

Hope Projects (West Midlands) Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

**For the year ended
31st March 2024**

**Registered Charity number: 1138402
Company number: 07341898**

Hope Project (West Midlands) Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

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Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustee and advisors for the year ended 31st March 2024

Trustees	D C Bennett D J Bradley Ms L Calvey Dr S Guru Dr R Sondhi Rev N W Johnson Ms L Whitehouse (appointed 22nd November 2023)
Company registered number	07341898
Charity registered number	1138402
Registered office	196 - 198 Edward Road Balsall Heath Birmingham B12 9LX
Company secretary	P W Davis
Independent examiner	D E Chittenden
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank 4 Brindleyplace Birmingham B1 2JB

Trustees report for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Hope Projects exists to promote the welfare of asylum-seekers and immigrants in the West Midlands who are not settled or are recently settled in the United Kingdom within the meaning of the immigration act 1971 by the following means:

- (a) the relief of poverty of such immigrants by the direct provision of assistance in cash or in kind to meet their accommodation or subsistence needs or reasonable expenses;
- (b) the relief of the physical and mental sickness of such immigrants, in particular by the provision of counselling and support;
- (c) the relief of financial hardship by the provision of free legal advice and assistance to such immigrants who, through lack of means, would otherwise be unable to obtain such advice;
- (d) to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum; and
- (e) to promote human rights (as set out in the universal declaration of human rights and subsequent united nations conventions and declarations) throughout the world by all or any of the following means:

- Monitoring abuses of human rights;
- Obtaining redress for the victims of human rights abuse;
- Relieving need among the victims of human rights abuse;
- Research into human rights issues;
- Commenting on proposed human rights legislation;
- Raising awareness of human rights issues;
- Promoting public support for human rights;
- Promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations;
- Eliminating infringements of human rights.

In furtherance of these objectives, but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to engage in political activity provided that the trustees are satisfied that the proposed activities will further the purposes of the charity to an extent justified by the resources committed and the activity is not the dominant means by which the charity carried out its objectives.

Our Theory of change states that:

"Our overall aim is to overturn flawed refusals of asylum and so enable people to escape destitution and homelessness. The most important person in the fight against flawed asylum refusals and destitution is the one that has been refused."

Our principal client group are those in the West Midlands made destitute by flawed asylum refusals.

Our principal services to that client group are:

- Free legal advice and representation
- Provision of accommodation
- Promotion of wellbeing
- Financial support

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Context

2023-24 has seen the intensification of the hostile environment. People seeking sanctuary have been deemed inadmissible for asylum and faced with the threat of removal to Rwanda. For much of the year Home Office decision making has been close to a standstill. The effect, both practical and psychological on Hope's clients has been profoundly damaging. Despite this we have continued to pursue our charitable objectives.

Outcomes

Last year we provided 10901 nights of housing for 56 people, crisis grants of £88,441 to 126 people with no other means of support and gave legal advice to 171 homeless refused asylum seekers. 40 of our clients were able to move on to statutory housing and support; and 15, who had all been 'fully refused' by the asylum system, were recognized as refugees and were able to start new lives in safety here in the UK.

Reserves Policy

The term "Reserves" is used to describe that part of a charity's income funds that is freely available for its operating purposes not subject to commitments, planned expenditure and spending limits. Reserves do not include endowment funds, restricted funds and designated funds.

Designated funds

Hope Projects has designated funds of £50,000 to cover the costs of providing essential services to our clients should our income become interrupted; and £20,000 to meet any unexpected repair and refurbishment costs to our properties.

Reserves

Hope Projects has set a target for free reserves (after designated funds) of 15% of our budgeted expenditure for the following year. For this year that would be £77,955.

Our free reserves (after designated funds) at 31/3/2022 were £117,779.

Public benefit

The public benefit that flows from objective a) is increased safety and improved health for beneficiaries in receipt of accommodation and financial support, and a reduction in street homelessness benefitting both recipients and the wider community.

The public benefit from objective b) is improved health from increased engagement with primary and mental health services; enhanced active citizenship; a contribution to the life of the region through increased involvement in creative, sporting and educational activities; and increased volunteering.

The public benefit from objective c) is increased engagement with asylum decision making and improved asylum decision making, including the rectifying of miscarriages of justice that would have led to destitution or removal from the UK to face likely persecution.

The public benefit from objective d) is enhanced community integration and raised awareness of asylum related issues.

No significant work was carried out under objective e).

Trustees are confident that significant public benefit has flowed from Hope Projects' work in this year, and that there has been no harm.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Hope Project (West Midlands) Limited
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**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the
Hope Project (West Midlands Limited)**

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. The trustees consider audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 ('the 1993 Act') an independent examination is needed. The charity has prepared accrued accounts and I am to undertake the examination.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 43 (3) (a) of the 1993 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission made under section 43 (7) (b) of the 1993 Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a check of the accounting records kept by the church, and a comparison of the accounts presented with the records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures used do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not give an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Regulations; and which are consistent with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

2/9/2024

David Chittenden
18 Cunningham Road
Peterborough
PE2 9RG

Hope Projects (West Midlands) Limited
Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes
Year Ended 31st March 2024

	Note	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	212,679	256,175	468,853	403,063
Charitable activities	3	0	9,872	9,872	9,872
Bank interest		0	4,151	4,151	1,365
		<u>212,679</u>	<u>270,198</u>	<u>482,877</u>	<u>482,877</u>
<u>414,300</u>					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4		10,526	10,526	14,630
Charitable activities	5/6	236,895	221,256	458,151	380,170
		<u>236,895</u>	<u>231,782</u>	<u>468,677</u>	<u>468,677</u>
<u>394,800</u>					
Net income		(24,216)	38,416	14,200	14,200
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total Funds brought forward		58,046	149,363	207,409	207,409
Total Funds carried forward		33,830	187,779	221,609	221,609
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023					
Current Assets					
Debtors	9			6,611	42,071
Cash at bank and in hand	10			<u>245,606</u>	<u>181,637</u>
				<u>252,217</u>	<u>223,708</u>
Current Liabilities					
Liabilities falling due within one year	11			30,608	16,299
				<u>30,608</u>	<u>16,299</u>
Net Assets				<u>221,609</u>	<u>221,609</u>
Represented by:-					
Unrestricted Funds	13			187,779	152,150
Restricted Funds	13			33,830	58,046
				<u>221,609</u>	<u>210,196</u>
Total Funds				<u>221,609</u>	<u>210,196</u>
				0	

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the period ended 31 March 2024:-

- the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act"), and
- members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the period in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the accounts have been examined by an independent examiner.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

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Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes
Year Ended 31st March 2024

Notes:

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with the Accounting Regulations set out under the Charities Act 1993 and with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 - Second Edition

(b) Form of Financial Statements

- (i) Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity
- (ii) Restricted funds may only be used by specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

(c) Incoming Resources

- (i) Incoming Resources are recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity becomes entitled to the resources; the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (ii) Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising), the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (iii) Donations are accounted for gross when received.
- (iv) Bank interest is recognised when it is credited to the account.

(d) Expenditure and Liabilities

- (i) Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.
- (ii) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.

(e) Assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they cost more than £1,000 and can be used for more than one year. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at value on receipt. The charity does not currently have any capitalised fixed assets.

(f) Taxation

The charity is not liable for income or capital gains tax on its charitable activities. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the asset cost or expense to which it relates.

2. Income from donations and legacies	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024	2023
Donations		35,735	35,735	29,836
Grants:				
A B Charitable Trust		22,000	22,000	20,000
Asylum Support and Immigration Resource Team	10,457	20,000	30,457	0
Barrow Cadbury	20,000		20,000	20,000
DLUHC	26,852		26,852	17,345
Justice Together Initiative	26,010		26,010	3,251
Lloyds Bank Foundation		25,000	25,000	27,250
Oak Foundation	81,296		81,296	74,122
Refugee Action		2,440	2,440	2,400
South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust		2,000	2,000	0
The Access to Justice Foundation			0	12,792
The Blue Thread		25,000	25,000	25,000
The Cole Charitable Trust		60,000	60,000	57,061
The Eveson Charitable Trust			0	10,000
The Grimmitt Trust			0	2,500
The National Lottery Community Fund	48,064		48,064	21,885
The Roughley Trust		39,000	39,000	39,000
The Saintbury Trust		5,000	5,000	5,000
The Sheldon Trust			0	5,000
Tudor Trust			0	30,000
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust		20,000	20,000	0
Yardley Great Trust			0	620
Other			0	0
	212,679	256,175	468,853	403,063
3. Income from charitable activities				
Rental		9,872	9,872	9,872
4. Expenditure on generating donations and legacies				
Unrestricted funds				
<i>Raising funds</i>		10,526	10,526	14,630
5. Costs of charitable activities by fund type				
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024	2023
Charitable activities	236,895	175,085.9	411,981	316,463
Support costs		46,170	46,170	63,707
	236,895	221,256	458,151	380,170

Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes
Year Ended 31st March 2024

6. Analysis of support costs

Salaries	20,559		40,806
Communication costs	1,593		1,307
Office costs	3,354		7,173
Premises costs	10,284		7,988
Legal and professional	5,160		2,400
Other operating costs	5,220		4,034
	<u>46,170</u>		<u>63,707</u>

7. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits and no expenses were claimed (2023: Nil)

8. Staff costs and emoluments

Salaries and wages	238,752		185,984
Social security costs	17,432		12,185
Employers contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	<u>7,082</u>		<u>5,619</u>
	263,266		203,788

There were no employees (2023: Nil) whose emoluments (salaries, wages, benefits in kind) fell in a band in excess of £60,000.

The average number of persons employed by the Charity, including part time staff, calculated on a full time equivalent basis was:

Core staff	7.80		7.80
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9. Debtors

Prepaid Expenses	6,611	6,611	12,071
Accrued Revenue	0		30,000
Other			
	<u>6,611</u>		<u>42,071</u>

10. Bank and Cash Balances

Unity Trust Bank current account	56,547		3,149
Unity Trust Bank deposit account	186,234		177,083
Petty Cash	179		1
Equals cards	<u>2,646</u>		<u>1,404</u>
	245,606		181,637

11. Current Liabilities (payable within one year)

Accounts Payable	6,827		3,884
Accruals and deferred income	4,000	4,000	6,945
Payroll Liabilities	6,775		5,470
Prepaid Income	<u>13,005</u>		
	30,608		16,299

12. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year (2023: Nil)

13. Movements between Funds	At 1st April 2023		Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 1st April 2024	
Designated	70,000						70,000
General	79,363	270,198	231,782				117,779
Unrestricted Funds	149,363	270,198	231,782		0		187,779
Restricted Funds							
Asylum Support and Immigration Resource Team		10,457	10,457				
Barrow Cadbury	10,000	20,000	20,000				10,000
DLUHC		26,852	26,852				0
Justice Together Initiative		26,010	26,010				0
Oak Foundation	23,830	81,296	81,296				23,830
The National Lottery Community Fund		48,064	48,064				0
Tudor Trust	24,216	0	24,216				0
Total Restricted Funds	58,046	212,679	236,895		0		33,830
Total Funds	<u>207,409</u>	<u>482,877</u>	<u>468,677</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>221,609</u>

Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes
Year Ended 31st March 2024

Prior year

	At 1st April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 1st April 2023
Unrestricted Funds	128,088	229,284	208,010		149,363
Restricted Funds	59,821	185,015	186,790		58,046
Total Funds	<u>187,909</u>	<u>414,300</u>	<u>394,800</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>207,409</u>