committee has the power to admit to associate membership of the Centre such elected representatives of organisations as shall support the objects of the Centre.
The Centre is managed by the Executive Committee of trustees, which holds meetings bi-monthly at which agenda items include finance and staff reports.

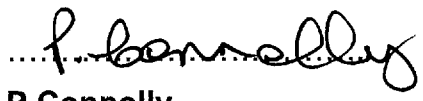
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name	Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre
Company Number	02252255
Charity Number	702458
Registered Office	Vnc Millennium Resource Centre Blenheim Street Liverpool Merseyside L5 8UX
Trustees	P Connolly (Chair) S Currie A Gibbons A Goodman R Howard J O'Hare G Oakford A Stewart S Taylor-Ward (Resigned 4th January 2021)
Company Secretary	N Higham
Independent Examiner	Paula Sanchez ACCA c/o LCVS 151 Dale Street Liverpool Merseyside L2 2AH

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Plc
Merchant Court
2-12 Lord Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 1TB

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



P Connolly
Director

Date: 6/12/2021

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

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

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006, Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice (Sorp 2015) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1st January 2015).

By Order of the Board

N Higham
Company Secretary

Vnc Millennium Resource Centre
Blenheim Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L5 8UX

Date: 6.12.21

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The 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.
It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In 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 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.

Name: **Mrs Paula Sanchez**

Relevant professional qualification or body: **ACCA**

Address: **c/o LCVS 151, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH**

Dated: 06 Dec 2021

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Income and endowments from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3a	10,136	-	10,136	5,191
Charitable activities	3b	51,472	213,026	264,498	109,619
Total income		**61,608**	**213,026**	**274,634**	**114,810**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	41,523	165,959	207,482	132,330
Total expenditure		**41,523**	**165,959**	**207,482**	**132,330**
Net income/(expenditure), net movement in funds		**20,085**	**47,067**	**67,152**	**(17,520)**
Total funds brought forward	9, 10	37,015	4,623	41,638	59,158
Total funds carried forward	8-10	**57,100**	**51,690**	**108,790**	**41,638**

The notes on pages 11 to 20 form part of these accounts.

All the above amounts relate to continuing activities of the charitable company.

VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW AND INFORMATION CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

Company No: 02252255

	Notes	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		31,128		524
Current assets					
Debtors	6	22,204		687	
Cash at bank and in hand		56,183		41,215	
		78,387		41,902	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(725)		(788)	
Net current assets			77,662		41,114
Total assets less current liabilities			**108,790**		**41,638**
Funds:					
Unrestricted funds	8, 9		57,100		37,015
Restricted funds	8-10		51,690		4,623
			108,790		**41,638**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

For the period covered by these accounts the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

The trustees, who are the directors of the company, acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

Approved by the Board on ....6/12/2021....., and signed on their behalf by:

P Connolly

P Connolly
Director and Chair

1. Limited Liability

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. Each member's liability is limited to £1.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (SORP 2015) (effective 1st January 2015), Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves available for the trustees to apply in accordance with the charitable company's charitable objectives. Designated fund are funds set aside for a specific purpose,

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by the donor. All restricted funds are accounted for as restricted income and expenditure for the purposes is charged to the fund.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies comprise of donations and general grants which are recognised in the accounts when received, with the exception of known legacies which are accounted for when their receipt is certain.

Income from charitable activities is recognised on an accruals basis except for grants receivable, which are recognised on the date on which their unconditional payment is confirmed by the donor.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the Statement of Financial Activities. Support and governance costs are applied to unrestricted funds unless specifically included in the restrictions, as specified by the donor.

Expenditure on charitable activities relate to the operation of the charity comprising of direct charitable expenditure to meet the objectives of the charitable company. Support and governance costs relate to the management and operation of the organisation and also compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements in producing the annual report. These are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities when payment has been approved by the charitable company.

Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure over £250 and above is stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as below:

Fixture & Fittings	20% per annum reducing balance basis
Equipment	25% per annum reducing balance basis

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation

Income and gains are exempt from taxation as they are received and applied for charitable purposes only. The charitable company benefits from various exemptions from taxation afforded by tax legislation and is not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling within those exemptions.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3. Income and endowments from

	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
a. Donations and Legacies	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Donations	**10,136**	**-**	**10,136**	**5,191**

Donations and legacies income for 2020 related wholly to unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
a. Charitable Activities	£	£	£	£
Access to Justice Foundation	-	4,200	4,200	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund	-	7,240	7,240	-
Contract and sales income	41,500	-	41,500	46,500
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	2,472	-	2,472	-
LCN Community Justice Fund	-	71,000	71,000	-
LCR Cares Covid 19 Community Support Fund	-	5,000	5,000	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Liverpool City Council Business Support Scheme	7,500	-	7,500	-
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	-	28,500	28,500	28,500
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	-	-	-	11,646
Liverpool City Council ILM	-	1,306	1,306	-
Liverpool City Council – Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund	-	-	-	5,354
National Lottery Award for All	-	10,000	10,000	-
P H Holt Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-
Skelton Bounty	-	-	-	2,000
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	66,780	66,780	13,619
Tudor Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-
	51,472	**213,026**	**264,498**	**109,619**

Income from charitable activities in 2020 comprised £46,500 for unrestricted funds and £63,119 related to restricted funds.

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Charitable Expenditure	Support & Governance Costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
To provide legal advice and assistance free of charge	93,830	113,652	**207,482**	**132,330**

a. Analysed as follows:

Direct charitable expenditure:	**2021** **£**	**2020** **£**
Staff salary costs	79,688	66,995
Pensions	1,865	1,492
Office costs	8,492	3,162
Subscriptions	2,649	2,561
VNC placement	-	4,158
Volunteer expenses	-	41
Event costs	-	365
Equipment	1,136	-
	93,830	**78,774**

Support & Governance costs:	**2021** **£**	**2020** **£**
Staff salary costs	49,102	32,486
Pensions	565	709
Office costs	943	352
Building running costs	22,306	8,514
Training	3,693	701
Library	646	155
Insurance	2,617	1,568
Travel expenses	260	692
Advertising	1,987	-
Hampers	234	-
Professional fees	-	1,725
Consultancy fees	6,000	-
Sundry expenses	35	355
Bank charges	90	135
Computer support costs	23,444	4,906
Companies House registration filing fee	-	13
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	154	-
Payroll fees	220	282
Accountancy	725	788
Depreciation	631	175
	113,652	**53,556**
Total expenditure on charitable activities	**207,482**	**132,330**

£166,118 (2020: £98,738) of the above expenditure relates to restricted funding.

d. Analysis of staff costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross salary	123,120	95,113
Social security	5,670	4,368
Pension costs	2,430	2,201
	131,220	**101,682**

c. Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2021	2020
Charitable activities	**5**	**4**

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2020: nil)

The Trustees, being also directors, are not remunerated for their services and are not included in the above number of employees.

No out of pocket expenses were reimbursed to trustees in the year (2020: £nil)

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£
Balance at 1st April 2020	4,917	10,796	15,713
Additions in the year	-	31,389	31,389
Disposals in the year	(-)	(4,547)	(4,547)
Balance at 31st March 2021	**4,917**	**37,638**	**42,555**
Depreciation			
Balance at 1st April 2020	4,917	10,272	15,189
Charge for the year	-	631	631
Disposals in the year	(-)	(4,393)	(4,393)
Balance at 31st March 2021	**4,917**	**6,510**	**11,427**
Net book value at 31st March 2021	**-**	**31,128**	**31,128**
Net book value at 31st March 2020	-	524	524

6. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments	22,204	687

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals	725	788

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£
General Fund	662	42,330	42,992
Designated Fund	-	14,108	14,108
	662	**56,438**	**57,100**
Restricted Funds			
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	10,000	10,000
CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund	-	4,222	4,222
Hill Dickinson Fund	-	329	329
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,000	2,000
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	1,455	925	2,380
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	-	80	80
National Lottery Award for All	256	-	256
Steve Morgan Foundation	28,755	-	28,755
P H Holt Foundation	-	1,668	1,668
Tudor Trust	-	2,000	2,000
	30,466	**21,224**	**51,690**
Totals	**31,128**	**77,662**	**108,790**

9. Unrestricted Funds

	Resources at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Expenditure	Transfer of funds	Resources at End of Year
	£	£	£		£
General Fund	23,900	61,608	(41,523)	(993)	42,992
Designated Fund	13,115	-	(-)	993	14,108
	37,015	**61,608**	**(41,523)**	**-**	**57,100**

General Fund is used to finance the charitable company's general activities and core costs as outlined in the Trustees' Report.

Designated Fund is set aside to cover redundancy provision.

Transfer of funds is the movement of the designated fund for redundancy provision

10. Restricted Funds

	Resources at Beginning of year	Movements in the Year: Income	Expenditure	Resources at End of Year
	£	£	£	£
Access to Justice Foundation	-	4,200	(4,200)	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	10,000	(-)	10,000
CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund	-	7,240	(3,018)	4,222
Hill Dickinson Fund	542	-	(213)	329
LCN Community Justice Fund	-	71,000	(71,000)	-
LCR Cares Covid 19 Community Support Fund	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
LCVS Community Impact Fund	-	2,000	(-)	2,000
Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant	-	28,500	(26,120)	2,380
Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund	882	-	(802)	80
Liverpool City Council ILM	-	1,306	(1,306)	-
National Lottery Award for All	341	10,000	(10,085)	256
P H Holt Foundation	1,849	5,000	(5,181)	1,668
Steve Morgan Foundation	1,009	66,780	(39,034)	28,755
Tudor Trust	-	2,000	(-)	2,000
	4,623	**213,026**	**(165,959)**	**51,690**

These are monies given to the company to be spent at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for specific charitable purposes.

Access to Justice Foundation - Contribution towards 'Funder Plus Scheme'

Alex Ferry Foundation – Contribution towards better conditions of gig economy and zero hours contract project

CAF Coronavirus emergency Fund - Contribution towards core costs

Hill Dickinson Fund – Contribution to enhance the sustainability of the Law Centre.

LCN Community Justice Fund – Contribution towards core costs and personal protection equipment

LCR Cares Covid 19 Community Support Fund – Contribution towards salary costs for advisor

LCVS Community Impact Fund – Contribution towards welfare, housing and debt advice

Liverpool City Council Community Resource Grant - Contribution towards salary costs of Welfare rights caseworker

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff salary costs	26,120	28,500

Liverpool City Council – Hardship Fund - – Contribution towards salary costs

Liverpool City Council ILM - Contribution towards salary costs

Liverpool City Council – Mayoral Neighbourhood Fund – Contribution towards salary costs

Mayoral Hardship Fund – Contribution towards core costs

National Lottery Award for All - Contribution towards to purchase computer equipment and contribution towards salaries costs

P H Holt Foundation – Contribution towards core costs

Skelton Bounty – Contribution towards the development of the law centre.

Steve Morgan Foundation – Contribution towards salary costs of new solicitor, equipment, computers and furniture

Tudor Trust – Contribution towards staff, volunteer and trustee wellbeing

11. Operating Lease Commitments

From 1st April 2020 the organisation has a rental commitment in relation to the premises at VNC Millennium Resource Centre, Blenheim Street, Liverpool, L5 8UX, six months' notice. Also there are lease commitments for a photocopier

	2021	2020
	£	£
Premises	5,000	4,000
Photocopier	3,564	-
	8,564	**4,000**

12 Contingent Liabilities

The Charitable Company did not have any contingent liabilities at 31st March 2021 or 31st March 2020.

13. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31st March 2021 (2020: none)

14. Guarantees

As at 31st March 2021, 9 members had given a guarantee of £1 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total £9 (2020: 9 members: £9).