

ADVOCACY VSV
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' report	2 - 4
Independent examiners' report	5
Statement of financial activities	6
Balance sheet	7 - 8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 13

ADVOCA CY VSV
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Legal and administrative information

Charity number	NIC108408
Company registration number	NI657899
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

ADVOCACY 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

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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

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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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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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for the year ended 31 December 2023

On behalf of the board

Marcus Baird
Treasurer

10 September 2024