

SISTAH SPACE

Accounts for period ending

31 March 2019

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Sonia Waterman (Chair)

Maxine Claye

Kio Sapey

Principal Office

243 Lower Clapton Road

London E5 8EG

Bankers

Barclays Bank

1 Churchill Place

London E14 5HP

The charity is incorporated in UK.

Charity Registration Number 1179934

Chair's Statement.

Sistah Space was founded in 2015 as a much needed response to the lack of support for black women and girls affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

Indeed, it was the tragic murders of Valerie Forde and her 23-month old daughter, R.J in 2014 that really highlighted the need for specialist support. Ngozi Fulani formed Sistah Space in November 2015 and the organisation, now a charity, has successfully put African and Caribbean women's difficulties in finding support, on the map.

We continue to strive for a more inclusive response to domestic abuse.

Sonia.

Statement from Project Director

Sistah Space continues to influence change in the way that African and Caribbean women and girls affected by domestic abuse are treated. We have done this by campaigning for change at policy level. We have successfully trained a few major organisations, including Safe Lives, the organisation that qualifies Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), Hackney CVS, Homerton University and Hackney Council have also booked our specialist training service.

Sistah Space continue to work with African and Caribbean heritage survivors of abuse upskilling them with workshops that include knitting and sewing classes. We continue to collect food donations from M&S at least thrice weekly. This is distributed to many recipients.

Our volunteers including Rosanna and Djanomi have contributed countless hours to making sure that survivors are supported in every way possible. Rosanna collects and delivers daily, food donations from M&S to those affected by domestic abuse and homelessness. Djanomi is the lead teacher of sewing and business skills. Many survivors have benefitted from her expertise, some have gone on to confidently sew for themselves and other people. She is the principle driver for Sistah Space.

We have had much dialogue with Hackney Council about the Sistah Space venue not being fit for purpose. The dangerous wiring at no. 243 Lower Clapton Road, E5 8EG (our current venue) has been largely ignored and we continue to raise concerns about the health and safety of the building. We are quietly confident that with the help of our local Cllrs and government MP, things will improve for us.

We have plans to extend our services to Homerton University Hospital next year and plan to have an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) on site at the hospital.

Special Thanks

Very special thanks to Mr Lloyd French who has assisted us on finally receiving charitable status and on understanding the responsibility that comes with being a charity. Many thanks to Hackney CVS for their financial contributions to Sistah Space in the form of securing the rent for an agreed length of time. Thanks also to the many Hackney Cllrs who support us, including Cllr Bramble (deputy Mayor of Hackney), and Cllr Carole Williams

We manage to arrange a number of fundraising events and outings for survivors. Our community has been particularly supportive, donating everything from clothes, to hygiene outfits and food. We are extremely grateful for all their support. Andrew Muhammad aka The Investigator hosted a fundraiser for us that raised enough money to support us for a few months. Our wonderful community empresses, Auntie Jean (African Market) and Charmaine Simpson (Black History Studies) both who always donate a free stall for Sistah Space at their events.

We continue to engage with the local community and are guided by them.

Trustees' Report

Sistah Space Charity present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31"March 2019 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the trust deed and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Public benefit statement

The charities services operate for public benefit. The trustees confirm that they complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Equality and diversity statement

The charity values diversity and works to improve services to grass roots African heritage communities. In line with this we have developed programmes, policies and procedures to ensure that services meet our equality and diversity principles.

Sistah Space will make reasonable adjustments to service provision, in order to accommodate any client who would otherwise have difficulty accessing the services.

Financial review

Total income increased by nearly 50% from £9,462 in 2017 to £14,708 in 2018. The increase is mainly due to training commissions and a 30% increase in grant income received during the year. Of this income £4,000 was restricted and the remaining £10,708 was unrestricted.

A summary of the financial activities for the year is given in the financial statements.

STRATEGIC REPORT

The charity is adopting a more strategic approach to its development and the services it delivers with the Implementations of a more structured process of developing, monitoring and evaluating the strategic plans for the charity along with seeking to recruit specialist advisors to support the trustees and the management team. Central to the charities development will be the working with specialist partners to increase the range of services we provide and diversify the income streams that will be available to the charity in meeting the planned expansion of services.

Principal risks

The Trustees are responsible for establishing and monitoring internal control systems within Sistah Space. They review the major risks which may impact on the operations of Sistah Space on a regular basis and are satisfied that the system of internal control currently in place is sound and effective,

whilst recognising that it is designed to manage rather than eliminate risk. The Trustees agreed that the following are the principal risks that Sistah Space faces:

- Government proposals for the future funding of Domestic Abuse services and continued focus on funding targeted to existing national providers continues to create a hostile funding landscape for small charities such as Sistah Space : In response to this Sistah Space will be providing evidence to government; making contingency plans; developing culturally sensitive service delivery models; expanding the charities income streams; raising the profile of and increasing understanding of grass roots African heritage domestic violence provision.
- A more competitive fundraising environment: Sistah Space is in the process of preparing a new three-year funding strategy; targets will be monitored monthly by the project subcommittee and the board quarterly,
- Significant contracts secured: Sistah Space will continue improvements in the tender preparation process and the quality of bids; maintaining rich and ongoing relationships with commissioners in order for them to understand the needs of our client group.
- Cyber security awareness: Sistah Space is working with Lamplight to enhance its cyber security and encryption levels. Workers and volunteers have had IT security awareness and data protection training; policies on IT and data protection have been reviewed due to GDPR.

In 2019/20 Sistah Space will build on the successes achieved in the previous financial year. The office accommodation will be upgraded, advice services expanded to community and health service locations. Sistah Space will continue to be agile enough to update and improve its response to meet the complex and changing needs of its clients and address the wider violence against women and girls' agenda.

These are ambitious plans, and some developments are dependent on securing additional funding streams. However, Sistah Space is committed to innovation and growing services in its efforts to ensure more grass roots African heritage women and children are able to escape violence and are given expert support to rebuild their lives.

Investment powers and policy

The constitution contains powers for the Trustees to invest funds in any investments, securities and properties.

Reserves policy

Total funds at the year-end are £425.00 of which £425.00 is restricted. The charity intends to build reserves to meet its reserve policy over the next few years.

The Trustees, having referred to the Charity Commission's revised guidance CC19, has examined the charity's requirement for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation and has decided that unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should equate to six months of core running costs plus the running costs of a quarter of services for three months.

Free reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and to allow for the development of new initiatives. Council of management is confident that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant reduction in funding.

The Trustees has reviewed the circumstances of Sistah Space and consider that adequate resources are available to fund current activity levels. The Trustees is of the view that Sistah Space is a going concern.

Statement of The Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees is responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In preparing these financial statements, The Trustees is 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
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

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

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

Trustee:-

MV Claye

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| Incoming Resources | Unrestricted | Restricted | Total 2018 | Total 2017 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Grants | - | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,900 |
| Project Funding | - | - | - | - |
| Contracts and Commissions | 8,000 | - | 8,000 | - |
| Donations/ Fundraising | 2,708 | - | 2,708 | 6,562 |
| Transfer from unrestricted Fund | - | - | - | - |
| Investment and other income | - | - | - | - |
| Total | <u>10,708</u> | <u>4,000</u> | <u>14,708</u> | <u>9,462</u> |
| Resources Expended | | | | |
| Salaries/ENIC | - | - | - | - |
| Premises & Utility Costs | 680 | - | 680 | 633 |
| Operational costs | 6,052 | - | 6,052 | 510 |
| Project Costs | - | 11,472 | 11,472 | 3,748 |
| Capital Costs | - | 400 | 400 | - |
| Transfer to Restricted Fund | - | - | - | - |
| Governance | 250 | - | 250 | - |
| Depreciation | - | - | - | - |
| Total | <u>6,982</u> | <u>11,872</u> | <u>18,853</u> | <u>4,891</u> |
| Net incoming | 3,726 | (7,872) | (4,146) | 4,571 |
| Balance brought forward | | | 4,571 | - |
| Balance carried forward | | | <u>425</u> | <u>4,571</u> |

BALANCE SHEET

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Tangible assets | - | - |
| | - | - |
| Current assets | | |
| Debtors | - | - |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 425 | 4,571 |
| | 425 | 4,571 |
| Creditors | - | - |
| Net current Assets | 425 | 4,571 |
| Net Assets | 425 | 4,571 |
| Funds | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 4,550 | 824 |
| Restricted funds | (4,125) | 3,747 |
| | 425 | 4,571 |

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Treasurer

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MVClaye

Mv. claye

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

Independent examiner

ROSANNA LEWIS

R Lewis