

# The Women's Support Network

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102763

## Details

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Known as   | WSN  |
| Status     | Received   |
| Registered | 2016-06-06   |
| Register   | <a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a> |

## Contact

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Address | Womens Support Network<br>109-113 Royal Avenue<br>Belfast<br>Bt1 1ff<br>BT1 1FF |
| Phone   | 028 90236923  |
| Email   | <a href="mailto:info@wsn.org.uk">info@wsn.org.uk</a>                            |
| Website | <a href="http://www.wsn.org.uk">www.wsn.org.uk</a>                              |

## Activities

**Purposes:** The Company is established to relieve poverty, advance education and preserve and safeguard health among women in Northern Ireland and in particular the Greater Belfast area (hereinafter described as "the area of benefit"). The above objects are to be carried out without distinction based on age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnic origin, political or religious opinion.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives

**How the charity works:** Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Gender, Research/evaluation

**Who the charity helps:** Ex-offenders and prisoners, Parents, Specific areas of deprivation, Unemployed/low income, Victim support, Women

## Finances

| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets   | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £356,705 | £312,202    | £-88,167 | 5         |

## Trustees

| Name                      | Role | Appointed |
|---------------------------|------|-----------|
| Ms Gay Sherry-Bingham     |      |           |
| Ms Kirsty Jane Richardson |      |           |
| Ms Lisa Mclean            |      |           |
| Ms Renee Crawford         |      |           |
| Ms Tanya Hughes           |      |           |

**The Women's Support Network**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102763

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# Accounts

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

( A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 057580**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 102763**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
**547 FALLS ROAD**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT11 9AB**

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting Convention and Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard which applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Going Concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees' have a reasonable expectation that the charity 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 financial statements.

**Income Recognition**

Income is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Interest Receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability in incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, and non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

**Fixed Assets**

All tangible fixed assets are recorded at cost.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Fixtures and fittings | 25% Straight line |
| Equipment             | 25% Straight line |

**Repairs and Renewals**

All repairs and renewals are written off as incurred

**Pension Costs: defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

**Debtors and Prepayments**

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

**Creditors and Provisions**

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

**Financial Instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**Foreign Currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net movement in funds.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Fund Accounting**

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future projects or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

**Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

**Reserves Policy**

In line with good practice The Women's Support Network aims to build and retain a level of unrestricted reserves that match the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the future to meet statutory obligations for both staff and suppliers in these times of funding uncertainty. These include:

- Statutory Redundancy;
- Salaries and Pensions; and
- Organisational Running Costs

Reserves will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Finance and Personnel Trustee sub-group and an overview presented by the Operational Director at Trustee Board meetings to ensure the progress towards target level.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

|                                      | NOTES | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2025<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2024<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>   |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| Donations and legacies               | 1     | 8,737                      | -                        | -                       | 8,737              | 103                |
| Income from investments              | 2     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Income from charitable activities    | 3     | 11,338                     | 336,629                  | -                       | 347,967            | 286,275            |
| Income from other trading activities | 4     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>   |       | <b>20,075</b>              | <b>336,629</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>356,705</b>     | <b>286,378</b>     |
| <b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>               |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| Expenditure on raising funds         | 5     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 6     | -                          | 312,202                  | -                       | 312,202            | 274,679            |
| Other expenditure                    |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments    |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>      |       | <b>-</b>                   | <b>312,202</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>312,202</b>     | <b>274,679</b>     |
| <b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>      |       | <b>20,075</b>              | <b>24,427</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>44,503</b>      | <b>11,699</b>      |
| Transfers between funds              |       | 9,489                      | (9,489)                  | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>         |       | <b>29,564</b>              | <b>14,938</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>44,503</b>      | <b>11,699</b>      |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>       |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>   |       | <b>77,159</b>              | <b>16,832</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>93,991</b>      | <b>82,292</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>   |       | <b>106,723</b>             | <b>31,770</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>138,494</b>     | <b>93,991</b>      |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a  
Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses has not been prepared

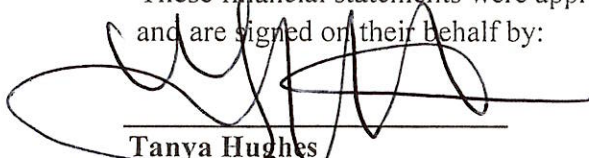
All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities

The accompanying accounting policies and the notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025**

|  | NOTES    | 2025<br>£ | 2024<br>£ |
|--|----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>  |          |           |           |
| Tangible assets  | 9        | -         | -         |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |          |           |           |
| Debtors and prepayments  | 12       | 19,171    | 8,396     |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                       | 11       | 207,490   | 195,890   |
|  |          | 226,661   | 204,286   |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>          | 13       | (88,167)  | (110,295) |
|  |          | 138,494   | 93,991    |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>                        |          |           |           |
|  |          | 138,494   | 93,991    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT ASSETS/( LIABILITIES )</b>        |          |           |           |
|  |          | 138,494   | 93,991    |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b> |          | -         | -         |
|  |          | -         | -         |
| <b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>                                |          |           |           |
|  |          | 138,494   | 93,991    |
| <b>FUNDS:</b>  |          |           |           |
| <b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>   |          |           |           |
|  |          | -         | -         |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>                               | 14/15/16 | 106,723   | 77,159    |
| <b>RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>                                 | 14/15/17 | 31,770    | 16,832    |
|  |          | 138,494   | 93,991    |
|  |          | 138,494   | 93,991    |

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15th January 2026  
and are signed on their behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tanya Hughes  
Trustee

DATE 15th January 2026

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

|  | NOTES | 2025<br>£ | 2024<br>£ |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                   |       |           |           |
| Cash generated from operations                               | 10    | 11,600    | (54,627)  |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities          |       | 11,600    | (54,627)  |
| <b>Investing activities</b>                                  |       |           |           |
| Investment income  |       | -         | -         |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                            |       | -         | -         |
| Prior year adjustment  | 19    | -         | -         |
| Acquisition of investments                                   |       | -         | -         |
| Disposal of investments                                      |       | -         | -         |
| Disposal of tangible fixed assets                            |       | -         | -         |
| Net cash from investing activities                           |       | -         | -         |
| Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year |       | 11,600    | (54,627)  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year       |       | 195,890   | 250,517   |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year             | 11    | 207,490   | 195,890   |
| Relating to:   |       |           |           |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                     | 11    | 207,490   | 195,890   |

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

**1. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

|             | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2025<br>£    | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£  |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Donations   | 8,737                      | -                        | 8,737        | 103                        | -                        | 103        |
| Fundraising | -                          | -                        | -            | -                          | -                        | -          |
| Legacies    | -                          | -                        | -            | -                          | -                        | -          |
|             | <u>8,737</u>               | <u>-</u>                 | <u>8,737</u> | <u>103</u>                 | <u>-</u>                 | <u>103</u> |

**2. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS**

|                                   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2025<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Income from UK listed investments | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Income from cash                  | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                                   | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  |

**3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2025<br>£      | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£      |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Belfast Health & Social Care Trust- Supporting Families | 6,338                      | 106,086                  | 112,424        | 6,395                      | 98,974                   | 105,369        |
| Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust                        | -                          | 70,317                   | 70,317         | -                          | 79,128                   | 79,128         |
| Justice & Equality Fund- ROSA                           | -                          | 37,520                   | 37,520         | -                          | 63,949                   | 63,949         |
| Department for Communities- Women's Regional Consortium | -                          | 106,366                  | 106,366        | -                          | 88,204                   | 88,204         |
| Department of Foreign Affairs - Womens Platform         | 5,000                      | -                        | 5,000          | 10,000                     | -                        | 10,000         |
| Solace Womens Aid                                       | -                          | -                        | -              | 19,953                     | -                        | 19,953         |
| UK SPF - Women Breaking Barriers (WRDA)                 | -                          | 80,594                   | 80,594         | -                          | 27,509                   | 27,509         |
| Less: Deferred Income                                   | -                          | (64,254)                 | (64,254)       | -                          | (107,837)                | (107,837)      |
|   | <u>11,338</u>              | <u>336,629</u>           | <u>347,967</u> | <u>36,348</u>              | <u>249,927</u>           | <u>286,275</u> |

**4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

|                          | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2025<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Fundraising and training | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Room Hire                | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                          | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

**5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS**

|                                   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2025<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Promotional and fundraising costs | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                                   | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |

**6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2025<br>£      | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£      |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Activities undertaken directly</i>             |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Wages and salaries                                | -                          | 138,825                  | 138,825        | 2,672                      | 118,914                  | 121,586        |
| Employers national insurance                      | -                          | 6,647                    | 6,647          | 59                         | 10,967                   | 11,026         |
| Employers pension costs                           | -                          | 7,938                    | 7,938          | 43                         | 7,106                    | 7,149          |
| Volunteer costs                                   | -                          | 3,769                    | 3,769          | -                          | 3,923                    | 3,923          |
| Women's Centres distribution                      | -                          | 99,252                   | 99,252         | -                          | 100,121                  | 100,121        |
| Insurance   | -                          | 934                      | 934            | 87                         | 787                      | 874            |
| Rent and service charges payable                  | -                          | 10,466                   | 10,466         | 1,735                      | 8,731                    | 10,466         |
| Stationery and postage                            | -                          | 2,091                    | 2,091          | -                          | 597                      | 597            |
| Printing  | -                          | -                        | -              | 64                         | 284                      | 348            |
| Telephone and internet                            | -                          | 1,209                    | 1,209          | -                          | 1,416                    | 1,416          |
| Computer maintenance and IT support               | -                          | 6,234                    | 6,234          | -                          | 706                      | 706            |
| Travel expenses                                   | -                          | 1,524                    | 1,524          | -                          | 692                      | 692            |
| Clinical supervision                              | -                          | 1,105                    | 1,105          | -                          | 1,500                    | 1,500          |
| Room hire   | -                          | 310                      | 310            | -                          | 114                      | 114            |
| Consumer council focus groups                     | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 1,057                    | 1,057          |
| Debt focus groups                                 | -                          | 1,705                    | 1,705          | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Hospitality and meeting refreshments              | -                          | 1,676                    | 1,676          | -                          | 1,308                    | 1,308          |
| Staff training and conferences                    | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 2,900                    | 2,900          |
| Promotional costs                                 | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 40                       | 40             |
| Training materials and resources                  | -                          | 9,202                    | 9,202          | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Affiliation fees                                  | -                          | 275                      | 275            | 96                         | 35                       | 131            |
| Management fees                                   | -                          | 6,338                    | 6,338          | 6,395                      | -                        | 6,395          |
| Sundry expenses                                   | 0                          | -                        | 0              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| <b>Total activities undertaken directly</b>       | <b>0</b>                   | <b>299,498</b>           | <b>299,498</b> | <b>11,151</b>              | <b>261,198</b>           | <b>272,349</b> |
| <i>Support costs</i>                              |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Legal and professional fees                       | -                          | 10,215                   | 10,215         | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Depreciation and impairment                       | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Bank interest and charges                         | -                          | 453                      | 453            | -                          | 387                      | 387            |
|   | -                          | 10,668                   | 10,668         | -                          | 387                      | 387            |
| <i>Governance costs</i>                           |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Accountancy fees                                  | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Audit fees  | -                          | 2,036                    | 2,036          | 276                        | 1,667                    | 1,943          |
|   | -                          | 2,036                    | 2,036          | 276                        | 1,667                    | 1,943          |
| <b>Total support and governance costs</b>         | <b>-</b>                   | <b>12,704</b>            | <b>12,704</b>  | <b>276</b>                 | <b>2,054</b>             | <b>2,330</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b> | <b>0</b>                   | <b>312,202</b>           | <b>312,202</b> | <b>11,427</b>              | <b>263,252</b>           | <b>274,679</b> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

| <b>7. NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</b> | <b>2025</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>This is stated after charging/(crediting)</b>          | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Auditors remuneration                                     | 2,036       | 1,848       |
| Depreciation  | -           | -           |
|   | -           | -           |

| <b>8. SALARY COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS</b>                                | <b>2025</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
|  | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Total staff costs were as follows:                                   |             |             |
| Wages and salaries - key management personnel                        | 45,055      | 41,942      |
| Wages and salaries - other staff                                     | 93,770      | 79,644      |
| Pension Costs - key management personnel                             | 3,605       | 3,309       |
| Pension Costs - other staff  | 4,333       | 3,840       |
| Employer social security costs - key management personnel            | 4,962       | 4,533       |
| Employer social security costs - other staff                         | 6,685       | 6,493       |
| Employer social security costs - Statutory Maternity Pay Recoverable | -           | -           |
| Employer social security costs - Employment Allowance                | (5,000)     | -           |
|  | 153,410     | 139,761     |

| The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows: | <b>2025</b>   | <b>2024</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> |
|   | 5             | 5             |

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2024: £Nil)

**Staff remuneration and benefits**

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity.

**Trustees' remuneration and benefits**

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2025. (2024: £Nil)

**Trustees' Expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2025. (2024: £Nil)

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

**9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

|                        | Premises<br>Improvements<br>£ | Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£    |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>COST</b>            |                               |                |               |
| As at 1st April 2024   | 1,578                         | 44,113         | 45,691        |
| Additions              | -                             | -              | -             |
| Disposals              | -                             | -              | -             |
|                        | <hr/>                         | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| As at 31st March 2025  | <u>1,578</u>                  | <u>44,113</u>  | <u>45,691</u> |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>    |                               |                |               |
| As at 1st April 2024   | 1,578                         | 44,113         | 45,691        |
| Charge for year        | -                             | -              | -             |
| Eliminated on disposal | -                             | -              | -             |
|                        | <hr/>                         | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| As at 31st March 2025  | <u>1,578</u>                  | <u>44,113</u>  | <u>45,691</u> |
| Net book value 2025    | <hr/> <hr/>                   | <hr/> <hr/>    | <hr/> <hr/>   |
| Net book value 2024    | <hr/> <hr/>                   | <hr/> <hr/>    | <hr/> <hr/>   |

**10. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

|  | 2025<br>£     | 2024<br>£       |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year                   | 44,503        | 11,699          |
| Depreciation and impairment                                | -             | -               |
| Movement in debtors  | (10,775)      | (4,374)         |
| Movement in creditors                                      | (22,128)      | (61,952)        |
| Gain on investments  | -             | -               |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal of Fixed Assets                  | -             | -               |
| Investment income  | -             | -               |
|  | <hr/>         | <hr/>           |
| <b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b> | <u>11,600</u> | <u>(54,627)</u> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

| <b>11. BANK AND CASH</b>                    | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2024</b>    |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| AIB NI Sustainability Account               | 108,995        | 79,047         |
| AIB NI Rape Crisis Service NI Account       | 64,024         | 103,819        |
| AIB NI EHSSB Account                        | 24,583         | 8,438          |
| AIB NI Current Account - TWN-DfC/Consortium | 9,888          | 4,586          |
|   | <u>207,490</u> | <u>195,890</u> |

| <b>12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b> | <b>2025</b>   | <b>2024</b>  |
|---|---------------|--------------|
|   | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>     |
| Debtors   | 17,831        | 6,247        |
| Prepayments and accrued income                          | 1,340         | 2,149        |
|   | <u>19,171</u> | <u>8,396</u> |

| <b>13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b> | <b>2025</b>   | <b>2024</b>    |
|---|---------------|----------------|
|   | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>       |
| Taxation and social security costs                        | 2,091         | -              |
| Accrued expenses  | 21,822        | 2,458          |
| Deferred income   | 64,254        | 107,837        |
|   | <u>88,167</u> | <u>110,295</u> |

THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

|                    | Fixed Assets<br>- Charity use<br>£ | Current<br>Assets<br>£ | Current<br>Liabilities<br>£ | Transfers<br>between Funds<br>£ | 2025<br>£ | 2024<br>£ |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Total Funds</b> |                                    |                        |                             |                                 |           |           |
| Unrestricted funds | -                                  | 106,724                | -                           | -                               | 106,724   | 77,159    |
| Restricted funds   | -                                  | 119,937                | (88,167)                    | -                               | 31,770    | 16,832    |
|                    | -                                  | 226,661                | (88,167)                    | -                               | 138,494   | 93,991    |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

| <b>16. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b> | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2024</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                      | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>      |
| Balance at 1st April 2024            | 77,159         | 52,135        |
| Incoming resources for the year      | 20,075         | 36,451        |
| Resources expended for the year      | -              | (11,427)      |
| Transfers between funds              | 9,489          | -             |
|                                      | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| Balance at 31st March 2025           | <u>106,723</u> | <u>77,159</u> |
| <br>                                 |                |               |
| <b>17. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>   | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2024</b>   |
|                                      | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>      |
| Balance at 1st April 2024            | 16,832         | 30,157        |
| Incoming resources for the year      | 336,629        | 249,927       |
| Resources expended for the year      | (312,202)      | (263,252)     |
| Transfers between funds              | (9,489)        | -             |
|                                      | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| Balance at 31st March 2025           | <u>31,770</u>  | <u>16,832</u> |

**18. RELATED PARTIES**

There were no related party transactions in the year that require disclosure.

**19. LEGAL STATUS**

The Women's Support Network is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Each member has agreed to contribute £1 in the event of a compulsory winding up.

The Women's Support Network is a recognised Charity within the definition of Section 360(3) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue.

**20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

Since incorporation the charity has received various revenue and capital grants. A contingent liability exists to repay these grants should the conditions under which they are awarded are not achieved.

**21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the year end.

**The Women's Support Network**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102763

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# Accounts

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

( A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 057580**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 102763**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
**547 FALLS ROAD**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT11 9AB**

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting Convention and Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard which applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Going Concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees' have a reasonable expectation that the charity 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 financial statements.

**Income Recognition**

Income is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Interest Receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, and non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
  
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
  
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

**Fixed Assets**

All tangible fixed assets are recorded at cost.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Fixtures and fittings | 25% Straight line |
| Equipment             | 25% Straight line |

**Repairs and Renewals**

All repairs and renewals are written off as incurred

**Pension Costs: defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

**Debtors and Prepayments**

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

**Creditors and Provisions**

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

**Financial Instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**Foreign Currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net movement in funds.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Fund Accounting**

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future projects or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

**Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

**Reserves Policy**

In line with good practice The Women's Support Network aims to build and retain a level of unrestricted reserves that match the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the future to meet statutory obligations for both staff and suppliers in these times of funding uncertainty. These include:

- Statutory Redundancy;
- Salaries and Pensions; and
- Organisational Running Costs

Reserves will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Finance and Personnel Trustee sub-group and an overview presented by the Operational Director at Trustee Board meetings to ensure the progress towards target level.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

|                                      | NOTES | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2024<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2023<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>   |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| Donations and legacies               | 1     | 103                        | -                        | -                       | 103                | 3,419              |
| Income from investments              | 2     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Income from charitable activities    | 3     | 36,348                     | 249,927                  | -                       | 286,276            | 340,488            |
| Income from other trading activities | 4     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>   |       | <b>36,451</b>              | <b>249,927</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>286,378</b>     | <b>343,907</b>     |
| <b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>               |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| Expenditure on raising funds         | 5     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 6     | 11,427                     | 263,252                  | -                       | 274,679            | 323,651            |
| Other expenditure                    |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments    |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>      |       | <b>11,427</b>              | <b>263,252</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>274,679</b>     | <b>323,651</b>     |
| <b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>      |       | <b>25,024</b>              | <b>(13,325)</b>          | <b>-</b>                | <b>11,699</b>      | <b>20,256</b>      |
| Transfers between funds              |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>         |       | <b>25,024</b>              | <b>(13,325)</b>          | <b>-</b>                | <b>11,699</b>      | <b>20,256</b>      |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>       |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>   |       | <b>52,135</b>              | <b>30,157</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>82,292</b>      | <b>62,036</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>   |       | <b>77,159</b>              | <b>16,832</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>93,991</b>      | <b>82,292</b>      |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses has not been prepared

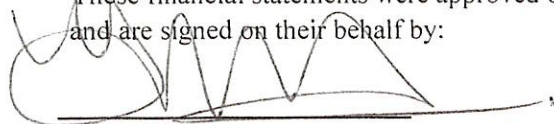
All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities

The accompanying accounting policies and the notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024**

|  | NOTES    | 2024<br>£     | 2023<br>£     |
|--|----------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>  |          |               |               |
| Tangible assets  | 9        | -             | -             |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |          |               |               |
| Debtors and prepayments  | 12       | 8,396         | 4,022         |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                       | 11       | 195,890       | 250,517       |
|  |          | 204,286       | 254,539       |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>          | 13       | (110,295)     | (172,247)     |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>                        |          | 93,991        | 82,292        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT ASSETS/( LIABILITIES )</b>        |          | 93,991        | 82,292        |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b> |          | -             | -             |
| <b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>                                |          | <b>93,991</b> | <b>82,292</b> |
| <b>FUNDS:</b>  |          |               |               |
| <b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>   |          | -             | -             |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>                               | 14/15/16 | 77,159        | 52,135        |
| <b>RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>                                 | 14/15/17 | 16,832        | 30,157        |
|  |          | <b>93,991</b> | <b>82,292</b> |

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19th December 2024  
and are signed on their behalf by:



**Tanya Hughes**  
**Trustee**

**DATE** 19th December 2024

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

|   | NOTES | 2024<br>£             | 2023<br>£             |
|---|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                          |       |                       |                       |
| Cash generated from operations                                      | 10    | (54,627)              | (55,085)              |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities                 |       | <u>(54,627)</u>       | <u>(55,085)</u>       |
| <b>Investing activities</b>   |       |                       |                       |
| Investment income   |       | -                     | -                     |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                                   |       | -                     | -                     |
| Prior year adjustment   | 19    | -                     | -                     |
| Acquisition of investments  |       | -                     | -                     |
| Disposal of investments   |       | -                     | -                     |
| Disposal of tangible fixed assets                                   |       | <u>-</u>              | <u>-</u>              |
| <b>Net cash from investing activities</b>                           |       | <u>-</u>              | <u>-</u>              |
| <b>Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b> |       | (54,627)              | (55,085)              |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>       |       | 250,517               | 305,602               |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>             | 11    | <u><u>195,890</u></u> | <u><u>250,517</u></u> |
| Relating to:  |       |                       |                       |
| <b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>                                     | 11    | <u><u>195,890</u></u> | <u><u>250,517</u></u> |

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**1. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

|             | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Donations   | 103                        | -                        | 103       | 1,950                      | 1,469                    | 3,419     |
| Fundraising | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Legacies    | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|             | 103                        | -                        | 103       | 1,950                      | 1,469                    | 3,419     |

**2. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS**

|                                   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Income from UK listed investments | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Income from cash                  | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                                   | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |

**3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Belfast Health & Social Care Trust- Supporting Families | 6,395                      | 98,974                   | 105,369   | 5,240                      | 95,620                   | 100,860   |
| Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust                        | -                          | 79,128                   | 79,128    | -                          | 96,665                   | 96,665    |
| Justice & Equality Fund- ROSA                           | -                          | 63,949                   | 63,949    | -                          | 148,467                  | 148,467   |
| Department for Communities- Women's Regional Consortium | -                          | 88,204                   | 88,204    | -                          | 94,478                   | 94,478    |
| Womens Resource & Development Agency                    | -                          | -                        | -         | 33,331                     | -                        | 33,331    |
| Department of Foreign Affairs - Womens Platform         | 10,000                     | -                        | 10,000    | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Solace Womens Aid                                       | 19,953                     | -                        | 19,953    | -                          | 29,717                   | 29,717    |
| UK SPF - Women Breaking Barriers (WRDA)                 | -                          | 27,509                   | 27,509    | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Less: Deferred Income                                   | -                          | (107,837)                | (107,837) | -                          | (163,030)                | (163,030) |
|   | 36,348                     | 249,927                  | 286,276   | 38,571                     | 301,917                  | 340,488   |

**4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

|                          | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Fundraising and training | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Room Hire                | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                          | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS**

|                                   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Promotional and fundraising costs | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                                   | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |

**6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£      | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£      |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Activities undertaken directly</i>             |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Wages and salaries                                | 2,672                      | 118,914                  | 121,586        | 17,430                     | 145,356                  | 162,786        |
| Employers national insurance                      | 59                         | 10,967                   | 11,026         | 1,711                      | 14,181                   | 15,892         |
| Employers pension costs                           | 43                         | 7,107                    | 7,149          | 1,046                      | 7,473                    | 8,519          |
| Volunteer costs                                   | -                          | 3,923                    | 3,923          | 249                        | 9,805                    | 10,054         |
| Venue, contributory costs and refreshments        | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 1,613                    | 1,613          |
| Women's Centres distribution                      | -                          | 100,121                  | 100,121        | -                          | 82,037                   | 82,037         |
| Insurance   | 87                         | 787                      | 874            | -                          | 741                      | 741            |
| Rent and service charges payable                  | 1,735                      | 8,731                    | 10,466         | -                          | 8,902                    | 8,902          |
| Stationery and postage                            | -                          | 597                      | 597            | 94                         | 749                      | 843            |
| Printing  | 64                         | 284                      | 348            | -                          | 801                      | 801            |
| Telephone and internet                            | -                          | 1,416                    | 1,416          | -                          | 1,827                    | 1,827          |
| Computer maintenance and IT support               | -                          | 706                      | 706            | -                          | 603                      | 603            |
| Travel expenses                                   | -                          | 692                      | 692            | 2,461                      | 1,226                    | 3,687          |
| Freelance Fundraiser                              | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 550                      | 550            |
| Clinical supervision                              | -                          | 1,500                    | 1,500          | -                          | 2,850                    | 2,850          |
| Room hire   | -                          | 114                      | 114            | -                          | 291                      | 291            |
| Consumer council focus groups                     | -                          | 1,057                    | 1,057          | 2,222                      | -                        | 2,222          |
| Debt focus groups                                 | -                          | -                        | -              | 4,585                      | -                        | 4,585          |
| Hospitality and meeting refreshments              | -                          | 1,308                    | 1,308          | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Staff training and conferences                    | -                          | 2,900                    | 2,900          | -                          | 1,221                    | 1,221          |
| Promotional costs                                 | -                          | 40                       | 40             | -                          | 2,452                    | 2,452          |
| Publication costs                                 | -                          | -                        | -              | 270                        | 68                       | 338            |
| Training materials and resources                  | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 638                      | 638            |
| Database management costs                         | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Affiliation fees                                  | 96                         | 35                       | 131            | 93                         | 180                      | 273            |
| Management fees                                   | 6,395                      | -                        | 6,395          | -                          | 5,240                    | 5,240          |
| Sundry expenses                                   | 0                          | -                        | 0              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| <b>Total activities undertaken directly</b>       | <b>11,151</b>              | <b>261,198</b>           | <b>272,349</b> | <b>30,161</b>              | <b>288,804</b>           | <b>318,965</b> |
| <i>Support costs</i>                              |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Legal and professional fees                       | -                          | -                        | -              | 13                         | 2,400                    | 2,413          |
| Depreciation and impairment                       | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Bank interest and charges                         | -                          | 1                        | 387            | 273                        | 152                      | 425            |
|   | -                          | 1                        | 386            | 286                        | 2,552                    | 2,838          |
| <i>Governance costs</i>                           |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Accountancy fees                                  | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Audit fees  | 277                        | 1,667                    | 1,944          | 54                         | 1,794                    | 1,848          |
|   | 277                        | 1,667                    | 1,944          | 54                         | 1,794                    | 1,848          |
| <b>Total support and governance costs</b>         | <b>276</b>                 | <b>2,054</b>             | <b>2,330</b>   | <b>340</b>                 | <b>4,346</b>             | <b>4,686</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b> | <b>11,427</b>              | <b>263,252</b>           | <b>274,679</b> | <b>30,501</b>              | <b>293,150</b>           | <b>323,651</b> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

| <b>7. NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</b> | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>This is stated after charging/(crediting)</b>          | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Auditors remuneration                                     | 1,944       | 1,848       |
| Depreciation  | -           | -           |
|   | -           | -           |

| <b>8. SALARY COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS</b>                                | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
|  | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Total staff costs were as follows:                                   |             |             |
| Wages and salaries - key management personnel                        | 41,942      | 41,451      |
| Wages and salaries - other staff                                     | 79,644      | 121,335     |
| Pension Costs - key management personnel                             | 3,309       | 3,204       |
| Pension Costs - other staff  | 3,840       | 5,314       |
| Employer social security costs - key management personnel            | 4,533       | 4,685       |
| Employer social security costs - other staff                         | 6,493       | 11,206      |
| Employer social security costs - Statutory Maternity Pay Recoverable | -           | -           |
| Employer social security costs - Employment Allowance                | -           | -           |
|  | 139,761     | 187,195     |

| The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows: | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> |
|   | 5             | 8             |

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023: £Nil)

**Staff remuneration and benefits**

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity.

**Trustees' remuneration and benefits**

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2024. (2023: £Nil)

**Trustees' Expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2024. (2023: £Nil)

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

|                        | Premises<br>Improvements<br>£ | Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£    |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>COST</b>            |                               |                |               |
| As at 1st April 2023   | 1,578                         | 44,113         | 45,691        |
| Additions              | -                             | -              | -             |
| Disposals              | -                             | -              | -             |
|                        | <hr/>                         | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| As at 31st March 2024  | <u>1,578</u>                  | <u>44,113</u>  | <u>45,691</u> |
| <b>DEPRECIATION</b>    |                               |                |               |
| As at 1st April 2023   | 1,578                         | 44,113         | 45,691        |
| Charge for year        | -                             | -              | -             |
| Eliminated on disposal | -                             | -              | -             |
|                        | <hr/>                         | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| As at 31st March 2024  | <u>1,578</u>                  | <u>44,113</u>  | <u>45,691</u> |
| Net book value 2024    | <u>-</u>                      | <u>-</u>       | <u>-</u>      |
| Net book value 2023    | <u>-</u>                      | <u>-</u>       | <u>-</u>      |

**10. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

|  | 2024<br>£       | 2023<br>£       |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year                   | 11,699          | 20,256          |
| Depreciation and impairment                                | -               | -               |
| Movement in debtors  | (4,374)         | (296)           |
| Movement in creditors                                      | (61,952)        | (75,045)        |
| Gain on investments  | -               | -               |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal of Fixed Assets                  | -               | -               |
| Investment income  | -               | -               |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
| <b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b> | <u>(54,627)</u> | <u>(55,085)</u> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

| <b>11. BANK AND CASH</b>                                  | <b>2024</b>    | <b>2023</b>    |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| AIB NI Sustainability Account                             | 79,047         | 74,190         |
| AIB NI Rape Crisis Service NI Account                     | 103,819        | 153,043        |
| AIB NI EHSSB Account                                      | 8,438          | 16,048         |
| AIB NI Current Account - TWN-DfC/Consortium               | 4,586          | 7,236          |
|   | <u>195,890</u> | <u>250,517</u> |
| <br>  |                |                |
| <b>12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>   | <b>2024</b>    | <b>2023</b>    |
|   | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Debtors   | 6,247          | 3,153          |
| Prepayments and accrued income                            | 2,149          | 869            |
|   | <u>8,396</u>   | <u>4,022</u>   |
| <br>  |                |                |
| <b>13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b> | <b>2024</b>    | <b>2023</b>    |
|   | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Taxation and social security costs                        | -              | 5,333          |
| Accrued expenses  | 2,458          | 3,884          |
| Deferred income   | 107,837        | 163,030        |
|   | <u>110,295</u> | <u>172,247</u> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND**

|                    | Fixed Assets<br>- Charity use<br>£ | Current<br>Assets<br>£ | Current<br>Liabilities<br>£ | Transfers<br>between Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Total Funds</b> |                                    |                        |                             |                                 |           |           |
| Unrestricted funds | -                                  | 77,159                 | -                           | -                               | 77,159    | 52,135    |
| Restricted funds   | -                                  | 127,127                | (110,295)                   | -                               | 16,832    | 30,157    |
|                    | -                                  | 204,286                | (110,295)                   | -                               | 93,991    | 82,292    |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

| <b>16. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b> | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
| Balance at 1st April 2023            | 52,135        | 42,114        |
| Incoming resources for the year      | 36,451        | 40,521        |
| Resources expended for the year      | (11,427)      | (30,500)      |
| Transfers between funds              | -             | -             |
|                                      | <hr/>         | <hr/>         |
| Balance at 31st March 2024           | <u>77,159</u> | <u>52,135</u> |
| <br>                                 |               |               |
| <b>17. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>   | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>   |
|                                      | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
| Balance at 1st April 2023            | 30,157        | 19,922        |
| Incoming resources for the year      | 249,927       | 303,386       |
| Resources expended for the year      | (263,252)     | (293,151)     |
| Transfers between funds              | -             | -             |
|                                      | <hr/>         | <hr/>         |
| Balance at 31st March 2024           | <u>16,832</u> | <u>30,157</u> |

**18. RELATED PARTIES**

There were no related party transactions in the year that require disclosure.

**19. LEGAL STATUS**

The Women's Support Network is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Each member has agreed to contribute £1 in the event of a compulsory winding up.

The Women's Support Network is a recognised Charity within the definition of Section 360(3) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue.

**20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

Since incorporation the charity has received various revenue and capital grants. A contingent liability exists to repay these grants should the conditions under which they are awarded are not achieved.

**21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the year end.

**The Women's Support Network**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102763

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# Annual report

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

( A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 057580**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 102763**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
**547 FALLS ROAD**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT11 9AB**

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Directors</b>   | Tanya Hughes<br>Susan McCrory<br>Renee Crawford<br>Eleanor Jordan (Resigned 14/08/2024)<br>Eileen Gay Sherry-Bingham<br>Isobel Loughran (Resigned 11/09/2023)<br>Lisa Maclean (Appointed 11/09/2023) |
| <b>Company Secretary</b>   | Renee Crawford   |
| <b>Operational Director</b>  | Karen Sweeney  |
| <b>Registered Office</b>   | 109-113 Royal Avenue<br>Belfast<br>County Antrim<br>BT1 1FF  |
| <b>Auditors</b>  | O'Hara Shearer<br>Chartered Accountants<br>& Statutory Auditors<br>547 Falls Road<br>Belfast, BT11 9AB   |
| <b>Bankers</b>   | AIB NI<br>11/15 Donegall Square North<br>Belfast<br>BT1 5GB  |
| <b>Company Registration Number</b>                                 | NI 057580  |
| <b>Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number</b> | NIC 102763   |
| <b>HM Revenue &amp; Customs Charity Registration Number</b>        | XR 40415   |
| <b>Registered Charity Name</b>                                     | The Women's Support Network  |

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their Trustees' Report with the audited Financial Statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' 2015 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in July 2014, effective 01 January 2015 in preparing the trustees' report and financial statements of the charitable company, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for company and charity law purposes.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration number**  
NIC102763

**Company Registration number**  
NI057580 (Northern Ireland)

**HMRC Charity Registration number**  
XR40415

**Principal and Registered office**  
Cathedral Quarter Managed Workspace, 109-113 Royal Avenue, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT1 1FF

**Trustees**

The trustees who served the charitable company during the year and up to the date of approval were as follows:

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Tanya Hughes       | Chairperson          |
| Susan McCrory      |                      |
| Renee Crawford     |                      |
| Eleanor Jordan     |                      |
| Gay Sherry-Bingham | Treasurer            |
| Isobel Loughran    | (resigned 11/09/23)  |
| Lisa Maclean       | (appointed 11/09/23) |

**Secretary**  
Renee Crawford

**Operational Director**  
Karen Sweeney

**Auditor**  
O'Hara Shearer  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
547 Falls Road  
Belfast  
BT11 9AB

**Bankers**  
AIB, 11-15 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GB

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS continued**

**Insurance Brokers**

Willis Insurance & Risk Management  
Newsletter Building  
55-59 Donegall Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2FH

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**WSN MISSION**

To advance women's equality and rights by working to influence policy, practice and provision while also regionally supporting and representing the interests, needs and perspectives of women, particularly those in poverty and in disadvantaged areas.

**WSN VISION**

To create a just and peaceful society devoid of gender discrimination, gender-based violence and women's rights violations, in which women from all backgrounds and communities can experience full equality of opportunity and participation across all spheres of their everyday lives.

The Women's Support Network (WSN) is an umbrella organisation providing support to the community-based women's sector e.g. women's centres, groups, projects and organisations. WSN provides information, support, resources, research and training to support these organisations in the delivery of services that increase opportunities for women that work towards the relief of poverty, address social exclusion, advance education and safeguard health for women in Northern Ireland, particularly in areas of disadvantage. WSN actively campaigns, lobbies, carries out research and supports funding bids on key issues affecting women, namely health, poverty, childcare and education. WSN collates the views of women to inform policy development and articulate concerns and areas of need to funders, government departments, statutory organisations and elected representatives highlighting local key issues that impact directly on women in identified areas.

WSN advocates for requisite resources to facilitate the sustainability and expansion of women-only, women-led spaces and provision underpinned by free childcare. WSN facilitates the sharing of information, good practice and, where possible, resources between women's centres, groups and organisations, developing an online presence to accommodate same. WSN supports women's centres, groups and organisations to work together collectively and strategically, not only for the benefit of women in disadvantaged areas but also to promote women's equality and rights across Northern Ireland and beyond. WSN acts as a first point of contact that signposts women in disadvantaged and rural communities to services, advice and information relevant to their particular needs and interests.

WSN is a partner in the Women's Regional Consortium. The Consortium is funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Through the Regional Infrastructure and Support Programme (RISP), the Consortium provides thematic regional support for women's sector organisations across Northern Ireland, which meet the needs of marginalised and isolated women in disadvantaged and rural areas.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES continued**

The Consortium is made up of seven established women's organisations: WSN, Training for Women Network (TWN), Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN), Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA), Foyle Women's Information Network (FWIN), Women's TEC and The Women's Centre Derry. These organisations work in partnership to provide specialist support, advice, information and training on a range of topics to increase capacity, skills, physical resources and structures to benefit women in Northern Ireland. The Consortium also operates as the link and point of contact between government and the sector to meet the needs of recommendations resulting from consultations, surveys and policy developments that impact on women. WSN is responsible for the co-ordination of policy and research within the Consortium.

WSN has responsibility for the distribution of funding and collective monitoring of activities delivered through Belfast Health & Social Care Trust to the five women's centres in the Belfast catchment area. This funding provides support for children and their families/carers, addressing specific needs in terms of personal development, training, improved physical and mental health outcomes, reduced stress and anxiety, advocacy, efficacy including sponsored and referred childcare. Throughout the year the women's centres provided support and advocacy for women and families impacted by isolation, disadvantage and the continuing 'Cost of Living' crisis across each of their catchment areas and beyond.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

In this financial year, WSN has continued to engage in a range of activities to raise the profile of women's organisations and women's issues and to support women's organisations in the delivery of front-line services for women in disadvantaged and rural areas. WSN continued to support marginalised women and groups to ensure that their voices were heard and views taken and relayed to decision-makers throughout the year on various issues that impact women and the organisations supporting them including the impact of the 'cost of living crisis'. We have continued to lobby and campaign on behalf of individual women, community-based women's centres, groups and organisations. Regular newsletters, e-zines and funding bites support organisations through the provision of information, funding opportunities, policy updates and training opportunities.

WSN have continued to host regular on-line and in-person women's centres' managers' meetings to facilitate networking, sharing of good practise in their continued support for women in each of their perspective communities across Northern Ireland. These meetings are an opportunity for the centre managers to discuss key issues that impact the sector and delivery of support services for women and children and how these can best be addressed and adapted including the provision of childcare. The key issues of concern for the centres in this year continued to be pressures associated with the continuing rise in the 'cost of living' and the pressure this was putting on staff and budgets as operating costs continued to rise as did the demand for their services, such as delivery of training and education, specialist advice, support and advocacy.

Over this reporting period WSN continued periodically to meet with other members of the 'Co-design' working groups that input into the development of both the Gender Equality and Anti- Poverty Social Strategies to ensure that these strategies would be as advanced as soon as possible when the Assembly returned. The Assembly did return in January 2024, however the incoming Minister has yet to make recommendation on when the draft strategies will be published for consultation.

As a member of the Women's Regional Consortium, WSN is responsible for co-ordination of policy and research on issues that impact on women in disadvantaged and rural areas. Focus groups, consultation events, questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were undertaken to garner the views of women in these areas to inform the policy responses and research ensuring that local women were afforded an opportunity to have their views put forward.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

In this year WSN made the following consultation responses and submissions that directly impact women in Northern Ireland:

- 02/05/23 – Department of Justice (DoJ) and Department of Health (DoH) - Response to Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy Consultation
- 07/06/23 – Dept. For Communities (DfC) - Budget 2023-2024 Equality Impact Assessment
- 07/06/23 – The Executive Office (TEO) – Budget 2023-2024 Equality Impact Assessment
- 12/06/23 – Department for Infrastructure (DfI) - Budget 2023-2024 Equality Impact Assessment
- 22/06/23 – Dept. of Health (DoH) - Budget 2023-2024 Equality Impact Assessment
- 01/08/23 – Dept. for Economy (DfE) - Budget 2023-2024 Equality Impact Assessment
- 11/08/23 – Dept. of Education (DE) - Budget 2023-2024 Equality Impact Assessment
- 11/08/23 – Dept. For Communities (DfC) Response to Changes to Discretionary Support consultation – EQIA Equality Impact Assessment
- 24/08/23 – Department for Infrastructure (DfI) – Consultation Response on free and discounted fares on public transport (concessionary fares).
- 18/09/23 – The Executive Office (TEO) - Consultation Response to Free Period Products
- 03/10/23 – The Executive Office (TEO) - Consultation Response to Ending Violence Against Women & Girls Strategic Framework and Foundation Action Plan
- 23/11/23 – Dept. of Education (DE) - Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Consultation Response
- 09/01/24 – Dept. of Health (DOH) - Consultation on the "Re-introduction of Hospital Parking Charges" as a measure to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue
- 17/01/24 – Department of Finance (DOF) - Financial Context for Revenue Raising Consultation Response
- 09/02/24 – Dept. For Communities (DfC) - Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure and Support Policy Framework
- 12/02/24 – Department of Finance (DOF) - Domestic Rating Measures Consultation Response
- 08/03/24 – Dept. for Infrastructure (DfI) - Response to Water and sewerage charges – options for revenue raising

**Additional Submissions:**

- 12/05/23 – Submission to Work & Pensions Committee UK Inquiry into Benefit Levels in the UK
- 12/09/23 – ‘Costs of Education’- Summary from Cost-of-Living research sent to Education Committee MLAs and APG on Parental Participation in Education members
- 14/09/23 – ‘Unpaid Care’- Summary from Cost-of-Living research sent to APG on Carers members
- 14/06/23 – ‘Mental Health’- Summary from Cost-of-Living research sent to APG on Mental Health members and Health Committee MLAs
- 18/09/23 – ‘Women’s Coping Behaviours’- Summary from Cost-of-Living research sent to APG on UNSCR 1325 members
- 19/09/23 – ‘Debt & Savings’- Summary from Cost-of-Living research sent to Communities Committee MLAs
- 21/09/23 – ‘What Should Politicians Do’- Summary from Cost-of-Living research sent to all MLAs

In the latter half of last year in partnership with Ulster University Law Clinic research began on ‘Women’s Experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis in N. Ireland’. . The overall aim of this research project was to explore the experiences of women living and working in disadvantaged and rural areas of Northern Ireland and the impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis was having on their lives. How it was impacting their household bills, their debts and savings, their caring responsibilities, their physical/mental health, their children, their ability to take part in social activities and the coping mechanisms they have had to use as result of the Cost-of-Living Crisis. At the launch in Ulster University on 20<sup>th</sup> June a summary of the main points in the research were outlined as well as the personal insights from women who took part in the research relaying the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on their lives and how it affected them, their children and families.

Following the findings of the research five key priority areas were identified for action and these were:

- **Key Priority 1** – Women’s Centres provide trusted, local spaces for women to access help and support to address financial vulnerability and poverty in ways that work best for them. We recommend that Government should provide a long-term sustainable funding model which recognises the significant return on investment that Women’s Centres provide. This would enable them to continue and develop the vital services they provide.
- **Key Priority 2** – The Holiday Hunger Scheme needs to be urgently reinstated to mitigate against food insecurity for women and children during the upcoming summer holiday period. The Healthy Start Scheme needs to be increased in line with inflation and those who are entitled should be automatically enrolled onto the scheme.
- **Key Priority 3** – The Cost-of-Living Crisis has compounded the existing crisis in mental health, as women lose opportunities for social connection and peer support due to a lack of money. There is an urgent need to invest in services to prevent long term mental illness and loss of life.
- **Key Priority 4** – The School Uniform Grant needs to be increased to reflect the average cost of a school uniform (including PE kit) which would move it closer in line with other countries in the UK. The grant should also include an allowance for school shoes.
- **Key Priority 5** – We support the recommendations from the Independent Review of Discretionary Support and want to see increased investment in this vital fund to address rising levels of financial hardship and the impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

There was extensive media coverage at the launch with pieces on On Your Behalf, BBC Good Morning Ulster, U105 Frank Mitchell Show, BBC Newsline, UTV News, NVTV, Byline Times and features in Belfast Live, the Belfast Telegraph and the Irish News.

A second piece of research on ‘Women, Unpaid Care & Employment’ was undertaken in this year in collaboration with Carers NI. The research took evidence from women through focus groups and interviews which was combined with the results of survey data from Carers NI through their State of Caring survey and report.

The key findings of this research were as follows:

- Nearly 60% of unpaid carers are women
- Women have a 70% chance of providing care in their adult life compared to 60% for men and are more likely to care early in their life. By the time they are 46, half of all women have been a carer (11 years before men)
- More than one in six women in employment are providing unpaid care (approximately 71,000 women)
- Women are more likely to leave the labour market due to caring responsibilities
- One in three women have given up work to care (34%)
- One in four women have decreased their working hours due to a caring role (28%)
- One in six women have taken on a less qualified job or turned down a promotion to fit around caring responsibilities (17%)
- Nearly three quarters (73%) have lost out on between £500 and over £1500 per month in wages because of challenges juggling work and care
- Women “juggle” their caring role and employment often at the detriment of their own career, finances and health and wellbeing
- The financial impact of stopping/reducing work to provide care is felt by women not only while providing the care but throughout their lives
- Carer’s Allowance in terms of its value and low earnings threshold is inadequate to support women to balance care and work

- Support for carers in work is often a lottery, dependent on individual employers and line managers
- Inadequacies in wider support services, including social services, healthcare, education and childcare are stopping women from working altogether or limiting the amount of work they can do
- For some women work can be positive in terms of mental health and wellbeing and gives them a break from their caring role
- Women feel reliable, accessible support services, a range of flexible working options, carer's leave and a change to the eligibility criteria for Carer's Allowance would help balance work and care
- A lack of support for carers in the workplace results in a loss of valuable and skilled individuals to the labour market

WSN has through the year continued to be a key contributory member of the Women's Policy Group Northern Ireland, a platform for women working in policy and advocacy roles in different organisations to share their work and speak with a collective voice on key issues. It is made up of women from trade unions, grassroots women's organisations, women's networks, feminist campaigning organisations, LGBT+ organisations, support service providers, human rights and equality organisations and individuals.

WSN continues to support the development and delivery of the Rape Crisis service for Northern Ireland which is funded by both the ROSAUK Justice and Equality Fund and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT). Another cohort of volunteer support workers commenced their trauma informed training with the training taking place both online and in-person. Ongoing recruitment and training of volunteers is essential to meet the ever increasing demand for the service and to replace support workers who leave or take a break. The Freephone Information and Support Line remains open four evening a week with the service contactable at any time via email or voicemail. Relationships and referral routes continued to grow through stakeholder organisations working with those impacted by rape and sexual assault such as ASSIST NI, the PSNI, the ROWAN (SARC), Nexus and Victim Support. Awareness raising and promotion of the service is ongoing through social media platforms and in-person events.

WSN is part of a campaign, 'Guarantee our Essentials' from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Trussell Trust calling for an Essentials Guarantee within Universal Credit. The Essentials Guarantee would embed in the social security system a principle that at a minimum Universal Credit should protect people from

WSN continues to be on the working group for the Northern Ireland Child Payment Coalition. The introduction of a NI Child Payment was a recommendation by the Gender Equality and Anti-Poverty Expert Panels and in the Feminist Recovery Plan.

WSN is a member of the Coalition of Carers, made up of a number of organisations all working to highlight the key issues that carers are facing across Northern Ireland.

WSN remains on the working group of the Cliff Edge Coalition working to strengthen the existing mitigations package for Northern Ireland. Cliff Edge relaunched their key asks which are as follows:

- Resolving the five week wait in Universal Credit
- Mitigating the two-child limit
- Providing support to private renters affected by the Local Housing Allowance

WSN continued its partnership with the Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA) as lead partner, Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) and Reclaim the Agenda (RTA) for the Raise Your Voice Project and campaign (RYV). This project informs and raises awareness of all forms and degrees of sexual harassment, working collectively to create true cultural change in order to tackle the root causes of these behaviours and empower people to make real society change. In this year new workshops covering 'online harassment', 'ally ship' and 'by-stander intervention' were delivered both in person and online. The project continues to strengthen its presence through social media platforms, poster campaign, e-zines and website content and resources.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

WSN continue to be a strategic partner in the 'Women's Spaces Project' funded through Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Reconciliation Fund, led by Women's Platform (formally NIWEP) and in partnership with NIRWN and WRDA who have responsibility for key delivery areas. The project is designed to give women the skills and capacity to engage in public life and strengthen women's voices in peace-building and decision making. The project will deliver a series of workshops as well as develop a 'toolkit' on women, peace and security that will inform and enhance further training and workshops through a collective of programmes, tools and information.

In this year, WSN in partnership with WRDA as lead, NIRWN and Reclaim the Agenda began delivery of the 'Women Breaking Barriers Project' funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the UK Levelling Up initiative under the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing which is a follow-up to the UKCRF Women Breaking Barriers project. The overarching UKSPF intervention for Northern Ireland is; 'Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills'. This two year project aims to deliver specific tailored support to 600 economically inactive women across urban and rural settings. WSN are responsible for the urban delivery working in partnership with seven women's centres and other urban groups while NIRWN has responsibility for rural delivery.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Financial Position**

The accounts on pages 17-26 deal with all the income and expenditure of the charitable company, as well as its financial position at the year end.

Principal funding sources supporting key objectives of the charitable company and funding both charitable activity and support costs are shown at notes 1 – 6 (pages; 20-21).

The results for the year show an unrestricted surplus of £25,024 (2023: 10,021) and a restricted deficit of £13,325 (2023: Surplus £10,235) producing an overall surplus of £11,699 (2023: £20,256).

At the year-end unrestricted reserves were £77,159 (2023: £52,135) and restricted reserves £16,832 (2023: £30,157).

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**Reserves policy**

In line with good practice The Women's Support Network aims to build towards and retain a level of unrestricted reserves that match the needs of the organisation that equate to six months operational costs, both at the current time and in the future to meet statutory obligations for both staff and suppliers in these times of funding uncertainty.

These include:

- Statutory Redundancy
- Salaries and Pensions
- Organisational Running Costs

Reserves will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Finance and Personnel Trustee sub-group and an overview presented by the Operational Director at Trustee Board meetings to ensure the progress towards target level.

**Risk management**

The Board have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, in particular those related to its operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to those major risks.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 December 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

**Organisational structure**

The Women's Support Network is overseen by a Board of Directors which meets at least six times a year. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of activities are carried out by a staff team led by the Director who reports regularly to the Board.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Directors**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as the Board. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Board are elected from the membership to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Directors have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on the public benefit requirement issued under the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Women's Support Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

**AUDITORS**

As per procurement procedures this will be put out to tender and agreed at the next AGM.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Gay Sherry-Bingham - Trustee

**The Women's Support Network**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102763

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# Annual return

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 057580**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 102763**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
**547 FALLS ROAD**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT11 9AB**

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Women's Support Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

**Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

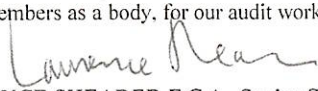
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
**LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor**  
**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**  
**AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
547 Falls Road  
Belfast  
BT11 9AB

**Dated:** 19th December 2024

**The Women's Support Network**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102763

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# Accounts

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

( A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 057580**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 102763**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
**547 FALLS ROAD**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT11 9AB**

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Directors</b>   | Tanya Hughes<br>Susan McCrory<br>Renee Crawford<br>Eleanor Jordan<br>Eileen Gay Sherry-Bingham<br>Isobel Loughran |
| <b>Secretary</b>   | Renee Crawford  |
| <b>Operational Director</b>  | Karen Sweeney   |
| <b>Registered Office</b>   | 109-113 Royal Avenue<br>Belfast<br>County Antrim<br>BT1 1FF   |
| <b>Auditors</b>  | O'Hara Shearer<br>Chartered Accountants<br>& Statutory Auditors<br>547 Falls Road<br>Belfast, BT11 9AB            |
| <b>Bankers</b>   | AIB NI<br>11/15 Donegall Square North<br>Belfast<br>BT1 5GB   |
| <b>Company Registration Number</b>                                 | NI 057580   |
| <b>Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number</b> | NIC 102763  |
| <b>HM Revenue &amp; Customs Charity Registration Number</b>        | XR 40415  |
| <b>Registered Charity Name</b>                                     | The Women's Support Network   |

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their Trustees' Report with the audited Financial Statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' 2015 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in July 2014, effective 1 January 2015 in preparing the trustees' report and financial statements of the charitable company, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for company and charity law purposes.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration number**  
NIC102763

**Company Registration number**  
NI057580 (Northern Ireland)

**HMRC Charity Registration number**  
XR40415

**Principal and Registered office**  
Cathedral Quarter Managed Workspace, 109-113 Royal Avenue, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT1 1FF

**Trustees**

The trustees who served the charitable company during the year and up to the date of approval were as follows:

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Tanya Hughes       | Chairperson |
| Susan McCrory      |             |
| Renee Crawford     |             |
| Eleanor Jordan     |             |
| Gay Sherry-Bingham | Treasurer   |
| Isobel Loughran    |             |

**Secretary**

Renee Crawford

**Operational Director**

Karen Sweeney

**Auditor**

O'Hara Shearer  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
547 Falls Road  
Belfast  
BT11 9AB

**Bankers**

AIB, 11-15 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GB

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS continued**

**Insurance Brokers**

Willis Insurance & Risk Management  
Newsletter Building  
55-59 Donegall Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2FH

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**WSN MISSION**

To advance women's equality and rights by working to influence policy, practice and provision while also regionally supporting and representing the interests, needs and perspectives of women, particularly those in poverty and in disadvantaged areas.

**WSN VISION**

To create a just and peaceful society devoid of gender discrimination, gender-based violence and women's rights violations, in which women from all backgrounds and communities can experience full equality of opportunity and participation across all spheres of their everyday lives.

The Women's Support Network (WSN) is an umbrella organisation providing support to the community-based women's sector e.g. women's centres, groups, projects and organisations. WSN provides information, support, resources, research and training to support these organisations in the delivery of services that increase opportunities for women that work towards the relief of poverty, address social exclusion, advance education and safeguard health for women in Northern Ireland, particularly in areas of disadvantage. WSN actively campaigns, lobbies, carries out research and supports funding bids on key issues affecting women, namely health, poverty, childcare and education. WSN collates the views of women to inform policy development and articulate concerns and areas of need to funders, government departments, statutory organisations and elected representatives highlighting local key issues that impact directly on women in identified areas.

WSN advocates for requisite resources to facilitate the sustainability and expansion of women-only, women-led spaces and provision underpinned by free childcare. WSN facilitates the sharing of information, good practice and, where possible, resources between women's centres, groups and organisations, developing an online presence to accommodate same. WSN supports women's centres, groups and organisations to work together collectively and strategically, not only for the benefit of women in disadvantaged areas but also to promote women's equality and rights across Northern Ireland and beyond. WSN acts as a first point of contact that signposts women in disadvantaged and rural communities to services, advice and information relevant to their particular needs and interests.

WSN is a partner in the Women's Regional Consortium. The Consortium is funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Through the Regional Infrastructure and Support Programme (RISP), the Consortium provides thematic regional support for women's sector organisations across Northern Ireland, which meet the needs of marginalised and isolated women in disadvantaged and rural areas.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES continued**

The Consortium is made up of seven established women's organisations: WSN, Training for Women Network (TWN), Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN), Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA), Foyle Women's Information Network (FWIN), Women's TEC and The Women's Centre Derry. These organisations work in partnership to provide specialist support, advice, information and training on a range of topics to increase capacity, skills, physical resources and structures to benefit women in Northern Ireland. The Consortium also operates as the link and point of contact between government and the sector to meet the needs of recommendations resulting from consultations, surveys and policy developments that impact on women. WSN is responsible for the co-ordination of policy and research within the Consortium.

WSN has responsibility for the distribution of funding and collective monitoring of activities delivered through Belfast Health & Social Care Trust to the five women's centres in the Belfast catchment area. This funding provides support for children and their families/carers, addressing specific needs in terms of personal development, training, improved physical and mental health outcomes, reduced stress and anxiety, advocacy, efficacy including sponsored and referred childcare. Throughout the year the women's centres provided support and advocacy for women and families impacted by isolation and disadvantaged across the catchment area including those still experiencing residual impact from the Covid-19 pandemic.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Over the past twelve months, WSN has continued to engage in a range of activities to raise the profile of women's organisations and women's issues and to support women's organisations in the delivery of front-line services for women in disadvantaged and rural areas. WSN continued to support marginalised women and groups to ensure that their voices were heard and views taken and relayed to decision-makers throughout the year on various issues that impact women and the organisations supporting them including the impact of the 'cost of living crisis'. We have continued to lobby and campaign on behalf of individual women, community-based women's centres, groups and organisations. Regular newsletters, e-zines and funding bites support organisations through the provision of information, funding, policy updates and training opportunities.

WSN have continued to host regular on-line and in-person women's centres' managers' meetings to facilitate networking, sharing of good practise in their continued support for women in each of their perspective communities across Northern Ireland. These meetings are an opportunity for the centre managers to discuss key issues that impact the sector and delivery of support services for women and children and how these can best be addressed and adapted including the provision of childcare. The key issues of concern for the centres in this year continued to be pressures associated with the continuing rise in the 'cost of living' and the pressure this was putting on staff and budgets as operating costs continued to rise as did the demand for their services, such as delivery of training and education, specialist advice, support and advocacy.

Over this period WSN continued as a member of the 'Co-design' working groups for both the Gender Equality and Anti-Poverty Social Strategies to ensure that these documents would be as advanced as possible when the Assembly returned and Ministers were reinstated.

As a member of the Women's Regional Consortium, WSN is responsible for co-ordination of policy and research on issues that impact on women in disadvantaged and rural areas. Focus groups, consultation events, questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were undertaken to garner the views of women in these areas to inform the responses/research and ensure that local women were afforded an opportunity to have their views put forward.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

In February 2022, the then 'First Minister' resigned which resulted in the suspension of the Northern Ireland Executive, however Departmental Ministers remained in place as 'caretakers' until an Assembly election was called for 05 May 2022. Following the election, the Executive failed to nominate/agree a 'Speaker' which resulted in the Assembly unable to sit, which is how it continued for the remainder of this financial year. This resulted in a stalling of all proposed legislation and draft strategies.

Over the year WSN made seven responses to consultations, reviews and calls for evidence that directly impact women in Northern Ireland. The departmental/governmental/committee policy responses submitted in this year were as follows:

- 16/06/22 - Call for evidence on 'Cost of Living': Work and Pensions Committee
- 30/06/22 - Adult Social Care consultation: Department of Health (DoH)
- 26/10/22 – '10X Performance Management Framework' consultation: Department for the Economy (DfE)
- 21/11/22 - CFNI/SCI Consultation of Philanthropic Funding in NI
- 19/12/22 – Miscarriage Leave Consultation: Department for the Economy(DfE)
- 09/01/23 – Inadequacy of Benefits to the APPG on Poverty (Westminster)
- 23/01/23 – Call for Evidence on a Debt Respite Scheme for Northern Ireland: Department for Communities (DfC)

The 'Women Living With Debt' research completed and published in this financial year explored the experiences of women living and working in disadvantaged and rural areas of Northern Ireland on why they need to borrow, the types of credit they use, the impact of external factors such as the Covid 19 pandemic, changes to social security policy and low pay as well as the personal impacts of living with debt.

The paper takes a comprehensive look at the literature and research on debt, debt levels in Northern Ireland the links between debt and mental health, debt and social security benefits and the gendered nature of debt. The research provides a summary of the focus group research, questionnaires and individual interviews with local women. It detailed the amount and type of debt the women had, what external factors impact on their debts and the impact of debt on their lives and that of their children.

The main findings of the research were:

- 51% of the women had used high-cost credit with 6% borrowing through loan sharks including paramilitaries.
- 32% reported borrowing from friends/family.
- 19% had borrowed through Discretionary Support with many reporting issues with the application process/eligibility.
- 51% chose the lender because they knew they would get the money with only 2% choosing the lender because of the total cost of the credit.
- 60% of the women were finding it difficult to meet their debt repayments or missing repayments
- 35% reported using a foodbank as a result of debts/pressure to make ends meet
- 60% reported debt had been impacted by rising energy bills
- 60% reported debt had been impacted by rising food bills
- 72% felt negatively impacted by being in debt
- 47% felt their children were negatively impacted by their debts

**The Women's Support Network**  
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**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

The research highlights the difficulty many women face living on a low income through social security benefits and in low paid work. The paper makes a number of recommendations for change including the need to invest in the social security system to ensure it provides sufficient income to help people live dignified, healthy lives without resorting to debt for the essentials. It also calls for the need for low or no cost borrowing to help those on the lowest incomes meet the costs of essential items.

High-cost credit products are often used by those on the lowest incomes in order to access credit. Many of these borrowers have limited options to access cheaper forms of credit because of their low income. This forces them to use these high interest products to buy essential goods and larger purchases that they otherwise could not afford. Some of the most vulnerable borrowers are forced into using illegal lending or loan sharking because of a more urgent need for money. In Northern Ireland this type of lending is often linked to paramilitary groups bringing with it even greater levels of fear and secrecy.

Following completion, circulation and promotion of the 'Women Living with Debt' research, WSN was invited to make a number of presentations, attend meetings and give interviews on the findings of the research. These included; meetings with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Shadow Secretary of State, MLAs and MPs from all five main political parties, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Anti-Poverty Network and Human Rights Consortium. The research attracted media attention resulting in interviews and articles on television, radio and print including; UTV's 'A View from Stormont', BBC's Good Morning Ulster, Talkback, Radio Foyle, The Irish News, The Newsletter, The Detail and View Digital. Conference presentations included NIPSA Health & Safety Conference, Women's Budget Group 4-Nations Conference, Funders Forum Annual Conference, also NIWEP Webinar, APG on 1325 - Women Peace and Security and a Human Rights Consortium event.

In the latter half of this year in partnership with Ulster University research began on 'Women's Experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis in N. Ireland'. The cumulative results of the Cost-of-Living Crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and a decade of welfare reform and austerity has left women to become the shock absorbers of poverty in their homes - forced to make torturous decisions around feeding themselves and their families, heating their homes and trying to live dignified, healthy lives. For those in most need there are significant concerns around rising levels of debt, poverty and destitution. This situation led us to carry out research with low income women on their experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and its impact on their lives and families. The research's aim is to paint an accurate picture of women's lives which are increasingly occupied with hunger, cold, debt, anxiety and concerns. Focus groups were held across Northern Ireland from Jan –Mar 2023 which resulted in two hundred and fifty women participating in the research.

WSN is a regular attendee and contributory member of the Women's Policy Group Northern Ireland, a platform for women working in policy and advocacy roles in different organisations to share their work and speak with a collective voice on key issues. It is made up of women from trade unions, grassroots women's organisations, women's networks, feminist campaigning organisations, LGBT+ organisations, support service providers, human rights and equality organisations and individuals.

WSN continues to support the development and delivery of the Rape Crisis service for Northern Ireland which is funded by both the ROSAUK Justice and Equality Fund and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT). Another cohort of volunteer support workers completed training and another group recruited, the training taking place both online and in-person. Ongoing recruitment and training is essential to meet the ever increasing demand for the service and to replace support workers who leave or take a break. The Freephone Information and Support Line continued opening four evening with the service contactable at any time via email or voicemail. Relationships and referral routes continued to grow through stakeholder organisations working with those impacted by rape and sexual assault such as ASSIST NI, the PSNI, the ROWAN (SARC), Nexus and Victim Support. Awareness raising and promotion of the service through social media platforms and in-person was ongoing, speaking at conferences, community events as well as providing information stalls.

**The Women's Support Network**  
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**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

As a member of the 'The Cliff Edge Coalition NI' working group WSN continued to lobby to strengthen the welfare mitigations package in Northern Ireland. 'The Cliff Edge Coalition NI' is a group of over 100 organisations from across Northern Ireland who came together to highlight their shared concerns about the potential end of the welfare reform mitigations. The focus of Cliff Edge work in this year has been on strengthening the mitigations package with the introduction of new mitigations around the two-child limit, the Universal Credit five-week wait and increased protections for those in the private rented sector. Cliff Edge welcomed the publication of the delayed Welfare Mitigation Review and its strong recommendations which mirrored many of the strengthening and additional asks of the Cliff Edge Coalition.

WSN also attended meetings of 'Keep the Lifeline' to discuss ways in which changes can be made to the social security system to help people through the 'Cost of Living Crisis'. This resulted in WSN attending a briefing to discuss a new joint campaign between the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Trussell Trust calling for reform of Universal Credit.

WSN has continued to be an active member of the 'Childcare for All' campaign and attends the All Party Working Group (APWG) on Early Education and Childcare, a successful ask of the campaign. The campaign continues to call for universal, child-centred affordable, accessible childcare that meets the needs of children, families, childcare workers and providers. WSN ensures that community based childcare provision delivered through local women's centres and groups is represented in including those places funded through the Women's Centres' Childcare Fund (WCCF). Throughout the year WSN also represented the centres and community based childcare model on the Early Learning and Childcare Stakeholder Engagement Forum for the development of an 'Early Learning and Childcare Strategy' for Northern Ireland.

In this year WSN joined the working group of a new Northern Ireland campaign for the introduction of a Northern Ireland Child Payment. This was a recommendation by the Gender Equality and Anti-Poverty Expert Panels and reiterated in the Feminist Recovery Plan. The Coalition prepared a briefing document on a potential NI Child Payment gathering evidence from academics, the Scottish model and advice organisations on what format a Child Payment might take and what way it would work best here. The working group members met with political parties and Departmental officials to discuss how it could work in practice and be costed for. Work is ongoing on research into public attitudes to child poverty which will be used to frame campaigning work around a Child Payment for Northern Ireland.

WSN continued its partnership with the Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA) as lead partner, Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) and Reclaim the Agenda (RTA) for the Raise Your Voice Project and campaign (RYV). This project informs and raises awareness of all forms and degrees of sexual harassment, working collectively to create true cultural change in order to tackle the root causes of these behaviours and empower people to make real society change. Delivery of the initial two workshops continued both online and in-person throughout the year as well as lobbying and consultation responses. A further three workshops covering 'online harassment', 'ally ship' and 'by-stander intervention' have been developed for delivery in the next financial year. The project continues to strengthen its presence through social media platforms, poster campaign, e-zines and website content and resources.

WSN's partnership in the 'Labyrinth Project' funded through the UK Tampon Tax with SOLAS UK as lead partner continued until December 2022. This was a UK wide project and WSN were the delivery partner for Northern Ireland. As part of the project WSN produced a mapping report on areas of the women's sector across Northern Ireland, identifying gaps in specialist support and training opportunities to inform the delivery element of the project. The project incorporated trainers and legal experts who developed information guides and a suite of free online training for organisational staff, volunteers and centre/group users. The project also set up an online 'Centre of Excellence' on the SOLAS UK Website for sharing of best practise.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

WSN again partnered with WRDA and NIRWN for delivery of a UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) pilot project in preparation for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which was approved in November 2021. The project commenced in January 2022 with an end date of 30 June 2022 later extended to 30 September with wrap-up until 31 December 2022. The overall Fund's aims were to invest in skills, community and place, local business, and support people into employment. The 'Women Breaking Barriers' project proposed to deliver training and employment skills to 350 women across urban and rural areas of Northern Ireland, delivered through women's centres and groups. Delivery of this short pilot project resulted in the following:

- 551 women attended a programme delivered through the project
- A total of 668 places were funded
- There was a total of 61 programmes delivered across the timespan
- 276 women benefitted from one to one and group support sessions, including CV writing skills, benefits calculator support, employability skills and job interview preparation.
- 61% of courses delivered were accredited with 325 women receiving an accreditation
- Out of these courses 52% were delivered in urban areas and 48% in rural locations
- Women in Film Event hosted – the first of its kind in NI with over 40 participants, reaching a global audience and with a range of speakers from the Film Industry

In June 2021 WSN agreed to be a strategic partner in an application to Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Reconciliation Fund, led by Women's Platform (formally NIWEP) and in partnership with NIRWN and WRDA who have responsibility for key delivery areas. The 'Women's Spaces' application was successful with delivery now ongoing from June 2022 until June 2025. The project is designed to give women the skills and capacity to engage in public life and strengthen women's voices in peace-building and decision making. The project will deliver a series of workshops as well as develop a 'toolkit' on women, peace and security that will inform and enhance further training and workshops through a collective of programmes, tools and information.

WSN in partnership with WRDA as lead, NIRWN and Reclaim the Agenda made an application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the UK Levelling Up initiative under the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing and as a follow-up to the UKCRF Women Breaking Barriers project. The overarching UKSPF intervention for Northern Ireland is; 'Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills'. The application was submitted at the end of January 2023 and the partnership learned of its success on 31 March 2023. The two year project aims to deliver specific tailored support to 600 economically inactive women across urban and rural settings. WSN are responsible for the urban delivery working in partnership with seven women's centres and other urban groups while NIRWN will be responsible for rural delivery.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial Position**

The accounts on pages 17-19 deal with all the income and expenditure of the charitable company, as well as its financial position at the year end.

Principal funding sources supporting key objectives of the charitable company and funding both charitable activity and support costs are shown at notes 1 – 6 (pages; 20-21).

The results for the year show an unrestricted surplus of £10,021 (2022: 10,660) and a restricted surplus of £10,235 (2022: £6,252) producing an overall surplus of £20,256 (2022: £16,650).

At the year-end unrestricted reserves were £52,135 (2022: £42,114) and restricted reserves £30,157 (2022: £19,992).

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**Reserves policy**

In line with good practice The Women's Support Network aims to build and retain a level of unrestricted reserves that match the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the future to meet statutory obligations for both staff and suppliers in these times of funding uncertainty.

These include:

- Statutory Redundancy
- Salaries and Pensions
- Organisational Running Costs

Reserves will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Finance and Personnel Trustee sub-group and an overview presented by the Operational Director at Trustee Board meetings to ensure the progress towards target level.

**Risk management**

The Board have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, in particular those related to its operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to those major risks.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 December 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

**Organisational structure**

The Women's Support Network is overseen by a Board of Directors which meets at least six times a year. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of activities are carried out by a staff team led by the Director who reports regularly to the Board.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Directors**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as the Board. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Board are elected from the membership to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Directors have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on the public benefit requirement issued under the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Women's Support Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

**AUDITORS**

As per procurement procedures this will be put out to tender and agreed at the next AGM.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22nd January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Gay Sherry-Bingham - Trustee

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Women's Support Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

**Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

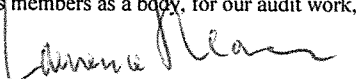
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor**  
**O'HARA SHEARER**

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**  
**AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**

547 Falls Road

Belfast

BT11 9AB

**Dated:** 22nd January 2024

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting Convention and Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard which applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Going Concern**

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees' have a reasonable expectation that the charity 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 financial statements.

**Income Recognition**

Income is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Interest Receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability in incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, and non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

**Fixed Assets**

All tangible fixed assets are recorded at cost.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Fixtures and fittings | 25% Straight line |
| Equipment             | 25% Straight line |

**Repairs and Renewals**

All repairs and renewals are written off as incurred

**Pension Costs: defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

**Debtors and Prepayments**

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

**Creditors and Provisions**

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

**Financial Instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**Foreign Currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net movement in funds.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Fund Accounting**

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future projects or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

**Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

**Reserves Policy**

In line with good practice The Women's Support Network aims to build and retain a level of unrestricted reserves that match the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the future to meet statutory obligations for both staff and suppliers in these times of funding uncertainty. These include:

- Statutory Redundancy;
- Salaries and Pensions; and
- Organisational Running Costs

Reserves will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Finance and Personnel Trustee sub-group and an overview presented by the Operational Director at Trustee Board meetings to ensure the progress towards target level.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

|                                      | NOTES | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Endowment<br>Funds<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2023<br>£ | TOTAL<br>2022<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>   |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| Donations and legacies               | 1     | 1,950                      | 1,469                    | -                       | 3,419              | 7,672              |
| Income from investments              | 2     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Income from charitable activities    | 3     | 38,571                     | 301,916                  | -                       | 340,488            | 292,117            |
| Income from other trading activities | 4     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>   |       | <b>40,521</b>              | <b>303,386</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>343,907</b>     | <b>299,789</b>     |
| <b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>               |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| Expenditure on raising funds         | 5     | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 6     | 30,501                     | 293,150                  | -                       | 323,651            | 282,877            |
| Other expenditure                    |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments    |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>      |       | <b>30,501</b>              | <b>293,150</b>           | <b>-</b>                | <b>323,651</b>     | <b>282,877</b>     |
| <b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>      |       | <b>10,021</b>              | <b>10,235</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>20,256</b>      | <b>16,912</b>      |
| Transfers between funds              |       | -                          | -                        | -                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>         |       | <b>10,021</b>              | <b>10,235</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>20,256</b>      | <b>16,912</b>      |
| <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>       |       |                            |                          |                         |                    |                    |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>   |       | <b>42,114</b>              | <b>19,922</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>62,036</b>      | <b>45,124</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>   |       | <b>52,135</b>              | <b>30,157</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>82,292</b>      | <b>62,036</b>      |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a  
Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses has not been prepared

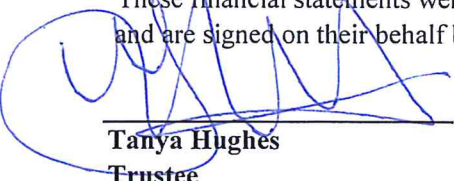
All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities

The accompanying accounting policies and the notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023**

|  | NOTES    | 2023<br>£      | 2022<br>£      |
|--|----------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>  |          |                |                |
| Tangible assets  | 9        | -              | -              |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |          |                |                |
| Debtors and prepayments  | 12       | 4,022          | 3,726          |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                       | 11       | 250,517        | 305,602        |
|  |          | <u>254,539</u> | <u>309,328</u> |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>          | 13       | (172,247)      | (247,292)      |
|  |          | <u>82,292</u>  | <u>62,036</u>  |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>                        |          | 82,292         | 62,036         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT ASSETS/( LIABILITIES )</b>        |          | 82,292         | 62,036         |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b> |          | -              | -              |
|  |          | <u>82,292</u>  | <u>62,036</u>  |
| <b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>                                |          | <u>82,292</u>  | <u>62,036</u>  |
| <b>FUNDS:</b>  |          |                |                |
| <b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>   |          |                |                |
|  |          | -              | -              |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>                               | 14/15/16 | 52,135         | 42,114         |
| <b>RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>                                 | 14/15/17 | 30,157         | 19,922         |
|  |          | <u>82,292</u>  | <u>62,036</u>  |

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 22nd January 2024  
and are signed on their behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tanya Hughes  
Trustee

DATE 22nd January 2024

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

|   | NOTES | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                          |       |           |           |
| Cash generated from operations                                      | 10    | (55,085)  | 148,364   |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities                 |       | (55,085)  | 148,364   |
| <b>Investing activities</b>   |       |           |           |
| Investment income   |       | -         | -         |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets                                   |       | -         | -         |
| Prior year adjustment   | 19    | -         | -         |
| Acquisition of investments  |       | -         | -         |
| Disposal of investments   |       | -         | -         |
| Disposal of tangible fixed assets                                   |       | -         | -         |
| <b>Net cash from investing activities</b>                           |       | -         | -         |
| <b>Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b> |       | (55,085)  | 148,364   |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>       |       | 305,602   | 157,238   |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>             | 11    | 250,517   | 305,602   |
| Relating to:  |       |           |           |
| <b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>                                     | 11    | 250,517   | 305,602   |

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**1. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

|             | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£    | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>£    |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Donations   | 1,950                      | 1,469                    | 3,419        | 7,672                      | -                        | 7,672        |
| Fundraising | -                          | -                        | -            | -                          | -                        | -            |
| Legacies    | -                          | -                        | -            | -                          | -                        | -            |
|             | <u>1,950</u>               | <u>1,469</u>             | <u>3,419</u> | <u>7,672</u>               | <u>-</u>                 | <u>7,672</u> |

**2. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS**

|                                   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Income from UK listed investments | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Income from cash                  | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                                   | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  |

**3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£      | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>£      |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Belfast Health & Social Care Trust- Supporting Families | 5,240                      | 95,620                   | 100,860        | 5,500                      | 91,705                   | 97,205         |
| Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust                        | -                          | 96,665                   | 96,665         | -                          | 110,680                  | 110,680        |
| Justice & Equality Fund- ROSA                           | -                          | 148,467                  | 148,467        | -                          | 209,129                  | 209,129        |
| Department for Communities- Women's Regional Consortium | -                          | 94,478                   | 94,478         | -                          | 91,333                   | 91,333         |
| Womens Resource & Development Agency (WRDA)             | 33,331                     | -                        | 33,331         | 10,893                     | -                        | 10,893         |
| Solace Womens Aid                                       | -                          | 29,717                   | 29,717         | -                          | 17,860                   | 17,860         |
| Less: Deferred Income                                   | -                          | (163,030)                | (163,030)      | -                          | (244,983)                | (244,983)      |
|   | <u>38,571</u>              | <u>301,916</u>           | <u>340,488</u> | <u>16,393</u>              | <u>275,724</u>           | <u>292,117</u> |

**4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

|                          | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Fundraising and training | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
| Room Hire                | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                          | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  | <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>  |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS**

|                                   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Promotional and fundraising costs | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |
|                                   | -                          | -                        | -         | -                          | -                        | -         |

**6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

|   | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£      | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | 2022<br>£      |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Activities undertaken directly</i>             |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Wages and salaries                                | 17,430                     | 145,356                  | 162,785        | 8,579                      | 119,510                  | 128,089        |
| Employers national insurance                      | 1,711                      | 14,181                   | 15,891         | 767                        | 10,646                   | 11,413         |
| Employers pension costs                           | 1,046                      | 7,473                    | 8,518          | 273                        | 7,079                    | 7,352          |
| Volunteer costs                                   | 249                        | 9,805                    | 10,054         | -                          | 10,556                   | 10,556         |
| Venue, contributory costs and refreshments        | -                          | 1,613                    | 1,613          | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Women's Centres distribution                      | -                          | 82,037                   | 82,037         | -                          | 86,103                   | 86,103         |
| Insurance   | -                          | 741                      | 741            | -                          | 604                      | 604            |
| Rent and service charges payable                  | -                          | 8,902                    | 8,902          | -                          | 7,075                    | 7,075          |
| Stationery and postage                            | 94                         | 749                      | 843            | 181                        | 610                      | 791            |
| Printing  | -                          | 801                      | 801            | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Telephone and internet                            | -                          | 1,827                    | 1,827          | -                          | 2,123                    | 2,123          |
| Computer maintenance and IT support               | -                          | 603                      | 603            | -                          | 928                      | 928            |
| Travel expenses                                   | 2,461                      | 1,226                    | 3,687          | 487                        | 155                      | 642            |
| Freelance Fundraiser                              | -                          | 550                      | 550            | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Clinical supervision                              | -                          | 2,850                    | 2,850          | -                          | 1,875                    | 1,875          |
| Room hire   | -                          | 291                      | 291            | -                          | 1,683                    | 1,683          |
| Consumer council focus groups                     | 2,222                      | -                        | 2,222          | 2,233                      | -                        | 2,233          |
| Debt focus groups                                 | 4,585                      | -                        | 4,585          | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Hospitality and meeting refreshments              | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 144                      | 144            |
| Staff training and conferences                    | -                          | 1,221                    | 1,221          | -                          | 300                      | 300            |
| Promotional costs                                 | -                          | 2,452                    | 2,452          | -                          | 336                      | 336            |
| Publication costs                                 | 271                        | 68                       | 339            | -                          | 4,121                    | 4,121          |
| Training materials and resources                  | -                          | 638                      | 638            | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Database management costs                         | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | 7,920                    | 7,920          |
| Affiliation fees                                  | 94                         | 180                      | 274            | -                          | 193                      | 193            |
| Management fees                                   | -                          | 5,240                    | 5,240          | -                          | 5,500                    | 5,500          |
| Sundry expenses                                   | 0                          | -                        | 0              | -                          | 143                      | 143            |
| <b>Total activities undertaken directly</b>       | <b>30,161</b>              | <b>288,804</b>           | <b>318,965</b> | <b>12,520</b>              | <b>267,604</b>           | <b>280,124</b> |
| <i>Support costs</i>                              |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Legal and professional fees                       | 13                         | 2,400                    | 2,413          | 593                        | -                        | 593            |
| Depreciation and impairment                       | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Bank interest and charges                         | 273                        | 152                      | 425            | 153                        | 213                      | 366            |
|   | 286                        | 2,552                    | 2,838          | 746                        | 213                      | 959            |
| <i>Governance costs</i>                           |                            |                          |                |                            |                          |                |
| Accountancy fees                                  | -                          | -                        | -              | -                          | -                        | -              |
| Audit fees  | 54                         | 1,794                    | 1,848          | -                          | 1,794                    | 1,794          |
|   | 54                         | 1,794                    | 1,848          | -                          | 1,794                    | 1,794          |
| <b>Total support and governance costs</b>         | <b>340</b>                 | <b>4,346</b>             | <b>4,686</b>   | <b>746</b>                 | <b>2,007</b>             | <b>2,753</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b> | <b>30,501</b>              | <b>293,150</b>           | <b>323,651</b> | <b>13,266</b>              | <b>269,611</b>           | <b>282,877</b> |



**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

|                         | Premises<br>Improvements<br>£ | Equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>COST</b>             |                               |                |               |
| As at 1st April 2022    | 1,578                         | 44,113         | 45,691        |
| Additions               | -                             | -              | -             |
| Disposals               | -                             | -              | -             |
|                         | <hr/>                         | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| As at 31st March 2023   | <u>1,578</u>                  | <u>44,113</u>  | <u>45,691</u> |
| <br><b>DEPRECIATION</b> |                               |                |               |
| As at 1st April 2022    | 1,578                         | 44,113         | 45,691        |
| Charge for year         | -                             | -              | -             |
| Eliminated on disposal  | -                             | -              | -             |
|                         | <hr/>                         | <hr/>          | <hr/>         |
| As at 31st March 2023   | <u>1,578</u>                  | <u>44,113</u>  | <u>45,691</u> |
| <br>Net book value 2023 | <hr/> <hr/>                   | <hr/> <hr/>    | <hr/> <hr/>   |
| Net book value 2022     | <hr/> <hr/>                   | <hr/> <hr/>    | <hr/> <hr/>   |

**10. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

|  | 2023<br>£       | 2022<br>£      |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year                   | 20,256          | 16,912         |
| Depreciation and impairment                                | -               | -              |
| Movement in debtors  | (296)           | (384)          |
| Movement in creditors                                      | (75,045)        | 131,836        |
| Gain on investments  | -               | -              |
| (Profit)/Loss on disposal of Fixed Assets                  | -               | -              |
| Investment income  | -               | -              |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>          |
| <b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b> | <u>(55,085)</u> | <u>148,364</u> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

| <b>11. BANK AND CASH</b>                                  | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| AIB NI Sustainability Account                             | 74,190      | 42,580      |
| AIB NI Rape Crisis Service NI Account                     | 153,043     | 241,262     |
| AIB NI EHSSB Account                                      | 16,048      | 7,773       |
| AIB NI Current Account - TWN-DfC/Consortium               | 7,236       | 13,987      |
|   | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|   | 250,517     | 305,602     |
|   | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| <br>  |             |             |
| <b>12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>   | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|   | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Debtors   | 3,153       | 2,745       |
| Prepayments and accrued income                            | 869         | 981         |
|   | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|   | 4,022       | 3,726       |
|   | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| <br>  |             |             |
| <b>13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b> | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|   | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Taxation and social security costs                        | 5,333       | -           |
| Accrued expenses  | 3,884       | 2,309       |
| Deferred income   | 163,030     | 244,983     |
|   | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|   | 172,247     | 247,292     |
|   | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND**

|                    | Fixed Assets<br>- Charity use<br>£ | Current<br>Assets<br>£ | Current<br>Liabilities<br>£ | Transfers<br>between Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Total Funds</b> |                                    |                        |                             |                                 |           |           |
| Unrestricted funds | -                                  | 52,135                 | -                           | -                               | 52,135    | 42,114    |
| Restricted funds   | -                                  | 202,404                | (172,247)                   | -                               | 30,157    | 19,922    |
|                    | -                                  | 254,539                | (172,247)                   | -                               | 82,292    | 62,036    |

**15. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

|   | Opening<br>Balance<br>£ | Incoming<br>Resources<br>£ | Resources<br>Expended<br>£ | Deferred<br>Income<br>£ | Transfers<br>between Funds<br>£ | 2023<br>£     | 2022<br>£     |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Restricted Funds</b>                                 |                         |                            |                            |                         |                                 |               |               |
| Belfast Health & Social Care Trust- Supporting Families | 1,793                   | 95,620                     | (85,384)                   | -                       | -                               | 12,028        | 1,793         |
| Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust                        | -                       | 96,665                     | (17,537)                   | (79,128)                | -                               | -             | -             |
| Justice & Equality Fund- ROSA                           | -                       | 149,937                    | (85,987)                   | (63,949)                | -                               | -             | -             |
| St Stephen's Green Trust - Out and About                | 8,963                   | -                          | -                          | -                       | -                               | 8,963         | 8,963         |
| Department for Communities- Women's Regional Consortium | -                       | 94,478                     | (96,076)                   | -                       | 1,598                           | (0)           | -             |
| Solace Womens Aid                                       | 9,166                   | 29,717                     | (8,164)                    | (19,954)                | (1,598)                         | 9,166         | 9,166         |
|   | <b>19,922</b>           | <b>466,416</b>             | <b>(293,149)</b>           | <b>(163,031)</b>        | <b>-</b>                        | <b>30,157</b> | <b>19,922</b> |
| <b>Unrestricted Funds</b>                               |                         |                            |                            |                         |                                 |               |               |
| General Funds - Sustainability                          | 42,114                  | 40,521                     | (30,501)                   | -                       | -                               | 52,135        | 42,114        |
|   | <b>42,114</b>           | <b>40,521</b>              | <b>(30,501)</b>            | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>                        | <b>52,135</b> | <b>42,114</b> |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>                                      | <b>62,036</b>           | <b>506,937</b>             | <b>(323,650)</b>           | <b>(163,031)</b>        | <b>-</b>                        | <b>82,292</b> | <b>62,036</b> |

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

| <b>16. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b> | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
| Balance at 1st April 2022            | 42,114        | 31,454        |
| Incoming resources for the year      | 40,521        | 24,065        |
| Resources expended for the year      | (30,501)      | (13,267)      |
| Transfers between funds              | -             | (138)         |
|                                      | <hr/>         | <hr/>         |
| Balance at 31st March 2023           | <u>52,135</u> | <u>42,114</u> |
| <br>                                 |               |               |
| <b>17. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</b>   | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|                                      | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
| Balance at 1st April 2022            | 19,922        | 13,670        |
| Incoming resources for the year      | 303,386       | 275,724       |
| Resources expended for the year      | (293,150)     | (269,610)     |
| Transfers between funds              | -             | 138           |
|                                      | <hr/>         | <hr/>         |
| Balance at 31st March 2023           | <u>30,157</u> | <u>19,922</u> |

**18. RELATED PARTIES**

There were no related party transactions in the year that require disclosure.

**19. LEGAL STATUS**

The Women's Support Network is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Each member has agreed to contribute £1 in the event of a compulsory winding up.

The Women's Support Network is a recognised Charity within the definition of Section 360(3) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue.

**20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

Since incorporation the charity has received various revenue and capital grants. A contingent liability exists to repay these grants should the conditions under which they are awarded are not achieved.

**21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the year end.

**The Women's Support Network**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102763

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# Annual report

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

( A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 057580**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 102763**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
**547 FALLS ROAD**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT11 9AB**

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Directors</b>   | Tanya Hughes<br>Susan McCrory<br>Renee Crawford<br>Eleanor Jordan<br>Eileen Gay Sherry-Bingham<br>Isobel Loughran |
| <b>Secretary</b>   | Renee Crawford  |
| <b>Operational Director</b>  | Karen Sweeney   |
| <b>Registered Office</b>   | 109-113 Royal Avenue<br>Belfast<br>County Antrim<br>BT1 1FF   |
| <b>Auditors</b>  | O'Hara Shearer<br>Chartered Accountants<br>& Statutory Auditors<br>547 Falls Road<br>Belfast, BT11 9AB            |
| <b>Bankers</b>   | AIB NI<br>11/15 Donegall Square North<br>Belfast<br>BT1 5GB   |
| <b>Company Registration Number</b>                                 | NI 057580   |
| <b>Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number</b> | NIC 102763  |
| <b>HM Revenue &amp; Customs Charity Registration Number</b>        | XR 40415  |
| <b>Registered Charity Name</b>                                     | The Women's Support Network   |

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their Trustees' Report with the audited Financial Statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' 2015 applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in July 2014, effective 1 January 2015 in preparing the trustees' report and financial statements of the charitable company, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for company and charity law purposes.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration number**  
NIC102763

**Company Registration number**  
NI057580 (Northern Ireland)

**HMRC Charity Registration number**  
XR40415

**Principal and Registered office**  
Cathedral Quarter Managed Workspace, 109-113 Royal Avenue, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT1 1FF

**Trustees**

The trustees who served the charitable company during the year and up to the date of approval were as follows:

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Tanya Hughes       | Chairperson |
| Susan McCrory      |             |
| Renee Crawford     |             |
| Eleanor Jordan     |             |
| Gay Sherry-Bingham | Treasurer   |
| Isobel Loughran    |             |

**Secretary**

Renee Crawford

**Operational Director**

Karen Sweeney

**Auditor**

O'Hara Shearer  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
547 Falls Road  
Belfast  
BT11 9AB

**Bankers**

AIB, 11-15 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GB

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS continued**

**Insurance Brokers**

Willis Insurance & Risk Management  
Newsletter Building  
55-59 Donegall Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2FH

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**WSN MISSION**

To advance women's equality and rights by working to influence policy, practice and provision while also regionally supporting and representing the interests, needs and perspectives of women, particularly those in poverty and in disadvantaged areas.

**WSN VISION**

To create a just and peaceful society devoid of gender discrimination, gender-based violence and women's rights violations, in which women from all backgrounds and communities can experience full equality of opportunity and participation across all spheres of their everyday lives.

The Women's Support Network (WSN) is an umbrella organisation providing support to the community-based women's sector e.g. women's centres, groups, projects and organisations. WSN provides information, support, resources, research and training to support these organisations in the delivery of services that increase opportunities for women that work towards the relief of poverty, address social exclusion, advance education and safeguard health for women in Northern Ireland, particularly in areas of disadvantage. WSN actively campaigns, lobbies, carries out research and supports funding bids on key issues affecting women, namely health, poverty, childcare and education. WSN collates the views of women to inform policy development and articulate concerns and areas of need to funders, government departments, statutory organisations and elected representatives highlighting local key issues that impact directly on women in identified areas.

WSN advocates for requisite resources to facilitate the sustainability and expansion of women-only, women-led spaces and provision underpinned by free childcare. WSN facilitates the sharing of information, good practice and, where possible, resources between women's centres, groups and organisations, developing an online presence to accommodate same. WSN supports women's centres, groups and organisations to work together collectively and strategically, not only for the benefit of women in disadvantaged areas but also to promote women's equality and rights across Northern Ireland and beyond. WSN acts as a first point of contact that signposts women in disadvantaged and rural communities to services, advice and information relevant to their particular needs and interests.

WSN is a partner in the Women's Regional Consortium. The Consortium is funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Through the Regional Infrastructure and Support Programme (RISP), the Consortium provides thematic regional support for women's sector organisations across Northern Ireland, which meet the needs of marginalised and isolated women in disadvantaged and rural areas.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES continued**

The Consortium is made up of seven established women's organisations: WSN, Training for Women Network (TWN), Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN), Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA), Foyle Women's Information Network (FWIN), Women's TEC and The Women's Centre Derry. These organisations work in partnership to provide specialist support, advice, information and training on a range of topics to increase capacity, skills, physical resources and structures to benefit women in Northern Ireland. The Consortium also operates as the link and point of contact between government and the sector to meet the needs of recommendations resulting from consultations, surveys and policy developments that impact on women. WSN is responsible for the co-ordination of policy and research within the Consortium.

WSN has responsibility for the distribution of funding and collective monitoring of activities delivered through Belfast Health & Social Care Trust to the five women's centres in the Belfast catchment area. This funding provides support for children and their families/carers, addressing specific needs in terms of personal development, training, improved physical and mental health outcomes, reduced stress and anxiety, advocacy, efficacy including sponsored and referred childcare. Throughout the year the women's centres provided support and advocacy for women and families impacted by isolation and disadvantaged across the catchment area including those still experiencing residual impact from the Covid-19 pandemic.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Over the past twelve months, WSN has continued to engage in a range of activities to raise the profile of women's organisations and women's issues and to support women's organisations in the delivery of front-line services for women in disadvantaged and rural areas. WSN continued to support marginalised women and groups to ensure that their voices were heard and views taken and relayed to decision-makers throughout the year on various issues that impact women and the organisations supporting them including the impact of the 'cost of living crisis'. We have continued to lobby and campaign on behalf of individual women, community-based women's centres, groups and organisations. Regular newsletters, e-zines and funding bites support organisations through the provision of information, funding, policy updates and training opportunities.

WSN have continued to host regular on-line and in-person women's centres' managers' meetings to facilitate networking, sharing of good practise in their continued support for women in each of their perspective communities across Northern Ireland. These meetings are an opportunity for the centre managers to discuss key issues that impact the sector and delivery of support services for women and children and how these can best be addressed and adapted including the provision of childcare. The key issues of concern for the centres in this year continued to be pressures associated with the continuing rise in the 'cost of living' and the pressure this was putting on staff and budgets as operating costs continued to rise as did the demand for their services, such as delivery of training and education, specialist advice, support and advocacy.

Over this period WSN continued as a member of the 'Co-design' working groups for both the Gender Equality and Anti- Poverty Social Strategies to ensure that these documents would be as advanced as possible when the Assembly returned and Ministers were reinstated.

As a member of the Women's Regional Consortium, WSN is responsible for co-ordination of policy and research on issues that impact on women in disadvantaged and rural areas. Focus groups, consultation events, questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were undertaken to garner the views of women in these areas to inform the responses/research and ensure that local women were afforded an opportunity to have their views put forward.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

In February 2022, the then 'First Minister' resigned which resulted in the suspension of the Northern Ireland Executive, however Departmental Ministers remained in place as 'caretakers' until an Assembly election was called for 05 May 2022. Following the election, the Executive failed to nominate/agree a 'Speaker' which resulted in the Assembly unable to sit, which is how it continued for the remainder of this financial year. This resulted in a stalling of all proposed legislation and draft strategies.

Over the year WSN made seven responses to consultations, reviews and calls for evidence that directly impact women in Northern Ireland. The departmental/governmental/committee policy responses submitted in this year were as follows:

- 16/06/22 - Call for evidence on 'Cost of Living': Work and Pensions Committee
- 30/06/22 - Adult Social Care consultation: Department of Health (DoH)
- 26/10/22 – '10X Performance Management Framework' consultation: Department for the Economy (DfE)
- 21/11/22 - CFNI/SCI Consultation of Philanthropic Funding in NI
- 19/12/22 – Miscarriage Leave Consultation: Department for the Economy(DfE)
- 09/01/23 – Inadequacy of Benefits to the APPG on Poverty (Westminster)
- 23/01/23 – Call for Evidence on a Debt Respite Scheme for Northern Ireland: Department for Communities (DfC)

The 'Women Living With Debt' research completed and published in this financial year explored the experiences of women living and working in disadvantaged and rural areas of Northern Ireland on why they need to borrow, the types of credit they use, the impact of external factors such as the Covid 19 pandemic, changes to social security policy and low pay as well as the personal impacts of living with debt.

The paper takes a comprehensive look at the literature and research on debt, debt levels in Northern Ireland the links between debt and mental health, debt and social security benefits and the gendered nature of debt. The research provides a summary of the focus group research, questionnaires and individual interviews with local women. It detailed the amount and type of debt the women had, what external factors impact on their debts and the impact of debt on their lives and that of their children.

The main findings of the research were:

- 51% of the women had used high-cost credit with 6% borrowing through loan sharks including paramilitaries.
- 32% reported borrowing from friends/family.
- 19% had borrowed through Discretionary Support with many reporting issues with the application process/eligibility.
- 51% chose the lender because they knew they would get the money with only 2% choosing the lender because of the total cost of the credit.
- 60% of the women were finding it difficult to meet their debt repayments or missing repayments
- 35% reported using a foodbank as a result of debts/pressure to make ends meet
- 60% reported debt had been impacted by rising energy bills
- 60% reported debt had been impacted by rising food bills
- 72% felt negatively impacted by being in debt
- 47% felt their children were negatively impacted by their debts

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

The research highlights the difficulty many women face living on a low income through social security benefits and in low paid work. The paper makes a number of recommendations for change including the need to invest in the social security system to ensure it provides sufficient income to help people live dignified, healthy lives without resorting to debt for the essentials. It also calls for the need for low or no cost borrowing to help those on the lowest incomes meet the costs of essential items.

High-cost credit products are often used by those on the lowest incomes in order to access credit. Many of these borrowers have limited options to access cheaper forms of credit because of their low income. This forces them to use these high interest products to buy essential goods and larger purchases that they otherwise could not afford. Some of the most vulnerable borrowers are forced into using illegal lending or loan sharking because of a more urgent need for money. In Northern Ireland this type of lending is often linked to paramilitary groups bringing with it even greater levels of fear and secrecy.

Following completion, circulation and promotion of the 'Women Living with Debt' research, WSN was invited to make a number of presentations, attend meetings and give interviews on the findings of the research. These included; meetings with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Shadow Secretary of State, MLAs and MPs from all five main political parties, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Anti-Poverty Network and Human Rights Consortium. The research attracted media attention resulting in interviews and articles on television, radio and print including; UTV's 'A View from Stormont', BBC's Good Morning Ulster, Talkback, Radio Foyle, The Irish News, The Newsletter, The Detail and View Digital. Conference presentations included NIPSA Health & Safety Conference, Women's Budget Group 4-Nations Conference, Funders Forum Annual Conference, also NIWEP Webinar, APG on 1325 - Women Peace and Security and a Human Rights Consortium event.

In the latter half of this year in partnership with Ulster University research began on 'Women's Experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis in N. Ireland'. The cumulative results of the Cost-of-Living Crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and a decade of welfare reform and austerity has left women to become the shock absorbers of poverty in their homes - forced to make torturous decisions around feeding themselves and their families, heating their homes and trying to live dignified, healthy lives. For those in most need there are significant concerns around rising levels of debt, poverty and destitution. This situation led us to carry out research with low income women on their experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and its impact on their lives and families. The research's aim is to paint an accurate picture of women's lives which are increasingly occupied with hunger, cold, debt, anxiety and concerns. Focus groups were held across Northern Ireland from Jan –Mar 2023 which resulted in two hundred and fifty women participating in the research.

WSN is a regular attendee and contributory member of the Women's Policy Group Northern Ireland, a platform for women working in policy and advocacy roles in different organisations to share their work and speak with a collective voice on key issues. It is made up of women from trade unions, grassroots women's organisations, women's networks, feminist campaigning organisations, LGBT+ organisations, support service providers, human rights and equality organisations and individuals.

WSN continues to support the development and delivery of the Rape Crisis service for Northern Ireland which is funded by both the ROSAUK Justice and Equality Fund and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT). Another cohort of volunteer support workers completed training and another group recruited, the training taking place both online and in-person. Ongoing recruitment and training is essential to meet the ever increasing demand for the service and to replace support workers who leave or take a break. The Freephone Information and Support Line continued opening four evening with the service contactable at any time via email or voicemail. Relationships and referral routes continued to grow through stakeholder organisations working with those impacted by rape and sexual assault such as ASSIST NI, the PSNI, the ROWAN (SARC), Nexus and Victim Support. Awareness raising and promotion of the service through social media platforms and in-person was ongoing, speaking at conferences, community events as well as providing information stalls.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued**

As a member of the 'The Cliff Edge Coalition NI' working group WSN continued to lobby to strengthen the welfare mitigations package in Northern Ireland. 'The Cliff Edge Coalition NI' is a group of over 100 organisations from across Northern Ireland who came together to highlight their shared concerns about the potential end of the welfare reform mitigations. The focus of Cliff Edge work in this year has been on strengthening the mitigations package with the introduction of new mitigations around the two-child limit, the Universal Credit five-week wait and increased protections for those in the private rented sector. Cliff Edge welcomed the publication of the delayed Welfare Mitigation Review and its strong recommendations which mirrored many of the strengthening and additional asks of the Cliff Edge Coalition.

WSN also attended meetings of 'Keep the Lifeline' to discuss ways in which changes can be made to the social security system to help people through the 'Cost of Living Crisis'. This resulted in WSN attending a briefing to discuss a new joint campaign between the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Trussell Trust calling for reform of Universal Credit.

WSN has continued to be an active member of the 'Childcare for All' campaign and attends the All Party Working Group (APWG) on Early Education and Childcare, a successful ask of the campaign. The campaign continues to call for universal, child-centred affordable, accessible childcare that meets the needs of children, families, childcare workers and providers. WSN ensures that community based childcare provision delivered through local women's centres and groups is represented in including those places funded through the Women's Centres' Childcare Fund (WCCF). Throughout the year WSN also represented the centres and community based childcare model on the Early Learning and Childcare Stakeholder Engagement Forum for the development of an 'Early Learning and Childcare Strategy' for Northern Ireland.

In this year WSN joined the working group of a new Northern Ireland campaign for the introduction of a Northern Ireland Child Payment. This was a recommendation by the Gender Equality and Anti-Poverty Expert Panels and reiterated in the Feminist Recovery Plan. The Coalition prepared a briefing document on a potential NI Child Payment gathering evidence from academics, the Scottish model and advice organisations on what format a Child Payment might take and what way it would work best here. The working group members met with political parties and Departmental officials to discuss how it could work in practice and be costed for. Work is ongoing on research into public attitudes to child poverty which will be used to frame campaigning work around a Child Payment for Northern Ireland.

WSN continued its partnership with the Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA) as lead partner, Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN) and Reclaim the Agenda (RTA) for the Raise Your Voice Project and campaign (RYV). This project informs and raises awareness of all forms and degrees of sexual harassment, working collectively to create true cultural change in order to tackle the root causes of these behaviours and empower people to make real society change. Delivery of the initial two workshops continued both online and in-person throughout the year as well as lobbying and consultation responses. A further three workshops covering 'online harassment', 'ally ship' and 'by-stander intervention' have been developed for delivery in the next financial year. The project continues to strengthen its presence through social media platforms, poster campaign, e-zines and website content and resources.

WSN's partnership in the 'Labyrinth Project' funded through the UK Tampon Tax with SOLAS UK as lead partner continued until December 2022. This was a UK wide project and WSN were the delivery partner for Northern Ireland. As part of the project WSN produced a mapping report on areas of the women's sector across Northern Ireland, identifying gaps in specialist support and training opportunities to inform the delivery element of the project. The project incorporated trainers and legal experts who developed information guides and a suite of free online training for organisational staff, volunteers and centre/group users. The project also set up an online 'Centre of Excellence' on the SOLAS UK Website for sharing of best practise.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

WSN again partnered with WRDA and NIRWN for delivery of a UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) pilot project in preparation for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which was approved in November 2021. The project commenced in January 2022 with an end date of 30 June 2022 later extended to 30 September with wrap-up until 31 December 2022. The overall Fund's aims were to invest in skills, community and place, local business, and support people into employment. The 'Women Breaking Barriers' project proposed to deliver training and employment skills to 350 women across urban and rural areas of Northern Ireland, delivered through women's centres and groups. Delivery of this short pilot project resulted in the following:

- 551 women attended a programme delivered through the project
- A total of 668 places were funded
- There was a total of 61 programmes delivered across the timespan
- 276 women benefitted from one to one and group support sessions, including CV writing skills, benefits calculator support, employability skills and job interview preparation.
- 61% of courses delivered were accredited with 325 women receiving an accreditation
- Out of these courses 52% were delivered in urban areas and 48% in rural locations
- Women in Film Event hosted – the first of its kind in NI with over 40 participants, reaching a global audience and with a range of speakers from the Film Industry

In June 2021 WSN agreed to be a strategic partner in an application to Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Reconciliation Fund, led by Women's Platform (formally NIWEP) and in partnership with NIRWN and WRDA who have responsibility for key delivery areas. The 'Women's Spaces' application was successful with delivery now ongoing from June 2022 until June 2025. The project is designed to give women the skills and capacity to engage in public life and strengthen women's voices in peace-building and decision making. The project will deliver a series of workshops as well as develop a 'toolkit' on women, peace and security that will inform and enhance further training and workshops through a collective of programmes, tools and information.

WSN in partnership with WRDA as lead, NIRWN and Reclaim the Agenda made an application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the UK Levelling Up initiative under the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing and as a follow-up to the UKCRF Women Breaking Barriers project. The overarching UKSPF intervention for Northern Ireland is; 'Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills'. The application was submitted at the end of January 2023 and the partnership learned of its success on 31 March 2023. The two year project aims to deliver specific tailored support to 600 economically inactive women across urban and rural settings. WSN are responsible for the urban delivery working in partnership with seven women's centres and other urban groups while NIRWN will be responsible for rural delivery.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial Position**

The accounts on pages 17-19 deal with all the income and expenditure of the charitable company, as well as its financial position at the year end.

Principal funding sources supporting key objectives of the charitable company and funding both charitable activity and support costs are shown at notes 1 – 6 (pages; 20-21).

The results for the year show an unrestricted surplus of £10,021 (2022: 10,660) and a restricted surplus of £10,235 (2022: £6,252) producing an overall surplus of £20,256 (2022: £16,650).

At the year-end unrestricted reserves were £52,135 (2022: £42,114) and restricted reserves £30,157 (2022: £19,992).

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**Reserves policy**

In line with good practice The Women's Support Network aims to build and retain a level of unrestricted reserves that match the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the future to meet statutory obligations for both staff and suppliers in these times of funding uncertainty.

These include:

- Statutory Redundancy
- Salaries and Pensions
- Organisational Running Costs

Reserves will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Finance and Personnel Trustee sub-group and an overview presented by the Operational Director at Trustee Board meetings to ensure the progress towards target level.

**Risk management**

The Board have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, in particular those related to its operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to those major risks.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 December 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

**Organisational structure**

The Women's Support Network is overseen by a Board of Directors which meets at least six times a year. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of activities are carried out by a staff team led by the Director who reports regularly to the Board.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Directors**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as the Board. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Board are elected from the membership to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Directors have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on the public benefit requirement issued under the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

**The Women's Support Network**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Women's Support Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

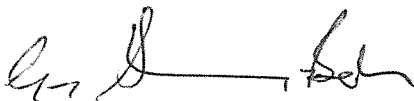
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

As per procurement procedures this will be put out to tender and agreed at the next AGM.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22nd January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Gay Sherry-Bingham - Trustee

**The Women's Support Network**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102763

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# Annual return

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

( A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 057580**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 102763**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**  
**547 FALLS ROAD**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT11 9AB**

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Women's Support Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

**Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

**THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'**

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

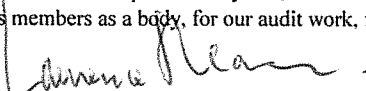
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
**LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor**

**O'HARA SHEARER**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**  
**AND STATUTORY AUDITORS**

547 Falls Road

Belfast

BT11 9AB

**Dated:** 22nd January 2024