

# Advice North West

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104965

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Company number** [56135](#)

**Registered** 2016-09-16

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Advice North West  
Embassy Building  
3 Strand Road  
Londonderry  
Bt48 7bh  
BT48 7BH

**Phone** 0300 303 3650

**Email** [advice@advicenorthwest.com](mailto:advice@advicenorthwest.com)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Company's objects are to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in Derry City and Strabane District Council area by the advancement of education, the protection and preservation of health and the relief of poverty, sickness and distress.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

**How the charity works:** Advice/advocacy/information, Counselling/support, Disability, General charitable purposes, Human rights/equality, Medical/health/sickness, Relief of poverty, Research/evaluation, Volunteer development, Welfare/benevolent

**Who the charity helps:** Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse), Carers, General public, Learning disabilities, Men, Mental health, Older people, Parents, Physical disabilities, Tenants, Unemployed/low income, Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£882,162	£870,560	£-36,645	26

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Cormac Mckeone		
Mr Kevin Bradley		
Mr Paddy Gray		
Mr Sam Mcpherson		
Mrs Jodi Harte		
Mrs Sandra Duffy		
Ms Bernie Heery		

**Advice North West**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104965

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# Accounts

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14 November 2025

ADVI001/SJK/SK/003

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

The Board of Directors  
Advice North West  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Embassy Building  
3 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7BH

Dear Sirs

**Communication of relevant matters arising from our audit year ended 31 March 2025**

We are pleased to advise that we have completed our audit and we bring to your attention our observations on the Charity's accounts and operations which we believe can assist you in improving your accounting systems.

The matters being dealt with are under the following headings

- Expected modifications to our audit report
- Material weaknesses in the accounting and internal control systems

**Expected Modifications to the Audit Report**

As discussed with you during the course of the audit, there are no modifications to our unqualified audit report.

**Material Weaknesses in the Accounting and Internal Control Systems**

During the course of the audit we found areas in which there were material weaknesses in the accounting or internal control system.

We include a memorandum noting this weakness together with any recommendations we have for possible improvements which could be made. Our tests may not necessarily disclose all errors or irregularities and should not be relied upon to do so. However, if any irregularity did come to our attention during our audit tests, we would, of course, inform you immediately.

This letter has been prepared for the sole use of the board of directors/ management committee of Advice North West and must not be shown to third parties without our prior consent. No responsibilities are accepted by SJK Chartered Accountants towards any party acting or refraining from action as a result of this report.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all staff who assisted us in carrying out our work.

**Registered Office**

8 Bridge Road, Moira,  
BT67 0PF  
T 077 1556 9717  
E [info@sjkaccountants.com](mailto:info@sjkaccountants.com)  
W [www.sjkaccountants.com](http://www.sjkaccountants.com)

SJK is the trading name of  
SJK CA Ltd.  
Director: Stephen Kennedy  
Company No. NI682291  
Member No: 60856



Yours faithfully

.....  
**Stephen Kennedy ACA, CTA**  
**Director**  
**SJK Chartered Accountants**

14 November 2025

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

SJK Chartered Accountants  
& Registered Auditors  
8 Bridge Road  
Moira  
BT67 0PF

Dear Sirs,

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as we consider necessary in connection with your audit of the charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate and are sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can make each of the following representations. All representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief.

**General**

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities as directors / trustees as set out in the terms of your engagement letter dated 14 November 2025, under the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.
2. All the transactions undertaken by the charitable company have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records.
3. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit. We have provided you with unrestricted access to all appropriate persons within the charity, and with all other records and related information requested, including minutes of all management and trustee meetings and correspondence with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.
4. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
5. The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial both individually and in total.

## **Internal control and fraud**

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error, and we believe that we have appropriately fulfilled these responsibilities. We have disclosed to you the results of our risk assessment that the financial statements may be misstated as a result of fraud.
7. We have disclosed to you all instances of known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control or others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
8. We have also disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by current or former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

## **Assets and liabilities**

9. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
10. All actual liabilities, contingent liabilities and guarantees given to third parties have been recorded or disclosed as appropriate.
11. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

## **Accounting estimates**

12. The methods, data and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

## **Loans and arrangements**

13. The charity has not granted any advances or credits to, or made guarantees on behalf of, directors.

## **Legal claims**

14. We have disclosed to you all claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received and such matters, as appropriate, have been properly accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.

## **Laws and regulations**

15. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
16. There are no claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received which require provision for or disclosure within the financial statements.

## **Related parties**

17. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements. We have disclosed to you all relevant information concerning such relationships and transactions and are not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with legislative and accounting standards requirements.
18. We are not aware of any transactions with related parties requiring disclosure in the financial statements in order to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## **Subsequent events**

19. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements which require adjustment or disclosure have been properly accounted for and disclosed.

## **Going concern**

20. We believe that the charitable company's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the charity's needs. We also confirm our plans for future action(s) required to enable the charity to continue as a going concern are feasible. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

## **Grants and donations**

21. All grants, donations and other income, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions in the application of such income.

## **Incoming resources**

22. The analysis of incoming resources in the financial statements for the year accurately reflects the nature of those funds between those that are restricted for specific use by the charity and those that

are unrestricted which may be used as the charity so wishes in order to advance the objectives of the organisation.

## **Resources expended**

23. The analysis of payroll costs in the financial statements for the year accurately reflects the allocation of such costs on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity (i.e. costs of generating funds, charitable activities and governance costs).

## **Fund accounting**

24. The analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds as set out in the financial statements is a true and fair reflection of the nature of the company's incoming resources and resources expended during the year.

## **Other**

25. We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware.

26. Each director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully

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**B Heery**  
**Director**

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**J Harte**  
**Director**

Signed on behalf of the board of Advice North West

14 November 2025

**Registered number  
NI056135**

**Advice North West  
Report and Accounts  
Year Ended  
31 March 2025**

**SJK**

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
8 Bridge Road, Moira, Craigavon, BT67 0PF

**Advice North West  
Report and accounts  
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**Advice North West**  
**Charity reference and administrative details**

**Company registration number**  
NIC104965

**Charity tax reference**  
XN88408

**The board of directors**

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr C McKeone
Mr K Bradley	

**Company secretary**  
Mrs R French

**Members of the management committee**

Mr E Doherty	Mrs J Gallagher (Left 30 April 2025)
Alderman N McMorris	Alderman J Montgomery (Left 9 June 2025)
Cllr R Farrell	Cllr G Donnelly (Started 9 June 2025)
Mr G Deeney	Cllr M Reilly (Started 9 June 2025)
Mrs C Deeney	
Mr R Barr (Left 9 June 2025)	

**Registered office**

5th Floor, Embassy Building  
3 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7BH

**Auditors**

SJK Chartered Accountants  
8 Bridge Road  
Moira  
Craigavon  
BT67 0PF

**Accountants**

Satori Accounting  
11 Orchard Business Park  
Pennyburn Industrial Estate  
Derry  
BT48 0LU

**Bankers**

First Trust Bank  
Meadowbank Branch  
Strand Road  
Derry

**Solicitors**

Hasson & Company Solicitors  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

**Advice North West****Registered number: NI056135****Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Objectives and activities**

Advice North West serves people living in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area. Our service is independent and provides free, confidential, impartial and high-quality advice to everybody regardless of ability, age, gender, gender identity, race, religion, political opinion, sexual orientation and social or economic status. Advice North West staff teams live our guiding principle of A.C.H.I.E.V.E. underpinning all we do in pursuit of a better life for our clients. A - Advance and Promote Equality C - Challenge discrimination and injustice H - Help and advocate on behalf of our marginalised and vulnerable I - Invest in our staff and support their learning and development E - Empower citizens to increase their resourcefulness for living V - Value diversity E - Effect positive change by influencing/lobbying policymaker.

Advice North West's professional and skilled staff meet client needs in all Advice Areas and Specialisms. We deliver a quality assured consistent advice service at every point of client contact. With widening inequality in society and increasing levels of detriment and poverty, we expect more people will seek and/or need our help.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. Provision of advice services across a range of issues such as social security benefits, money advice, employment legislation, consumer rights, housing rights etc in our four main office sites plus outreach advice provision in identified rural and urban areas of Derry and Strabane.
2. Specific focus on new welfare reform regulations and advising claimants on the impact on their financial well-being of new Universal Credit Migration and Disability Benefits.
3. Influencing Policy and legislative change via Commissioners Hearings.
4. Operation of Money/Debt advice project to advise users on issues relating to personal debt and implementation of legal debt remedies to assist our clients.

**Strategic Report****Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)**

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

- 1 Increasing service deliverable models to ensure no accessibility barriers for our clients – to include face-to-face appointments, Telephone Advice, Email Advice and provision of Information talks to Communities. Give tailored advice across multiple advice areas in an efficient and cost-effective way.
- 2 Digital technologies have created new ways to serve clients and we must keep pace with modern expectations, meeting more demand in a tailored and streamlined way. We will continue to develop our clients overall user experience of with new linked telephone system and Teams transforming how we interact with our clients funders and each other.
- 3 Delivery of Enhanced Specialist Training for all staff facilitated via CPAG, Law Centre, Advice NI.
- 4 Retention of Specialist Debt Unit and Tribunal Rights Unit.
- 5 Diversification of funding model and collaboration with stakeholders whilst consolidation of current financial streams. Ensure we have a sustainable financial resource model to meet multidisciplinary and cross functional working with Agile and integrative processes that can respond rapidly to change. Retention of funding and collaborative partners in the delivery of our aims, values and objectives.

The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

**Advice North West**

**Registered number: NI056135**

**Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

**Financial review (including reserves policy)**

The net income for the year 2025 was £11,602 (31 Mar 2024 – net expenditure £7,436). The deficit for the year will be added to funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £288,123.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 3 months of all ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short term deposit accounts) of £251,265. Total expenditure for the year was £866,264 (excluding depreciation). The charity, therefore, held funds equivalent to 3.5 months of ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

**Plans for future periods**

There are no significant changes planned for the forthcoming financial year. The directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above.

**Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The company is governed and managed by the board of directors. The directors who served the company throughout the year are shown on pages 1 and 2, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The company will be managed on a day-to-day basis by the newly appointed manager from the 01.12.25, who will oversee all operational and financial matters on behalf of the board and reports directly to the board on all such matters.

The board of directors carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a monthly basis to review the performance of the company and to make decisions regarding the company's financial and operational matters. The directors govern the activities of the company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

**Directors**

The directors (also the trustees) who served the company during the period were as follows:

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr K Bradley
Mc C McKeone	

**Advice North West**

**Registered number: NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

#### **Trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Disclosure of information to the auditors**

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- \* there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- \* the directors 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.

#### **Auditor**

SJK Chartered Accountants are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Small company exemptions**

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

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board

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**R French**  
**Company Secretary**  
**14 November 2025**

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Advice North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

#### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment 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 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable 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 trustees' 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 charitable company'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 the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

**Advice North West**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit 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. 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Stephen Kennedy**  
**for and on behalf of**  
**SJK Chartered Accountants**  
**Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors**

**8 Bridge Road**  
**Craigavon**  
**Northern Ireland**  
**BT67 0PF**

**14 November 2025**

**Advice North West**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	23,070	-	<b>23,070</b>	11,305
Charitable activities	4	1,800	850,918	<b>852,718</b>	848,360
Investments		6,374	-	<b>6,374</b>	6,061
<b>Total income</b>		<b>31,244</b>	<b>850,918</b>	<b>882,162</b>	<b>865,726</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	-	41,681	<b>41,681</b>	40,360
Charitable activities	6	22,148	759,572	<b>781,720</b>	786,112
Governance costs	7	169	46,990	<b>47,159</b>	46,690
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>22,317</b>	<b>848,243</b>	<b>870,560</b>	<b>873,162</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>8,927</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>11,602</b>	<b>(7,436)</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		131,809	144,712	<b>276,521</b>	283,957
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>140,736</b>	<b>147,387</b>	<b>288,123</b>	<b>276,521</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

**Advice North West  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2025**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	<b>11</b>	10,655	12,934
		<u>10,655</u>	<u>12,934</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	<b>12</b>	62,848	101,144
Cash at bank and in hand		251,265	182,533
		<u>314,113</u>	<u>283,677</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>13</b>	(36,645)	(20,090)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>277,468</u>	<u>263,587</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>288,123</u>	<u>276,521</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>288,123</u>	<u>276,521</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Unrestricted	<b>16</b>	140,736	131,809
Restricted	<b>17</b>	147,387	144,712
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>288,123</u>	<u>276,521</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 14 November 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

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**B Heery  
Director**

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**J Harte  
Director**

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**1 Accounting policies**

***(i) General information and basis of preparation***

Advice North West is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in Northern Ireland.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- the relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all sections of the community
- the advancement of education and protection of health thereby ensuring people do not suffer through ignorance of their rights or services available to them
- provide free, impartial, confidential and independent support on consumer issues, employment legislation, social security benefits, money advice, health, housing rights and other legal matters

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practices as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

***(ii) Income recognition***

Incoming resources from generated funds consists of income from fees and services generated by the charity from its main charitable activities together with donations and fundraising. All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

***(iii) Expenditure recognition***

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

***(iv) Depreciation***

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Premises - 5% straight line

Office equipment - 20% straight line

***(v) Debtors and creditors receivable/ payable within one year***

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure

***(vi) Fund accounting***

Restricted Funds

Incoming resources of the company which are provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds

Incoming resources which are generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

***(vii) Going concern***

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

**Advice North West**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>2 Net income for the year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Net incoming resources are stated after charging:</u>		
Director's emoluments	-	-
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	4,296	3,341
Auditors' remuneration	4,200	4,200
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>3 Income from donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds 2025</b>	<b>Funds 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Partnership hosting	18,760	-	18,760	6,641
Donations and sponsorship	4,310	-	4,310	4,664
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>23,070</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,070</b>	<b>11,305</b>

<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds 2025</b>	<b>Funds 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Derry City & Strabane District Council	-	663,024	663,024	658,129
W.H.S.C.T.	-	101,688	101,688	106,925
Advice NI	-	86,206	86,206	83,306
Pensionwise	1,800	-	1,800	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>1,800</b>	<b>850,918</b>	<b>852,718</b>	<b>848,360</b>

<b>5 Expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds 2025</b>	<b>Funds 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	-	41,681	41,681	40,360
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>-</b>	<b>41,681</b>	<b>41,681</b>	<b>40,360</b>

**Advice North West**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>6 Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
Wages and salaries	296	648,542	648,838	649,424
Staff training	28	3,342	3,370	2,186
Pensions costs	-	11,752	11,752	10,865
Rent	247	52,189	52,436	52,465
Water rates	185	179	364	344
Heat, light and power	-	13,789	13,789	13,656
Insurance	623	2,144	2,767	2,666
Computer and IT support	-	-	-	4,291
Repairs and maintenance	135	313	448	454
Telephone and internet	-	16,416	16,416	15,952
Postage and stationery	1,587	-	1,587	5,181
Subscriptions and membership fees	2,203	2,504	4,707	3,513
Travel expenses	1,066	2,272	3,337	2,004
General expenses	2,891	-	2,891	2,786
Case management system	6,438	-	6,438	6,231
Advertising, branding and website	-	-	-	4,740
Accountancy fees	1,551	2,098	3,649	1,371
Auditor's remuneration	1,785	2,415	4,200	4,200
Bank charges	435	-	435	442
Depreciation charge	2,678	1,617	4,296	3,341
	<b>22,148</b>	<b>759,572</b>	<b>781,720</b>	<b>786,112</b>
<b>7 Expenditure on other costs</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
Wages and salaries	-	46,990	46,990	45,522
Legal and professional fees	169	-	169	1,168
	<b>169</b>	<b>46,990</b>	<b>47,159</b>	<b>46,690</b>

**Advice North West**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**8 Auditor's remuneration**

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £4,200 (2024 - £4,200). There were no accountancy or other non-audit services provided by the auditor to the charity.

**9 Trustees and key management remuneration and expenses**

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year, nor did the trustees have any expenses reimbursed during the year.

**10 Staff costs and employee benefits**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Raising funds and governance	2	2
Charitable activities	25	24
	<u>27</u>	<u>26</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	678,946	678,398
Social security	58,563	56,908
Pension contribution costs	11,752	10,865
	<u>749,261</u>	<u>746,171</u>

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding pension costs) of more than £60,000.

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2024	14,100	124,000	138,100
Additions	-	2,017	2,017
At 31 March 2025	<u>14,100</u>	<u>126,017</u>	<u>140,117</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	10,575	114,591	125,166
Charge for the year	705	3,591	4,296
At 31 March 2025	<u>11,280</u>	<u>118,182</u>	<u>129,462</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,820</u>	<u>7,835</u>	<u>10,655</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,525</u>	<u>9,409</u>	<u>12,934</u>

**Advice North West**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>12 Debtors</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Funding debtors	49,440	85,312
Prepayments and accrued income	13,408	15,832
	<u>62,848</u>	<u>101,144</u>

<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Taxes and social security	17,396	-
Pension contributions payable	3,971	-
Trade creditors and accruals	15,278	20,090
	<u>36,645</u>	<u>20,090</u>

**14 Related party transactions**

There were no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure under SORP 2015 (FRS 102).

**15 Tax status**

The company is a registered charity for tax purposes (reference number XN 88408) and is exempt from corporation tax on any income or capital gains arising.

**Advice North West**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**16 Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and, therefore, there is no issued share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

<b>17 Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>
Funds brought forward	131,809	144,712	<b>276,521</b>	283,957
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	8,927	2,675	<b>11,602</b>	(7,436)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>140,736</u></b>	<b><u>147,387</u></b>	<b><u>288,123</u></b>	<b><u>276,521</u></b>

Fund transfers represent the amount required in order to properly attribute the split of the charity's funds and reserves at the year-end date to reflect accurately the net assets of the charity at that date.

<b>18 Net assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Fixed assets		10,655	10,655
Current assets	144,072	170,041	314,113
Current liabilities	(3,336)	(33,309)	(36,645)
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>140,736</u></b>	<b><u>147,387</u></b>	<b><u>288,123</u></b>

**Advice North West**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104965

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# Accounts

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Registered number  
NI056135

**Advice North West**  
**Report and Accounts**  
**Year Ended**  
**31 March 2024**

**SJK & Company**  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
8 Bridge Road, Moira, Craigavon, BT67 0PF

**Advice North West  
Report and accounts  
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**Advice North West**  
**Charity reference and administrative details**

**Company registration number**  
NIC104965

**Charity tax reference**  
XN88408

**The board of directors**

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr C McKeone
Mr K Bradley	

**Company secretary**  
Mrs J Gallagher

**Members of the management committee**

Mrs J Gallagher	Alderman J Montgomery (Started June 2024)
Mr E Doherty	Mr R Barr (Started June 2024)
Alderman N McMorris	Mrs C Deeney (Started June 2024)
Mrs R French	Cllr G Donnelly (Left June 24)
Cllr R Farrell	Cllr L Seeno-Barr (Left June 24)
Mr G Deeney	Cllr C Devine (Left June 24)

**Registered office**

5th Floor, Embassy Building  
3 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7BH

**Auditors**

SJK Chartered Accountants  
8 Bridge Road  
Moir  
Craigavon  
BT67 0PF

**Accountants**

Satori Accounting  
11 Orchard Business Park  
Pennyburn Industrial Estate  
Derry  
BT48 0LU

**Bankers**

First Trust Bank  
Meadowbank Branch  
Strand Road  
Derry

**Solicitors**

Hasson & Company Solicitors  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

**Advice North West**

**Registered number: NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **Objectives and activities**

Advice North West serves people living in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area. Our service is independent and provides free, confidential, impartial and high-quality advice to everybody regardless of ability, age, gender, gender identity, race, religion, political opinion, sexual orientation and social or economic status. Advice North West staff teams live our guiding principle of A.C.H.I.E.V.E. underpinning all we do in pursuit of a better life for our clients. A - Advance and Promote Equality C - Challenge discrimination and injustice H - Help and advocate on behalf of our marginalised and vulnerable I - Invest in our staff and support their learning and development E - Empower citizens to increase their resourcefulness for living V - Value diversity E - Effect positive change by influencing/lobbying policymaker.

Advice North West's professional and skilled staff meet client needs in all Advice Areas and Specialisms. We deliver a quality assured consistent advice service at every point of client contact. With widening inequality in society and increasing levels of detriment and poverty, we expect more people will seek and/or need our help.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. Provision of advice services across a range of issues such as social security benefits, money advice, employment legislation, consumer rights, housing rights etc in our four main office sites plus outreach advice provision in identified rural and urban areas of Derry and Strabane.
2. Specific focus on new welfare reform regulations and advising claimants on the impact on their financial well-being of new Universal Credit Migration and Disability Benefits.
3. Influencing Policy and legislative change via Commissioners Hearings.
4. Operation of Money/Debt advice project to advise users on issues relating to personal debt and implementation of legal debt remedies to assist our clients.

#### **Strategic Report**

##### **Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)**

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

- 1 Increasing service deliverable models to ensure no accessibility barriers for our clients – to include face-to face appointments, Telephone Advice, Email Advice and provision of Information talks to Communities. : Give tailored advice across multiple advice areas in an efficient and cost-effective way.
- 2 Digital technologies have created new ways to serve clients and we must keep pace with modern expectations, meeting more demand in a tailored and streamlined way. We will continue to develop our clients overall user experience of with new linked telephone system and Teams transforming how we interact with our clients funders and each other.
- 3 Delivery of Enhanced Specialist Training for all staff facilitated via CPAG, Law Centre, Advice NI.
- 4 Retention of Specialist Debt Unit and Tribunal Rights Unit.
- 5 Diversification of funding model and collaboration with stakeholders whilst consolidation of current financial streams. Ensure we have a sustainable financial resource model to meet multidisciplinary and cross functional working with Agile and integrative processes that can respond rapidly to change. Retention of funding and collaborative partners in the delivery of our aims, values and objectives.

The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

**Advice North West**  
**Registered number:**

**NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

#### **Financial review (including reserves policy)**

The net expenditure for the year 2024 was £7,436 (31 Mar 2023 – net income £24,421). The deficit for the year will be deducted from funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £276,521.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 3 months of all ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short term deposit accounts) of £182,533. Total expenditure for the year was £869,821 (excluding depreciation). The charity, therefore, held funds equivalent to 2.5 months of ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

#### **Plans for future periods**

There are no significant changes planned for the forthcoming financial year. The directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The company is governed and managed by the board of directors. The directors who served the company throughout the year are shown on pages 1 and 2, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The company is managed on a day-to-day basis by Mrs J Gallagher, who oversees all operational and financial matters on behalf of the board and reports directly to the board on all such matters.

The board of directors carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a monthly basis to review the performance of the company and to make decisions regarding the company's financial and operational matters. The directors govern the activities of the company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

#### **Directors**

The directors (also the trustees) who served the company during the period were as follows:

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr K Bradley
Mc C McKeone	

Advice North West  
Registered number:

NI056135

### Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)

#### Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- \* there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- \* the directors 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.

#### Auditor

SJK Chartered Accountants are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Small company exemptions

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

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board

  
Jacqueline Gallagher (Nov 6, 2024 16:48 GMT)

Mrs J Gallagher  
Company Secretary  
4 November 2024

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Advice North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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 ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

#### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment 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 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable 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 trustees' 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 charitable company'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 the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

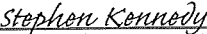
## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit 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. 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
Stephen Kennedy (Nov 6, 2024 15:50 GMT)

**Mr Stephen Kennedy**  
for and on behalf of  
**SJK Chartered Accountants**  
**Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors**

**8 Bridge Road**  
**Craigavon**  
**Northern Ireland**  
**BT67 0PF**

**4 November 2024**

**Advice North West**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	11,305	-	<b>11,305</b>	13,638
Charitable activities	4	-	848,360	<b>848,360</b>	853,989
Investments		6,061	-	<b>6,061</b>	2,016
<b>Total income</b>		<b>17,366</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>865,726</b>	<b>869,643</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	-	40,360	<b>40,360</b>	38,569
Charitable activities	6	23,634	762,478	<b>786,112</b>	758,958
Governance costs	7	1,168	45,522	<b>46,690</b>	47,695
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>24,802</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>873,162</b>	<b>845,222</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(7,436)</b>	-	<b>(7,436)</b>	24,421
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		139,245	144,712	<b>283,957</b>	259,536
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>131,809</b>	<b>144,712</b>	<b>276,521</b>	<b>283,957</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

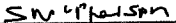
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

**Advice North West  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	12,934	11,233
		<u>12,934</u>	<u>11,233</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	101,144	68,977
Cash at bank and in hand		182,533	227,856
		<u>283,677</u>	<u>296,833</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(20,090)	(24,109)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>263,587</u>	<u>272,724</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>	16		
Unrestricted	17	131,809	139,245
Restricted	17	144,712	144,712
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 4 November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
Sam McPherson (Nov 6, 2024 16:15 GMT)

**S Mc Pherson**  
Director

  
Bernadette Heery (Nov 6, 2024 16:18 GMT)

**B Heery**  
Director

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**1 Accounting policies**

***(i) General information and basis of preparation***

Advice North West is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in Northern Ireland.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- The relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all sections of the community
- The advancement of education and protection of health thereby ensuring people do not suffer through ignorance of their rights or services available to them
- Provide free, impartial, confidential and independent support on consumer issues, employment legislation, social security benefits, money advice, health, housing rights and other legal matters

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practices as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

***(ii) Income recognition***

Incoming resources from generated funds consists of income from fees and services generated by the charity from its main charitable activities together with donations and fundraising. All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognized in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

***(iii) Expenditure recognition***

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

***(iv) Depreciation***

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Premises - 5% straight line

Office equipment - 20% straight line

***(v) Debtors and creditors receivable/ payable within one year***

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure

***(vi) Fund accounting***

Restricted Funds

Incoming resources of the company which are provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds

Incoming resources which are generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

***(vii) Going concern***

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>2 Net income for the year</b>			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Net incoming resources are stated after charging:</u>				
Director's emoluments			-	-
Depreciation of owned fixed assets			3,341	8,334
Auditors' remuneration			4,200	4,200
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>3 Income from donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Partnership hosting	6,641	-	6,641	11,233
Donations and sponsorship	4,664	-	4,664	2,405
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>11,305</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,305</b>	<b>13,638</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Derry City & Strabane District Council	-	658,129	658,129	694,919
S.T.E.P. NI Immigration Project	-	-	-	17,460
W.H.S.C.T.	-	106,925	106,925	67,227
Advice NI	-	83,306	83,306	74,383
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>-</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>853,989</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>5 Expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	-	40,360	40,360	38,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>-</b>	<b>40,360</b>	<b>40,360</b>	<b>38,569</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>6 Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	-	649,424	649,424	633,315
Staff training	-	2,186	2,186	140
Pensions costs	-	10,865	10,865	9,917
Rent	-	52,465	52,465	48,811
Water rates	-	344	344	214
Heat, light and power	-	13,656	13,656	12,524
Insurance	-	2,666	2,666	2,040
Computer and IT support	-	4,291	4,291	3,549
Repairs and maintenance	-	454	454	852
Telephone and internet	-	15,952	15,952	16,628
Postage and stationery	4,578	603	5,181	3,040
Subscriptions and membership fees	3,513	-	3,513	3,276
Travel expenses	2,004	-	2,004	887
General expenses	2,786	-	2,786	1,991
Case management system	-	6,231	6,231	6,438
Advertising, branding and website	4,740	-	4,740	-
Accountancy fees	1,371	-	1,371	2,384
Auditor's remuneration	4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Bank charges	442	-	442	418
Depreciation charge	-	3,341	3,341	8,334
	<b>23,634</b>	<b>762,478</b>	<b>786,112</b>	<b>758,958</b>

<b>7 Expenditure on other costs</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	-	45,522	45,522	43,536
Legal and professional fees	1,168	-	1,168	4,159
	<b>1,168</b>	<b>45,522</b>	<b>46,690</b>	<b>47,695</b>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**8 Auditor's remuneration**

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £4,200 (2023 - £4,200). There were no accountancy or other non-audit services provided by the auditor to the charity.

**9 Trustees and key management remuneration and expenses**

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year, nor did the trustees have any expenses reimbursed during the year.

**10 Staff costs and employee benefits**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Raising funds and governance	2	2
Charitable activities	24	25
	26	27

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	678,398	665,311
Social security	56,908	50,109
Pension contribution costs	10,865	9,917
	746,171	725,337

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding pension costs) of more than £60,000.

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	Premises	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2023	14,100	118,957	133,057
Additions	-	5,043	5,043
At 31 March 2024	14,100	124,000	138,100
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	9,870	111,954	121,824
Charge for the year	705	2,637	3,342
At 31 March 2024	10,575	114,591	125,166
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	3,525	9,409	12,934
At 31 March 2023	4,230	7,003	11,233

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>12 Debtors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Funding debtors	85,312	49,627
Prepayments and accrued income	15,832	19,350
	<u>101,144</u>	<u>68,977</u>

<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension contributions payable	-	2,351
Trade creditors and accruals	20,090	21,758
	<u>20,090</u>	<u>24,109</u>

**14 Related party transactions**

There were no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure under SORP 2015 (FRS 102).

**15 Tax status**

The company is a registered charity for tax purposes (reference number XN 88408) and is exempt from corporation tax on any income or capital gains arising.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**16 Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and, therefore, there is no issued share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

<b>17 Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Funds brought forward	139,245	144,712	<b>283,957</b>	259,536
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	( 7,436)	-	<b>(7,436)</b>	24,421
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>131,809</u></b>	<b><u>144,712</u></b>	<b><u>276,521</u></b>	<b><u>283,957</u></b>

Fund transfers represent the amount required in order to properly attribute the split of the charity's funds and reserves at the year-end date to reflect accurately the net assets of the charity at that date.

<b>18 Net assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Fixed assets		12,934	12,934
Current assets	142,405	141,272	283,677
Current liabilities	(10,596)	(9,494)	(20,090)
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>131,809</u></b>	<b><u>144,712</u></b>	<b><u>276,521</u></b>

**Advice North West**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104965

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# Annual report

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Registered number  
NI056135

**Advice North West**  
**Report and Accounts**  
**Year Ended**  
**31 March 2024**

**SJK & Company**  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
8 Bridge Road, Moira, Craigavon, BT67 0PF

**Advice North West  
Report and accounts  
Contents**

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Independent auditor's report to the members	5 to 7
Statement of financial activities	8
Balance sheet	9
Notes to the financial statements	10 to 16

**Advice North West**  
**Charity reference and administrative details**

**Company registration number**  
NIC104965

**Charity tax reference**  
XN88408

**The board of directors**

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr C McKeone
Mr K Bradley	

**Company secretary**  
Mrs J Gallagher

**Members of the management committee**

Mrs J Gallagher	Alderman J Montgomery (Started June 2024)
Mr E Doherty	Mr R Barr (Started June 2024)
Alderman N McMorris	Mrs C Deeney (Started June 2024)
Mrs R French	Cllr G Donnelly (Left June 24)
Cllr R Farrell	Cllr L Seenoi-Barr (Left June 24)
Mr G Deeney	Cllr C Devine (Left June 24)

**Registered office**

5th Floor, Embassy Building  
3 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7BH

**Auditors**

SJK Chartered Accountants  
8 Bridge Road  
Moir  
Craigavon  
BT67 0PF

**Accountants**

Satori Accounting  
11 Orchard Business Park  
Pennyburn Industrial Estate  
Derry  
BT48 0LU

**Bankers**

First Trust Bank  
Meadowbank Branch  
Strand Road  
Derry

**Solicitors**

Hasson & Company Solicitors  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

**Advice North West**

**Registered number: NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **Objectives and activities**

Advice North West serves people living in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area. Our service is independent and provides free, confidential, impartial and high-quality advice to everybody regardless of ability, age, gender, gender identity, race, religion, political opinion, sexual orientation and social or economic status. Advice North West staff teams live our guiding principle of A.C.H.I.E.V.E. underpinning all we do in pursuit of a better life for our clients. A - Advance and Promote Equality C - Challenge discrimination and injustice H - Help and advocate on behalf of our marginalised and vulnerable I - Invest in our staff and support their learning and development E - Empower citizens to increase their resourcefulness for living V - Value diversity E - Effect positive change by influencing/lobbying policymaker.

Advice North West's professional and skilled staff meet client needs in all Advice Areas and Specialisms. We deliver a quality assured consistent advice service at every point of client contact. With widening inequality in society and increasing levels of detriment and poverty, we expect more people will seek and/or need our help.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. Provision of advice services across a range of issues such as social security benefits, money advice, employment legislation, consumer rights, housing rights etc in our four main office sites plus outreach advice provision in identified rural and urban areas of Derry and Strabane.
2. Specific focus on new welfare reform regulations and advising claimants on the impact on their financial well-being of new Universal Credit Migration and Disability Benefits.
3. Influencing Policy and legislative change via Commissioners Hearings.
4. Operation of Money/Debt advice project to advise users on issues relating to personal debt and implementation of legal debt remedies to assist our clients.

#### **Strategic Report**

##### **Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)**

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

- 1 Increasing service deliverable models to ensure no accessibility barriers for our clients – to include face-to face appointments, Telephone Advice, Email Advice and provision of Information talks to Communities. : Give tailored advice across multiple advice areas in an efficient and cost-effective way.
- 2 Digital technologies have created new ways to serve clients and we must keep pace with modern expectations, meeting more demand in a tailored and streamlined way. We will continue to develop our clients overall user experience of with new linked telephone system and Teams transforming how we interact with our clients funders and each other.
- 3 Delivery of Enhanced Specialist Training for all staff facilitated via CPAG, Law Centre, Advice NI.
- 4 Retention of Specialist Debt Unit and Tribunal Rights Unit.
- 5 Diversification of funding model and collaboration with stakeholders whilst consolidation of current financial streams. Ensure we have a sustainable financial resource model to meet multidisciplinary and cross functional working with Agile and integrative processes that can respond rapidly to change. Retention of funding and collaborative partners in the delivery of our aims, values and objectives.

The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

**Advice North West**  
**Registered number:**

**NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

#### **Financial review (including reserves policy)**

The net expenditure for the year 2024 was £7,436 (31 Mar 2023 – net income £24,421). The deficit for the year will be deducted from funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £276,521.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 3 months of all ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short term deposit accounts) of £182,533. Total expenditure for the year was £869,821 (excluding depreciation). The charity, therefore, held funds equivalent to 2.5 months of ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

#### **Plans for future periods**

There are no significant changes planned for the forthcoming financial year. The directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The company is governed and managed by the board of directors. The directors who served the company throughout the year are shown on pages 1 and 2, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The company is managed on a day-to-day basis by Mrs J Gallagher, who oversees all operational and financial matters on behalf of the board and reports directly to the board on all such matters.

The board of directors carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a monthly basis to review the performance of the company and to make decisions regarding the company's financial and operational matters. The directors govern the activities of the company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

#### **Directors**

The directors (also the trustees) who served the company during the period were as follows:

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr K Bradley
Mc C McKeone	

Advice North West  
Registered number:

NI056135

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

#### **Trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Disclosure of information to the auditors**

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- \* there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- \* the directors 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.

#### **Auditor**

SJK Chartered Accountants are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Small company exemptions**

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

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board

  
Jacqueline Gallagher (Nov 6, 2024 16:48 GMT)

**Mrs J Gallagher**  
**Company Secretary**  
**4 November 2024**

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Advice North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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 ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

#### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment 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 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable 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 trustees' 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 charitable company'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 the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

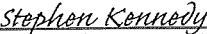
## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit 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. 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
Stephen Kennedy (Nov 6, 2024 15:50 GMT)

**Mr Stephen Kennedy**  
for and on behalf of  
**SJK Chartered Accountants**  
**Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors**

**8 Bridge Road**  
**Craigavon**  
**Northern Ireland**  
**BT67 0PF**

**4 November 2024**

**Advice North West  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	11,305	-	11,305	13,638
Charitable activities	4	-	848,360	848,360	853,989
Investments		6,061	-	6,061	2,016
<b>Total income</b>		<b>17,366</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>865,726</b>	<b>869,643</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	-	40,360	40,360	38,569
Charitable activities	6	23,634	762,478	786,112	758,958
Governance costs	7	1,168	45,522	46,690	47,695
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>24,802</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>873,162</b>	<b>845,222</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(7,436)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,436)</b>	<b>24,421</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		139,245	144,712	283,957	259,536
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>131,809</b>	<b>144,712</b>	<b>276,521</b>	<b>283,957</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

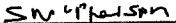
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

**Advice North West  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2024**


	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	12,934	11,233
		<u>12,934</u>	<u>11,233</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	101,144	68,977
Cash at bank and in hand		182,533	227,856
		<u>283,677</u>	<u>296,833</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(20,090)	(24,109)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>263,587</u>	<u>272,724</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>	16		
Unrestricted	17	131,809	139,245
Restricted	17	144,712	144,712
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 4 November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
Sam McPherson (Nov 6, 2024 16:15 GMT)

**S Mc Pherson**  
Director

  
Bernadette Heery (Nov 6, 2024 16:18 GMT)

**B Heery**  
Director

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**1 Accounting policies**

***(i) General information and basis of preparation***

Advice North West is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in Northern Ireland.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- The relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all sections of the community
- The advancement of education and protection of health thereby ensuring people do not suffer through ignorance of their rights or services available to them
- Provide free, impartial, confidential and independent support on consumer issues, employment legislation, social security benefits, money advice, health, housing rights and other legal matters

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practices as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

***(ii) Income recognition***

Incoming resources from generated funds consists of income from fees and services generated by the charity from its main charitable activities together with donations and fundraising. All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognized in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

***(iii) Expenditure recognition***

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

***(iv) Depreciation***

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Premises - 5% straight line

Office equipment - 20% straight line

***(v) Debtors and creditors receivable/ payable within one year***

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure

***(vi) Fund accounting***

Restricted Funds

Incoming resources of the company which are provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds

Incoming resources which are generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

***(vii) Going concern***

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>2 Net income for the year</b>			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Net incoming resources are stated after charging:</u>				
Director's emoluments			-	-
Depreciation of owned fixed assets			3,341	8,334
Auditors' remuneration			4,200	4,200
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>3 Income from donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Partnership hosting	6,641	-	6,641	11,233
Donations and sponsorship	4,664	-	4,664	2,405
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>11,305</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,305</b>	<b>13,638</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Derry City & Strabane District Council	-	658,129	658,129	694,919
S.T.E.P. NI Immigration Project	-	-	-	17,460
W.H.S.C.T.	-	106,925	106,925	67,227
Advice NI	-	83,306	83,306	74,383
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>-</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>853,989</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>5 Expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	-	40,360	40,360	38,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>-</b>	<b>40,360</b>	<b>40,360</b>	<b>38,569</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>6 Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	-	649,424	649,424	633,315
Staff training	-	2,186	2,186	140
Pensions costs	-	10,865	10,865	9,917
Rent	-	52,465	52,465	48,811
Water rates	-	344	344	214
Heat, light and power	-	13,656	13,656	12,524
Insurance	-	2,666	2,666	2,040
Computer and IT support	-	4,291	4,291	3,549
Repairs and maintenance	-	454	454	852
Telephone and internet	-	15,952	15,952	16,628
Postage and stationery	4,578	603	5,181	3,040
Subscriptions and membership fees	3,513	-	3,513	3,276
Travel expenses	2,004	-	2,004	887
General expenses	2,786	-	2,786	1,991
Case management system	-	6,231	6,231	6,438
Advertising, branding and website	4,740	-	4,740	-
Accountancy fees	1,371	-	1,371	2,384
Auditor's remuneration	4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Bank charges	442	-	442	418
Depreciation charge	-	3,341	3,341	8,334
	<b>23,634</b>	<b>762,478</b>	<b>786,112</b>	<b>758,958</b>

<b>7 Expenditure on other costs</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	-	45,522	45,522	43,536
Legal and professional fees	1,168	-	1,168	4,159
	<b>1,168</b>	<b>45,522</b>	<b>46,690</b>	<b>47,695</b>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**8 Auditor's remuneration**

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £4,200 (2023 - £4,200). There were no accountancy or other non-audit services provided by the auditor to the charity.

**9 Trustees and key management remuneration and expenses**

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year, nor did the trustees have any expenses reimbursed during the year.

**10 Staff costs and employee benefits**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Raising funds and governance	2	2
Charitable activities	24	25
	26	27

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	678,398	665,311
Social security	56,908	50,109
Pension contribution costs	10,865	9,917
	746,171	725,337

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding pension costs) of more than £60,000.

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	Premises	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2023	14,100	118,957	133,057
Additions	-	5,043	5,043
At 31 March 2024	14,100	124,000	138,100
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	9,870	111,954	121,824
Charge for the year	705	2,637	3,342
At 31 March 2024	10,575	114,591	125,166
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	3,525	9,409	12,934
At 31 March 2023	4,230	7,003	11,233

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>12 Debtors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Funding debtors	85,312	49,627
Prepayments and accrued income	15,832	19,350
	<u>101,144</u>	<u>68,977</u>

<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension contributions payable	-	2,351
Trade creditors and accruals	20,090	21,758
	<u>20,090</u>	<u>24,109</u>

**14 Related party transactions**

There were no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure under SORP 2015 (FRS 102).

**15 Tax status**

The company is a registered charity for tax purposes (reference number XN 88408) and is exempt from corporation tax on any income or capital gains arising.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**16 Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and, therefore, there is no issued share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

<b>17 Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Funds brought forward	139,245	144,712	<b>283,957</b>	259,536
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	( 7,436)	-	<b>(7,436)</b>	24,421
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>131,809</u></b>	<b><u>144,712</u></b>	<b><u>276,521</u></b>	<b><u>283,957</u></b>

Fund transfers represent the amount required in order to properly attribute the split of the charity's funds and reserves at the year-end date to reflect accurately the net assets of the charity at that date.

<b>18 Net assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Fixed assets		12,934	12,934
Current assets	142,405	141,272	283,677
Current liabilities	(10,596)	(9,494)	(20,090)
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>131,809</u></b>	<b><u>144,712</u></b>	<b><u>276,521</u></b>

**Advice North West**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104965

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# Annual return

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Registered number  
NI056135

**Advice North West**  
**Report and Accounts**  
**Year Ended**  
**31 March 2024**

**SJK & Company**  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
8 Bridge Road, Moira, Craigavon, BT67 0PF

**Advice North West  
Report and accounts  
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Statement of financial activities	8
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**Advice North West**  
**Charity reference and administrative details**

**Company registration number**  
NIC104965

**Charity tax reference**  
XN88408

**The board of directors**

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr C McKeone
Mr K Bradley	

**Company secretary**  
Mrs J Gallagher

**Members of the management committee**

Mrs J Gallagher	Alderman J Montgomery (Started June 2024)
Mr E Doherty	Mr R Barr (Started June 2024)
Alderman N McMorris	Mrs C Deeney (Started June 2024)
Mrs R French	Cllr G Donnelly (Left June 24)
Cllr R Farrell	Cllr L Seeno-Barr (Left June 24)
Mr G Deeney	Cllr C Devine (Left June 24)

**Registered office**

5th Floor, Embassy Building  
3 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7BH

**Auditors**

SJK Chartered Accountants  
8 Bridge Road  
Moir  
Craigavon  
BT67 0PF

**Accountants**

Satori Accounting  
11 Orchard Business Park  
Pennyburn Industrial Estate  
Derry  
BT48 0LU

**Bankers**

First Trust Bank  
Meadowbank Branch  
Strand Road  
Derry

**Solicitors**

Hasson & Company Solicitors  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

**Advice North West**

**Registered number: NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **Objectives and activities**

Advice North West serves people living in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area. Our service is independent and provides free, confidential, impartial and high-quality advice to everybody regardless of ability, age, gender, gender identity, race, religion, political opinion, sexual orientation and social or economic status. Advice North West staff teams live our guiding principle of A.C.H.I.E.V.E. underpinning all we do in pursuit of a better life for our clients. A - Advance and Promote Equality C - Challenge discrimination and injustice H - Help and advocate on behalf of our marginalised and vulnerable I - Invest in our staff and support their learning and development E - Empower citizens to increase their resourcefulness for living V - Value diversity E - Effect positive change by influencing/lobbying policymaker.

Advice North West's professional and skilled staff meet client needs in all Advice Areas and Specialisms. We deliver a quality assured consistent advice service at every point of client contact. With widening inequality in society and increasing levels of detriment and poverty, we expect more people will seek and/or need our help.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. Provision of advice services across a range of issues such as social security benefits, money advice, employment legislation, consumer rights, housing rights etc in our four main office sites plus outreach advice provision in identified rural and urban areas of Derry and Strabane.
2. Specific focus on new welfare reform regulations and advising claimants on the impact on their financial well-being of new Universal Credit Migration and Disability Benefits.
3. Influencing Policy and legislative change via Commissioners Hearings.
4. Operation of Money/Debt advice project to advise users on issues relating to personal debt and implementation of legal debt remedies to assist our clients.

#### **Strategic Report**

##### **Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)**

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

- 1 Increasing service deliverable models to ensure no accessibility barriers for our clients – to include face-to face appointments, Telephone Advice, Email Advice and provision of Information talks to Communities. : Give tailored advice across multiple advice areas in an efficient and cost-effective way.
- 2 Digital technologies have created new ways to serve clients and we must keep pace with modern expectations, meeting more demand in a tailored and streamlined way. We will continue to develop our clients overall user experience of with new linked telephone system and Teams transforming how we interact with our clients funders and each other.
- 3 Delivery of Enhanced Specialist Training for all staff facilitated via CPAG, Law Centre, Advice NI.
- 4 Retention of Specialist Debt Unit and Tribunal Rights Unit.
- 5 Diversification of funding model and collaboration with stakeholders whilst consolidation of current financial streams. Ensure we have a sustainable financial resource model to meet multidisciplinary and cross functional working with Agile and integrative processes that can respond rapidly to change. Retention of funding and collaborative partners in the delivery of our aims, values and objectives.

The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

**Advice North West**  
**Registered number:**

**NI056135**

## **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

### **Financial review (including reserves policy)**

The net expenditure for the year 2024 was £7,436 (31 Mar 2023 – net income £24,421). The deficit for the year will be deducted from funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £276,521.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 3 months of all ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short term deposit accounts) of £182,533. Total expenditure for the year was £869,821 (excluding depreciation). The charity, therefore, held funds equivalent to 2.5 months of ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

### **Plans for future periods**

There are no significant changes planned for the forthcoming financial year. The directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The company is governed and managed by the board of directors. The directors who served the company throughout the year are shown on pages 1 and 2, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The company is managed on a day-to-day basis by Mrs J Gallagher, who oversees all operational and financial matters on behalf of the board and reports directly to the board on all such matters.

The board of directors carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a monthly basis to review the performance of the company and to make decisions regarding the company's financial and operational matters. The directors govern the activities of the company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

### **Directors**

The directors (also the trustees) who served the company during the period were as follows:

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr K Bradley
Mc C McKeone	

Advice North West  
Registered number:

NI056135

### Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)

#### Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Disclosure of information to the auditors

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- \* there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- \* the directors 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.

#### Auditor

SJK Chartered Accountants are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Small company exemptions

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

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board

  
Jacqueline Gallagher (Nov 6, 2024 16:48 GMT)

Mrs J Gallagher  
Company Secretary  
4 November 2024

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Advice North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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 ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

#### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment 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 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable 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 trustees' 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 charitable company'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 the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

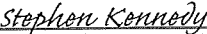
## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit 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. 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
Stephen Kennedy (Nov 6, 2024 15:50 GMT)

**Mr Stephen Kennedy**  
for and on behalf of  
**SJK Chartered Accountants**  
**Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors**

**8 Bridge Road**  
**Craigavon**  
**Northern Ireland**  
**BT67 0PF**

**4 November 2024**

**Advice North West**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	11,305	-	11,305	13,638
Charitable activities	4	-	848,360	848,360	853,989
Investments		6,061	-	6,061	2,016
<b>Total income</b>		<b>17,366</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>865,726</b>	<b>869,643</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	-	40,360	40,360	38,569
Charitable activities	6	23,634	762,478	786,112	758,958
Governance costs	7	1,168	45,522	46,690	47,695
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>24,802</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>873,162</b>	<b>845,222</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(7,436)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,436)</b>	<b>24,421</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		139,245	144,712	283,957	259,536
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>131,809</b>	<b>144,712</b>	<b>276,521</b>	<b>283,957</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

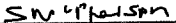
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

**Advice North West  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	12,934	11,233
		<u>12,934</u>	<u>11,233</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	101,144	68,977
Cash at bank and in hand		182,533	227,856
		<u>283,677</u>	<u>296,833</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(20,090)	(24,109)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>263,587</u>	<u>272,724</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>	16		
Unrestricted	17	131,809	139,245
Restricted	17	144,712	144,712
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>276,521</u>	<u>283,957</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 4 November 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
Sam McPherson (Nov 6, 2024 16:15 GMT)

**S Mc Pherson**  
Director

  
Bernadette Heery (Nov 6, 2024 16:18 GMT)

**B Heery**  
Director

**Advice North West**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**1 Accounting policies**

**(i) General information and basis of preparation**

Advice North West is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in Northern Ireland.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- □ The relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all sections of the community
- □ The advancement of education and protection of health thereby ensuring people do not suffer through ignorance of their rights or services available to them
- □ Provide free, impartial, confidential and independent support on consumer issues, employment legislation, social security benefits, money advice, health, housing rights and other legal matters

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practices as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

**(ii) Income recognition**

Incoming resources from generated funds consists of income from fees and services generated by the charity from its main charitable activities together with donations and fundraising. All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognized in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

***(iii) Expenditure recognition***

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

***(iv) Depreciation***

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Premises - 5% straight line

Office equipment - 20% straight line

***(v) Debtors and creditors receivable/ payable within one year***

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure

***(vi) Fund accounting***

Restricted Funds

Incoming resources of the company which are provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds

Incoming resources which are generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

***(vii) Going concern***

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>2 Net income for the year</b>			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Net incoming resources are stated after charging:</u>				
Director's emoluments			-	-
Depreciation of owned fixed assets			3,341	8,334
Auditors' remuneration			4,200	4,200
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>3 Income from donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Partnership hosting	6,641	-	6,641	11,233
Donations and sponsorship	4,664	-	4,664	2,405
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>11,305</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,305</b>	<b>13,638</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Derry City & Strabane District Council	-	658,129	658,129	694,919
S.T.E.P. NI Immigration Project	-	-	-	17,460
W.H.S.C.T.	-	106,925	106,925	67,227
Advice NI	-	83,306	83,306	74,383
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>-</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>848,360</b>	<b>853,989</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>5 Expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	-	40,360	40,360	38,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>-</b>	<b>40,360</b>	<b>40,360</b>	<b>38,569</b>
			<hr/>	<hr/>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>6 Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	-	649,424	649,424	633,315
Staff training	-	2,186	2,186	140
Pensions costs	-	10,865	10,865	9,917
Rent	-	52,465	52,465	48,811
Water rates	-	344	344	214
Heat, light and power	-	13,656	13,656	12,524
Insurance	-	2,666	2,666	2,040
Computer and IT support	-	4,291	4,291	3,549
Repairs and maintenance	-	454	454	852
Telephone and internet	-	15,952	15,952	16,628
Postage and stationery	4,578	603	5,181	3,040
Subscriptions and membership fees	3,513	-	3,513	3,276
Travel expenses	2,004	-	2,004	887
General expenses	2,786	-	2,786	1,991
Case management system	-	6,231	6,231	6,438
Advertising, branding and website	4,740	-	4,740	-
Accountancy fees	1,371	-	1,371	2,384
Auditor's remuneration	4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Bank charges	442	-	442	418
Depreciation charge	-	3,341	3,341	8,334
	<b>23,634</b>	<b>762,478</b>	<b>786,112</b>	<b>758,958</b>

<b>7 Expenditure on other costs</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	-	45,522	45,522	43,536
Legal and professional fees	1,168	-	1,168	4,159
	<b>1,168</b>	<b>45,522</b>	<b>46,690</b>	<b>47,695</b>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**8 Auditor's remuneration**

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £4,200 (2023 - £4,200). There were no accountancy or other non-audit services provided by the auditor to the charity.

**9 Trustees and key management remuneration and expenses**

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year, nor did the trustees have any expenses reimbursed during the year.

**10 Staff costs and employee benefits**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Raising funds and governance	2	2
Charitable activities	24	25
	26	27

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	678,398	665,311
Social security	56,908	50,109
Pension contribution costs	10,865	9,917
	746,171	725,337

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding pension costs) of more than £60,000.

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	Premises	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2023	14,100	118,957	133,057
Additions	-	5,043	5,043
At 31 March 2024	14,100	124,000	138,100
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	9,870	111,954	121,824
Charge for the year	705	2,637	3,342
At 31 March 2024	10,575	114,591	125,166
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	3,525	9,409	12,934
At 31 March 2023	4,230	7,003	11,233

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>12 Debtors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Funding debtors	85,312	49,627
Prepayments and accrued income	15,832	19,350
	<u>101,144</u>	<u>68,977</u>

<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension contributions payable	-	2,351
Trade creditors and accruals	20,090	21,758
	<u>20,090</u>	<u>24,109</u>

**14 Related party transactions**

There were no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure under SORP 2015 (FRS 102).

**15 Tax status**

The company is a registered charity for tax purposes (reference number XN 88408) and is exempt from corporation tax on any income or capital gains arising.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**16 Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and, therefore, there is no issued share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

<b>17 Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>
Funds brought forward	139,245	144,712	<b>283,957</b>	259,536
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	( 7,436)	-	<b>(7,436)</b>	24,421
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b><u>131,809</u></b>	<b><u>144,712</u></b>	<b><u>276,521</u></b>	<b><u>283,957</u></b>

Fund transfers represent the amount required in order to properly attribute the split of the charity's funds and reserves at the year-end date to reflect accurately the net assets of the charity at that date.

<b>18 Net assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Fixed assets		12,934	12,934
Current assets	142,405	141,272	283,677
Current liabilities	(10,596)	(9,494)	(20,090)
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>131,809</u></b>	<b><u>144,712</u></b>	<b><u>276,521</u></b>

**Advice North West**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104965

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# Accounts

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Registered number  
NI056135

**Advice North West**  
**Report and Accounts**  
**Year Ended**  
**31 March 2023**

**SJK & Company**  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
8 Bridge Road, Moira, Craigavon, BT67 0PF

**Advice North West  
Report and accounts  
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**Advice North West**

**Charity reference and administrative details**

**Company registration number**

NIC104965

**Charity tax reference**

XN88408

**The board of directors**

Mr P Gray

Mr S McPherson

Mrs J Harte

Mr K Bradley

Ms S Duffy

Ms B Heery

Mr C McKeone

**Company secretary**

Mrs J Gallagher

**Members of the management committee**

Mrs J Gallagher

Cllr G Donnelly

Mr E Doherty

Mr R Moyne (Left Oct 22)

Mr G Deeney (Started Oct 22)

Alderman M Devenney (Left Dec 22)

Alderman N McMorris (Started Dec 22)

Mrs R French (Started Jan 23)

Cllr A Dobbins (Left June 23)

Cllr S Harkin (Left June 23)

Cllr R Barr (Left June 23)

Cllr L Seenoi-Barr (Started June 23)

Cllr C Devine (Started June 23)

Cllr R Farrell (Started June 23)

**Registered office**

5th Floor, Embassy Building

3 Strand Road

Derry

BT48 7BH

**Auditors**

SJK Chartered Accountants

8 Bridge Road

Moir

Craigavon

BT67 0PF

**Auditors**

Satori Accounting

11 Orchard Business Park

Pennyburn Industrial Estate

Derry, BT48 0LU

**Bankers**

First Trust Bank

Meadowbank Branch

Strand Road

Derry

**Solicitors**

Hasson & Company Solicitors

39-41 Clarendon Street

Derry

BT48 7ER

**Advice North West**

**Registered number: NI056135**

**Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Objectives and activities**

The principle objectives and activities of the charity during the year continued to be the relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all sections of the community, the advancement of education and protection of health thereby ensuring people do not suffer through ignorance of their rights or services available to them.

The principle of Advice North West is that we provide free, impartial, confidential and independent support and advocacy over a number of areas of law including social security benefits, money advice/debt, employment legislation, consumer issues, health, housing rights and other legal matters.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. Provision of advice services across a range of issues such as social security benefits, money advice, employment legislation, consumer rights, housing rights etc in our four main office sites plus outreach advice provision in identified rural and urban areas of Derry and Strabane.
2. Specific focus on new welfare reform regulations and advising claimants on the impact on their financial well-being of new Universal Credit Migration and Disability Benefits.
3. Influencing Policy and legislative change via Commissioners Hearings.
4. Operation of Money/Debt advice project to advise users on issues relating to personal debt and implementation of legal debt remedies to assist our clients.

**Strategic Report**

**Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)**

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

- 1 Increasing service deliverable models to ensure no accessibility barriers for our clients – to include face-to-face appointments, Telephone Advice, Email Advice and provision of Information talks to Communities.
- 2 Further Investment in new digital technology, with new linked telephone system and Teams transforming how we interact with our clients Funders and each other.
- 3 Delivery of Enhanced Specialist Training for all staff facilitated via CPAG, Law Centre, Advice NI.
- 4 Retention of Specialist Debt Unit and Tribunal Rights Unit.
- 5 Retention of funding and collaborative partners in the delivery of our aims, values and objectives.

The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

**Financial review (including reserves policy)**

The net income for the year was £24,421 (31 Mar 2022 – net expenditure £23,785). The surplus for the year will be added to funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £283,957.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 3 months of all ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short term deposit accounts) of £227,856. Total expenditure for the year was £836,888 (excluding depreciation). The charity, therefore, held funds equivalent to 3.3 months of ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

**Advice North West**  
**Registered number:**

**NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

#### **Plans for future periods**

There are no significant changes planned for the forthcoming financial year. The directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The company is governed and managed by the board of directors. The directors who served the company throughout the year are shown on pages 1 and 2, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The company is managed on a day-to-day basis by Mrs J Gallagher, who oversees all operational and financial matters on behalf of the board and reports directly to the board on all such matters.

The board of directors carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a monthly basis to review the performance of the company and to make decisions regarding the company's financial and operational matters. The directors govern the activities of the company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

#### **Directors**

The directors (also the trustees) who served the company during the period were as follows:

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr K Bradley
Mc C McKeone	Mrs M Quigley
Ms WA Kirk	

#### **Trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Disclosure of information to the auditors**

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- \* there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- \* the directors 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.

Advice North West

Registered number: NI056135

**Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

**Auditor**

SJK Chartered Accountants are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

**Small company exemptions**

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

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board

*Jacqueline Gallagher*

Jacqueline Gallagher (Dec 1, 2023 12:51 GMT)

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Mrs J Gallagher  
Company Secretary  
1 December 2023

## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Advice North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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 ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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,

#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Advice North West Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment 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 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable 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 trustees' 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 charitable company'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 the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

**Advice North West**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit 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. 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Stephen J Kennedy*

Stephen J Kennedy (Dec 1, 2023 15:37 GMT)

**Mr Stephen Kennedy**  
**for and on behalf of**  
**SJK Chartered Accountants**  
**Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors**

**8 Bridge Road**  
**Craigavon**  
**Northern Ireland**  
**BT67 0PF**

**1 December 2023**

**Advice North West**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	13,638	-	13,638	8,495
Charitable activities	4	-	853,989	853,989	846,109
Investments		2,016	-	2,016	72
<b>Total income</b>		<b>15,654</b>	<b>853,989</b>	<b>869,643</b>	<b>854,676</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	-	38,569	38,569	39,815
Charitable activities	6	13,481	745,477	758,958	793,583
Governance costs	7	4,159	43,536	47,695	45,063
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>17,640</b>	<b>827,582</b>	<b>845,222</b>	<b>878,461</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>(1,986)</b>	<b>26,407</b>	<b>24,421</b>	<b>(23,785)</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		141,231	118,305	259,536	283,321
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>139,245</b>	<b>144,712</b>	<b>283,957</b>	<b>259,536</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

**Advice North West  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	11,233	19,045
		<u>11,233</u>	<u>19,045</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	68,977	78,071
Cash at bank and in hand		227,856	172,631
		<u>296,833</u>	<u>250,702</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(24,109)	(10,211)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>272,724</u>	<u>240,491</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>283,957</u>	<u>259,536</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>283,957</u>	<u>259,536</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>	16		
Unrestricted	17	139,245	141,231
Restricted	17	144,712	118,305
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>283,957</u>	<u>259,536</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 1 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

 (Dec 1, 2023 15:30 GMT)

**S Mc Pherson**  
Director

  
Bernie Heery (Dec 1, 2023 13:08 GMT)

**B Heery**  
Director

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**1 Accounting policies**

***(i) General information and basis of preparation***

Advice North West is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in Northern Ireland.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- the relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all sections of the community
- the advancement of education and protection of health thereby ensuring people do not suffer through ignorance of their rights or services available to them
- provide free, impartial, confidential and independent support on consumer issues, employment legislation, social security benefits, money advice, health, housing rights and other legal matters

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic Of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practices as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

***(ii) Income recognition***

Incoming resources from generated funds consists of income from fees and services generated by the charity from its main charitable activities together with donations and fundraising. All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognized in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

***(iii) Expenditure recognition***

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

***(iv) Depreciation***

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Premises - 5% straight line

Office equipment - 20% straight line

***(v) Debtors and creditors receivable/ payable within one year***

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure

***(vi) Fund accounting***

Restricted Funds

Incoming resources of the company which are provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds

Incoming resources which are generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

***(vii) Going concern***

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>2</b>	<b>Net income for the year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<u>Net incoming resources are stated after charging:</u>		
	Depreciation of owned fixed assets	8,334	8,580
	Auditors' remuneration	4,200	2,400
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

<b>3</b>	<b>Income from donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Partnership hosting	11,233	-	11,233	4,695
	Donations and sponsorship	2,405	-	2,405	3,800
		<u>13,638</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,638</u>	<u>8,495</u>

<b>4</b>	<b>Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Derry City & Strabane District Council	-	694,919	694,919	695,686
	S.T.E.P. NI Immigration Project	-	17,460	17,460	-
	W.H.S.C.T.	-	67,227	67,227	69,715
	Advice NI	-	74,383	74,383	73,958
	Pensionwise	-	-	-	6,750
		<u>-</u>	<u>853,989</u>	<u>853,989</u>	<u>846,109</u>

<b>5</b>	<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Wages and salaries	-	38,569	38,569	39,815
		<u>-</u>	<u>38,569</u>	<u>38,569</u>	<u>39,815</u>

Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

6 Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Wages and salaries	-	633,315	633,315	670,196
Staff training	-	140	140	250
Pensions costs	-	9,917	9,917	17,501
Rent	-	48,811	48,811	52,436
Water rates	-	214	214	165
Heat, light and power	-	12,524	12,524	7,804
Insurance	-	2,040	2,040	1,826
Computer and IT support	-	3,549	3,549	1,723
Repairs and maintenance	-	852	852	1,130
Telephone and internet	-	16,628	16,628	15,703
Postage and stationery	989	2,051	3,040	963
Subscriptions and membership fees	2,612	664	3,276	4,551
Travel expenses	887	-	887	-
General expenses	1,991	-	1,991	558
Case management system	-	6,438	6,438	6,438
Accountancy fees	2,384	-	2,384	1,040
Auditor's remuneration	4,200	-	4,200	2,400
Bank charges	418	-	418	319
Depreciation charge	-	8,334	8,334	8,580
Exceptional expenditure on CVA settlement	-	-	-	-
	<u>13,481</u>	<u>745,477</u>	<u>758,958</u>	<u>793,583</u>
7 Expenditure on other costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Wages and salaries	-	43,536	43,536	44,938
Legal and professional fees	4,159	-	4,159	125
	<u>4,159</u>	<u>43,536</u>	<u>47,695</u>	<u>45,063</u>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**8 Auditor's remuneration**

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £4,200 (2022 - £2,400). There were no accountancy or other non-audit services provided by the auditor to the charity.

**9 Trustees and key management remuneration and expenses**

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year, nor did the trustees have any expenses reimbursed during the year.

**10 Staff costs and employee benefits**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Raising funds and governance	2	2
Charitable activities	25	26
	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	665,311	695,753
Social security	50,109	59,196
Pension contribution costs	9,917	17,501
	<u>725,337</u>	<u>772,450</u>

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding pension costs) of more than £60,000.

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	Premises	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2022	14,100	118,435	132,535
Additions	-	522	522
At 31 March 2023	<u>14,100</u>	<u>118,957</u>	<u>133,057</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2022	9,165	104,325	113,490
Charge for the year	705	7,629	8,334
At 31 March 2023	<u>9,870</u>	<u>111,954</u>	<u>121,824</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,230</u>	<u>7,003</u>	<u>11,233</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>4,935</u>	<u>14,110</u>	<u>19,045</u>

**Advice North West  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>12 Debtors</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Funding debtors	49,627	69,821
Prepayments and accrued income	19,350	8,250
	<u>68,977</u>	<u>78,071</u>

<b>13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank overdrafts	-	(2,177)
Taxes and social security	-	30
Pension contributions payable	2,351	-
Trade creditors and accruals	21,758	12,358
	<u>24,109</u>	<u>10,211</u>

**14 Related party transactions**

There were no transactions with related parties during the year which require disclosure under SORP 2015 (FRS 102).

**15 Tax status**

The company is a registered charity for tax purposes (reference number XN 88408) and is exempt from corporation tax on any income or capital gains arising.

**Advice North West**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**16 Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and, therefore, there is no issued share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

<b>17 Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>
Funds brought forward	141,231	118,305	<b>259,536</b>	283,321
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	( 1,986)	26,407	<b>24,421</b>	(23,785)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<u><b>139,245</b></u>	<u><b>144,712</b></u>	<u><b>283,957</b></u>	<u><b>259,536</b></u>

Fund transfers represent the amount required in order to properly attribute the split of the charity's funds and reserves at the year-end date to reflect accurately the net assets of the charity at that date.

<b>18 Net assets</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Fixed assets	-	11,233	11,233
Current assets	144,957	151,876	296,833
Current liabilities	(5,712)	(18,397)	(24,109)
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>139,245</b></u>	<u><b>144,712</b></u>	<u><b>283,957</b></u>

**Advice North West**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104965

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# Annual report

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**Advice North West**

**Registered number: NI056135**

**Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Objectives and activities**

The principle objectives and activities of the charity during the year continued to be the relief of poverty, sickness and distress in all sections of the community, the advancement of education and protection of health thereby ensuring people do not suffer through ignorance of their rights or services available to them.

The principle of Advice North West is that we provide free, impartial, confidential and independent support and advocacy over a number of areas of law including social security benefits, money advice/debt, employment legislation, consumer issues, health, housing rights and other legal matters.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. Provision of advice services across a range of issues such as social security benefits, money advice, employment legislation, consumer rights, housing rights etc in our four main office sites plus outreach advice provision in identified rural and urban areas of Derry and Strabane.
2. Specific focus on new welfare reform regulations and advising claimants on the impact on their financial well-being of new Universal Credit Migration and Disability Benefits.
3. Influencing Policy and legislative change via Commissioners Hearings.
4. Operation of Money/Debt advice project to advise users on issues relating to personal debt and implementation of legal debt remedies to assist our clients.

**Strategic Report**

**Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)**

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

- 1 Increasing service deliverable models to ensure no accessibility barriers for our clients – to include face-to-face appointments, Telephone Advice, Email Advice and provision of Information talks to Communities.
- 2 Further Investment in new digital technology, with new linked telephone system and Teams transforming how we interact with our clients Funders and each other.
- 3 Delivery of Enhanced Specialist Training for all staff facilitated via CPAG, Law Centre, Advice NI.
- 4 Retention of Specialist Debt Unit and Tribunal Rights Unit.
- 5 Retention of funding and collaborative partners in the delivery of our aims, values and objectives.

The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

**Financial review (including reserves policy)**

The net income for the year was £24,421 (31 Mar 2022 – net expenditure £23,785). The surplus for the year will be added to funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £283,957.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 3 months of all ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short term deposit accounts) of £227,856. Total expenditure for the year was £836,888 (excluding depreciation). The charity, therefore, held funds equivalent to 3.3 months of ongoing operating costs (excluding depreciation).

**Advice North West**  
**Registered number:**

**NI056135**

### **Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

#### **Plans for future periods**

There are no significant changes planned for the forthcoming financial year. The directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The company is governed and managed by the board of directors. The directors who served the company throughout the year are shown on pages 1 and 2, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The company is managed on a day-to-day basis by Mrs J Gallagher, who oversees all operational and financial matters on behalf of the board and reports directly to the board on all such matters.

The board of directors carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a monthly basis to review the performance of the company and to make decisions regarding the company's financial and operational matters. The directors govern the activities of the company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

#### **Directors**

The directors (also the trustees) who served the company during the period were as follows:

Mr P Gray	Ms S Duffy
Mr S McPherson	Ms B Heery
Mrs J Harte	Mr K Bradley
Mc C McKeone	Mrs M Quigley
Ms WA Kirk	

#### **Trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Disclosure of information to the auditors**

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- \* there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- \* the directors 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.

Advice North West

Registered number: NI056135

**Trustees Annual Report (including Directors' & Strategic Report)**

**Auditor**

SJK Chartered Accountants are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

**Small company exemptions**

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

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board

*Jacqueline Gallagher*

Jacqueline Gallagher (Dec 1, 2023 12:51 GMT)

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Mrs J Gallagher  
Company Secretary  
1 December 2023

**Advice North West**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104965

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# Annual return

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## **Advice North West**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Advice North West (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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 ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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,

#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Advice North West Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within 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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report

### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees 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 charitable company'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 charitable 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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment 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 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable 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 trustees' 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 charitable company'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 the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

**Advice North West**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Advice North West**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit 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. 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 auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Stephen J Kennedy*

Stephen J Kennedy (Dec 1, 2023 15:37 GMT)

**Mr Stephen Kennedy**  
**for and on behalf of**  
**SJK Chartered Accountants**  
**Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors**

**8 Bridge Road**  
**Craigavon**  
**Northern Ireland**  
**BT67 0PF**

**1 December 2023**