Company Registration No. 04096574 (England and Wales)

COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



SOMERBYS LIMITED
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
30 NELSON STREET
LEICESTER
LE1 7BA

COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED

CONTENTS

·	Page	
Legal and administrative information	. 1	
Trustees' report	2 - 8	
Auditor's report	9 - 12	
Statement of financial activities	13 - 14	
Balance sheet	15	
Statement of cash flows	16	
Notes to the accounts	17 - 31	

COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees Mrs M E Collier (appointed 7 February 2022)

Miss H L Fountain

Mr P Gibbons (resigned 17 November 2022)

Mr R K Gill-Harrison (appointed 7 February2022)
Mr A Markillie-Mallinson (resigned 13 February 2022)
Mr S E Markillie-Mallinson (resigned 14 January 2022)

Mr J Munton Ms R Nixon Mrs K L Rippon Mr C J Smith

Secretary Position vacant

Chief Executive Officer L Chahal

Charity number 1087214

Company number 04096574

Principal address and Registered Office 1st Floor Epic House

Charles Street Leicester LE1 3SH

Statutory Auditor Somerbys Limited

Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor 30 Nelson Street

Leicester LE1 7BA

Bankers Lloyds Bank plc 7 High Street

Leicester LE1 9FS

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts.

Administration Details

Community Advice and Law Service Limited is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The liability of members is limited to £1 per member in the event of winding up.

Its registered office and principle address is shown on page 1.

The directors, who also act as trustees, are shown on page 1.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association, incorporated on 25 October 2000. The charity's aims and objectives have changed over time and revised Memorandum and Articles of Association were adopted on 25 June 2008.

Organisation

A board of not less than three trustees administer the charity and the trustees meet not less than four times each year. The Chief Executive Officer has the delegated authority for operational matters, and provides regular written updates to the Board.

There are currently seven trustees on the board, and a revised strategy for trustee recruitment and succession planning is under development. The Chief Executive Officer has been in post since June 2021.

Policies and procedures for induction and training of trustees

New trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association. When a new trustee joins the Board they spend time with the Chair and Chief Executive Officer to learn more about Community Advice and Law Service Limited and are provided with information and guidance on the role of being a trustee. A new trustee is made aware of trustee responsibilities, the governing schemes and is provided with a copy of the most recent accounts and annual report, a copy of the relevant policies and Memorandum and Articles of Association and details of the history, philosophical and ethical approach of the charity.

Risk factors

The trustees have continued to assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to those risks.

The charity is currently dependent on a relatively small range of significant funding streams, and particularly on the grants that it receives from the Money and Pensions Service for the delivery of debt advice across the East Midlands. While this funding is secure in the short term, there is a risk that it may be lost as a result of future recommissioning exercises. The trustees are actively involved in managing this risk and in considering strategies to diversify income streams.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. They have referred to that guidance when reviewing aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. The Trustees ensure that these activities are carried out for the public benefit by delivering services that are valued by the people it supports and by the adoption of best practice, thereby promoting a transparent and efficiently managed charity that engenders public confidence and trust.

The charity is established for charitable purposes and achieves its objects through the delivery of specialist advice services via outlets in community venues and other organisations' premises in order to increase access to disadvantaged people or excluded groups within local communities, as well as the charity's own offices where clients are seen by appointment. It also operates from an office in the Leicester County Court assisting unrepresented defendants in debt and housing possession actions.

The work covers several areas of social welfare law – debt, housing and welfare benefits as well as financial capability work, and it also provides a charged for Immigration Advice service. It also acts as the Lead Partner for the East Midlands Money Advice project, funded by the Money and Pensions Service.

The charity delivers a digital and financial inclusion project, Moneywise Plus as a member of Reaching People which is funded by the Big Lottery. The project assists individuals on a one-to-one basis, providing support to develop skills, understanding, and building confidence around managing money and utilising digital services. Its aim is to move people towards and into job search, training, or employment.

CALS has been delivering the Energywise project since the end of 2020. This project aims to tackle fuel poverty through the provision of specialist energy advice plus generalist-level welfare benefit, income maximisation, and money management advice and support. The service delivery model focuses on the provision of face-to-face advice sessions provision at community venues based in areas of high deprivation, including public libraries, community centres and foodbanks.

In 2021, CALS took over responsibility for the delivery of the Foodbank Plus Project from the Reaching People consortium. This project involves working in partnership with a number of foodbanks in Leicester City to tackle the underlying causes of food poverty through the provision of generalist-level welfare benefit, income maximisation and money management advice and support. Advice sessions are delivered on foodbank premises and clients are referred by foodbank partners.

Objects and Activities

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at the success of activities and the benefit they have brought to the groups of people which the charity is set up to help.

The Community Advice and Law Service is established for charitable purposes and its objects are as follows:

- To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship and/or distress and who are resident within the East Midlands area, hereinafter referred to as the "area of benefit", but without limiting the foregoing by the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation.
- To advance the education of the public by improvement and diffusion of knowledge of the law and the practice of the law and the administration of justice, having regard especially to those areas of the law which are of particular concern to poor people or are directed to the relief of poverty.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity's aims

The Community Advice and Law Service has developed a revised vision and mission statement during the last year, in order to reflect what we hope to achieve through the delivery of our charitable objects

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Our vision is of a fair and inclusive society in which everyone has access to justice and the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Our mission is to empower people to live happier lives by providing professional advice and advocacy that enables them to resolve their problems effectively. In doing this, we aim to:

- · Enable people to assert and enforce their rights;
- Empower people to improve their circumstances;
- Give a voice to those who are unheard:
- · Support people to make positive changes in their lives;
- · Enhance people's overall sense of wellbeing;
- · Build resilience in individuals and at a community level;
- · Promote a fairer and more inclusive society.

We seek to deliver this mission by providing free, independent, confidential and quality-assured legal advice services to individuals across the area of benefit, for the advantage of the public, subject to funding constraints; by promoting self-help where appropriate and offer casework support for those unable to deal with legal matters alone; and by ensuring that all services are available to all sections of the population irrespective of gender, race, ethnic origin, disability, age, nationality, national origin, sexuality, religion or belief, marital status and social class, and challenging all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination.

Strategies to achieve main objects for the year

The strategies employed by the charity to meet its objectives include the following:

- The provision of face-to-face advice sessions from its premises in central Leicester, from its permanent office at Leicester County Court and via telephone, video call and e-mail;
- The delivery of advice sessions community venues and in partnership with community organisations based in areas of high deprivation in order to increase access for disadvantaged people and/or excluded groups.
- · Recruitment of new Trustees with a broad range of skills and experience
- The employment of a new grants fundraiser.
- Networking and collaborative working with a range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies.

Criteria by which Charity measures its success

The charity measures its success by meeting targets, by securing positive outcomes for clients, by obtaining positive feedback from service users and through its success in securing funding for new developments. Extensive work is currently being undertaken to develop the charity's use of data and evidence in order to measure the impact of its services more effectively and to inform future service development.

Significance of volunteer staff

The charity has a very limited number of volunteers who make a very valuable contribution to the work of Community Advice and Law Service, and the thanks of the Board of Trustees and staff go to them for their commitment to enhancing the delivery of the charity's work.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Achievements and Performance

Achievements of objectives

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an ongoing impact on the demand for advice for a number of the charity's services, particularly Debt Advice and the Moneywise Plus Project, though demand has now started to increase again, particularly as a result of rising food and energy costs. The pandemic has also had an ongoing impact on the way in which the charity delivers its advice services, with a relatively high proportion of clients still opting to receive advice remotely (mainly by telephone). It is believed that this may reflect a permanent shift in the way in which clients choose to interact with the charity's services.

During the year, the charity provided specialist advice to 3,149 unique individuals across four areas of social welfare law; this represents an increase of around 24%, although the number of clients served remains lower than in prepandemic years. In addition to the services provided from the charity's main premises in central Leicester, from its permanent office at Leicester County Court and via remote channels such as telephone, video call and e-mail, the charity has also delivered advice sessions at 14 outreach locations across Leicester, including public libraries, foodbanks and community centres, thereby facilitating access for the most vulnerable people in the community. The charity advised on 4,151 different cases in total, resulting in confirmed financial gains for clients in excess of £750,000; actual financial gains are estimated as being substantially higher than this as financial outcomes cannot be confirmed in all cases.

Debt casework remains the largest area of work, accounting for 64% of the cases dealt with; this has increased as an overall proportion of the charity's work from 54% last year, but remains lower than in previous years; this follows a drop in demand as a result of the moratoriums introduced by many creditors in response to Covid-19. Other significant areas of advice included welfare benefits (6%), housing (15%) and immigration (15%). The court office dealt with 193 clients during this year, and assisted with representation at 196 hearings. This represents a substantial increase against the 17 clients assisted and the representation provided at 55 hearings in the previous year, but still remains much lower than the comparable numbers from pre-pandemic years when the court team might have attended well over 1,000 hearings. This continues to reflect the dramatic reduction in footfall at the county court and, therefore, the reduction in the number of clients meeting the eligibility criteria for this work.

The Moneywise Plus Project supports people to move towards employment by building financial and digital skills has seen some success during the year, despite the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The team at Community Advice & Law Service provide holistic support to clients on an individual basis, working to build confidence and develop skills around money management and accessing digital services. Advisers worked with 78 new clients during the year achieving 51 outcomes that demonstrate enhanced access to digital services as well as moves into education, training and employment.

The Energywise Project continued to pursue its aim of tackling fuel poverty through the provision of specialist energy advice plus generalist-level welfare benefit, income maximisation, and money management advice and support. The team supported 532 clients with in-depth tailored advice and support this year, in addition to providing "light touch" information and advice to a further 400+ individuals.

Finally, through its leadership of the East Midlands Money Advice project, the Community Advice and Law Service worked with 20 partner organisations across the East Midlands region to support the delivery of debt advice services to more than 14,000 individuals.

COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Fundraising activities

The charity does not carry out significant fundraising activities.

Financial Review

Review of activities

The charity continues to look for ways of improving and developing its advice services to meet the increasing needs of the many marginalised groups and individuals in our communities, and to pursue opportunities that will move it to a more sustainable future through developing the use of volunteers within the organisation, and its continued membership of consortia to increase opportunities for partnership as well as securing new contracts and grants to deliver services.

During the year the charity had total incoming resources of £4,253,912 (2021 - £4,128,190). The total funds available at the year-end amounted to £515,567 (2021 - £374,872); of these funds £228,488 (2021 - £188,868) related to restricted funds, the balance being unrestricted funds of £287,079 (2021 - £186,004). Free reserves, as defined by SORP 2015, amounted to £252,472 (2021 - £174,939).

Reserves policy

As part of the financial management of Community Advice and Law Service, the Board of Trustees have set a long-term target of accumulating free reserves which represents a minimum of 25% of the charity's annual operating costs (excluding payments to delivery partners). These reserves will enable the charity to deal with the following contingencies:

- Any cash flow problems when waiting for grant or contract income to be paid
- · Covering staffing shortages due to sickness or maternity leave
- Cuts or reductions in funding;
- In the event of closure, three months running costs to wind up the organisation and pay redundancies and leasehold liabilities.

At present, the charity's funds are below this desired level. The Trustees are aware of the shortfall and are looking at ways to resolve the situation.

The policy is reviewed annually when the Board of Trustees sets the budget for the following financial year.

Pay Awards

Recommendations are made to the Trustees by the Chief Executive Officer for annual pay awards including any performance related or enhancements in pay.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for agreeing any recommendations.

Future Plans

The charity's aims are to continue to deliver and develop its work to ensure that advice services, delivered by the voluntary sector, are maintained. The charity recognises the need to ensure that the organisation remains robust and will review its position at least annually based on the outcome of funding bids made or the cessation of income streams.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The charity's priorities for 2022/23 are:

- To address current gaps in service provision so that it can provide the type of advice that its clients need, when and how they need it;
- To proactively reach out to the people who need its help the most by working in partnership with other
 organisations to embed services in local communities so that its support is visible and accessible to all;
- To adopt a holistic, person-centred approach to service delivery that is organised around client needs rather than organisational structures or funding streams;
- To consolidate its reputation for specialist advice while investing in prevention and early intervention strategies wherever possible;
- To proactively seek to influence decisions on social policy by highlighting the issues that affect its clients to those with the power to address them;
- To promote best practice across the wider sector through its involvement in local, regional and national partnerships, including the East Midlands Money Advice Partnership;
- To deliver on all of its commitments to the highest possible standard, and to embed a culture of learning, innovation and continuous improvement into everything it does;
- To develop a sustainable funding model that will enable it to continue to deliver services far into the future, including the diversification of income streams and ensuring that the charity is well placed to bid successfully for grants and contracts in the future.

The charity continues to pursue opportunities that will move it to a more sustainable future through developing the use of volunteers within the organisation, and its continued membership of consortia to increase opportunities for partnership as well as securing new contracts and grants to deliver services.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Community Advice and Law Service Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- · 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 charity will continue in operation.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have 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.

COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Auditor

A resolution proposing that Somerbys Limited be re-appointed as auditor of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies' entitled to small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board of Trustees

C J Smith Trustee

Date: 30 November 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Community Advice and Law Service Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 its incoming resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 charity 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared
 is consistent with the financial statements; and
- 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 our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit
 have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which 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 charitable 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from error is considered to be low. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

In the context of Community Advice and Law Service Limited, we have identified specific laws and regulations, such as Law Society and Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner regulations along with general commercial laws and regulations, such as: Companies Act 2006; Charities Act 2011; Charity Commission guidance; Health and Safety legislation; GDPR and employment law.

Our understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to Community Advice and Law Service Limited and how the charitable company has complied with its obligations has been obtained by enquiry of management and those charged with governance.

As part of our enquiries we have discussed policies and procedures on compliance with laws and regulations and whether any instances of non compliance have occurred.

Our understanding of the charitable company's policies and procedures on fraud risk has been obtained through enquiry with management as to the control activities, operational systems in place and whether there is knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.

We consider that the audit team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations. During our audit work there were no significant instances of non-compliance identified.

In response to the audit risks identified in respect of irregularity and fraud, we have undertaken the following procedures:

- Enquiry of management, and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Enquiry of management to identify any subsequent events that have occurred after the year end relating to this financial year.
- Reviewing legal expenses during and after the year end for evidence of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

30 November 2022.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

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.

Marcus Dockerty FCA FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Somerbys Limited

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 30 Nelson Street Leicester LE1 7BA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	** Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		195		_. 195	1,276
Charitable activities	2	220,929	4,032,747	4,253,676	4,125,767
Fundraising income		-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		-		-	1,136
Income from investments		41	-	41	. 11
Total income		221,165	4,032,747	4,253,912	4,128,190
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	-	•	<u>-</u>
Charitable activities	3	120,090	3,993,127	4,113,217	3,995,936
Total resources expended		120,090	3,993,127	4,113,217	3,995,936
Net movement in funds before transfer		101,075	39,620	140,695	132,254
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>			
Net movement in funds		101,075	39,620	140,695	132,254
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		186,004	188,868	374,872	242,618
Fund balances at 31 March 2022	15 &16	287,079	228,488	515,567	374,872

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities include all gains and losses recognised during the year.

^{**} See page 14 for full breakdown of the prior year's statement of financial activity.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Previous financial year

Trevious intancial year				
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021
	Notes	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		1,276	-	1,276
Charitable activities	2	186,828	3,938,939	4,125,767
Other trading activities		1,136	-	1,136
Income from investments		11	-	11
Total income		189,251	3,938,939	4,128,190
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	103,575	3,892,361	3,995,936
Total resources expended		103,575	3,892,361	3,995,936
Net movement in funds before transfer		85,676	46,578	132,254
Transfer between funds				
Net movement in funds		85,676	46,578	132,254
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		100,328	142,290	242,618
Fund balances at 31 March 2021	15 &16	186,004	188,868	374,872

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

COMMUNITY ADVICE AND LAW SERVICE LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes		2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets Tangible assets	9		34,607	47,413
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	10	188,670 481,291		164,628 545,594
		669,961		710,222
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(188,231)		(379,897)
Net current assets			481,730	330,325
Net assets excluding pension scheme liability			516,337	377,738
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			(770)	(2,866)
Net assets including pension scheme liability	14		515,567	374,872
Income funds Unrestricted funds	16		287,079	186,004
Restricted funds	15		228,488	188,868
Total funds			515,567	374,872

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 30 November 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

C J Smith

Company Registration No. 04096574

CASH FLOW STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

· Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash generated/(used) in operating activities 19	(63,080)	307,617
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest income Purchase of tangible fixed assets	41 (1,264)	(42,549)
Cash used in investing activities	(1,223)	(42,549)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest received	-	11
Cash generated by financing activities	<u></u> -	11
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(64,303)	265,079
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	545,594	280,515
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	481,291	545,594

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. The charity is registered in England and Wales. The registered office is 1st Floor, Epic House, Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 3SH.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, 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)" (issued in October 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised, the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Accounting policies cont'd

1.3 Income recognition (continued)

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasions legacies will be notified to the charity, however, it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

1.4 Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes salaries, expenses and overheads.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes salaries, expenses and overheads.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

Accounting policies cont'd

1.5 Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life of four years.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to the income and expenditure account.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.9 Derivatives

Derivative financial instruments are initially measured at fair value at the date on which a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss.

1.10 Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

1.11 Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Accounting policies cont'd

1.12 Employee benefits

When employees have rendered services to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

1.13 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and, therefore, it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.14 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the company to be able to continue as a going concern.

1.15 Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of the assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

(i) Useful economic lives of tangible assets:

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets. See accounting policy note (above) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

(ii) Expenditure allocations:

Expenditure is apportioned where it relates to more than one cost category.

(iii) Pension liability:

The closing liability and annual pension charge is sensitive to the assumptions made by the pension scheme.

2	Income from	n charitable activitie	es			2022 £	2021 £
	Contractual	payments				4,144,424	4,045,451
	Legal Aid ind					45,029	18,486
	Immigration	income				64,123	52,565
	Other					100	9,265
						4,253,676	4,125,767
3	Analysis of	Expenditure					
			Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Total	Total
			(Note 7)	(Note 9)	(Note 4)	2022	2021
			£	£	£	£	£
	itable activiti						
Mone	ey advice	-general	1,138,508	13,895	262,282	1,414,685	1,200,037
		-financial capability	90,193	175	7,959	98,327	83,074
			1,228,701	14,070	270,241	1,513,012	1,283,111
Gove	ernance cost	s (note 6)	-	-	5,944	5,944	6,045
Gran	ts payable	(note 5)	-	-	2,594,261	2,594,261	2,706,780
			1,288,701	14,070	2,870,446	4,113,217	3,995,936

4 Other costs

Other costs include the following support costs: -

	Unrestricted	funds	Restricted fu	ınds
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Establishment	966	2,967	47,744	39.665
Insurance	94	333	4,513	3,894
Project costs	5,622	5,721	78,547	69,757
Recruitment and training	247	121	13,055	16,516
Information technology	521	2,210	25,465	30,325
Equipment and supplies	114	685	4,669	8,597
Communication and marketing	390	1,162	18,872	15,773
Bank charges and loan interest	21	178	1,008	543
Legal and professional fees	16,158	1,106	30,508	24,565
Staff travel and subsistence	, -	29	3,436	496
Sundry expenditure	374	-	17,917	17,164
	24,507	14,512	245,734	227,295

Costs specifically incurred on a particular project have been allocated against that fund, the balance of other costs are allocated according to the number hours worked on by each employee on each project.

5 Grants paid

Grants were payable during the year to 20 delivery partners involved in the East Midlands Money Advice project to provide face to face debt advice.

The amounts payable to each partner were as follows:

		Paid in year	Reserved at year end	Total
		£	£	£
	Citizens Advice Ashfield	94,348	5,300	99,648
	Citizens Advice Bassetlaw	108,477	2,597	111,074
	Citizens Advice Broxtowe	71,105	-	71,105
	Citizens Advice Chesterfield	92,501	9,503	102,004
	Community Law Service Northampton and County	317,667	3,931	321,598
	Citizens Advice Derbyshire Districts	201,845	9,064	210,909
	Derbyshire Law Centre	92,128	-	92,128
	Citizens Advice Leicestershire	182,471	(8,764)	173,707
	Citizens Advice Lincoln	50,324	1,149	51,473
	Citizens Advice Lindsay	82,495	-	82,495
	Citizens Advice Mansfield	102,368	-	102,368
	Citizens Advice Mid Lincolnshire	80,372	(309)	80,063
	Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire	106,068	1,367	107,435
	Citizens Advice Nottingham, and District	295,549	(6,147)	289,402
	Nottingham Law Centre	49,381	-	49,381
	Saffron Resource Centre	40,948	-	40,948
	Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newarke	55,264	570	- 55,834
	Citizens Advice South Derbyshire	280,550	2,376	282,926
	St Ann's Advice Centre	119,896	5,500	125,396
	Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire	145,230	(866)	144,364
	Adjustment to brought forward CPD creditor	•	3	3
		2,568,987	25,274	2,594,261
		2,300,307	25,274	2,334,201
6	Analysis of governance costs		2022	2021
			£	£
	Audit fee		5,600	4,500
	Other governance costs		344	1,545
			5,944	6,045

Governance costs include expenses associated with the Trustees board meetings, AGM, and external audit fees. None of the trustees (or any person connected with them) received any remuneration during the year and none of the trustees receive any expenses.

Employees	2022	2021
Number of employees The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	44	38
The average monthly number of employees during the year was.		
On a full time basis the total average number of employees is 39 (2021 – 3	3)	
Employment costs	2022	2021
	£	£
	2	
Wages and salaries	1,099,264	922,700
Wages and salaries Social security costs		922,700 73,349
	1,099,264	

No employee received total employee benefits of more than £60,000. The charity considers its key management personnel to consist of the Executive Officer.

The CEO and Acting CEO are considered to have been key management personnel during the year. Their remuneration and benefits were £71,935 (2021 : £46,527.

8 Taxation

7

The company being a registered charity, is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

		•
9	Tangible fixed assets	Fixtures fittings & equipment £
	Cost At 1 April 2021 Additions Disposals	61,775 1,264 -
	At 31 March 2022	63,039
	Depreciation At 1 April 2021 Charge for the period Disposals	14,362 14,070 -
٠	At 31 March 2022	28,432
	Net book value At 31 March 2022	£34,607
	At 31 March 2021	£47,413

10	Debtors		
		2022 £	2021 £
	Trade debtors	71,666	22,614
	Prepayments	16,608	20,219
	Other debtors	100,396	121,795
		188,670	164,628
11	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
		2022	2021
		£	£
	Trade creditors	32,578	60,134
	Taxes and social security costs	32,438	31,183
	Other creditors	6,461	6,929
	Grants creditors	17,282	87,544
	Accruals	99,472	194,107
		188,231	379,897

12 Changes in the company's resources available for charity use

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Net incoming resources for the year	101,075	39,620
Net (increase)/decrease in tangible fixed assets	2,707	10,099
Net movement in funds available for future activities	103,782	49,719
		

13 Pension costs

The company participates in a multi - employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore, it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme. Pension scheme costs are allocated between restricted and unrestricted costs bases on the number of hours worked on each project.

The scheme is classified as a 'last man standing arrangement'. Therefore, the company is potentially liable for other participating employer's obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme.

The last full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out 30 September 2020 showing a deficit and the trustees asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The movement in the provision is set out below.

	2022 £	2021 £
Balance sheet liability at 1 April 2021 Deficit contribution paid Interest cost (SoFA) Impact of any change in assumptions Amendment to contribution schedule	2,866 (725) 17 (18) (1,370)	3,396 (704) 76 98
Balance sheet liability	770	2,866

This liability represents the net present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions, set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

	March	March	March	March	March
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	2020	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Discount rate applied to future recovery plan contributions due	2.35%	0.66%	2.53%	1.39%	1.71%

On the basis that it would not be practical to split the cost of the deficit reduction payments between current and historical restricted and unrestricted funds all of the costs have been charged to unrestricted funds for this year and for previous years.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	8,358	26,249	34,607	47,413
Current assets	292,835	377,127	669,962	710,222
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year Creditors: amounts falling due over one year	(13,344)	(174,888)	(188,232)	(379,897)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(770)	<u>-</u>	(770)	(2,866)
	287,079	228,488	515,567	374,872

15 Restricted funds 2022

1	Opening balance April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2022	Transfer between funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
MaPS	30,689	3,559,703	(3,563,737)	26,655	-	26,655
Moneywise Plus	414	100,948	(98,325)	3,037	-	3,037
Big Lottery Fund	16,215	61,070	(45,422)	31,863	-	31,863
Energy Redress	3,914	214,878	(214,972)	3,820	-	3,820
MaPS (Redundancy Cost)	129,155	•	-	129,155	-	129,155
Leicester Community Fund	1,276	-	(1,276)	-	-	-
Lottery Community Fund	-	6,000	(3,611)	2,389	-	2,389
IMA DRO Grant	-	7,350	-	7,350	-	7,350
Food Bank Plus Project	-	31,798	(30,988)	810	-	810
Advice UK DRO Grant	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000
Access to Justice Fund	7,205	50,000	(34,796)	22,409	-	22,409
	188,868	4,032,747	(3,993,127)	228,488	-	228,488

An amount of £nil was transferred from the MaPS fund to the MaPs redundancy fund in order to fund any future costs.

Restricted	funds
2024	

	Opening balance 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Transfer from unrestricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
MaPS	•	3,595,741	(3,561,848)	33,893	(3,204)	30,689
Moneywise Plus	-	83,487	(83,073)	414	-	414
Big Lottery Fund	16,339	58,833	(58,957)	16,215	-	16,215
Severn Trent Trust Fund	-	100,478	(96,564)	3,914	•	3,914
MaPS (Redundancy Cost)	125,951	-	-	125,951	3,204	129,155
Leicester Community Fund	-	5,000	(3,724)	1,276	-	1,276
Access to Justice Fund	-	95,400	(88,195)	7,205	-	7,205
	142,290	3,938,939	(3,892,361)	188,868	-	188,868

Money Advice and Pensions Service (MaPS)

Community Advice and Law Service (CALS) is the lead agency for this East Midland wide project. There are 20 delivery partner organisations over 5 counties; Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. As well as managing the project, CALS is also a delivery partner within the project. This service provides face-to-face debt advice through a range of local venues.

Moneywise Plus

The project is targeted at people who are generally difficult to engage with, and in order to address some of the exclusion issues. Moneywise Plus has an engagement team, the staff members of which work to build relationships and engage with individuals allowing them to move forward and receive support to build financial and digital skills, that moves them towards education, training and work.

Big Lottery Fund

The fund is akin to the Moneywise Plus project and sets out to improve the on-going digital and financial skills of people in Leicester to support them in moving towards employment.

Severn Trent Trust Fund

This funding is to provide welfare benefit advice to customers of Severn Trent, particularly where they also have debt problems.

MaPS (Redundancy Costs)

This income is to meet future, potential redundancy costs of staff directly involved in the delivery of MaPS funded services where participant organisations face reduced funding; not only from MaPS but other funders where staff delivering MaPS funded services are affected when included in a redundancy pool, and ultimately selected for redundancy.

Energy Redress

This fund is to provide support to the Energy Project, which aims to tackle fuel poverty by the provision of specialist energy advice plus generalist – level welfare benefit, income maximization and money management advice and support.

Leicester Community Fund

This fund is used to provide telephone interpreting services for clients whose first language is not English.

Lottery Community Fund

This fund is to support the use of language line to provide interpreting services to facilitate access to advice for clients whose first language is not English.

IMA DRO Grant

This fund is to support the costs of administering Debt Relief Orders for our clients.

Advice UK DRO Grant

This fund is to maintain and/or increase access to Debt Relief Orders for clients.

Food Bank Plus Project

This fund is to support needy people who require the practical assistance provided by food banks in the city.

The aim is to tackle the underlying causes of food poverty through the provision of generalist-level welfare benefit, income maximisation and money management advice and support.

Access to Justice Fund

This fund is to provide support for immigration advice services, in addition to also supporting the transition to home working for advisers during the COVID pandemic and safety measures when staff returned to the office after lockdown.

16 Unrestricted funds

2022	Balance 1 April 2021	Incoming Resources	Resource Expended	Transfers to restricted funds	Balance 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	186,004	221,165	120,090	<u> </u>	287,079
	186,004	221,165	120,090	•	287,079
2021	Balance 1 April 2020	Incoming Resources	Resource Expended	Transfers to restricted funds	Balance 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	3
Unrestricted	100,328	189,251	103,575	-	186,004
	100,328	189,251	103,575	-	186,004

17 Leasing commitments

At the reporting date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows;

	2022	2021
•	£	£
Not later than one year	18,454	31,635
Later than one year and not later than five	-	18,454
years		
	18,454	50,089

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2021 : none).

19 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net movement in funds	140,695	132,254
Add back depreciation charge	14,070	8,564
Interest receivable	(41)	(11)
Increase in debtors	(24,042)	(93,458)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(191,666)	260,798
Pension movement	(2,096)	(530)
	(63,080)	307,617