

# Aurora Counselling Services

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105846

## Details

Status	Received
Company number	<a href="#">54802</a>
Registered	2017-02-08
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

Address	46B Racecourse Road Londonderry Bt48 8ds BT48 8DS
Phone	028 7135 0407
Email	<a href="mailto:auroracounselling46@gmail.com">auroracounselling46@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://auroracounsellingni.org.uk">auroracounsellingni.org.uk</a>

## Activities

**Purposes:** The Company is established to: relieve suffering and distress and advance education among people in Derry and the surrounding area (hereinafter referred to as "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, religion, sex or political opinion and in particular to provide counselling and support services to people in need.

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

**How the charity works:** Counselling/support, Education/training, Sport/recreation

**Who the charity helps:** Carers, Children (5-13 year olds), Ethnic minorities, Ex-offenders and prisoners, General public, Men, Mental health, Older people, Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Travellers, Unemployed/low income, Victim support, Voluntary and community sector, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-10-31	£173,814	£186,519	£0	3

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Leisa Smith		
Mr John Kelly		
Ms Bronach Antoinette Mcmonagle		
Ms Joan Collumb		

**Aurora Counselling Services**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105846

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# Accounts

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**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI054802**

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ACCOUNTS**

**31 OCTOBER 2024**

**Charity Number XR 14107**

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2024.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered charity name** Aurora Counselling Services  
(Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Charity registration number** XR 14107

**Company registration number** NI054802

**Registered office** 46B Racecourse Road  
Derry  
BT48 8DS

#### **The trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Terry Downey (Director)  
Joan Collumb (Chairperson)  
Bronagh McMonagle (Secretary)  
John Kelly (Treasurer)

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing Document**

Aurora Counselling Services is a company limited by guarantee and accepted as charitable by HMRC under reference XR 14107. The company was incorporated on 19th April 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of members is limited in that every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of the Trustees**

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association unless otherwise determined by the company in General Meeting the number of Trustees shall not be less than four. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting at which they shall be eligible for re-election. All members of the Board of Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Aurora Counselling Services is a not-for-profit organisation committed to making a positive difference in the community. The company is established to relieve suffering and distress and advance education among people in Derry and the surrounding area without distinction of age, religion, sex, or political opinion, and in particular to provide counselling and support services to people in need. While committed to providing professional quality advice services to clients, our primary goals are social improvement. We aim to make a difference by:

1. Generating income to invest in future community regeneration.
2. Providing a high-quality local service to the community.

We deliver a variety of therapeutic services to adults, teenagers and children presenting with emotional and mental wellbeing difficulties. We offer counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy, psychotherapy, complementary therapies, life coaching and personal development programmes.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The year 2023/ 2024 continued with the pattern of increasing demand across all demographics and enhanced complexity of referrals often meaning longer attendance periods within all services. During the year Aurora delivered talking therapies and complementary therapies to 120 adults, 30 children/ teens and 4 families with a further 56 individuals accessing play based emotional wellbeing programmes and workshops facilitated by funding provided by the Victims and Survivors service . Following on from 2022/2023 Aurora was once again awarded funding from the PHA small grants fund administered by the CLEAR project to build upon learning from the previous year. Through this grant we delivered 3 Power of play programmes to preschoolers and their parents, 2 power of play programmes to young primary school age children (4 years to 6 years) and their parents and a range of workshops to parents only covering various topics. In total we worked with 91 individuals. The project was highly praised by all who attended and acted as a natural and organic referral pathway for families in need of additional support within therapeutic services. Throughout the year we continued to work in partnership with schools and GP surgeries, providing counselling within these settings, to improve accessibility to talking therapies. In total we worked with 12 schools across the city supporting 55 children and teenagers and a further 28 patients within the Claudy GP practice. In 2024 we formed a new collaborative partnership with Culmore Community Partnership to provide play and child therapy from their new community centre for local children living in the area. The pilot worked very well, and plans are afoot to utilise the Culmore fort as an emotional wellbeing hub following renovation works. This will further increase the support that is available for the local community.

Year 2023/24 was a busy year that has seen Aurora strengthen working practices and referrals both in house and with the local community. This is a trend we intend to continue to build upon as we seek to offer individuals help with their emotional and mental health.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which consists of establishing a system of identifying risks and mitigating such risks.

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems of procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised through the procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total incoming resources for the year were £173,814 of which approximately 95% was generated from grants and the provision of counselling services, 5% from voluntary donations and 0% from other resources. Total resources expended by the charity were £186,519. Approximately 99% of this was expended on direct charitable activities and 1% on governance costs. The balance on total funds at the year-end was £10,497 of which £6,568 were unrestricted in nature, and £3,929 were restricted.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees consider it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the future of its employment capacity, users' well-being and general charitable work in jeopardy. The trustees have established a reserves policy to ensure the stability of the mission, programme, employment, and on-going operations of the charity. Free reserves are defined by the trustees as those funds freely available for use as the charity so determines and thereby excludes any restricted or designated funds. A formal policy on reserves has been agreed by the trustees which stipulate that reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that the charity's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form. The trustee's policy is that the amount of free reserves should reflect three months expenditure plus any additional core costs. Free reserves as at 31st October 2024 are £6,568. The trustees continue to strive to build a general level of reserves in accordance with their policy so that they will be able to continue the current activities of the charity. In the short term, the trustees have also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure should be curtailed, should circumstances arise.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

### **YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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#### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity 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) and with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities". Under the relevant legislation the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and in the net movement in funds for that period. In preparing the financial statements appropriate accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
2. observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
3. Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
4. Prepare Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate records that comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

#### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Noel Crossan F.C.A has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

Registered office:  
46B Racecourse Road  
Derry  
BT48 8DS

Signed on behalf of the trustees



30/08/2025

Joan Collumb

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Aurora Counselling Services (Company Limited by Guarantee) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

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

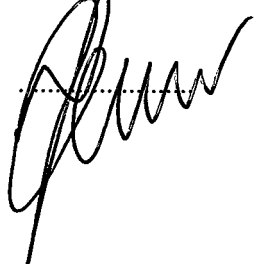
**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA  
COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

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Noel Crossan F.C.A  
Independent examiner  
8 Columba Terrace  
Derry  
BT47 6JT

 . 30/08/25

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	7,646	-	7,646	1570
Investment income	3	16	-	16	3
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	<u>9,386</u>	<u>156,766</u>	<u>166,152</u>	<u>182,329</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>17,048</u>	<u>156,766</u>	<u>173,814</u>	<u>183,902</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable activities	5/6	13,862	171,697	185,559	173,518
Governance costs	7	-	960	960	960
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u>(13,862)</u>	<u>(172,657)</u>	<u>(186,519)</u>	<u>(174,478)</u>
<b>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR/NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>					
	8	3,186	(15,891)	(12,705)	9,424
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>3,382</u>	<u>19,820</u>	<u>23,202</u>	<u>13,778</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>6,568</u>	<u>3,929</u>	<u>10,497</u>	<u>23,202</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the results above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses have been presented. There is no difference between the net incoming resources for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**31 OCTOBER 2024**


	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Intangible asset	10	8,000	8,000
Tangible assets	11	6,615	8,774
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	12	18,706	8,883
Cash at bank and in hand		2,786	29,715
		21,492	38,598
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(18,161)	(20,181)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		3,331	18,417
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		17,946	35,191
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year</b>	14	(7,449)	(11,989)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		10,497	23,202
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Restricted income funds	15	3,929	19,820
Unrestricted income funds	16	6,568	3,382
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		10,497	23,202

For the year ended 31 October 2024, the charity was entitled to exemption under Article 257A (3) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

No members have required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Article 257B (2).

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



30/08/2025

Joan Collumb  
Director

Company Registration Number: NI054802

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts.

# AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

#### Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

#### 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:

Equipment - over 10 years

### 2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	<u>7,646</u>	<u>7,646</u>	<u>1,570</u>

### 3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

**4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Room Rental	-	-	-	-
Victims & Survivors Service	-	116,858	116,858	124,569
CLEAR	-	2,760	2,760	6,550
Schools Counselling Service	5,764	19,070	24,834	25,430
WHSCCT				210
Claudy HC	1,620	7,560	9,180	19,210
Department of Communities	-	-	-	-
GSAP	1,002	7,018	8,020	6,360
Culmore Partnership	1,000	3,500	4,500	
CFNI Grant	-	-	-	-
Covid Grants and Funding	-	-	-	-
	<u>9,386</u>	<u>156,766</u>	<u>166,152</u>	<u>182,329</u>

**5. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Direct Charitable Activities	<u>13,862</u>	<u>171,697</u>	<u>185,559</u>	<u>173,518</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Purchases	3,443	-	3,443	2,794
Wages & Salaries		63,737	63,737	57,748
Counselling Facilitators	4,757	90,387	95,144	75,125
Rent & Rates		3,172	3,172	13,500
Light & heat	-	2,375	2,375	2,545
Repairs & maintenance		100	100	4,936
Insurance	-	941	941	1,058
Other motor/travel costs	-	1,390	1,390	1,051
Telephone	-	3,136	3,136	4,172
Other office costs	375	-	375	475
Depreciation	2,158	-	2,158	2,158
Bank Interest & Charges	1,820	-	1,820	2,578
Training Costs	-	-	-	-
Facilitation	716	6,459	7,175	5,055
Sundry Expenses	593		593	323
	<u>13,862</u>	<u>171,697</u>	<u>185,559</u>	<u>173,518</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

**6. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY ACTIVITY TYPE**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct Charitable Activities	<u>185,559</u>	<u>185,559</u>	<u>173,518</u>

**7. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accountancy fees	<u>960</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>960</u>

**8. NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation	<u>2,158</u>	<u>2,158</u>

**9. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS**

**Total staff costs were as follows:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<u>63,737</u>	<u>57,748</u>
	<u>63,737</u>	<u>57,748</u>

**Particulars of employees:**

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Number of Staff	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year. (2023 - Nil).

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

**10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

	Equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 November 2023	8,000
Additions	-
As at 31 October 2024	<u>8,000</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 October 2024	<u>8,000</u>
At 31 October 2023	<u>8,000</u>

**11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 November 2023	42,243
Additions	-
As at 31 October 2024	<u>42,243</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 November 2023	33,469
Depreciation charge	<u>2,159</u>
At 31 October 2024	<u>35,628</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 October 2024	<u>6,615</u>
At 1 November 2023	<u>8,774</u>

**12. DEBTORS**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	18,706	5,000
Other debtors	-	3,883
	<u>18,706</u>	<u>8,883</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

**13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxation and social security	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	6,967	9,796
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	11,195	10,387
	<u>18,161</u>	<u>20,181</u>

**14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	7,449	11,989
	<u>7,449</u>	<u>11,989</u>

**15. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 Nov 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Oct 2024
	£	£	£	£
Movement on Restricted Funds	<u>19,820</u>	<u>156,766</u>	<u>(172,657)</u>	<u>3,929</u>

**16. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 Nov 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Oct 2024
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>3,382</u>	<u>17,048</u>	<u>(13,862)</u>	<u>6,568</u>

**17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets/ (liabilities)	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Restricted Income Funds:</b>			
Movement on Restricted Funds	6,615	(2,686)	3,929
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	-	6,568	6,568
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>6,615</u>	<u>3,882</u>	<u>10,497</u>



**Aurora Counselling Services**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105846

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# Accounts

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**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI054802**

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ACCOUNTS**

**31 OCTOBER 2023**

**Charity Number XR 14107**

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

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# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

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The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2023.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered charity name** Aurora Counselling Services  
(Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Charity registration number** XR 14107

**Company registration number** NI054802

**Registered office** 46B Racecourse Road  
Derry  
BT48 8DS

#### **The trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Terry Downey (Director)  
Joan Collumb (Director)  
Bronagh McMonagle (Secretary)  
John Kelly (Director)

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing Document**

Aurora Counselling Services is a company limited by guarantee and accepted as charitable by HMRC under reference XR 14107. The company was incorporated on 19th April 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of members is limited in that every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of the Trustees**

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association unless otherwise determined by the company in General Meeting the number of Trustees shall not be less than four. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting at which they shall be eligible for re-election. All members of the Board of Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

### **YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

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#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Aurora Counselling Services is a not-for-profit organisation committed to making a positive difference in the community. The company is established to relieve suffering and distress and advance education among people in Derry and the surrounding area without distinction of age, religion, sex, or political opinion, and in particular to provide counselling and support services to people in need. While committed to providing professional quality advice services to clients, our primary goals are social improvement. We aim to make a difference by:

1. Generating income to invest in future community regeneration.
2. Providing a high-quality local service to the community.

We deliver a variety of therapeutic services to adults, teenagers and children presenting with emotional and mental wellbeing difficulties. We offer counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy, psychotherapy, complementary therapies, life coaching and personal development programmes.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During year end Oct 2023 Aurora provided talking therapies and wellbeing services to 122 adults and 51 children and young people supported by funding from the Victims and Survivors Service and contracts with schools and GP's.

Aurora also worked in partnership with Kidz Playtime CIC to deliver a range of play based learning programmes to parents and children to help nurture young children's cognitive, emotional and social development in line with our early intervention approach. This work was supported by funding received from the PHA small grants fund administered by the CLEAR project and by social support funding from the Victims and Survivors Service. This work has facilitated the development of stronger links between Aurora and young families across the city and has helped make our work more visible to aid ease of access and referral to our therapeutic services.

Additionally, we also piloted the delivery of family therapy sessions during this year with positive outcomes achieved. This has further enhanced the range of services and support we can provide to families as we seek to expand our service model and develop a more family centred focus.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which consists of establishing a system of identifying risks and mitigating such risks.

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems of procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised through the procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

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### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total incoming resources for the year were £183,902 of which approximately 99% was generated from grants and the provision of counselling services, 1% from voluntary donations and 0% from other resources. Total resources expended by the charity were £174,478. Approximately 99% of this was expended on direct charitable activities and 1% on governance costs. The balance on total funds at the year-end was £23,202 of which £3,382 were unrestricted in nature, and £19,820 were restricted.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees consider it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the future of its employment capacity, users' well-being and general charitable work in jeopardy. The trustees have established a reserves policy to ensure the stability of the mission, programme, employment, and on-going operations of the charity. Free reserves are defined by the trustees as those funds freely available for use as the charity so determines and thereby excludes any restricted or designated funds. A formal policy on reserves has been agreed by the trustees which stipulate that reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that the charity's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form. The trustee's policy is that the amount of free reserves should reflect three months expenditure plus any additional core costs. Based on 2022/23 expenditure (excluding depreciation) of £172,320 that amount would be £43,080. Free reserves as at 31st October 2023 are £19,820. The trustees continue to strive to build a general level of reserves in accordance with their policy so that they will be able to continue the current activities of the charity. In the short term, the trustees have also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure should be curtailed, should circumstances arise.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

### **YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

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#### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity 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) and with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities". Under the relevant legislation the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and in the net movement in funds for that period. In preparing the financial statements appropriate accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
2. observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
3. Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
4. Prepare Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate records that comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

#### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Noel Crossan F.C.A has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

Registered office:  
46B Racecourse Road  
Derry  
BT48 8DS

Signed on behalf of the trustees

.....

Joan Collumb

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Aurora Counselling Services (Company Limited by Guarantee) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

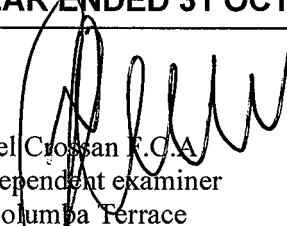
(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA  
COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

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Noel Crossan F.C.A.  
Independent examiner  
8 Columba Terrace  
Derry  
BT47 6JT

29/08/24.  
.....

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	1,570	-	1,570	9,995
Investment income	3	3	-	3	1
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	<u>10,575</u>	<u>171,754</u>	<u>182,329</u>	<u>173,339</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>12,148</u>	<u>171,754</u>	<u>183,902</u>	<u>183,335</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable activities	5/6	12,588	160,930	173,518	(175,484)
Governance costs	7	-	960	960	(960)
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u>(12,588)</u>	<u>(161,890)</u>	<u>(174,478)</u>	<u>(176,444)</u>
<b>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR/NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>					
	8	(440)	9,864	9,424	6,891
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>3,822</u>	<u>9,956</u>	<u>13,778</u>	<u>6,887</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>3,382</u>	<u>19,820</u>	<u>23,202</u>	<u>13,778</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the results above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses have been presented. There is no difference between the net incoming resources for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**31 OCTOBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Intangible asset	10	8,000	8,000
Tangible assets	11	8,774	10,793
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	12	8,883	11,608
Cash at bank and in hand		29,715	18,245
		38,598	29,853
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(20,181)	(18,318)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		18,417	11,535
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		35,191	30,328
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year</b>		(11,989)	(16,550)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		23,202	13,778
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Restricted income funds	14	19,820	9,956
Unrestricted income funds	15	3,382	3,822
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		23,202	13,778

For the year ended 31 October 2023, the charity was entitled to exemption under Article 257A (3) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

No members have required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Article 257B (2).

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Joan Collumb  
Director

Company Registration Number: NI054802

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts.

# AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

#### Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

#### 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:

Equipment - over 10 years

### 2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	<u>1,570</u>	<u>1,570</u>	<u>9,995</u>

### 3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

**4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Room Rental	-	-	-	-
Victims & Survivors Service	-	124,569	124,569	124,498
CLEAR	-	6,550	6,550	-
Schools Counselling Service	6,360	19,070	25,430	17,710
WHST	30	180	210	3,938
Claudy HC	3,390	15,820	19,210	12,896
Department of Communities	-	-	-	7,059
GSAP	795	5,565	6,360	6,240
Big Lottery	-	-	-	-
CFNI Grant	-	-	-	998
Covid Grants and Funding	-	-	-	-
	<u>10,575</u>	<u>171,754</u>	<u>182,329</u>	<u>173,339</u>

**5. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Direct Charitable Activities	<u>12,588</u>	<u>160,930</u>	<u>173,518</u>	<u>175,484</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Purchases	2,794	-	2,794	6,962
Wages & Salaries	-	57,748	57,748	54,857
Counselling Facilitators	3,755	71,370	75,125	81,335
Rent & Rates	-	13,500	13,500	15,892
Light & heat	-	2,545	2,545	2,312
Repairs & maintenance	-	4,936	4,936	2,407
Insurance	-	1,058	1,058	989
Other motor/travel costs	-	1,051	1,051	1,080
Telephone	-	4,172	4,172	2,340
Other office costs	475	-	475	177
Depreciation	2,158	-	2,158	2,700
Bank Interest & Charges	2,578	-	2,578	2,736
Training Costs	-	-	-	-
Facilitation	505	4,550	5,055	780
Sundry Expenses	323	-	323	917
	<u>12,588</u>	<u>160,930</u>	<u>173,518</u>	<u>175,484</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

**6. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY ACTIVITY TYPE**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>
Direct Charitable Activities	<u>173,518</u>	<u>173,518</u>	<u>175,484</u>

**7. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022 £</b>
Accountancy fees	<u>960</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>960</u>

**8. NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Depreciation	<u>2,158</u>	<u>2,700</u>

**9. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS**

**Total staff costs were as follows:**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	<u>57,748</u>	<u>54,857</u>
	<u>57,748</u>	<u>54,857</u>

**Particulars of employees:**

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

	<b>2023 No.</b>	<b>2022 No.</b>
Number of Staff	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year. (2022 - Nil).

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023**

**10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

	<b>Equipment £</b>
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 November 2022	8,000
Additions	-
As at 31 October 2023	<u>8,000</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 October 2023	<u>8,000</u>
At 31 October 2022	<u>8,000</u>

**11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Equipment £</b>
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 November 2022	42,104
Additions	139
As at 31 October 2023	<u>42,243</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 November 2022	31,311
Depreciation charge	<u>2,158</u>
At 31 October 2023	<u>33,469</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 October 2023	<u>8,774</u>
At 1 November 2022	<u>10,793</u>

**12. DEBTORS**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Trade debtors	5,000	6,225
Other debtors	3,883	5,383
	<u>8,883</u>	<u>11,608</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES**

# (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

### 13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxation and social security	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	9,796	7,930
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	10,387	10,389
	<u>20,181</u>	<u>18,318</u>

### 14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	11,989	16,550
	<u>11,989</u>	<u>16,550</u>

### 15. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Nov 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Oct 2023
	£	£	£	£
Movement on Restricted Funds	<u>9,956</u>	<u>171,754</u>	<u>(161,890)</u>	<u>19,820</u>

### 16. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Nov 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Oct 2023
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>3,822</u>	<u>12,148</u>	<u>(12,588)</u>	<u>3,382</u>

### 17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets/ (liabilities)	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Restricted Income Funds:</b>			
Movement on Restricted Funds	8,774	11,046	19,820
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	-	3,382	3,382
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>8,774</u>	<u>14,428</u>	<u>23,202</u>



**Aurora Counselling Services**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105846

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# Annual report

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**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AGM 2023**

## **Chairperson Report**

### **Joan Collumb**

This year has been a challenging year for Aurora Counselling. The lack of a Stormont Executive , the cost of living crisis and a real lack of money and decision making within all systems and structures has resulted in the implementation of brutal and sudden cuts to much of the public purse.

These cuts had a direct impact on both the delivery of our schools counselling service and the outreach counselling service. Although, at the moment there are reasons to be hopeful that the schools budgets will now remain as they were the future of the GP based counselling service is much more uncertain.

We remain very appreciative of our close relationship with the Victims and Survivors service whose yearly grant and day to day support offers Aurora the stable foundation it needs to be able to offer services to those most in need. The transformation within the VSS sector and learning provided continues to make Aurora a much better and safer service for all.

We look forward to the continued expansion of the Trauma Recovery Network and the impact it has within the sector

Internally ,within Aurora ,there has been lots of change this year both in terms of the team and in terms of piloting new ways of working. We are committed to moving towards a more family focused service model to offer more choice and support beyond the individual . These pilot projects are helping us do that

I would like to thank and the staff and other board members for their support, assistance and hard work throughout the year. I look forward to working together in the coming years

Joan



## **Funded Projects 2023**

### **Victims and Survivors Service ( VSS)**

The Victims and Survivors Service continues to be Aurora's main funder providing an annual grant valued at £ 124,569. The grant contributes to both core costs and programme costs. Through the funding received Aurora provided talking therapies to 74 adults and 24 children and young people living across the North West. Through additional funding secured later in the year Aurora also piloted a family therapy support project with 6 families helping provide a more wraparound therapeutic service to individuals accessing our service. Feedback and outcomes were very positive and signalled the need to continue to develop this aspect of our service delivery and to secure additional funding moving forward.

### **CLEAR ( PHA small grants)**

Aurora was awarded small grant funding towards the delivery of the Power of Play project. Through this grant Aurora delivered Play and Presence classes to 31 children and their parents. These classes focused on highlighting the different forms of play and how they can be utilised to aid the emotional, social and cognitive development of young children. Aurora also ran a series of master classes covering topics such as building self esteem in children and dealing with big emotions. All sessions took place in the Bishop Street premise. Parents and children really enjoyed the session and found the venue to be excellent. Many of the children demonstrated a marked growth in confidence during the 4 week programme and the development of improved social skills was evident. Aurora very much enjoyed delivering this project and we are keen to develop this area of work moving forwards.





## **Partnership Working 2023**

### **Schools**

We continue to work in partnership with 10 schools across the City to provide in house counselling to their pupils. This year initially started off very bleak with the news that the extended schools budget for 2023 would face cuts of up to 90 % . At a time when children were still recovering from the impact of the pandemic the news sent shockwaves throughout both schools and the community sector. Thankfully the intended cuts did not happen and our counselling budgets remained at the same level as previous years. Through our work in the schools we supported an additional 26 children during the year

### **Claudy HC**

Schools were not the only partnership to face challenges this year. Our work in Claudy, whilst initially getting off to a strong start also faced a setback in September when funding for the GP based counselling was stopped by the Department of Health. Nevertheless this year we provided CBT to 26 patients through our outreach service. Presently no funding is available to continue the service however we remain hopeful of a change in circumstance as we move into 2024

### **New Therapists**

During the year we also tendered for new therapists to join our talking therapy team.

We are delighted to welcome Michaela Mc Laughlin and Donat Desmond to Aurora.

We also said goodbye to our very valued therapist Dawn Kelly whom worked at the centre for 12 years and will be very missed

Thank you to all our Staff and Therapists for their continued hard work and commitment to Aurora throughout the year

Francesca Kelly

Sinead Logue

Natalie Kelly

Joan O Hagan

Majella Coyle

Dawn Kelly

Shauna Gallagher

Sarah Rutherford

Dale Mitchell

Bridgeen Mc Cann

Eilish Nicholas

Anne Meehan

Michaela Mc Laughlin

Donat Desmond

And a very big thank you to our funders and all those who donated to Aurora throughout the year

## Financial Report

**Aurora Counselling Services**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105846

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# Annual return

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AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2022 which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of Aurora Counselling Services (Company Limited by Guarantee) for the purposes of company law are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

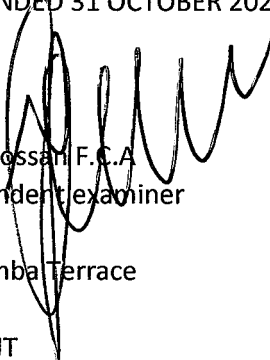
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023



Noel Crossan F.C.A.  
Independent examiner

8 Columba Terrace  
Derry  
BT47 6JT

**Aurora Counselling Services**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105846

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# Accounts

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**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI054802**

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ACCOUNTS**

**31 OCTOBER 2022**

**Charity Number XR 14107**

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2022.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered charity name** Aurora Counselling Services  
(Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Charity registration number** XR 14107

**Company registration number** NI054802

**Registered office** 46B Racecourse Road  
Derry  
BT48 8DS

#### **The trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Terry Downey (Director)  
Joan Collumb (Director)  
Bronagh McMonagle (Secretary)  
John Kelly (Director)

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing Document**

Aurora Counselling Services is a company limited by guarantee and accepted as charitable by HMRC under reference XR 14107. The company was incorporated on 19th April 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of members is limited in that every member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of the Trustees**

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association unless otherwise determined by the company in General Meeting the number of Trustees shall not be less than four. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting at which they shall be eligible for re-election. All members of the Board of Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Aurora Counselling Services is a not-for-profit organisation committed to making a positive difference in the community. The company is established to relieve suffering and distress and advance education among people in Derry and the surrounding area without distinction of age, religion, sex, or political opinion, and in particular to provide counselling and support services to people in need. While committed to providing professional quality advice services to clients, our primary goals are social improvement. We aim to make a difference by:

1. Generating income to invest in future community regeneration.
2. Providing a high-quality local service to the community.

We deliver a variety of therapeutic services to adults, teenagers and children presenting with emotional and mental wellbeing difficulties. We offer counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy, psychotherapy, complementary therapies, life coaching and personal development programmes.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During year end October 2022, Aurora provided talking therapies and wellbeing services to 145 adults and 48 children and young people. This was supported by funding from Victims and Survivors Service and contracts with schools and GP's . Funding was also received from Community Foundation Northern Ireland to develop an interactive app to support children develop emotional literacy skills and to provide information to parents. We worked in partnership with Kippie CIC to begin development of the app. As we approach the year end we have begun to expand our service model, offering access to a systemic family practitioner. We will also be working in partnership with Kidz Playtime CIC to offer a range of play based activities and workshops to young families to help nurture young children's emotional, social and cognitive development. We are continuing to make progress on our strategic objective of strengthening both our early intervention approach and our service provision to families.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which consists of establishing a system of identifying risks and mitigating such risks.

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems of procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised through the procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Total incoming resources for the year were £183,335 of which approximately 94% was generated from grants and the provision of counselling services, 5% from voluntary donations and 1% from other resources. Total resources expended by the charity were £176,444. Approximately 99% of this was expended on direct charitable activities and 1% on governance costs. The balance on total funds at the year-end was £13,778 of which £3,822 were unrestricted in nature, and £9,956 were restricted.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees consider it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the future of its employment capacity, users' well-being and general charitable work in jeopardy. The trustees have established a reserves policy to ensure the stability of the mission, programme, employment, and on-going operations of the charity. Free reserves are defined by the trustees as those funds freely available for use as the charity so determines and thereby excludes any restricted or designated funds. A formal policy on reserves has been agreed by the trustees which stipulate that reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that the charity's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form. The trustee's policy is that the amount of free reserves should reflect three months expenditure plus any additional core costs. Based on 2021/22 expenditure (excluding depreciation) of £173,744 that amount would be £43,436. Free reserves as at 31st October 2022 are £13,778. The trustees continue to strive to build a general level of reserves in accordance with their policy so that they will be able to continue the current activities of the charity. In the short term, the trustees have also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure should be curtailed, should circumstances arise.

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

### **YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity 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) and with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities". Under the relevant legislation the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and in the net movement in funds for that period. In preparing the financial statements appropriate accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
2. observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
3. Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
4. Prepare Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate records that comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

#### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Noel Crossan F.C.A has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

Registered office:  
46B Racecourse Road  
Derry  
BT48 8DS

Signed on behalf of the trustees

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Joan Collumb

# **AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2022 which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

### **RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Aurora Counselling Services (Company Limited by Guarantee) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

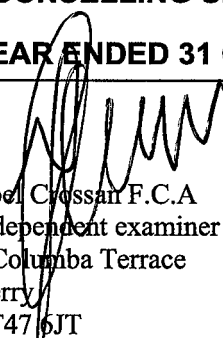
(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA  
COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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Noel Crossan F.C.A  
Independent examiner  
8 Columba Terrace  
Derry  
BT47 6JT

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**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	9,995	-	9,995	14,520
Investment income	3	1	-	1	1
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	9,676	163,663	173,339	171,463
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>19,672</b>	<b>163,663</b>	<b>183,335</b>	<b>185,984</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable activities	5/6	22,406	153,078	175,484	(179,063)
Governance costs	7	-	960	960	(960)
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>(22,406)</b>	<b>(154,038)</b>	<b>(176,444)</b>	<b>(180,023)</b>
<b>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR/NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>					
	8	(2,734)	9,625	6,891	5,961
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		6,556	331	6,887	926
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>3,822</b>	<b>9,956</b>	<b>13,778</b>	<b>6,887</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the results above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses have been presented. There is no difference between the net incoming resources for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**31 OCTOBER 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Intangible asset	10	8,000	
Tangible assets	11	10,793	13,493
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	12	11,608	21,664
Cash at bank and in hand		18,245	6,795
		<u>29,853</u>	<u>28,459</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(18,318)</u>	<u>(12,738)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>11,535</u>	<u>15,721</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>30,328</u>	<u>29,214</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year</b>		<u>(16,550)</u>	<u>(22,327)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>13,778</u>	<u>6,887</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Restricted income funds	14	9,956	331
Unrestricted income funds	15	3,822	6,556
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>13,778</u>	<u>6,887</u>

For the year ended 31 October 2022, the charity was entitled to exemption under Article 257A (3) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

No members have required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Article 257B (2).

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Joan Collumb  
Director

Company Registration Number: NI054802

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these accounts.

# AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

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### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

#### Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

#### 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:

Equipment - over 10 years

### 2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Donations	<u>9,995</u>	<u>9,995</u>	<u>14,520</u>

### 3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

**4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Room Rental	-	-	-	7,200
Victims & Survivors Service	-	124,498	124,498	104,900
CLEAR	-	-	-	608
Schools Counselling Service	4,428	13,282	17,710	18,228
WHSCT	630	3,308	3,938	2,613
SRS of Mercy – Grant	-	-	-	3,000
Claudy HC	3,869	9,027	12,896	9,188
Department of Communities	-	7,059	7,059	6,519
GSAP	749	5,491	6,240	5,110
Big Lottery	-	-	-	-
CFNI Grant	-	998	998	9,600
Covid Grants and Funding	-	-	-	4,497
	<u>9,676</u>	<u>163,663</u>	<u>173,339</u>	<u>171,463</u>

**5. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Direct Charitable Activities	<u>22,406</u>	<u>153,078</u>	<u>175,484</u>	<u>179,063</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Purchases	6,962	-	6,962	5,088
Wages & Salaries	-	54,857	54,857	58,903
Counselling Facilitators	8,134	73,201	81,335	79,310
Rent & Rates	-	15,892	15,892	19,063
Light & heat	-	2,312	2,312	1,686
Repairs & maintenance	-	2,407	2,407	186
Insurance	-	989	989	1,074
Other motor/travel costs	-	1,080	1,080	611
Telephone	-	2,340	2,340	2,227
Other office costs	177	-	177	10
Depreciation	2,700	-	2,700	4,748
Bank Interest & Charges	2,736	-	2,736	1,452
Training Costs	-	-	-	2,100
Facilitation	780	-	780	-
Sundry Expenses	917	-	917	2,605
	<u>22,406</u>	<u>153,078</u>	<u>175,484</u>	<u>179,063</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

**6. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY ACTIVITY TYPE**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct Charitable Activities	<u>175,484</u>	<u>175,484</u>	<u>179,063</u>

**7. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accountancy fees	<u>960</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>960</u>

**8. NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation	<u>2,700</u>	<u>4,748</u>

**9. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS**

**Total staff costs were as follows:**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<u>54,857</u>	<u>58,903</u>
	<u>54,857</u>	<u>58,903</u>

**Particulars of employees:**

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Number of Staff	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year. (2021 - Nil).

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

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**10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

	Equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 November 2021	-
<b>Additions</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>As at 31 October 2022</b>	<b><u>8,000</u></b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 October 2022	<b><u>8,000</u></b>
At 31 October 2021	<u>-</u>

**11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 November 2021	42,104
<b>Additions</b>	-
<b>As at 31 October 2022</b>	<b><u>42,104</u></b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 November 2021	28,611
Depreciation charge	<u>2,700</u>
<b>At 31 October 2022</b>	<b><u>31,311</u></b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 October 2022	<b><u>10,793</u></b>
At 1 November 2021	<u>13,493</u>

**12. DEBTORS**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,225	14,531
Other debtors	5,383	7,133
	<u>11,608</u>	<u>21,644</u>

**AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022**

**13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Taxation and social security	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	7,930	6,425
Other creditors	-	3,263
Accruals and deferred income	10,388	3,050
	<u>18,318</u>	<u>12,738</u>

**14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	16,550	22,327
	<u>16,550</u>	<u>22,327</u>

**15. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 Nov 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Oct 2022
	£	£	£	£
Movement on Restricted Funds	<u>331</u>	<u>163,663</u>	<u>(154,038)</u>	<u>9,956</u>

**16. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 Nov 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Oct 2022
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>6,556</u>	<u>19,672</u>	<u>(22,406)</u>	<u>3,822</u>

**17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets/ (liabilities)	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Restricted Income Funds:</b>			
Movement on Restricted Funds	10,793	(837)	9,956
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds</b>	-	3,822	3,822
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>10,793</u>	<u>2,985</u>	<u>13,778</u>

**Aurora Counselling Services**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105846

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# Annual report

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AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

AGM 2022



## Chairperson Report 2022

Joan Collumb

The year 21/22 was really the year we began to see normality return to service delivery.

A welcome return to face to face meetings and training after a sense of zoom fatigue

Within Aurora it was clear clients wanted a return to face to face delivery and ,bar a few exceptions ,zoom and phone based counselling has once again gone quiet

There has been a slow , steady increase in service uptake and it is heartening to see increased demand for wellbeing services

As mentioned within the report we are progressing through a period of change and transition within the Victims and Survivors sector . The Trauma Recovery Network will offer a new and welcome dimension to the services available for Victims and Survivors as they seek to address their trauma and hurts from the past. The new Victims and Survivors strategy will ,when complete ,outline new targets and goals for the sector in line with changing needs and social conditions. As a VSS funded organisation it is essential we are responsive to these

As we end this year and move into a new financial year the "burn out" of professionals in the sector is also evident . The covid era has created change for everyone. For many professionals carrying the heavy work load for a sustained period of time the toll is now too heavy and many are deciding to hang up the boots

It is likely this trend will impact upon Aurora. Indeed it feels , as we begin a new year, that we are once again in transition as members leave the team and the opportunity for new faces emerge

Perhaps it is timely that as we acknowledge the changing needs of the public, particularly victims and survivors we undergo a process of change and transition also. Bringing in new energy and skills to help us continue to deliver meaningful and impactful services next year and beyond

## **Victims and Survivors Funding**

The Victims and Survivors Service ( VSS) continues to be Aurora's core funder contributing £125000 towards programme, salaries and running costs over 2021to 2022 facilitating the support of over 85 persons throughout the year . These individuals availed of a mix of talking therapies, wellbeing services and social support such as groupwrok to children , teenagers and adults

VSS continue to be a very supportive and progressive funder.

In recent weeks they have agreed to fund additional pilot services such as 1-1 stress management to be offered alongside our complementary therapy service. We will also be offering systemic family practice therapeutic sessions .

In 2019 VSS funded two therapists from the Aurora team - Sydella Gallick and Catherine Quinn to undertake the Diploma in Systemic Family Practice through Queens University . Both therapists graduated in June 2022. Catherine has now progressed onwards to the Masters Degree in Family Therapy. Through the invaluable VSS funding we are now in a position to offer therapeutic family services and are excited to observe how the service develops over the coming year

Aurora has also been partaking in workshops throughout the year with the Commission for Victims and Survivors to offer grassroot feedback on the development and content of the new Victims Strategy. The Trauma Recovery Network will be operational over the forthcoming year .

VSS groups will a play a role in navigating referrals into the TRN. We await the detail on how this will be facilitated throughout the next year

The implementation of the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme (TPDPS) and the upcoming Legacy Bill have not been without controversy and have provoked emotional reactions and painful memories for many victims and survivors and indeed individuals who did not previously identify as a victim and survivor we therefore are expecting increased demand for VSS services over the next year

The above highlights the changing nature of delivery of Victims and Survivors Services and indeed the changing needs of Victims and Survivors themselves



CFNI - Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

In 2020 Aurora took part in the Techies in Residence programme facilitated through CFNI. The goal was to increase awareness of digital tools and to partner community groups with tech experts to create a product or service which could address a particular issue the organisation or their target groups were experiencing. Aurora identified the lengthy waiting lists for children's counselling and the lack of communication or help for parents/children during that time.

Aurora was partnered with Kippie CIC to create an app that could be utilised by parents to source information and offer useful tools to help support their child at home. The app could also be used to stay in touch with an organisation during the waiting list period. In May 2021 Aurora took part in a live pitch to potentially win a further 10k to further develop their product. Aurora was successful and the 10k was to be utilised towards the development of the interactive game section. This section would focus on offering interactive activities to kids to help develop their emotional literacy skills. This was a great experience for Aurora and as a team we learnt a lot of new skills.

. We are hopeful, that with additional investment the app will be completed in 2023



## Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Play

Our presence within local schools and delivery of our play therapy service has shown clearly the benefits and power of play to help nurture and grow children's emotional, social, physical and cognitive growth. Through this year we have been keen to increase opportunity for quality play experiences between kids and their peers and with their caregivers

Our wonderful children's play centre premises in Bishop Street provide an ideal base from which to do this . Therefore a key goal over 2022 was to maximise its usage by parents and children - not only for therapeutic activity but for groupwork, training and interactive play experiences

To this end we have been started delivering a Little Toots play and Stay 4 week programme and have begun to identify and apply for additional funding to grow this area of work



## CLEAR PHA Small Grants

In October 2022 we were advised that our application to the short term funding programme for delivery of our Power of Play Programme was successful . This project will offer a mix of play experiences to children aged 3 /4 and also to children aged 5- 7 years alongside workshops to parents themselves . We are very much looking forward to the continued delivery of this programme



## External Contracts

Throughout 21/22 we continued to deliver therapeutic services on a contractual basis to :  
10 schools across the City

Western Trust Talking Therapy Hub

Claudy Health Centre

These contracts facilitated the delivery of talking /creative therapies to 45 individuals living across the City

Thanks to all our Staff and Therapists throughout the year for all their hard work and dedication

Dawn Kelly

Francesca Kelly

Sarah Rutherford

Natalie Kelly

Catherine Quinn

Joan Ohagan

Sinead Logue

Bridgeen McCann

Dale Mitchell

Shauna Gallagher

Anne Meehan

Majella Coyle

Also Thank you to our funders who made this all possible we are all very grateful

Financial Report

**Aurora Counselling Services**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105846

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# Annual return

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AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2022 which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of Aurora Counselling Services (Company Limited by Guarantee) for the purposes of company law are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

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

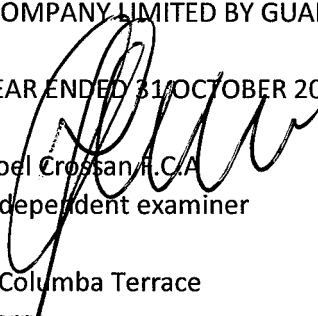
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

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

AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AURORA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

  
Noel Crossan F.C.A.  
Independent examiner

8 Columba Terrace  
Derry  
BT47 6JT