(A company limited by guarantee)

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

COMPANY NO: 3842133

CHARITY NO: 1079719

CONTENTS

	Page
Message from the Chair	3
Report of the Directors and Trustees	4 to 20
Auditor's Report	21 to 23
Statement of Financial Activities	24
Balance Sheet	25
Cash flow statement	26
Notes to the Financial Statements	27 to 36

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Once again in the financial year 2021/22, Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire (CANOSN) faced a series of new challenges, and I am pleased to be able to report on behalf of the Trustees that the organisation met those challenges with great confidence.

As we saw in 2020/21, CANOSN's income for the year 2021/22 increased due its position as a trusted partner for local government for the distribution of additional funding to counter the impact of the pandemic.

This report sets out in some detail the variety of ways in which CANOSN serves its local communities, particularly some of the most vulnerable within them. On pages 9 and 10 of the report, we attempt to quantify the impact the organisation has made during the year achievements of which everyone in the organisation can be proud.

We remain focussed on how we can maintain that positive impact into the future in the face of our two main strategic challenges: a highly competitive fundraising environment; and the changes in local government and particularly local government funding.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank everyone in the organisation, both our volunteers and those on the payroll, for their outstanding efforts during another difficult year and for the difference that their work for CANOSN has made in our community. In particular, I would like to thank Pat Coomber-Wood for her leadership, vision and energy which has been vital to the progress made by the organisation this year.

Alan Buchanan Chair

Date 24 November 2022

Report of the Directors and Trustees

We have pleasure in presenting our Annual Report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

OBJECTIVES, AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

Founded in 1965, we are a local charity which has been providing quality advice and support in our community for over 50 years. Our objective is to help people find a way forward by providing advice and support, and by campaigning on big issues that affect people's lives.

Combining the expertise and commitment of 246 volunteers, 32 staff and 8 trustees, we aim to provide free, independent, confidential, and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities, and deliver services and projects that meet local needs. Operating mainly in the areas of North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire; we have offices in Banbury and Bicester. We also work in various outreach venues; we restarted an outreach in the Towcester Forum and at Towcester Food Bank (for food bank users) in March 2022. We also started a new outreach at the Kidlington Food Bank on a Friday morning in April 2022. In addition to that, we started a hub at the Sunshine Centre in Banbury in February 2022. We plan to open more outreach venues and are in discussion with various partners to host these.

We are a member of the Citizens Advice charity network which comprises a network of 259 local Citizens Advice, all of which are independent charities, the Citizens Advice consumer service and the national charity Citizens Advice.

This year advice services were delivered from over 566 local Citizens Advice offices and over 1,743 outreach community locations in England and Wales by nearly 7,700 paid staff and 16,700 volunteers.

We are grateful to the following funders for their new or continued support over this year:

- Cherwell District Council Advice Service, Volunteer Connect, Volunteer Driver Service, Connect! digital inclusion project and Containing Outbreak Management Funding (COMF). In addition, Cherwell District Council commissioned us to distribute the Cherwell Winter Support Fund and Household Support Fund which were support measures introduced by the government to help people affected by the impact of the pandemic.
- Oxfordshire County Council Household Support fund administration costs
- Bicester Town Council Advice service and Volunteer Driver Service.
- Kidlington Parish Council Advice service.
- West Northamptonshire Council (formerly South Northamptonshire District Council) Advice Service
- Public Health Oxfordshire Benefits in Place advice service to Primary Care
- National Citizens Advice Gamble Aware, Help to Claim, Big Energy Saving Network, Energy Advice Programme and Money and Pension Service (MaPS) Increasing Capacity projects.
- Department of Health, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), Cherwell District Council, and West Oxfordshire District Council Community Connect Social Prescribing
- Energy Redress energy vouchers
- Cherwell Councillor Priority Funds Volunteer Driver Service
- Department for Work and Pensions Kickstart grants to develop Community Fundraiser and Digital Marketing roles
- Oxfordshire Community Foundation Supporting Communities Through Covid-19 Fund Grant -Connect! digital inclusion project
- Sanctuary Housing Connect! digital inclusion project
- Peter Sowerby Foundation Bicester healthy Groups
- South Central Ambulance Service non-essential hospital appointment transport delivered by volunteer drivers

We are equally grateful to all those who have engaged in community fundraising or kindly made donations to the Charity, whether large or small.

We seek to achieve our objectives by engaging in the following activities and projects.

Core Advice Service

Our principal activity is to provide free advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities regarding benefits, work, debt and money, consumer issues, housing, family, law and courts, immigration, health, and more.

Our advice is provided through multiple channels; clients can self help using our up to date and quality assured national advice website for England and Wales which contains information and guidance regarding 9 key advice topics; benefits, work, debt and money. consumer, housing, family, law and courts, immigration and health. The national Citizens Advice website's advice pages had over 40,625,283 visits - almost 10 million more than in the previous year. In Cherwell there were a total of 92,008 visits from 72,519 devices and in South Northamptonshire 55,515 visits from 43,405 devices.

We also host a local website with local information and links to the other services we offer www.canosn.org.uk as well as a joint website with the 3 other Oxfordshire local Citizens Advice www.caox.org.uk.

Our advisers provide advice on the telephone, by email, web chat, and through face-to-face consultations. We run a Debt and Money Advice Service in Cherwell, funded by Cherwell District Council, which provides support to Cherwell residents to maximise income, reduce debt and improve their money management skills. We run a further advice service for residents of South Northamptonshire which is funded by West Northamptonshire Council (formerly South Northamptonshire Council).

Our Advisers (one of our volunteer roles) understand that one problem is often the cause or result of another, so they look at a client's situation holistically rather than as a single issue. This way, potential problems can be identified early or pre-empted, which helps to prevent them from escalating into more serious issues. For a client struggling with unmanageable debt, our priorities are to preserve their home, fuel supplies and liberty, to make them aware of their rights and responsibilities, and to help them make informed choices about how they deal with their debt problem.

Of our total income, 43.7% was raised for our Core Advice Service from local Councils. The amount of £412,500 was received from Cherwell District Council to deliver the Household Support Fund. These funds were directly distributed to local people experiencing financial hardship.

Citizens Advice (Help to Claim)

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) extended the contract with National Citizens Advice to provide extra Universal Credit Support thereby extending our sub-grant from National Citizens Advice to help residents in our community needing to make their initial Universal Credit claim.

Of our total income, 1.8% was raised for Help to Claim.

Benefits in Practice/Benefits in Place

For 18 years, the Benefits in Practice project was funded by Public Health Oxfordshire to provide benefits advice in two Banbury GP surgeries; Horsefair and West Bar, which serve patients, many of whom live in areas of greatest deprivation. Inconsistencies in uptake of the service and the catalyst of Lockdowns enabled us to completely redesign the provision and change it to Benefits in Place, as GP surgeries were no longer as accessible to the public and many people were using other services such as food banks for the first time. The four Oxfordshire Citizens Advice charities used additional funding from Oxfordshire County Council Public Health to redesign the provision to create an easy to access digital front door and the service is now countywide (previously it had not been available in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse). Now, not only can Primary Care staff/GPs refer clients but food bank staff can do so also.

Of our total income, 1.6% was raised for Benefits in Place.

Legal Costs Fund

One of our volunteers has donated money for a fund to help clients with their legal costs. The fund is used when an urgent need arises that merits financial help.

Of our total income, 0.8% was raised for our Legal Costs Fund.

Energy Redress

This year we received funding from the Energy Saving Trust which has been appointed by Ofgem to distribute payments from energy companies who may have breached rules to registered charities to help people who are most at risk from cold homes and high energy bills. This funding enables the issuing of energy vouchers to people using pre-payment meters. People on prepayment meters usually pay more for their fuel because prepayment tariffs are more expensive than other payment methods. Research from Citizens Advice in 2020 showed that self-disconnection is part of life for too many customers who use prepayment. Citizens Advice research has shown that 1 in 3 had been disconnected in 2019/20. Our research has also shown that these disconnections can have a serious impact on both the physical and mental health of those affected.

Of our total income, 5.1% was raised for the Energy Redress project.

Social Prescribing (Community Connect & PCN Link Workers)

Social prescribing is a system in which GPs, nurses, and other primary-care professionals refer patients to a range of local, non-medical services. The objective is to improve health and wellbeing by addressing social problems that affect health, using services provided by the voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector rather than prescription medication. Recognising that health is determined primarily by a range of social, economic, and environmental factors, social prescribing seeks to address people's needs in a holistic way. It also aims to support individuals in taking greater control of their own health.

Our Community Connect social prescribing service is funded by NHS England, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Cherwell District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, and is delivered in partnership with Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire. It is staffed by a full-time Project Manager, supported by two Community Navigators, an Administrator and volunteers.

The social prescribing team connects people whose health is being affected by social problems to community groups and services for practical and emotional support. For example, we introduce people to befriending schemes and encourage them to meet new people by joining local activities such as the newly formed Coronavirus Helpers Bicester, Tribus Fitness & Boxing Club, and local art classes. We also help people to gain confidence and skills by attending training courses which might then lead to volunteering and on to paid employment. Those with debt or advice needs are referred to the Advice Service. Generally, we seek to promote a healthy lifestyle by helping clients to become more physically and socially active, which can improve long term health conditions. The team were challenged by lockdown measures and spent a significant part of the year conducting welfare checks and providing emotional support to patients who were self-isolating, and finding new ways for clients to remain connected to the outside world to reduce isolation during the pandemic.

Of our total income, 10% was raised for our Social Prescribing services.

Volunteer Connect

This is a project, funded by Cherwell District Council, in which we aim to develop community connectedness and because volunteering is beneficial for communities and in turn, society. The service aims to encourage local residents to become volunteers. It increases community engagement, supports the development of vibrant non-profit organisations in the local area, and helps people use volunteering as a pathway into paid work. In this project we collaborate with voluntary organisations, employers, and individuals.

Of our total income, 1.1% was raised for our Volunteer Connect activities.

Volunteer Driver Service

Cherwell District Council also funds our much valued Volunteer Driver Service (VDS) in which volunteer drivers transport residents to medical appointments, non-urgent hospital appointments, and social engagements. This service brings multiple benefits for the health, wellbeing, and social inclusion of those who have little or no access to public transport as well as volunteer drivers, most of whom are retired people. Examples of non-urgent hospital appointments include dialysis and radiotherapy.

The VDS is also an income-generating activity. For some passenger journeys we receive money from the South-Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) which uses our volunteer drivers to transport patients who do not require specialist ambulance services. For non-hospital journeys, passengers pay a mileage fee directly to the driver to cover the driver's costs, but at a significant saving for them over the cost of other forms of transport. It is fair to say that many of our passengers do not have the financial means to take taxis and were it not for the VDS they would have difficulty getting to their destination at all.

Of our total income, 23% was raised for or generated by our Volunteer Driver Service activities.

Gamble Aware

The Gamble Aware project continued to raise the profile of gambling-related harm (GRH) as a public health issue and to raise awareness of support services and education available for the benefit of clients. The project produced valuable insights into good practice and GRH identification methods, and supported individuals in tackling the problem. The project follows the Advisory Board for Safer Gambling Priority Action 8 (Education to Prevent Gambling-Related Harm) and was due to be recommissioned when the 2 year contract via national Citizens Advice ended in March 2021 with the expectation of a new service starting in April 2021. Decisions about the recommissioning of the service had not been completed by March 2021 and thus National Citizens Advice provided funding until there was clarity about the commissioning intentions by Gamble Aware. Unfortunately the decision was not to recommission the service so it ceased in February 2022. The legacy continues however with the number of frontline advice staff and volunteers who have been trained to identify gambling related harm and direct clients to support that is available.

Of our total income, 0.7% was raised for the Gamble Aware project.

Bicester Health Group Clinics

We commenced a new service in partnership with Dr Ellen Fallows supported by Cherwell District Council Bicester Healthy Towns initiative to develop and provide Bicester Health Group Clinics.

Group clinics are a tried and tested process for consulting with a group of people with similar conditions. Groups of 6-8 people meet online in a video group clinic for 90 minutes with a facilitator and a GP. During this time they will discuss their health and treatment goals, share experiences with the group and benefit from time to discuss their particular questions with a clinician such as a GP.

The Benefits:

- There's no rush in a group clinic- an experienced local GP will be with the group for over 40 minutes.
- What matters to the patients will shape how the session runs. The GP and facilitator help patients make a plan- this could involve changes in medication and lifestyle solutions so that patients are in control and feel confident about their own health.
- Everyone in the group has similar experiences and can hear what others are struggling with and about what's worked for them.
- There's no need to arrange transport to the GP surgery.
- Joining virtually from a patient's own home makes for a relaxed setting where it is easier to ask about the issues most important to them

Of our total income, 2.3% was raised for the Bicester Health Group Clinics project.

Connect! Digital Inclusion

The pandemic catapulted the digital agenda forward and for many they feel left out in this very digital world, particularly the elderly. Born of the Age Friendly Banbury partnership, Connect! is a free, Oxfordshire wide service to help anyone overcome digital exclusion by accessing digital devices and connection, getting online safely and building confidence so they get the most out of their digital devices. We recruit, vet and train Digital Coach Volunteers who visit clients at home or in a public space, to help them do the things that they want to do online. This may include setting up an email account, using online banking or social media.

Of our total income, 3.4% was raised for the Connect! Digital Inclusion project.

Big Energy Saving Network (BESN)

Big Energy Saving Network is an energy advice project designed to reach out into communities to help the people who are most in need. The project is delivered by a network of Energy Champions who will deliver energy advice targeted at vulnerable consumers in their local communities.

Of our total income, 0.34% was raised for the Big Energy Saving Network project.

Energy Advice Programme (EAP)

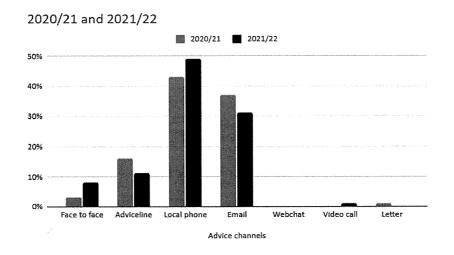
The Energy Advice Programme is an Industry Initiative funded through contributions from energy suppliers' Warm Home Discount obligations. Industry Initiatives are projects that help customers who are fuel poor or at risk of fuel poverty through a variety of activities, and every consumer who is supported under an initiative must receive energy advice and smart meter advice, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Of our total income, 0.4% was raised for the Energy Advice Programme.

Our Advice Delivery Channels

We offer our advice through a wide and growing range of channels including online self-help (fact sheets, advice podcasts, budgeting tools, debt management tools and self-help guides), email advice, telephone, face-to-face discussion, outreach sessions, drop-in community advice hubs (such as libraries, GP surgeries, day centres and food banks), and home visits. Much of this delivery was impacted by lockdown with face to face services being suspended and nearly all the support shifting to digital channels for a large part of the year.

The graph below shows the change in channel use from last year to this year.



Our Clients

We help some of the most vulnerable people in society: this year 6% of our clients had a disability and 33% a long-term health condition (LTHC). This is a return to the pre-pandemic levels unlike last year where we saw

fewer people with health conditions (5% with a disability and 26% with long term health conditions) due to temporary support measures that were put in place due to the pandemic which provided respite from the challenges that people with LTHCs or disabilities regularly experience, particularly in relation to accessing benefits or managing debt due to loss of income.

We help all ages: 4% of our clients were 24 or under, 71% between 25 and 59, and 25% were 60 or over.

We provide our advice services on a free, confidential, and impartial basis and we believe that our clients appreciate the work that we do. We would like to share a few of the comments that we have received:

- 'I honestly can't thank you enough. My health was declining very rapidly due to this.... You have saved my life.'
- 'Thanks ever so much it's a massive relief for all of us will sleep a lot better that's for sure'
- 'You were a rock for my son and I through the pandemic. Such kindness I never expected. Your support really made us feel safe. A big thank you although it doesn't seem enough'
- 'To have the support on top of what has become the worst year in our lives, it has been a great comfort to know that people care and help and support is there.'
- 'You've been very friendly and helpful and I'm grateful for the support and understanding'.

Our People

In total, we have 240 volunteers which is a 26% increase from last year. They are made up as follows:

Governance

• 7 Trustees

Advice Service

- 22 Advisers
- 19 Assessors
- 5 Supervisors
- 1 Case Checker
- 9 Receptionists
- 3 Research & Campaigns
- 5 Admin Assistants
- 19 Community Advice Hub volunteers

Connect! Digital Inclusion Project

• 18 Digital Coach volunteers

Community Connect Social Prescribing Service

• 5 volunteers

Volunteer Driver Service

- 121 Volunteer drivers
- 1 Journey broker

Other Volunteer Roles

- 1 "Benefits in Place" volunteer
- 2 "Move Together" buddies
- 2 "Gamble Aware" buddies

We have 10 full-time staff and 20 part-time staff.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our work in 2021/22 had value to society far in excess of our funding. It's impossible to put a financial value on everything we do, but where we can, we have. We've used a Treasury-approved model to do this:

Our value to our community this year was

- £1,954,589 savings to government and public services (fiscal benefits)
- £12,981,795 in public value
- £5,272,035 in value to the people we help
- £113,439 savings to our Local Authority by preventing homelessness & housing evictions and mental health services
- £12,784 Savings to Criminal Justice System by preventing housing evictions, homelessness & court actions
- £1,203,974 Savings to DWP by keeping people in work
- £307,271 to the NHS by reducing use of GP and Mental Health Services

These figures have not been audited.

From our robust Advice Service management information, we've also separately considered the financial benefits to the people we help. We are happy to report that during the year we helped clients achieve income gains totalling £1,393,685. This includes debts written-off of £192,333 where it was impossible to find other solutions, and repayments rescheduled of £122,680 enabling people to manage on their income. We also helped clients to access over £200k of Covid support grants.

This year 7,916 unique clients used our various services.

In the Advice Service we supported 5,226 clients to address 10,692 issues that were causing them difficulties. To help resolve their problems we carried out 11,910 activities. Whilst the pandemic resulted in a reduced range of issues, the issues were of such significance or complexity that the number of interventions required to resolve them increased putting greater pressure on staff and advice service volunteers working in very challenging circumstances, often from home.

Helping people to understand the social benefits system and making claims is our largest area of enquiry, accounting for 33.6% of our work this year. The next biggest area of advice this year was Housing at 10.9% followed by Debt advice at 9.7%. This year debt increased to being the third largest area of enquiry from fourth largest in 2020/21.

Despite Covid control measures, our Volunteer Driver Service operated throughout the year delivering 7,328 individual passenger journeys.

Technology Initiatives

This year we have bedded in the changes to technology that facilitate access to services. This includes getting the full benefit of the bespoke software for our Volunteer Driver Service and enhanced use of social media to raise awareness about advice issues, recruit volunteers and promote services.

We have fully transitioned telephony to an Internet platform (VOIP) which makes remote working much easier to accommodate. This has been particularly helpful as we transitioned to hybrid or home working when the venue in Banbury was reduced to save costs.

Efficiency Initiatives

The most significant efficiency initiative this year was the introduction of hybrid and home working for project and support staff, we have been able to give up a unit of the Banbury venue reducing future venue costs in Banbury by 60%

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are a diverse group of individuals from the local community, with an age range from 16 (taken on through a student placement scheme) all the way up to our eldest volunteer who is 83. Volunteers stay with us for an average of 2 years; however, we have many volunteers of long standing with our longest serving volunteer having been with us for over 16 years.

Our volunteers are people who want to make a difference in their local area. They share our values and are committed to providing the advice people need for the problems they face. Local Citizens Advice are learning environments and volunteering in any role gives the person the chance to develop skills. For all roles, a volunteer needs to be open-minded, non-judgemental, able to listen, learn, and work as part of a team.

Volunteering provides skills and experience that are valued by many employers and working age volunteers who leave local Citizens Advice regularly do so because they go on to paid employment. In fact, many of our local Citizens Advice paid-staff (managers, case workers, and administrators) started out as volunteers and in 2021/22 three of our volunteers moved into paid roles with us.

In our Advice Service we have five core types of volunteers: Receptionists, Assessors, Advisors, Supervisors and Community Advice Coaches.

Receptionists

Receptionists act as the first point of contact for clients. They make clients feel welcome and ensure they are dealt with sensitively and in accordance with our procedures. Receptionists have good communication skills (being able to interact with people from a diverse range of backgrounds and cultures), organisational skills, IT skills, and an awareness of the potential needs of vulnerable clients. Receptionists understand the importance of confidentiality and work collaboratively with their colleagues.

Training for this role is approximately 20 hours including an online assessment and the use of our client-record database known as Casebook.

Assessors

Assessors carry out the first exploration of a client's circumstances and give the client information from our public website. This initial assessment can be done face-to-face or over the phone and the Assessor will then record the details of the assessment in Casebook.

Assessors receive approximately 30 hours of training in the skills needed to help clients deal with their problems and find the right information in our extensive information database. They are supported and supervised by Advisors and Supervisors, and are presented with opportunities for personal development, such as rising to a more senior role.

Advisors

Our Advisors help provide an effective and efficient advice service to members of the public, delivered face-to-face, over the phone or via email. They use the 'Advisernet' section of the National Citizens Advice website to assist clients and to help influence government and other organisations by informing them of the effect of policies on the lives of clients. As with Assessors, Advisers record each session in Casebook so that there is an accurate account of the advice provided in each case.

Advisors receive approximately 30 hours of further training (many Advisors begin as Assessors), with a mixture of classroom teaching, online learning, and practical sessions.

Supervisors

Supervisors are highly trained and experienced in all advice matters. They have usually progressed to this role from that of Adviser after having completed specialist training (an additional 20 hours). Supervisors usually manage a morning or afternoon advice session and are the central point of contact for all Assessors, Advisers

and Receptionists. They are responsible for managing client drop-ins, appointments, and dealing with the work queue. They support colleagues when clarification is needed and authorise referrals, food vouchers, and other forms of payment to clients in need.

Digital Advice Coaches

This role commenced last year to support people needing advice to self-help using the national advice website. Where self-help is not effective they can assist the client to access AdviceLine or arrange an appointment with an adviser. Digital Advice Coaches work in the Community Advice Hubs based in community venues such as the Forum in Towcester. The aim is to be accessible in venues where people are already attending and to provide access to online information to prevent issues or to start the client's advice journey earlier rather than wait for it to reach a critical stage before the client accesses the service. This should reduce the longer term detriment to the client whilst also encouraging clients to be independent in addressing issues. Digital Advice Coaches are able to volunteer for shorter periods of time and require less training which makes the offer more attractive to volunteers looking for flexibility than other roles offer.

During lockdown the Digital Advice Coaches were unable to operate as the Community Advice Hubs were closed so they adapted by supporting the Advice staff and other volunteers with calling clients to provide information and ascertain their advice needs, and other admin tasks.

Other Volunteer Roles

Our services have grown over the years, and we have a wide range of volunteering roles other than those within our Core Advice Service. For example, we have volunteers helping us with the Volunteer Driver Service which has 121 drivers. Here are some comments from those drivers regarding the reasons for their volunteering:

"As a volunteer, I can choose to do as many or as few journeys as I wish, knowing that each one is appreciated by the passenger."

"I believe one of the most important things you can give is your time. It costs nothing but is worth everything."

"As a volunteer I give my time. It cannot be paid for or returned. It is given freely, unconditionally, and with pleasure."

"I feel I am doing something worthwhile and needed."

FUTURE PLANS

We have six broad, strategic business goals in place for the next three years.

- To meet the evolving needs of our clients and commissioners.

 Our core competence is the provision of high quality, impartial advice services. We will proactively engage with and continuously tailor our advice services to the evolving needs of our clients, commissioners, and the private sector organisations with whom we work. We will identify and address the needs of our local communities through an effective Research and Campaigns programme.
- To ensure the financial stability of the Charity.

 Our aim for the current year to 31 March 2023 is to raise at least £755,368 through grants, fundraising, and donations for the ongoing provision of our services. We seek to migrate from a public-and-grant funding model to one in which at least one-third of our funding is derived from the private sector and the community.
- To meet the needs of all clients by ensuring equality of access to the service.

Our focus will remain on providing high-quality advice services to individuals and groups in the community, on delivering community projects, on challenging discrimination, promoting equality, and valuing diversity. We will market and raise the profile of the service to ensure that we reach all people, particularly those who are not aware of or do not realise that they can use the service.

- To work collaboratively with others.

 We will extend the reach of our services by forging closer working partnerships with neighbouring members of the Citizens Advice network. We will extend our range by partnering with public and private sector bodies to meet novel requirements for advice services both locally and further afield.
- To develop the people who deliver the service.

 We will continue to rely on a growing volunteer workforce, with management and leadership provided by a limited number of full- and part-time employees. We will use volunteers for a wider range of activities and provide appropriate training for these roles.
- To use our infrastructure and resources effectively and efficiently.

 We will deploy our resources, staff, IT, accommodation, and transport infrastructures to maximise service delivery, and aim to achieve year-on-year reductions in our fixed costs.

We are implementing a series of plans to achieve these broad, strategic goals and have made much progress over the last year despite the lockdown restrictions.

Premises

We implemented our plans regarding our physical premises by reducing the main Banbury premises to 1 unit, and introduced hybrid and home working for support and frontline staff where it was possible. We are indebted to our Banbury landlord who agreed to a much-reduced rent for 3 years and to the Bicester Town Council for the venue we use at Garth Park. We have also developed links to ensure that we can use various community venues to deliver the community advice hubs free of charge. This has produced a significant cost saving and enabled services to continue effectively.

Community Advice Hubs

Last year we established a new initiative in the form of Community Advice Hubs. Hubs enable residents, with the help of an on-hand volunteer (a Community Advice Coach), to use public-access computers to find solutions to their problems. The Community Advice Coach can help the client to find trusted sources of online information among the plethora of misinformation on the internet. This has multiple benefits: it makes good use of existing local resources to help people find a way forward; it is a community-based, face-to-face drop-in service in a wider number of venues making the service more accessible; and, where situations are more complex, the Community Advice Coach can refer the client seamlessly to our specialist Advice Service for further assistance.

Clients are welcome to drop-in at a Community Advice Hub, or they can be referred to us by our partner organisations such as GP surgeries, food banks and Social Prescribing Link Workers.

Our plan to set up face-to-face Community Advice Hubs in various community locations such as libraries, food banks, and community centres was delayed by Covid lockdowns as many of these venues were closed to the public. We have progressed since lockdown restrictions ended; we have restarted the Community Advice Hub in the Towcester Forum building and have opened a new Community Advice Hub in the Sunshine Community Centre in Banbury. We have committed to providing a monthly Community Advice Hub session at the Banbury Mosque and the Royal Air Force Association club in Banbury to support serving and former military members, their spouses and dependents.

We are progressing plans to open Community Advice Hubs in libraries in Bicester, Brackley and Kidlington.

During lockdown, the Community Advice Coaches supported the digital version of the hub by processing online enquiries.

Digital Marketing and Profile Raising

We have significantly increased our presence on social and mainstream media and now have regular posts on various social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, TikTock and Instagram. We also are regularly featured on BBC Radio Oxford and have also been on BBC South Today.

Other examples of plans we are implementing to achieve our goals include:

- to increase diversity in our staff and client base
- to develop more non-traditional volunteering roles such as community fundraisers
- To develop a relationship with the Chamber of Commerce to raise corporate awareness of our services
- to deliver talks to local groups to engage donors or fundraisers
- to continue to develop our use of social media to engage younger clients and volunteers
- to progress funding diversification through income generating services, and community fundraising and seeking a wider range of grant income.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

We received £1,092,364 (2021: £1,059,488) for the year in grants, funds, and donations. Of this £712,209 (2021: £806,434) was received for restricted projects. Our surplus for the year was £27,989 (2021: £199,400) and our total funds held at the year end were £642,574.

Reserves Policy

We have set aside a designated reserve fund of £147,525 which comprises a £75,000 (2021: 75,000) reserve for future pension liabilities, and a £72,525 (2021: £72,525) reserve to cover costs payable in the event of staff redundancies.

To enable the Charity to remain stable upon the occurrence of an unforeseen event such as, for example, a delay in the receipt of expected funds, we have established a policy that free reserves should be at least equal to 4 months of future budgeted expenses. Currently free reserves are £545,764 (2021: 455,883). Free reserves are calculated as unrestricted reserves plus designated reserves less unrestricted fixed assets.

We believe that the Charity is currently funded adequately to achieve its objectives, although we recognise that the economic situation is likely to put pressure on funding from local authorities. We expect, therefore, to have to use reserve funds to meet any future shortfall.

MAJOR RISKS

To manage and mitigate risk, the trustees have developed a Risk Management Strategy which is reviewed and approved annually. The Strategy includes an annual risk assessment and the maintenance of a Risk Register, which is reviewed at each board meeting.

The major risks identified, and the steps being taken to manage these risks are listed below.

Devolution

In April 2021, Northamptonshire County Council and the district and borough councils of Northamptonshire were abolished and replaced with 2 unitary authorities, West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council. West Northamptonshire Council includes the former South Northamptonshire Council from whom we received significant funding for our Core Services. West Northamptonshire Council has continued the funding that was previously provided by South Northamptonshire Council; however, the future of this funding is uncertain. Further, there are several options on the table for local authority reform in Oxfordshire. This brings uncertainty to the Charity.

To mitigate the risk, we have established firm links into networks to ensure we receive timely information, and can contribute to consultations, and we have direct lines of communication with county and district councillors and officers. We are engaging in scenario planning sessions with other Citizens Advice organisations affected by the uncertainty.

We are also working with a National Citizens Advice Change Consultant to prepare the four local Citizens Advice in Northamptonshire to collaborate in response to the unitary authority.

Core Contracts with Local Authorities are up for Recommission

The core contract with Cherwell District Council was recommissioned in November 2020; however, the amount of funding was cut by 15% and will be recommissioned again in August 2022. The recent change to the partnership between CDC and Oxfordshire County Council may have an impact on the service commissioned as will the pressure on local authority budgets.

The grant from the former South Northants District Council has been continued for one year by the new unitary West Northants Council. However, the continuation of this grant in the future is unclear.

We have sufficient senior management capacity to have regular engagement meetings with the commissioners, respond to questions, and to engage in high-quality contract monitoring and performance delivery.

Competition

There is increased competition for funding from other charities and the private sector. To mitigate this risk, partnerships with other organisations are in place as is a strategic business plan which focuses on partnership working, and we employ both stakeholder management and competitor analysis to understand the position.

Income Diversification

We continue to work closely with local and county councils by ensuring a good relationship with councillors and officers to identify and meet local needs. Alongside our core services we have developed new services to attract funding from other streams such as health funding for our social prescribing activities and volunteer driver project for the ambulance service. We are looking to expand this into prisons and police services in the future.

THE SERVICE IMPACT OF MEASURES AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Throughout the year to 31 March 2022, our advice services remained incredibly busy over digital and telephone channels with staff and volunteers working diligently from home or in the office when it was safe to do so. We have increased advice staff and volunteer numbers working in the Banbury and Bicester physical venues to provide a face-to-face service for clients who cannot be helped through other channels.

Our ther projects have been delivered by staff and volunteers working at home or in the community ensuring that government guidelines for lockdowns were implemented when and where necessary.

Whilst our physical Community Advice Hub in Towcester remained closed, the volunteers operated the Digital Hub using online and telephony instead. The Towcester face-to-face Hubs reopened in March 2022 and we opened new face-to-face hubs in Banbury and Kidlington in quarter 4.

Our Volunteer Connect service relies on the willingness of local people to become volunteers for the various volunteer organisations in our area. We have utilised social media to continue to get people into volunteering as more opportunities have started to become available once again.

We have continued to deliver the Energy Redress Scheme which exists to distribute payments from energy companies who may have breached rules. It is regulated by Ofgem and administered by the Energy Saving Trust. Under this scheme we receive money from the Trust and use it to provide energy advice and, in some cases, financial support in the form of energy vouchers.

RESEARCH AND CAMPAIGNS

What is it and why we do it

Research and Campaigns (R&C) is one of the twin aims of our service. It aims to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives.

As a service we have a huge amount of insight and data about the problems our clients and their wider communities face. Through R&C we use this insight to:

- help us research issues further
- develop our practice to be able to help our clients in a changing world
- influence decision makers to change policies and practices
- campaign to get decision makers to change policies and practices.

The coronavirus pandemic has meant that we have had to look at new ways of engaging with our clients. To ensure that our clients are being supported fairly, our Research and Campaign team have been monitoring the effects of the pandemic on our service and its ability to help clients.

Recent Campaigns

With the lifting of Covid restrictions we saw more people hoping to return to some normality in their lives, However the removal of the £20 uplift for those on Universal Credit left a big hole in the more vulnerable members of our societies income.

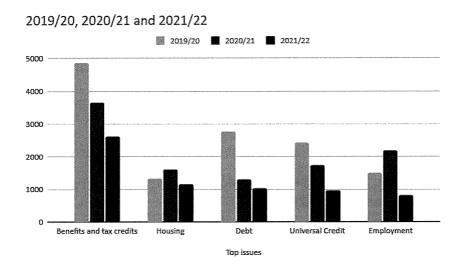
The Household Support Fund (HSF) commenced in November 2021, this was a government initiative to offset the uplift shortfall. Initially we were allocated £250,000, however it soon became apparent that applications for the fund would be huge, and we were successful in obtaining a further injection of funds which meant that we were able to help in excess of 2100 people with £420,000. The fund was a huge success and we gained a lot of satisfaction by the fact that every complete application was processed. We have been able to help a lot of people who were struggling, including a mother whose child had several operations for leg/foot deformities. We were able to help a 93 year old lady who had only had a sofa to sleep on for several years. More recently we helped a mother with two severely autistic children. Alongside the HSF we have been running the Energy Redress Scheme (ERF) which allows people to claim help if they are on prepayment meters. This fund will end at the end of August 2022 by which time we hope to have given out around 1000 vouchers.

Other R&C work

- 1 Making clients aware of scam energy saving schemes and devices
- 2. Using Social Media and Local radio to get our message more widespread.
- 3. Research on the effects in our region of the 'Cost of living crisis' in our region
- 4. Working alongside and with the Trussell Trust by having advisers at food bank
- 5. Establishing support for clients who suffer mental health issues as a result of (3)
- 6. Participated in the national Citizens Advice campaign to engage MPs about the Cost of Living crisis

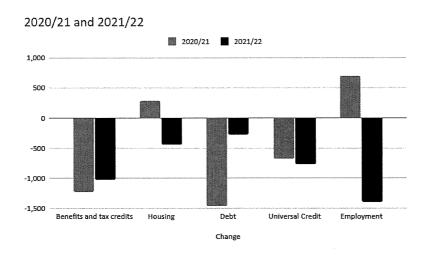
Effects of the Pandemic

The table below shows the issue numbers of our top enquiry area.



The table below shows the change in issue numbers against the previous year.

A major factor in the swing in numbers is that in 2020/21, we included clients who were supported with grants from the Energy Redress and Household Support Funds on our database. This risked double-counting clients, so in 2021/22 we took the decision to not include clients offered that support. This means a downturn of c500 clients. Additionally, in 2020/21, our Social Prescribing clients were included in the year's total client count. This service continued last year but was in its final year of delivery, with client numbers necessarily dwindling towards the end of March 2021.



COLLABORATORS

We collaborate with a wide range of organisations, groups, and forums including:

- National Citizens Advice, the umbrella body for the network of local Citizens Advice.
- Citizens Advice Oxfordshire (CAOX), a collaboration of Oxfordshire local Citizens Advice charities.
- CA Northamptonshire, a collaboration of the Northamptonshire local Citizens Advice charities
- Commsortia, a consortium of 43 voluntary, community, and social enterprises coming together to deliver services and contracts for the people of Northamptonshire.

- Oxfordshire Volunteer Centres, working in collaboration with Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) and Witney Volunteer Link Up
- Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA), whose purpose is to help build and maintain stronger communities and a thriving voluntary, community, and faith sector to improve the quality of life for local people.
- Brighter Futures in Banbury, a steering group consisting of representatives from Cherwell District Council and local service providers who work to address the issues of deprivation in Banbury.
- Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership Board which brings together local public, private and voluntary organisations to deliver the objectives detailed in the Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy: 'Our district, our future'.
- South East Social Prescribing Regional Network which brings together health professionals, researchers, academics, social prescribing practitioners, representatives from the community and voluntary sectors, commissioners and funders, patients, and citizens. The objective is to share knowledge and best practice, to support social prescribing at both local and national levels, and to inform good quality research and evaluation.
- Oxfordshire Social Prescribing Leads Forum, a group that brings together social prescribing delivery organisations to collaborate and share good practice.
- Adult Social Care Transformation Group, a working group of Oxford County Council staff and 3
 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations. This group seeks to better
 understand our communities, define how we can support them to be more resilient and to live
 independently, and identify priorities for change in related services.
- Oxfordshire VCSE Coalition a coalition of VCSE organisations whose aim is to help to build a pragmatic but ambitious strategic vision for the VCS locally and how it can contribute to strengthening our communities.
- Getting Oxfordshire Online a partnership of four VCSE providers working together to address digital exclusion.
- Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire Integrated Care Systems VCSE Alliance

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 15th September 1999 and registered as a charity on 7 March 2000.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established its objects and powers, and it is governed by its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, the maximum liability of each member is limited to one pound.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The trustees of the Charity are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law. The maximum number of trustees is 15 and the minimum is 3. Trustees are either elected at the AGM (to a maximum of 10) or may be co-opted by the board (to a maximum of one-third of the total number of trustees).

Induction of Trustees

Newly appointed trustees are provided with a comprehensive induction to the Charity through the provision of an induction pack and appropriate training.

Organisational Structure

The Charity is governed by its Trustee Board, which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and its policies. The trustees carry the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the Charity and for ensuring that it satisfies its legal and contractual obligations. Trustees meet at a minimum quarterly and delegate the day-to-day operation of the organisation to the Chief Executive Officer. A register of members' interests is maintained at the registered office and is available to the public.

Management Remuneration

Remuneration is reviewed annually by the Human Resources and Equality Sub-Committee and proposals are put to the board for approval.

The HR&E Sub-Committee has established a job evaluation policy and related procedures to place staff posts within a local pay structure. Roles are evaluated against 8 factors to establish the appropriate pay scale, with supervisory and managerial roles allocated by points to grades 5 - 8. Pay comparisons are made on an ad hoc basis to monitor that local pay scales remain appropriate when compared with the public sector and the local employment market.

The rate of pay for the Chief Executive Officer is determined by the board following pay comparisons from National Citizens Advice.

National Citizens Advice

The Charity is a member of Citizens Advice, the operating name of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, which provides a framework for standards of advice and casework management as well as monitoring progress against these standards. Operating policies are independently determined by the trustees to fulfil the Charity's objects and comply with national membership requirements.

Investment Policy

As required in its Articles of Association paragraph 3.19, to promote its objects but not for any other purpose, the Charity has the power to invest or deposit funds in any lawful manner whilst having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification.

Statement of Internal Control

The trustees oversee the information security of processed personal information of clients, staff, funders, and strategic partners. They hold joint responsibility for client data that is held in our case-management system, with the National Citizens Advice Service. An information-assurance management team exists to ensure that the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of personal and sensitive data is maintained to a level compliant with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also the Directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom's generally accepted accounting practices.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, to make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and to state whether applicable accounting standards and SORPs have been followed, subject that any material departures are disclosed and explained in the financial statements. They are also required to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business. The trustees believe that the report and financial statements have been prepared in line with these responsibilities.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which our auditors are unaware of and that the Trustees have taken all the necessary steps to have taken as a Board of Trustees to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name:

Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire

Charity Registration:

1079719

Company Registration:

3842133

Registered Office:

26 Cornhill, Market Place, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 5NG

Chief Executive:

Pat Coomber-Wood

Bank:

Barclays Bank, 32 Bridge St, Banbury OX16 8PS

Independent Examiners:

Critchleys Audit LLP, 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP

Solicitors:

John Spratt, Spratt Endicott Solicitors, 52-54 The Green, Banbury,

OX16 9AB

Trustees:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted	
Alan Buchanan	Chair	Appointed 07/12/2018 Chair from Dec 2020	
Savy Sondhi	Treasurer	Appointed 31/08/2021 Treasurer from Jan 2022	
Inegmar Hunnings		Appointed 06/09/2018	
Gill Crowther		Appointed 04/08/2017	
Abi Knipe		Appointed 12/12/2018	
Bayo Mfon		Appointed 09/09/2020	
Brett Clancy	Treasurer	Appointed 16/01/2020 Resigned 18/11/2021	
Stephen Gowler		Appointed 03/01/2018 Deceased 07/01/202 2	
David Maloney *		Appointed 09/06/2022	
Ashley Ritchie *		Appointed 09/09/2022	

^{*} New trustees did not take up office in the year under review in this report.

Alan Buchanan - Chair

Date 24 November 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

CITIZENS ADVICE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE AND SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Citizens advice North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise Statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 (*The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charities ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 20, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements²

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees, and from our knowledge and experience
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, data protection, anti-bribery, employment and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- · performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias;
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions; and

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Katherine Wilkes FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Critchleys Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor

Beaver House

23-38 Hythe Bridge Street

Oxford, OX1 2EP

Date: 20 December 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Capital Grants	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS Incoming resources from Generated Funds							
Donations & legacies	2	385	-	6,907	-	7,292	10,000
Income from investments	3	655	-	-	-	655	1,638
Charitable activities	4	365,744	-	705,302	-	1,071,046	1,047,850
Other income		<u>13,371</u>		-		<u>13,371</u>	
Total Income and Endowments		<u>380,155</u>		712,209		<u>1,092,364</u>	<u>1,059,488</u>
EXPENDITURE Charitable activities		<u>281,963</u>		<u>771,701</u>	<u>10,711</u>	<u>1,064,375</u>	860,088
Total Resources Expended	5	<u>281,963</u>		<u>771,701</u>	<u>10,711</u>	<u>1,064,375</u>	860,088
Net Income		<u>98,192</u>		<u>(59,492)</u>	(10,711)	<u>27,989</u>	<u>199,400</u>
Transfers between funds		(11,903)		<u>1,192</u>	<u>10,711</u>		
Net movement in funds		<u>86,289</u>		(58,300)	_=	<u>27,989</u>	<u>199,400</u>
Reconciliation of funds Fund Balances as at 1 April 2021		<u>319,069</u>	<u>147,525</u>	<u>147,991</u>		<u>614,585</u>	<u>415,185</u>
Fund Balances as at 31 March 2022		<u>405,358</u>	<u>147,525</u>	<u>89,691</u>		642,574	614,585

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

COMPANY NUMBER: 3842133

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	9		7,119		10,711
Current Assets					
Debtors – amounts falling due within one year	10	204,402		47,960	
	20				
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>584,413</u>		<u>627,286</u>	
		788,815		675,246	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(153,360)		(71,372)	
Net Current Assets			<u>635,454</u>		<u>603,874</u>
Net Current Assets			053,434		005,874
Total assets less current liabilities			642,573		614,585
Income Funds					
Restricted funds	13		89,691		147,991
Designated funds	14		147,525		147,525
Unrestricted funds	15		<u>405,358</u>		<u>319,069</u>
Total Funds			642 574		614 585
lotal Funds			<u>642,574</u>		<u>614,585</u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts.

Alan Buchana - Chair

Date: 24 November 2022

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash provided by operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	27,989	199,400
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(10,679)	-
Depreciation	14,271	11,810
(Decrease) / increase in trade creditors	81,988	(11,047)
(Increase) in trade debtors	(156,442)	(15,440)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	(42,873)	184,723
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(42,873)	184,723
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	627,286	442,563
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	584,413	627,286

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

b) Incoming Resources

All monetary donations and gifts are included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable provided that there are no restrictions imposed by the donor as to the timing of the related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the conditions have been met.

Legacies to which the charitable company is entitled are included in the statement of financial activities unless they are incapable of measurement.

Gifts-in-kind are accounted for at the directors' estimate of the value to the charitable company or sale value as follows:

 gifts of fixed assets for charitable use or funds for acquiring fixed assets for charitable use are accounted for (as restricted funds) immediately on receipt.

Intangible income is valued and included in income to the extent that it represents goods or services which would otherwise be purchased. An equivalent amount is charged as expenditure. Voluntary help is not included as income.

Cash collected to which the charitable company is legally entitled but which has not been received at the year end is included as income.

Donations under gift aid together with the associated income tax recoverable are credited as income when the donations are received.

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with unless they relate to a specified future period in which case they are deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. Depreciation on the fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund.

Investment income is recognised when receivable.

c) Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

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.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the accountancy or audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charitable company.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

d) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

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

Leasehold property

over the lease period (10 years)

Fixtures, fittings and equipment

3 years straight-line

The capitalisation threshold for fixed assets is £500.

e) Leasing and Hire Purchase Commitments

Leases other than finance leases are regarded as operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

f) Pensions

The pension costs charged in the year represent the amount of contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

g) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Expenditure for those purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs, at the trustees' discretion.

Capital Grants relate to the New Premises Fund. They are an extension of restricted funds and the only movement that goes through is the depreciation of the assets on the balance sheet.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the charitable company.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the trustees.

2 Donations

_	Donations	2022 £	2021 £
	Donations and gifts	<u>7,292</u>	10,000
3	Investment Income	2022 £	2021 £
	Interest receivable	<u>655</u>	1,638

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

4 Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities	2022 £	2021 £
Grants receivable for charitable activities		
Unrestricted Funds		
Cherwell District Council	365,744	251,416
Other		
	<u>365,744</u>	<u>251,416</u>
Restricted Funds		
Benefits in Place	17,000	30,000
CA BEIS	7,125	43,500
CA Help to Claim	19,737	36,544
CA MaPS	15,011	17,581
CDC Debt & Benefit Caseworker	35,000	-
CDC Hardship Fund	-	45,000
CDC Household Support Fund	35,500	-
CDC Winter Support	-	130,000
Census Support	1,960	3,556
Client's Legal Costs Fund	2,313	-
Connect! Project	37,308	4,501
Energy Redress Scheme	55,309	23,938
Gamble Aware	7,250	43,515
Kickstart Programme	13,549	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	15,000
PCN Link Worker	-	38,398
Peter Soweby	25,000	-
Public Health Oxfordshire	-	17,000
Social Prescribing Service	109,060	127,092
South Northants Council	62,000	61,998
VDS Cherwell	249,939	97,093
VDS Out of County	-	32,118
Volunteer Connect	<u>12,241</u>	29,600
	<u>712,209</u>	796,434
Total grants receivable	<u>1,071,046</u>	<u>1,047,850</u>

It is important to note that the Hardship Fund and Winter Support Grants in 2021 totalling £175,000 were received from the council and then directly distributed to local people experiencing financial hardship due to the impact of the pandemic.

The Household Support fund was funds received from the council and then directly distributed to local people. Citizens Advice received an admin fee for administering this work.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

5	Total Resources Expended		
		2022	2021
		£	£
	Charitable Activities Advice and information		
	Direct Costs		
	Staff costs	577,795	526,536
	Support costs		
	Establishment costs	137,494	110,292
	Other costs	43,007	49,784
	Client payments	279,202	156,844
	Depreciation	<u>14,271</u>	<u>11,810</u>
		<u>1,051,769</u>	<u>855,266</u>
	Governance Costs		
	Audit fee	12,456	4,800
	Meeting and other governance costs	<u> 150</u>	22
		<u>12,606</u>	4,822
	Total Resources Expended	<u>1,064,375</u>	860,088
	Expenditure by fund		
	Unrestricted funds	281,963	163,345
	Restricted funds	771,701	686,033
	Capital grants	<u>10,711</u>	10,710
6	Net Movement in Funds		
		2022	2021
		£	£
	This is stated after charging		
	Audit fee	12,456	4,800
	Depreciation	14,271	11,810
	Operating lease rentals - office equipment	3,965	3,231

7 **Directors**

The total directors' remuneration, including pension, payable for the year was £nil (2021: £nil).

land and buildings

The number of directors to whom retirement benefits are accruing under the multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme in respect of qualifying services was nil (2021: nil).

<u>25,100</u>

28,037

No directors were reimbursed any expenses in the year (2021: none)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

8 Employees

	2022 £	2021 £
The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the period was:		
Providing advice to members of the public	17	16
Administration	6	5
Total	23	21
Employment Costs		
Wages and salaries	521,011	486,651
Social security costs	37,614	21,265
Other pension costs	<u>19,170</u>	<u>18,620</u>
	<u>577,795</u>	<u>526,536</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more. $\,$

The average number of employees is based on the full time equivalent number.

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Alterations to Leasehold	Fixtures &	
	Premises	Fittings	Total
Cost:			
1 April 2021	122,694	154,741	277,435
Additions		10,679	10,679
At 31 March 2022	122,694	165,420	288,114
Depreciation: 1 April 2021	111,983	154,741	266,724
Charge for the year	10,711	3,560	14,271
At 31 March 2022	122,694	158,301	280,995
Net Book Amount: 31 March 2021	10,711		10,711
31 March 2022		7,119	7,119

10 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year	_	_
Trade debtors	158,446	18,459
Sundry debtors	-	41
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>45,956</u>	<u>29,460</u>
	204,402	<u>47,960</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

11 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	12,590	17,302
Taxes and social security costs	12,666	10,305
Pension contributions payable	16,722	3,106
Accruals and deferred income	111,382	39,409
Other creditors		<u>1,250</u>
	<u>153,360</u>	<u>71,372</u>

Deferred income relates to grants for the 2023 financial year where the fund have been received before the year end.

12 Pension Costs

A multi-employer defined benefit scheme was in operation during the year. Having taken advice from the scheme actuary, Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire cannot identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. The expected cost of providing pensions is calculated periodically by a professionally qualified actuary. The operating costs of providing retirement benefits to employees are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are incurred.

The charity also operates a defined contribution pension scheme with Scottish Widows. The costs of providing retirement benefits to employees are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are incurred.

The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the two pension schemes and amounted to £19,170 (2021: £18,620). Contributions totalling £16,722(2021: £3,106), were payable in creditors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

13 Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of grants received for specific purposes.

specific purposes.	Balance as at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Capital Grants	Transfer	Balance as at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New Premises Fund	10 711			(10,711)		
	10,711	109,060	- (117,839)	(10,711)	-	4 440
Social Prescribing Service	13,228	•		-	-	4,449
South Northants Council	9,892	62,000	(71,892)	-	-	-
VC Volunteering	17,376	12,241	(29,617)	-	-	-
Gamble Aware	992	7,250	(8,242)	-	-	-
CA Help to Claim	8,136	19,737	(27,873)	-	-	-
VDS Cherwell	10,714	249,939	(260,653)	-	-	-
Benefits in Practice	2,876	-	-	=	(2,876)	-
Benefits in Place	27,775	17,000	(47,651)	-	2,876	-
VDS Out of County	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	-
Client's Legal Costs Fund	1,223	9,220	-	-	-	10,443
Energy Redress Scheme	-	55,309	(49,859)	_	-	5,450
CA BEIS	-	7,125	(7,125)	-	-	-
CA MaPS	3,080	15,011	(18,091)	-	-	-
CDC Hardship Fund	2,750	-	-	_	-	2,750
Census Support	(1,179)	1,960	(1,559)	-	778	-
Connect! Project	2,090	37,308	(39,398)	-	-	-
CDC Winter Support	28,327	-	-	-	-	28,327
Kickstart Programme	-	13,549	(24,674)	-	11,125	-
CDC Debt & Benefit Caseworker	-	35,000	(30,450)	-	-	4,550
Peter Soweby	-	25,000	(10,146)	-	-	14,854
CDC Household Support Fund	Ξ	<u>35,500</u>	(16,632)			18,868
	<u>147,991</u>	<u>712,209</u>	<u>(771,701)</u>	<u>(10,711)</u>	<u>11,903</u>	<u>89,691</u>

New Premises Fund: The monies are to be used to improve the Banbury premises and have been used for alterations and fittings for our extended premises. The appeal terminated in 2012-2013 financial year, with the last donation being received in June 2013. The balance on the New Premises Fund at the end of the financial year represents the value of the Tangible Fixed Assets on the balance sheet which will be depreciated over their expected useful life.

Other Restricted Fund details can be found in the Objectives, Aims, and Activities section of the Trustee Report.

	Balance as at 1 April 2020	Incoming Resources resources expended		Capital Grants	Transfer	Balance as at 31 March 2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
New Premises Fund	21,421	-	-	(10,710)	-	10,711	
Social Prescribing Service	-	127,092	(113,864)	-	-	13,228	
South Northants Council	-	61,998	(52,106)	-	-	9,892	
VC Volunteering	-	29,600	(12,224)	-		17,376	
PCN Link Worker	-	38,398	(53,801)	-	15,403	· -	
Gamble Aware	-	43,515	(42,523)	-	-	992	
CA Help to Claim	-	36,544	(28,408)	-	-	8,136	
VDS Cherwell	- -	97,093	(86,379)	~	-	10,714	

Benefits in Practice	-	17,000	(14,124)	-	-	2,876
Benefits in Place	-	30,000	(2,225)	~	-	27,775
VDS Out of Country	-	32,118	(22,118)	-	_	10,000
Client's Legal Costs Fund	1,476	10,000	(10,253)	-	-	1,223
Energy Redress Scheme	-	23,938	(23,938)	-	_	-
CA BEIS	-	43,500	(43,500)	-	-	-
CA MaPS	-	17,581	(14,501)	-	-	3,080
CDC Hardship Fund	-	45,000	(42,250)	-	-	2,750
Census Support	-	3,556	(4,735)	_	-	(1,179)
Connect! Project	-	4,501	(2,411)	-	-	2,090
National Lottery Community Fund	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-	-
CDC Winter Support	-	130,000	(101,673)	-	-	28,327
	<u>22,897</u>	<u>806,434</u>	(686,033)	(10,710)	<u>15,403</u>	<u>147,991</u>

14 Designated Funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balances as at 1 April 2021 £	Transfer £	Balance as at 31 March 2022 £
Staff liabilities – Redundancy Pension reserve	72,525 <u>75,000</u>	- - -	72,525 <u>75,000</u>
	<u>147,525</u>	Ξ	<u>147,525</u>
	Balances as at 1 April 2020 £	Transfer £	Balance as at 31 March 2021 £
Staff liabilities – Redundancy Pension reserve	57,715 ——-	14,810 <u>75,000</u>	72,525 <u>75,000</u>
	<u>57,715</u>	<u>89,810</u>	<u>147,525</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

15 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
by: Tangible fixed assets Net current assets	- <u>405,358</u>	- <u>147,525</u>	7,119 <u>82,572</u>	7,119 <u>635,455</u>
	405,358	<u>147,525</u>	<u>89,691</u>	642,574
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds	Total
by: Tangible fixed assets Net current assets	- <u>319,069</u>	- <u>147,525</u>	10,711 <u>137,280</u>	10,711 <u>603,874</u>
	319,069	<u>147,525</u>	<u> 147,991</u>	614,585

The balance on the New Premises Fund at the end of the financial year represents the value of the Tangible Fixed Assets purchased by the fund on the balance sheet which will be depreciated over their expected useful lives.

16 Commitments under Operating Leases

As at 31 March 2022 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Expiry date				
Within one year	-	16,875	5,830	-
Between two and five years	-	4,250	-	-
After five years	<u></u>	-		

17 Related Party Transactions

During the year there were no related party transactions (2021: £nil) other than the director expenses disclosed in note 7.

18 Control

The board of directors consider that they are the controlling party of the company.

19 Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2022 capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £nil (2021: £nil)

20 General Information

Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire is a charity constituted as a company and limited guarantee. The charity is registered and domiciled in England. Its principal address is 26 Cornhill, Market place, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 8PS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022 (CONTINUED)

21 2021 Comparative Statement of Financial Activity

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Capital Grants	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	· £	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Incoming resources from Generated							
Funds							
Donations & legacies	2	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	26,581
Income from investments	3	1,638	-	-	-	1,638	1,036
Charitable activities	4	<u>251,416</u>	<u> </u>	796,434		<u>1,047,850</u>	612,573
Total Income and Endowments		<u>253,054</u>		806,434		<u>1,059,488</u>	640,190
EXPENDITURE							
Charitable activities		<u>163,345</u>		686,033	<u>10,710</u>	<u>860,088</u>	707,083
Total Resources Expended	5	<u> 163,345</u>		686,033	<u>10,710</u>	860,088	707,083
Net Income		89,709	-	120,401	(10,710)	199,400	(66,893)
Transfers between funds		(105,213)	89,810	<u>4,693</u>	10,710		
Net movement in funds		(15,504)	89,810	125,094	-	199,400	(66,893)
Reconciliation of funds							
Fund Balances as at 1 April 2020		<u>334,573</u>	<u>57,715</u>	22,897		415,185	482,078
Fund Balances as at 31 March 2021		<u>319,069</u>	147,525	147,991		<u>614,585</u>	415,185