

Charity number: NIC108408
Company number: NI6S7899

ADVOCACY VSV
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

ADVOCACY VSV
(A company limited by guarantee)

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ADVOCA CY VSV

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Legal and administrative information

Charity number	NIC108408
Company registration number	NI 657899
Registered office	The Nautilus Centre The Harbour Rooney Road Kilkeel Newry Down BT34 4AX
Trustees	Marcus Baird Margaret McMurran Bevin O'Hare Bridie Cunningham James Strain Elaine Trainor Peadar McKenna (Appointed 06/03/2023)
Secretary	Margaret McMurran
Accountants	Henderson & Co Accountants 1A Greencastle Street Kilkeel BT34 4BH
Bankers	Danske Bank Donegall Square West Belfast BT1 6JS

ADVOCA CY VSV

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Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees, who are also directors of ADVOCACY VSV for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th December 2018. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Objectives and activities

Objectives and activities

To relieve the needs of victims of sexual violence, aged 16 years or over, through the provision of information, advice, support, advocacy and in particular but not exclusively by assisting them through **the criminal** justice system.

The Charity has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the Charity has power:

- (a) to provide information to the beneficiaries on the criminal justice process, health and support services and advice on victim's rights.
- (b) to provide one-to-one emotional support, professional advice and guidance and signposting where required.
- (c) to liaise with statutory criminal justice bodies and support individuals to arrange and/or attend appointments.

Achievements and performance

Achievements and performance

Advocacy VSV is based in the Newry and Mourne area and offer a support service to those living in the Southern Trust (Dungannon, Armagh, Craigavon, Banbridge and Newry & Mourne).

Provided individuals are over 16 years old and regardless of gender and demographic characteristics the Charity will offer immediate and one-to-one emotional support, professional advice and guidance and signposting where required.

In working alongside statutory criminal justice bodies and voluntary services we will provide the best information and advice on the Criminal Justice System, Health Services and on Victim's Rights. We will provide support in making appointments and will accompany individuals when and where required.

Financial review

A net **surplus** of £13,160 arose during the year. The trustees, with the support of consultants and voluntary advisors, were able to meet the increased demand for appointments, guidance and telephone helpline advice.

Principal funding sources

Total income received during the year was £64,260.

Restricted funding of £47,958 was received from the National Lottery Community Fund during the year.

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Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 December 2023

Donations and other charitable activities raised £16,302 during the year.

Expenditure

Total resources expended during the year were 51,099.

Staff costs increased from £32,612 in 2022 to £36,909 in 2023 and are essential in ensuring the organisation meets the increased demand of those in need.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of ADVOCACY VSV for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

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

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

Small company provisions

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

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Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

On behalf of the board

Marcus Baird
Treasurer

10 September 2024

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Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of ADVOCACY VSV.

I report on the accounts of ADVOCACY VSV for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 2 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. 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, based on my examination, 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

Henderson & Co

Henderson & Co Accountants

1A Greencastle Street

Kilkeel

BT34 4BH

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Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	-	-	-	1,400
Activities for generating funds	3	16,302	-	16,302	2,471
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	-	47,958	47,958	47,622
Total incoming resources		<u>16,302</u>	<u>47,958</u>	<u>64,260</u>	<u>51,493</u>
Resources expended					
Staff costs		1,288	35,621	36,909	32,612
Establishment costs			3,610	3,610	4,104
Motor and travelling expenses		3,869	1,206	5,075	4,371
Accountancy fees		-	3,485	3,485	1,560
Consultancy fees			-	-	1,800
Legal and professional fees			-	-	663
Communications and IT			170	170	110
Other office expenses		100	1,493	1,593	554
Depreciation and impairment		221	-	221	450
Bank Fees			37	37	71
Total resources expended		<u>5,478</u>	<u>45,622</u>	<u>51,100</u>	<u>46,295</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year /					
Net income/(expense) for the year		10,824	2,336	13,160	5,198
Total funds brought forward		14,137	12,046	26,183	20,985
Total funds carried forward		<u>24,961</u>	<u>14,382</u>	<u>39,343</u>	<u>26,183</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an **integral** part of **these** financial **statements**.

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Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	£	2023	£	£	2022	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	8			-			221
Current assets							
Cash at bank and in hand		39,564			28,122		
		<u>39,564</u>			<u>28,122</u>		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(221)			(2,160)		
		<u>(221)</u>			<u>(2,160)</u>		
Net current assets			39,343			25,962	
Net assets			<u>39,343</u>			<u>26,183</u>	
Funds							
Restricted income funds			14,382			12,046	
Unrestricted income funds			<u>24,961</u>			<u>14,137</u>	
Total funds			<u>39,343</u>			<u>26,183</u>	

The Balance Sheet continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Balance sheet (continued)

**Trustees statements required by the Companies Act 2006
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 December 2023.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of **the Companies Act 2006**, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 393, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 10 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Marcus Baird
Treasurer

The notes on **pages 9 to 13** form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Notes to financial statements

for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from the charity shop is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

The costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes including the charity's shop.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

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Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% straight line

1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

2. **Voluntary** income

	Unrestricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	-	-	1,400
Voluntary income			
			1,400

3. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Activities for generating funds	16,302	16,302	2,471
	16,302	16,302	3,728

4. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Restricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Grants	47,958	47,958	47,622
	47,958	47,958	47,622

5. Net incoming resources for the year

	2023	2022
Net incoming resources is state after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	221	450

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Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

6. Employees

Employment costs	2023	2022
Wages and salaries (including pension costs)	<u>36,909</u>	<u>32,612</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2022 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

2023 Number	2022 Number
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

7. Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the **exemptions afforded by** the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

8. Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
Cost		
At 1 January 2023 and At 31 December 2023	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	1,579	1,579
Charge for the year	<u>221</u>	<u>221</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>
Net book values		
At 31 December 2023	-	-
At 31 December 2022	<u>221</u>	<u>221</u>

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Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Unrestricted funds	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2023
Unrestricted Funds	14,137	16,302	(5,478)	24,961
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2023
The National lottery Community Fund	9,046	47,958	(45,622)	11,382
John Moores Foundation	3,000	-	-	3,000
	<u>12,046</u>	<u>47,958</u>	<u>(45,622)</u>	<u>14,382</u>

Purposes of restricted funds

Grants or donations received, which are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes within the overall aims of the organisation.

Company limited by guarantee.

ADVOCACY VSV is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.