

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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| Charity number | 1018832 |
| Company number | 02789572 |
| Regulator of Social Housing number | 4761 |



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**SAFER PLACES
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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number 1018832

Company number 02789572

Governing document The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Known as Safer Places

Registered office PO Box 2489
16-20 Bush House
Bush Fair
Harlow
Essex
CM18 6NS

Auditors Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Bankers Lloyds Bank
Billericay Commercial Centre
Lloyds Commercial
89 High Street
Billericay
Essex
CM12 9AT

Trustees

- Douglas Wildey
- Emma Howarth (resigned 26 May 2020)
- Erica Bowen
- Chloe Ahmed
- Gift Kapswara
- Lorraine Larman
- Laila Abraham
- Helen Marshall (appointed 26 May 2020, retired 10 September 2020)
- Sian Chambers (appointed 25 May 2021)
- Clare Arnold (appointed 25 May 2021)
- Kathy Osborne (appointed 25 May 2021)
- Garry Matthews (appointed 25 May 2021)

Secretary Allison Gardner

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2020

Structure Governance and Management

Safer Places is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Charitable Company is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (Reg No 4761).

Our governing documents are our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Trustees are elected from our membership at our Annual General meeting. Our Trustees serve for a period of three years and then stand down or seek nomination and re-election. In line with good governance guidance Trustees do not normally serve for more than three terms. However it was agreed that Douglas Wildey continue as a Trustee since he brings a level of specialist expertise to the board which is highly valued and would be difficult to replace.

Our membership is open to anyone who supports the objectives set out in our Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Trustees shall admit to membership of the company. An application for membership may be approved or rejected by the Trustees. The Trustees have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

We welcome nominations from organisations who are members of Safer Places.

Safer Places has no prohibition on clients becoming Members or Trustees providing they are able to meet the eligibility requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of these roles.

It is the policy of Safer Places to ensure that all Trustees are eligible and have sufficient and appropriate skills to serve. All members wishing to become Trustees undergo a competency-based selection process and are required to complete a Declaration of Eligibility and a Declaration of Interests annually.

Once appointed Trustees participate in an induction process which, includes induction to the company as well as to the role of Trustee. Ongoing training relevant to the role of Trustee is provided.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Safer Places for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Housing SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

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In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company'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.

Our Trustees are also responsible for the following:

- Setting the strategic direction of Safer Places, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and meeting the needs for which it was established.
- Ensuring Safer Places complies with company and charity requirements.
- Ensuring that Safer Places does not breach the rules set out in its governing documents and remains true to its charitable purpose.
- Making sure Safer Places complies with all requirements of other legislation, which govern the activities of the company.
- Preventing the misuse of company funds or assets.
- Ensuring that company funds and assets are used reasonably and only in the furtherance of the company's objectives.
- Avoiding any activity that might place the company's assets or reputation at undue risk.
- Taking special care in investing the company's funds or borrowing funds on behalf of the company.
- Using their personal skills and experience to ensure the company is well run and efficient.
- Considering getting external professional advice on all matters where there may be material risk to the company or where Trustees may be in breach of their duties.

Day to day management of Safer Places is delegated to the Chief Executive who reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets at least five times per year.

Staff attend Board Meetings and advise on all matters but do not vote.

Statement on the registered social housing provider's internal control systems

The Board takes an active interest in all internal control and corporate governance matters, and aims to meet the highest standards. The Board accepts the principles in the National Housing Federation Code of Governance, which go well beyond internal financial control.

This statement is confined to internal financial control. Internal financial control means the controls established in order to provide reasonable assurance of:

- the safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or dispositions; and
- the maintenance of proper accounting records and the reliability of financial information used with the company or for publication

Statement

The Board acknowledges its primary responsibility for the company's system of internal financial control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board places considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. However such a system can only provide reasonable and never absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board has established, and intends to continue development of, key procedures designed to provide effective internal financial control. These are the high level procedures and processes by which the Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

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The company's internal financial control and monitoring procedures include:

- clear responsibilities on the part of line and financial management for the maintenance of good financial controls and the production of accurate and timely financial management information
- the control of key financial risks through clearly laid down authorisation levels and proper segregation of duties
- detailed monthly budgeting and reporting of income and expenditure, with regular review by management of variances from budgets
- reporting on compliance with financial controls and procedure (for the year end) by external auditors.

These reports are reviewed by the Finance and the Board prior to the use of interim and annual reports

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of Safer Places are:

"The Charity is established to relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from, or at risk of, Domestic Abuse, including stalking and harassment; to provide education for their future benefit; to educate those who work with victims of domestic violence and to provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing, or at risk of domestic violence, stalking and harassment."

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Safer Places vision is a society where everyone lives a life free from fear and abuse.

Mission

Safer Places exists to drive down the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual abuse and to support those who use our services in their journey to recovery, resilience and independence.

Values

These are the values we promise to uphold so we never lose sight of our mission:

Client Led – We empower our clients to exercise choice and control of their support. We ensure client's voices are heard and that they impact our decision making and shape our services

Accessible – We work inclusively with our clients, partners and communities. Anyone who is at risk of experiencing abuse can access our services when, how and where they need them.

Respectful – We adopt a trauma informed, holistic approach to support. We listen and believe, are non-judgemental and open and honest about what we can and cannot do.

Effective – We deliver high quality services that work for our clients. Our practice is informed by our clients, research, evidence and learning from experts by experience.

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Review of 2020/21

Safer Places has been providing accommodation and community based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children for almost 50 years. During this time so much has changed – and as we have learned further, had more measures at our disposal and embraced a multiagency approach to tackling domestic abuse, our practice and services have changed. Most of our clients today are supported in the community although there is still a substantial demand for refuge and safe supported accommodation. We have a better understanding of the nature and impact of domestic and sexual violence on adults and children, about trauma and how best to support recovery. As we understand more about risk and perpetrator typology and have a wide range of evidence based tools and measures which, in conjunction with police and other members of the multi-agency partnership, can deploy to reduce risk and harm and bring perpetrators to Justice. At the time of writing we await the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Bill which holds the promise of transforming the way Domestic Abuse is dealt with in this country. When we were first established the world was very different and refuge was the only option available to women experiencing domestic abuse. Today we recognise the diversity of experience amongst victims, that can affect all ages, genders, sexual identities, cultural and religious backgrounds, socio-economic groups, able bodied and those with physical or mental disabilities. We need to reach and respond to every victim of domestic abuse in a trauma informed manner, supporting them and providing the range of options now available to assist them in being and feeling safe and recovering from their experience. The role of the practitioner has therefore developed and now requires excellent training and supervision. Today we provide that training as one of a small number of organisations accredited to deliver the national sector qualifications and we train hundreds of people across the UK every year, ploughing back the income we generate to ensure the continuous improvement and responsiveness of the services we offer to our clients.

Although domestic abuse is an age old problem abusers today have many more tools at their disposal than perhaps they had in the past. Social Media and other technological innovations have enabled perpetrators to abuse and stalk victims in ways previously not known and stalking and harassment have increased dramatically. We therefore run a specialist stalking service in Hertfordshire which is the largest stalking support service in the country and, working with the University of Hertfordshire department of law, we have developed the only Level 4 Stalking Specialist training in the UK and this is accredited by the University. Stalking is a very important feature in domestic abuse today and is a high risk factor for serious harm or death. Where there has also been sexual violence the risk to victims is very high indeed and we need to work very closely with the police and other agencies to ensure that the victim is fully protected. We have now trained many professionals from across the UK including those who work in our sector as well as many other professions including police, lawyers and NHS workers

The difficulties we faced were however offset by the commitment of our staff, our success in securing additional funding from central government, national and local funders and the overwhelming kindness of strangers who came forward and offered financial and other support. We entered 2021/22 knowing that central government had placed a duty on all Local Authorities to fund the support of victims and their families living in safe accommodation from April 1st 2021. Central Government provided Essex County Council with almost £2.8m to do so, and Hertfordshire County Council with around £2.1m from April 1st even though the Domestic Abuse Bill which led to this change did not receive Royal Assent until April 29th 2021. However we still face uncertainty around the funding of our Essex services as funding has not been yet forthcoming.

At the time of writing the country is just beginning to emerge from the measures to manage the COVID19 pandemic. It goes without saying that this has had an enormous impact on everybody and especially those that we support. Dame Vera Baird, The Victims Commissioner described the pandemic and the impact of the lock down on victims as “the perfect storm” and we certainly felt the impact as we saw an increase in demand of 40% in terms of referrals during 2020/21. At the same time, although provider of the majority of refuge spaces in Essex, we were not in receipt of any funding from the County Council having declined a contract the previous year. The funding mechanism of that contract would not have allowed us to provide the level of safe accommodation needed or deliver the level and range of community support required. So we had the triple challenge of dealing with the impact of the increase in demand which required us to bring on stream additional accommodation, to manage all of our services in such a way as to ensure safety from COVID 19 transmission and then to find the resources required to bridge the funding gap.

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Review of 2020/2021 (continued)

Our Hertfordshire services have continued to thrive over the period and our work with partners and commissioners has only been strengthened by the challenges of the pandemic. We have been able to make headway and further extend and develop our services in Hertfordshire. During the coming year we will be delivering enhanced services to better reach and support all victims of domestic abuse and stalking in Hertfordshire. This is as a result of the additional funds being provided to Hertfordshire by central government and we look forward to what we will be able to achieve for victims and their children with this additional funding. One of the major successes this year has been the development of our training services which have gone from strength to strength. Initially disheartened by the need to cancel training planned to take place in various parts of the country we adapted our training and, thanks to an unexpected but welcome donation, were able to purchase an excellent system that enabled us to deliver high quality training to professionals and therapeutic programmes to victims with all the necessary measures built in to protect anonymity as well as manage a larger group than is easily managed on Zoom. We now provide our accredited professionals training for Independent Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Advocates and Stalking Specialists plus other training for a wide range of associated professionals such as Police, NHS, Social Care and third sector organisations across the UK. This has contributed to our ability to sustain refuge accommodation during this difficult year.

We pride ourselves on being a learning organisation but this year the learning curve has been exceptional – as a result we have grown yet again as an organisation finding new and innovative ways to deliver our services. We understand our priorities better, and have seen the strength of our partnerships within the community and the resilience of our teams achieve together.

Sadly, we have also come to realise just how many women, men and children were living “underneath the radar” suffering violence and abuse for many years for whom the lockdown was the tipping point that finally led to them choosing to take action. This has only strengthened our determination to ensure that our services are as accessible as possible to all who need them, enabling people to seek support earlier and more easily thereby reducing the harm they and their children suffer.

We would like to thank all those who have supported us and our staff and volunteers for their generosity and commitment in 2020/21 which has proven to us what we can enable and empower our clients to see – that out of the worst of circumstances good things can develop.

We would also like to thank everyone who has used our services for supporting us in keeping our staff and each other safe. A special thank you to all our workforce for their consistent commitment.

Highlights of 2020/21 – a snapshot of our year

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|---|--|---|
| <p>“Your Covid 19 arrangements have been excellent and we are amazed there has been no cross infection in your refuges” Public Health Doctor</p> | <p>436 women and 728 children stayed in our refuges and safe accommodation</p> | <p>918 people from other organisations attended our masterclasses and other training 98% said the training helped them do their job</p> |
| <p>We extended our 24 hour helpline to include “live chat” which enabled some of the women at highest risk during lockdown to reach us on line during the night whilst their abuser slept</p> | <p><i>“I have had 3 of my service users doing the WEWSAR programme and have had nothing but good things come back from them. They have all said they have found it beneficial, especially those who have felt very isolated over the last year.”</i> Probation Officer</p> | <p>We implemented a new website , increased our Facebook reach by over 70% in the year and were followed on Twitter by 1186</p> |

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| <p>We referred 31 adults with support needs and 156 children to Social Care for safeguarding against abuse and neglect</p> | <p><i>"Myself and baby were overcome by the generosity and kindness"</i>- Refuge Resident on the kindness of strangers at Christmas 2021</p> | <p>We supported 40 women with multiple needs and their children through the Rosie Centre in Harlow during the pandemic</p> |
| <p>We became preferred providers for the Ministry of Justice (Women offenders) and were part of a successful bid with ADVANCE to deliver support to women in Essex and Herts and to provide both premises and staff for the new teams</p> | <p><i>"I love living here – everything is so convenient and lovely and it is all helping us to heal"</i> Mother who moved into one of our new properties acquired this year</p> | <p>In our staff survey all of our staff said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their job. The survey was overwhelmingly positive with staff expressing very high levels of pride in Safer Places and a sense of belonging.</p> |
| <p>People from many different organisations across the UK participated in our modular professionals training with 60 qualifying as IDVAs and Stalking Specialists</p> | <p>On average every week we responded to 311 people new to the service seeking help or advice</p> | <p>We provided support to single women's who were victims of domestic abuse and other factors making them especially vulnerable and multiply disadvantaged</p> |
| <p><i>I have enjoyed working with you and the organisation because you were very supportive and always looking after your staff. You are good manager and a mentor with amazing coaching style.</i> Agency worker letter to the service manager on completing assignment</p> | <p>We were selected by local anonymous funders to establish and run a residential service for women involved with or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system. This place opening in the next 12 months is a place they can live with their children and receive the support they need to build a better life and avoid prison or returning to prison preventing the trauma of separation</p> | <p>Replaced a large shared facility refuge with a cluster of more Covid-19 secure properties</p> |
| <p><i>I just finished the Triple R course and had a 12 session with jade. She is very professional and passionate about the course and helped me with overall understanding the whole process. The quality of service was 1st class. I am pleased you guys have given me the opportunity to move forward</i></p> | <p>502 clients attend our group programmes – the majority participated in our CBT based programme but other programmes included our Money Management programme, Made of Money and nutrition workshops led by our partners at Danone and job workshops</p> | <p>We were overwhelmed by the kindness of members of the public and organisations during a difficult year and especially two families who had had a daughter murdered as a result of domestic abuse. Your generosity in memory of Grace and Siobhan meant a great deal to us all</p> |

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Value for Money (VFM)

Each year the Charity used a range of data to measure VFM progress against the housing sector. The results help influence investment decisions and provide the regulators and other stakeholders with information on the progress of the Charity, whilst also ensuring compliance with the regulatory VFM standard. The charity has measured itself against the Sector Scorecard.

| Metric | 2021 | 2020 | Sector Score | Commentary |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| Reinvestment | 11.68% | 53.26% | 6.10% | Safer Places holds its housing stock on operating leases. Fixed assets represent the value of improvements carried out and, additions therefore represent a greater proportion of book value. |
| New supply % (social) | 0.00% | 0.00% | 1.30% | Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year. |
| New supply % (non-social) | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | |
| Gearing | 0.00% | 0.00% | 33.80% | Safer Places has no borrowings. |
| EBITDA MRI | 1,332% | (1,338)% | 196.10% | Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit. |
| Social Housing Cost Per Unit | £13,689 | £16,411 | £4,023 | The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base. |
| Operating Margin (social housing) | (28.56)% | (29.48)% | 23.60% | The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing substantial loss of rent through vacancies, reducing the operating margin. |
| Operating Margin (overall) | 5.18% | (15.24)% | 21.50% | |
| Return on Capital Employed | 9.11% | (24.68)% | 2.80% | The ROCE reflects the low operating margin on the Charity's activities. |

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Reserves policy

It is the policy of the board to provide sufficient reserves to:

- Ensure continuity of provision for a limited period in the event of a large variation in income in order that further income can be sourced or a reduction in service planned and implemented so as to minimise risk to our clients
- Pay the annual sums associated with reducing the deficit for which we are responsible related to our membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme
- Provide a refurbishment fund so that we can sustain our continuous planned upgrade and refurbishment programme

Reserves will therefore be held:

1. Working Capital – with sufficient unrestricted funds to continue operating at current service level for a period of three months
2. Refurbishment – to undertake a rolling programme to sustain the quality of our accommodation and services.
3. Property acquisition - the Trustees are currently reviewing refuge requirements across operational areas and are considering investment to improve provision of services in key areas.

Identified risks

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. Failing to secure sufficient funding to sustain Essex based refuges to the year end and lack of certainty about how the new funding duties on local authorities from March 2021 will be implemented
2. Securing funding to be able to meet the additional cost pressures associated with the pandemic whilst facing an increasing demand for services for victims
3. Failure to generate sufficient income from training sales as a result of the pandemic

Safer Places Investment Policy

It is the policy of Safer Places to achieve the best possible return on investment and therefore two properties were purchased in 2012. The rental return on these properties far exceeds any rate that could be achieved currently through the financial institutions. Cash funds on reserve will be placed on fixed term deposits according to best rates at the time and the need for funds to be available.

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Review of Financial position

Safer Places' income made a positive recovery during the year following the cessation of the Essex IDVA contract, and this can largely be attributed to the success of our training services which have gone from strength to strength. Costs continue to be closely monitored despite the additional safety measures taken in the face of the pandemic. This resulted in an operating surplus of £164,024 (2020: a deficit of £378,224). Safer Places intend to continue to provide Domestic Abuse Services in Essex until the upcoming commissioning changes are implemented as a result of the domestic abuse bill.

Social housing income remained stable compared to the prior year as the charity managed to maintain occupancy and reduced losses from voids, despite Covid restrictions.

The cash position of the charity has increased by £118,524, again as a result of the success of training services and reduced arrears. The charity therefore maintained sufficient cash balances to fulfil its reserves policy at the year end. Investment Properties were determined to be held at fair value and rental income from the properties also remains relatively stable.

Beneficiaries of Safer Places in the year – public benefit statement

The Trustees are aware and mindful of the Charities Commission guidance. Safer Places has delivered public benefit in line with the objects and activities of the organisation through the delivery of our core services.

Activities, achievements and public benefit

During 2021/22 we delivered a wide range of direct client services in Essex and Hertfordshire and support for women offenders in Suffolk.

Our objectives coming into 2020/21, in line with our strategic business plan to 2022, were:

| Objective | Measure |
|---|--|
| Making sure that the services we deliver in Essex and Hertfordshire are judged as excellent by our clients and our commissioners | All of the performance targets delivered within our commissioned contracts |
| Delivering an excellent ISAC (stalking support) service in Hertfordshire which is evaluated externally as delivering better outcomes for victims and is seen as a critical and specialist element of the skill and qualification set required to provide best practice services to clients at high risk | The ISAS service received 275 referrals, a considerable increase on the previous year with the rate of referral increasing during lockdowns Funding was secured to continue the service in 2021/22 Learning and development of the hybrid "SuperIDVA" role– an IDVA qualified additionally as a sexual violence and stalking practitioner 32 professionals from 15 different organisations trained as ISACS |
| Diversifying our accommodation stock and developing new models of the provision of safe accommodation that meet people's needs, provide choice and supports better longer term outcomes | We decommissioned an old style large refuge with shared facilities which was not COVID safe and out of date and recommissioned new units to replace those lost |

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| <p>Achieving the gold standard as a Trauma Informed organisation and for our Trauma Informed practice by the end of 2022</p> | <p>Staff have received training and all managers and seniors have had training by One Small Thing. Work has begun to secure Quality Mark as a Trauma Informed service provider</p> <p>Seniors and managers have also been trained in COURAGE which is an accredited model for the delivery of culturally sensitive trauma informed support to victims who may have experienced multiple trauma</p> |
| <p>Maintaining and improving the skills, qualification and professional expertise of our staff and marketing our training to other professionals and services across the UK</p> | <p>In addition to our training our own staff we have trained 918 professionals who work for other organisations</p> |
| <p>Improving our reach to hidden victims and minority groups including those female victims who are or have been involved with the criminal justice system</p> | <p>We have provided services to women involved in the Criminal Justice system across three counties and during the pandemic extended reach through the provision of 24/7 live chat, our awareness training campaign amongst shops and businesses (ask for J) and sustaining our women's centre, The Rosie, which is used by around 40 women. We reached 40% more victims than in the same period the year before and a greater proportion came from minority ethnic groups. We also ran our programmes on line and were able to reach more disabled victims than we had in the past</p> |
| <p>Improving the services we offer to children and young people, developing practice and services that are effective for them, including working in partnership with other agencies, taking a whole family perspective including the perpetrator, with the safety and wellbeing of children at the centre</p> | <p>We worked with the Children's Social Care services across Hertfordshire as part of their Triage panels providing early access to our services for those identified to social care. We provided training in whole family safeguarding based on the Safe and Together Approach to our staff and to professionals from a range of agencies. We secured funding to provide support to children within our Harlow services. We raised funds and made provision for children during lockdown assisting mothers in ensuring they did not miss out when schools were closed</p> |

From the start of the year as the pandemic took hold as well as focussing on the objectives above which we had set we needed to sustain the organisation and extend our reach to meet the increasing demand for services arising from the lockdowns. Keeping all of our residents in safe accommodation and our community clients and staff safe was at all times the highest priority in pursuit of our Mission and Purposes.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Supporting our Beneficiaries and delivering Public Benefit

On average every week we responded to 311 new clients seeking support and advice as a result of domestic and sexual abuse. We provided one to one IDVA or ISAC community based support or support in safe accommodation to 1157 victims and their children. Others who contacted us were given advice and guidance, were enrolled onto our group programmes or were signposted or referred into services able to meet their needs for example if they were seeking refuge and we had no space available or if they were seeking accommodation but not at risk from domestic abuse. All victims who made contact had an initial risk assessment undertaken with safety advice given and where necessary referrals we made to Safeguarding or in emergency cases, to the emergency services to summon immediate help. We provided refuge and safe supported accommodation for victims and their children on 17 sites across Hertfordshire and Essex. During the height of the pandemic we had to increase the accommodation to meet demand and at this time we provided 110 units of accommodation and, in partnership with two Homelessness agencies, and funding from Central Government and Homeless-link, we were able to support single homeless abused women in two additional houses providing 8 additional spaces. We accommodated and supported 436 adult victims and 728 children in our accommodation. A case mix analysis illustrated the levels of harm to which the women and children had been exposed prior to admission to our safe accommodation showing that they had been exposed to multiple forms of abuse including :

- Coercive control
- Stalking
- Imprisonment
- Multiple Rapes
- Surveillance through in home technology and third parties
- Emotional abuse
- Torture – by harming children and pets in order to inflict distress on the adult victim
- Physical Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Forced marriage
- "Honour" based abuse

As referrals were so much increased although we extended our safe accommodation we still had to prioritise those most at risk of harm and so those living in our accommodation had suffered a greater level of trauma than would usually be the case.

- We extended our 24 hour telephone helpline adding a live chat service ensuring that , in line with our values , services were made as accessible as possible to those living in lockdown with their abusers
- We provided 1:1 community support to 506 Hertfordshire victims to increase their safety and support them to recover from the abuse and build their resilience
- We provided a specialist stalking support service to 275 victims of stalking in Hertfordshire to reduce the risk of harm they faced and mitigate the impact of their experience through supporting their recovery and resilience building
- We worked closely with Children's Social Care services in Hertfordshire and participated in their Triage assessment panels helping families to address and deal with the risks and impacts of abuse

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- We delivered our 12 week CBT based specialist domestic abuse program and other specialist programs in Essex and Hertfordshire to 502 women enabling them to recognise and understand the impacts of the abuse on themselves and their children, to assist their recovery and prevent the likelihood of them being victimised in future
- On behalf of The Community Rehabilitation Company in Hertfordshire we delivered the Empower and Embrace programme as part of the community sentence requirement for women offenders and we invited this group of women to access our wider services as we recognise the strong correlation between being a victim of domestic and sexual abuse and women offending and the fact that women offenders have suffered more such abuse than any other group in our society
- We supported 40 women who use regularly use the Rosie Women's Centre and sustained this support through the pandemic
- We raised funds and provided equipment and other resources to children in refuge who would otherwise have been disadvantaged during the school closures as they could not have accessed online learning as a result of being in refuge due to domestic abuse
- We provided training to over a thousand people, 918 of those from external agencies
- We fully delivered our staff training plan for the year, migrating all face to face training to online with frontline staff also completing Public Health England funded Psychological First Aid training
- We developed and delivered a training programme and materials for businesses and agencies that could have contact with victims during lockdown so that victims could have more places to disclose and seek help
- We strengthened our staff support arrangements to enable staff to better cope with the challenges they were facing themselves and to be able to continue to support our clients and each other
- We closed a large 15 unit refuge where facilities were shared and we acquired a cluster of domestic sized properties some shared by 2 households and some self-contained to replace the large facility and ensure that women could continue to be safely housed and supported whilst being better protected from COVID19 infection. We are extremely grateful for the funding secured through Essex Community Foundation which enabled us to begin this process working with local landlords. We will be sustaining and expanding this provision long term and are working with Social Investors to enable the purchase of a further property ourselves.

In spite of the challenges of the pandemic we were delighted that the clients we supported achieved the following outcomes:

- Clients physically made safer (use of Enhanced security to home/Occupation Order/Non-Molestation /Restraining Orders/Safety Plans etc.,) 97%
- Clients who feel safer after using the service 91%
- Clients safely resettled into new homes in the community after their refuge stay 81%
- Clients who have maintained or increased their support networks 90%

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- Clients who feel safer after using the service 94%
- Clients who now manage their own or the family finances 96%
- Clients who have found or maintained work or study 35%
- Made progress in addressing Legal Service increased 62%
- Health and Wellbeing improvements 91%

Most of all we are delighted that by working together and with support of our trustees volunteers and partners we were able to keep everyone safe, that there was not cross infection within any of our accommodation or staff groups and that with the generosity of the community we were able to extend our services to meet the increase demand for services. In doing so we kept victims not only from harm from their perpetrator but also from the pandemic. 436 women and 728 children were able to escape from violence and abuse at a time when lockdowns placed most with their abuser, locked down for 24 hours a day. The benefit to our beneficiaries is obvious and substantial, the benefit to the public purse is less obvious but equally substantial – The Home Office report The economic and social costs of domestic abuse Research Report 107 Rhys Oliver, Barnaby Alexander, Stephen Roe and Miriam Wasny January 2019 provides a unit cost for domestic abuse, costing in the full range of costs to all including the police, the courts, the NHS, lawyers, Victim services etc. and the total sum per case amounts to £34, 015. Therefore the impact for victims and the benefit to the public we have achieved this year in preventing further harm and keeping victims and their children safe is very considerable not only for our clients but for the public purse.

Going Concern

The Board has reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustees agreed to focus on diversifying income streams during 2020/21 and generating more income through, for example, the sale of our training services. Over 2020/21 this service has developed to meet this challenge and in spite of the restrictions resulting from COVID19, has adapted swiftly to put training online which means that the substantial income planned through the delivery of the national qualifications for the sector in different regions of the country is still being generated, and enabled a return to an operating surplus.

We therefore consider that the future prospects for funding to be encouraging and that we are well placed to secure additional income. The Trustees have also considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the charity. Forecasting of future revenue streams and strong reserves has provided adequate assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the financial statements.

Future plans

As we enter 2021/22 and measures to limit the spread of COVID 19 are relaxing somewhat we remain vigilant and flexible so that we can respond rapidly in the event of any upsurge in infection and the need to take stronger measures. However we do not intend to return to operating as we were pre-pandemic because there have been some advantages to the new ways of working that we have found that we wish to retain. For example although some clients enjoy the social interaction of a face to face therapeutic group session many have preferred online delivery which they have found more convenient and also less daunting. We have run programmes in the evenings and this had made them more accessible to some women who wished to participate when their children were in bed. Online delivery has also been very advantageous for people who are disabled for whom attending in person sessions was more difficult. Online meetings have also saved a great deal of time which would otherwise been wasted in travelling across counties to participate. Supporting each other through the pandemic has also brought teams closer together and further improved relationships in the workplace.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

However we look forward to moving to a hybrid model of working and to working with clients face to face and in groups more often and to seeing each other more often too.

We have agreed the following objectives for 2021/22:

- Increase training business securing and increasing customer base by 20% and sales by 20% from March 31st 2021 and extending range of courses and specialist trainers building brand identity. In 2021 extend the accredited training product offer by one additional discrete qualification and increase the IDVA offer to diploma level IDVA qualification.
- Remodel safe accommodation services to provide a range of options for Safe Accommodation fit for purpose which meets needs across the whole accommodation pathway. In 2021/2 close Altham House and re-provide units in smaller clusters, self-contained and specialist facilities. Increase in units by 15%.
- Expand the range of services provided to women offenders and in 2021/22 establish at least one accommodation based services as an alternative to or post discharge from prison to enable women to receive the Trauma informed and community coordinated response required to deliver the outcomes set out in the local women offenders' strategy.
- Develop an Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy that covers our team, our communication, our service delivery and our collaboration. In 2021/2 Produce an outline strategic framework, and in year 2021/22 and ensure that language and communication are not a barrier to equal access to our services and that the voices of all are included in the development and delivery of their own support and the development of our services.
- Produce an achievable budget for the financial year 2021/22 that is break even in terms of profit.

Auditors

The Auditors, Knox Cropper LLP, have indicated that they are willing to be re-appointed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Board

Laila abraham

Laila abraham (Sep 27, 2021 10:05 GMT+1)

Laila Abraham

Chair of Trustees

Date: 27 September 2021

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in reserves, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows 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 2021 and 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, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2019.

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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

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.

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.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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 charitable 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 requires 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; or
- 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 pages 2-3, 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 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 charitable company is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
 - We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures, and controls.
-

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

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.

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.

James Holland-Leader FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP, Statutory Auditor
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

28th September 2021

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| | Notes | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|--|-------|-------------|-------------|
| Turnover | 2 | 2,980,776 | 2,481,218 |
| Less: Operating costs | 3 | (2,818,907) | (2,865,526) |
| Other Income | | 2,155 | 6,084 |
| Operating surplus/(deficit) | 5 | 164,024 | (378,224) |
| Interest Receivable | | 343 | 3,522 |
| Net Interest on Defined Benefit Liability | 16 | (19,000) | (28,000) |
| Gain on revaluation of investment properties | 8 | 80,000 | - |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | | 225,367 | (402,702) |
| Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability | | (187,000) | 356,580 |
| Total Comprehensive Income for the Year | | £38,367 | £(46,122) |

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

| | Restricted £ | Unrestricted £ | Total £ |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Balance at 1st April 2020 | 20,901 | 614,455 | 635,356 |
| Total Comprehensive Income | (20,901) | 59,268 | 38,367 |
| Transfers between funds | - | | |
| Balance at 31st March 2021 | £ - | £673,723 | £673,723 |

The notes on pages 22 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2021**

| | Notes | 2021 | | 2020 | |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Housing property assets | 7a | | 88,095 | | 149,419 |
| Other fixed assets | 7b | | 52,037 | | 64,442 |
| Investments | 8 | | 915,100 | | 835,100 |
| | | | <u>1,055,232</u> | | <u>1,048,961</u> |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 9 | 130,399 | | 148,501 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 870,394 | | 751,870 | |
| | | <u>1,000,793</u> | | <u>900,371</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 10 | (356,302) | | (416,976) | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>644,491</u> | | <u>483,395</u> |
| Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities | | | 1,699,723 | | 1,532,356 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | | | (1,026,000) | | (897,000) |
| Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities | | | <u>£673,723</u> | | <u>£635,356</u> |
| Represented by: | | | | | |
| Reserves | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 13 | | - | | 20,901 |
| Unrestricted funds | 14 | | 1,699,723 | | 1,511,455 |
| Pension reserve | 14 | | (1,026,000) | | (897,000) |
| | | | <u>£673,723</u> | | <u>£635,356</u> |

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Laila Abraham

Laila Abraham (Sep 27, 2021 10:05 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey

Douglas Wildey (Sep 27, 2021 15:13 GMT+1)

Laila Abraham - Director

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 22 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| | Notes | 2021 £ | 2020 £ | |
|---|-------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Net cash generated from Operating Activities | A | 143,347 | (284,072) | |
| Cashflows from Investing activities | | | | |
| Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets | | (25,166) | (87,151) | |
| Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets | | - | - | |
| Interest Received | | 343 | 3,522 | |
| | | <u>(24,823)</u> | <u>(83,629)</u> | |
| Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent | | 118,524 | (367,701) | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year | | 751,870 | 1,119,571 | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year | B | <u>£870,394</u> | <u>£751,870</u> | |
| A. Cashflows from Operating Activities | | | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | | 225,367 | (402,702) | |
| Depreciation and losses on disposal | | 98,895 | 79,571 | |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Debtors | | 18,102 | 78,799 | |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors | | (60,674) | (73,798) | |
| Interest Receivable | | (343) | (3,522) | |
| Net Interest on Pension Liability | | 19,000 | 28,000 | |
| Pension Costs/Expense | | (77,000) | 9,580 | |
| Revaluation of investment properties | | (80,000) | - | |
| | | <u>£143,347</u> | <u>£(284,072)</u> | |
| B. Analysis of Changes in net funds | | | | |
| | | At 01/04/2020 | Cash flows | At 31/03/2021 |
| Cash | | <u>£751,870</u> | <u>£118,524</u> | <u>£870,394</u> |

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 the Statement of Recommended Practise for Registered Social Housing Providers 2018 and the Accounting Direction for Private Registered Providers of Social Housing 2019.

The Charitable Company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Board has reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operations for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has continued to be used in preparing the financial statements. The Board has considered the impact of Covid-19 on the short and long term health of the Charity, and is content that the measures taken by the Charity, together with strong reserves and enhanced prospects due to Domestic Abuse Bill changes and the implementation of the government's new domestic abuse strategy, provides adequate forecasting and assurance that the going concern basis is appropriate in preparing the Financial Statements.

The presentation currency in the financial statements is the pound sterling (£).

(b) Company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

(c) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which 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 is charged against the specific fund.

(d) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is deferred where:

- The donor specifies that the grant must be used in the future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions, which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

For legacies, entitlement is when the impending distribution is probable.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(d) Incoming resources (continued)

Grants have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services but as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

(e) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

| | Years | % |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| Leasehold Refuge Improvements: | | |
| Fabric | 40 | 2.5 |
| Roofs | 40 | 2.5 |
| Kitchens | 20 | 5 |
| Doors and Windows | 30 | 3.33 |
| Bathrooms | 25 | 4 |
| Boilers | 15 | 6.67 |
| Refuge Equipment | 5 | 20 |
| Leasehold Office Improvements | 5 | 20 |
| Furniture and Equipment | 5 | 20 |
| Motor Vehicles | 5 | 20 |

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(g) Pension costs

The company participates in a group defined benefit pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. This is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds.

Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments together with any change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service. They are included as part of staff costs. Net interest on the defined benefit liability is shown as a cost in the statement of comprehensive income. The remeasurement of the defined benefit liability is also reported in the statement of comprehensive income, and is shown in more detail in Note 16 to the Accounts.

(h) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(i) Investments

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Depreciation is not provided in respect of investment properties.

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment.

(j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(l) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(m) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(n) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties

The following are the critical judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that the Board has made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Fair value of Investment Properties

Investment properties are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Trustees assess the fair value of the investment properties based on recent market values. In determining the fair value on this basis, the valuation remains sensitive to fluctuations in the property market.

Identification of housing property components

The charity accounts for its expenditure on housing properties using component accounting. Under component accounting, the housing property is divided into those major components which are considered to have substantially different useful economic lives. Judgement is used in allocating property costs between components (land, structure, kitchens, bathrooms etc) and in determining the useful economic lives of each component.

Housing property depreciation is calculated on a component by component basis. The identification of such components is a matter of judgement and may have a material impact on the depreciation charge. The components selected are those which reflect how the major repairs to the property are managed.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to 'technological obsolescence' with regard to IT equipment/software and any changes to decent homes standard requiring frequent replacement of components. The accumulated depreciation at 31 March 2021 was £728,064.

Bad debt provision

A full line by line review of trade debtors is carried out at the end of each month. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the bad debt provisions are as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the provisions do not match the level of debts which ultimately prove to be uncollectible.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including: life expectancy, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net pension asset in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends.

A liability of £1,026,000 is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2021 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 16 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit scheme.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| 2 Income | Unrestricted 2021 £ | Restricted 2021 £ | Total 2021 £ | Total 2020 £ |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Donations and Legacies | | | | |
| Donations | 33,766 | 8,528 | 42,294 | 34,497 |
| Nationwide | - | 12,500 | 12,500 | 37,500 |
| Children In Need | - | 42,668 | 42,668 | 22,329 |
| Infection Control Fund | - | 16,000 | 16,000 | - |
| Coronavirus Community Support | - | 43,288 | 43,288 | - |
| Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | 3,997 | - | 3,997 | - |
| Other grants | 54,524 | 7,078 | 61,602 | 13,255 |
| | <u>92,287</u> | <u>130,062</u> | <u>222,349</u> | <u>107,581</u> |
| Charitable Activities: | | | | |
| Refuge rents receivable | 1,015,764 | - | 1,015,764 | 1,023,181 |
| Refuge service charges | 69,883 | - | 69,883 | 70,060 |
| Supporting People Hertfordshire | 618,000 | - | 618,000 | 618,000 |
| Emergency COVID Funding MoJ | - | 278,527 | 278,527 | - |
| Emergency COVID Funding MHCLG | - | 103,570 | 103,570 | - |
| EFDC Essex Womens Refuges | - | 16,944 | 16,944 | 16,940 |
| Essex COVID Recovery & Response | 5,500 | 31,500 | 37,000 | - |
| PCC ISAC Service | - | 26,500 | 26,500 | - |
| Homeless Link | 80,000 | - | 80,000 | 16,000 |
| Uttlesford District Council | - | - | - | 16,498 |
| EDASS | - | - | - | 88,027 |
| CRC Services | 109,585 | - | 109,585 | 50,226 |
| Herts County Council Sunflower | 10,773 | - | 10,773 | 55,042 |
| Ministry of Housing, CLG | - | 286,669 | 286,669 | 357,491 |
| Training Services | 63,452 | - | 63,452 | 20,412 |
| | <u>1,972,957</u> | <u>743,710</u> | <u>2,716,667</u> | <u>2,331,877</u> |
| Investment Properties | | | | |
| Rents receivable | 41,760 | - | 41,760 | 41,760 |
| | <u>41,760</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>41,760</u> | <u>41,760</u> |
| Turnover | <u>£2,107,004</u> | <u>£873,772</u> | <u>£2,980,776</u> | <u>£2,481,218</u> |

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

3 Operating costs

| | Total 2021 | Total 2020 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Services to victims seeking support | | |
| <i>Direct costs</i> | | |
| Staff costs | 1,022,560 | 1,229,588 |
| Professional fees | 17,782 | 40,749 |
| Refuge rents and service charges | 386,843 | 286,999 |
| Refuge running expenses | 309,119 | 213,269 |
| Refuge depreciation | 71,613 | 36,922 |
| Other operating expenses | 435,752 | 315,931 |
| Bad debts | 37,318 | 59,818 |
| <i>Support costs</i> | | |
| Staff costs | 336,337 | 430,814 |
| Depreciation | 27,281 | 42,649 |
| Insurance | 17,480 | 17,839 |
| Legal and professional fees | 13,770 | 14,191 |
| Audit fee | 14,002 | 8,938 |
| Meeting expenses | 1,323 | 4,245 |
| Other overhead expenses | 119,603 | 148,653 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 2,810,783 | 2,850,605 |
| Other activities | | |
| Investment property management costs | 8,124 | 14,921 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total resources expended | £2,818,907 | £2,865,526 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Unrestricted Funds | 1,924,234 | 2,418,072 |
| Restricted Funds | 894,673 | 447,454 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | £2,818,907 | £2,865,526 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| 4 | Accommodation in management | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|
| | Social housing income and expenditure: | £ | £ |
| | Rents receivable excluding service charges | 1,015,764 | 1,023,181 |
| | Service charges receivable | 69,883 | 70,060 |
| | Less: Social housing operating costs | (1,395,700) | (1,415,488) |
| | Net surplus from social housing activities | £(310,053) | £(322,247) |
| | Void losses | £139,836 | £205,806 |
| | | Units | Units |
| | Supported housing | 94 | 82 |

The RP manages properties on behalf of Swan, Catalyst. L&Q, Housing Associations, registered social housing providers operating in Essex and Herts.

| 5 | Operating surplus/deficit | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|
| | This is stated after charging: | £ | £ |
| | Trustees emoluments | - | - |
| | Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT) | 12,500 | 10,815 |
| | Operating lease rentals – land and buildings | 413,601 | 305,820 |
| | Operating lease rentals – office equipment | 20,756 | 37,826 |
| | Depreciation of owned assets | 98,895 | 79,571 |

| 6 | Staff costs | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| | Wages and salaries | 1,101,700 | 1,190,888 |
| | Social security costs | 99,380 | 104,097 |
| | Pension costs | 130,178 | 232,303 |
| | Termination payments | - | 12,707 |
| | | £1,331,258 | £1,539,995 |

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | No | No |
| The average weekly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was: | 40 | 45 |
| The average number of employees during the year was | 46 | 52 |

There was one employee whose employee benefits fell in the banding £60,000 to £70,000, one in the banding £70,000 to £80,000, and one in the banding £100,000 to £110,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £343,309 (2020: £319,892). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £83,052 and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 16. Employee benefits comprise salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2020: £nil).

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| 7a | Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties | Leasehold Refuge Improvements £ | Refuge Equipment £ | Total £ | |
|----|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | Cost: | | | | |
| | At 1 April | 92,728 | 458,944 | 551,672 | |
| | Additions | - | 10,289 | 10,289 | |
| | Disposals | (62,410) | (75,706) | (138,116) | |
| | At 31 March | <u>30,318</u> | <u>393,527</u> | <u>423,845</u> | |
| | Depreciation: | | | | |
| | At 1 April | 33,924 | 368,329 | 402,253 | |
| | Charge for the Year | 35,862 | 35,751 | 71,613 | |
| | Disposals | (62,410) | (75,706) | (138,116) | |
| | At 31 March | <u>7,376</u> | <u>328,374</u> | <u>335,750</u> | |
| | Net Book Value 31 March 2020 | <u>£58,804</u> | <u>£90,615</u> | <u>£149,419</u> | |
| | Net book Value 31 March 2021 | <u>£22,942</u> | <u>£65,153</u> | <u>£88,095</u> | |
| 7b | Other Fixed Assets | Leasehold Office Improvements £ | Furniture and Equipment £ | Motor Vehicles £ | Total £ |
| | Cost: | | | | |
| | At 1 April | 63,615 | 351,765 | 14,094 | 429,474 |
| | Additions | - | 14,877 | - | 14,877 |
| | Disposals | - | - | - | - |
| | At 31 March | <u>63,615</u> | <u>366,642</u> | <u>14,094</u> | <u>444,351</u> |
| | Depreciation: | | | | |
| | At 1 April | 25,540 | 325,398 | 14,094 | 365,032 |
| | Charge for the Year | 12,723 | 14,559 | - | 27,282 |
| | Disposals | - | - | - | - |
| | At 31 March | <u>38,263</u> | <u>339,957</u> | <u>14,094</u> | <u>392,314</u> |
| | Net book value 31 March 2020 | <u>£38,075</u> | <u>£26,367</u> | <u>£-</u> | <u>£64,442</u> |
| | Net book value 31 March 2021 | <u>£25,352</u> | <u>£26,685</u> | <u>£-</u> | <u>£52,037</u> |

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| 8 Investments | Investment Properties £ | Group Undertakings £ | Total £ |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| At 1 April 2020 | 835,000 | 100 | 835,100 |
| Change in fair value | 80,000 | - | 80,000 |
| At 31st March 2021 | £915,000 | £100 | 915,100 |

The investment properties have been revalued by the Trustees at 31 March 2021 based on current market value which has been assessed on the basis of historic selling prices of similar properties in the location over the course of the financial year.

Safer Properties, a wholly owned subsidiary did not trade during the year under review. Investment at cost £100 (2020: £100).

| 9 Debtors | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Social housing rent arrears | 148,632 | 130,344 |
| Less provision for doubtful debts | (102,211) | (71,030) |
| | 46,421 | 59,314 |
| Trade debtors | 36,154 | 35,319 |
| Other debtors and accrued income | 5,900 | 7,612 |
| Prepayments | 41,924 | 46,256 |
| | £130,399 | £148,501 |
| 10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | | |
| | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
| Social housing rent paid in advance | 89,938 | 27,957 |
| Trade creditors | 51,029 | 37,179 |
| Taxation & Social Security | 26,764 | 4 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 188,571 | 351,836 |
| | £356,302 | £416,976 |

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

11 Deferred Income

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Brought forward | 206,667 | 213,853 |
| Released to income | (202,742) | (213,853) |
| Income deferred in the year | 103,066 | 206,667 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | £106,991 | £206,667 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2021 |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by: | | | |
| Investments | 915,100 | - | 915,100 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 140,132 | - | 140,132 |
| Net current assets | 644,491 | - | 644,491 |
| Pension liabilities | (1,026,000) | - | (1,026,000) |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | £673,723 | £ - | £673,723 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | | | |
| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2020 |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2020 are represented by: | | | |
| Investments | 835,100 | - | 835,100 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 213,861 | - | 213,861 |
| Net current assets | 462,494 | 20,901 | 483,395 |
| Pension liabilities | (897,000) | - | (897,000) |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | £614,455 | £20,901 | 635,356 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| 13 | Restricted Funds | At 1 April 2020 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | At 31 March 2021 £ |
|----|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | MoJ Extraordinary COVID Funding | - | 278,527 | (278,527) | - | - |
| | ISAC service | - | 26,500 | (26,500) | - | - |
| | MHCLG Emergency COVID Funding | - | 103,570 | (103,570) | - | - |
| | Coronavirus Community Support Fund | - | 43,288 | (43,288) | - | - |
| | Essex Coronavirus Recovery and Response Programme | - | 31,500 | (31,500) | - | - |
| | Nationwide | - | 12,500 | (12,500) | - | - |
| | Children In Need | - | 42,668 | (42,668) | - | - |
| | MHCLG | 20,901 | 286,669 | (307,570) | - | - |
| | Epping Forest Fund | - | 16,944 | (16,944) | - | - |
| | Infection Control Fund | - | 16,000 | (16,000) | - | - |
| | Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project | - | 2,394 | (2,394) | - | - |
| | Other Donations & Grants | - | 13,212 | (13,212) | - | - |
| | | <u>£20,901</u> | <u>£873,772</u> | <u>£(894,673)</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£ -</u> |
| 13 | Restricted Funds | At 1 April 2019 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | At 31 March 2020 £ |
| | Donations | - | 4,342 | (4,342) | - | - |
| | Nationwide | - | 37,500 | (37,500) | - | - |
| | Children In Need | - | 22,329 | (22,329) | - | - |
| | MHCLG | - | 357,491 | (336,590) | - | 20,901 |
| | Epping Forest Fund | - | 33,438 | (33,438) | - | - |
| | Other Grants | - | 13,255 | (13,255) | - | - |
| | | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£468,355</u> | <u>£(447,454)</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£20,901</u> |

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- (i) **MoJ Extraordinary COVID Funding**
Additional funding to provide staffing capacity to sustain service levels through the pandemic – particularly related to increased referrals and out of hours support.
- (ii) **ISAC Service**
Specialist support service supporting the victims of stalking.
- (iii) **MHCLG Emergency COVID Funding**
Funding by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (iv) **Coronavirus Community Support Fund**
The Charity received a grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund administered by the National Lottery Community Fund.
- (v) **Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme**
Funding by the Essex Community Foundation to provide sustainability funding and service enhancements.
- (vi) **Nationwide**
The Charity received a grant from the Nationwide Community Grants programme during the 2019/20 financial year to cover the costs of employing a Housing Support Officer for one year. This remaining portion of this grant was recognised and expended during the current financial year.
- (vii) **Children in Need**
The Charity was awarded a multi-year grant from Children in Need during 2019/20 to cover the costs of employing two Children's Workers for a three-year period.
- (viii) **MHCLG**
These are funds received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which are restricted to the provision of a Complex Needs Refuge and Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker service.
- (ix) **Epping Forest Fund**
These are funds received from Epping Outreach and are restricted to Epping Forest victims only. The funds are used within that community for managing risk, developing independent living skills (finance, social and domestic life), mental and physical health issues, emotional wellbeing and support with children and parenting.
- (x) **Other Donations & Grants**
This consists of donations received at the Charity's refuges and is utilised on providing support activities to those housed in emergency accommodation.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

14 Unrestricted Funds

| | <u>Designated Funds</u> | | | General Fund £ | Total Unrestricted £ | Pension Reserve £ | Total £ |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Building Fund £ | Refurbishment Fund £ | Sub Total £ | | | | |
| Balance brought forward | 750,000 | 175,000 | 925,000 | 586,455 | 1,511,455 | (897,000) | 614,455 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | - | - | - | 265,268 | 265,268 | (19,000) | 246,268 |
| Remeasurement of defined benefit liability | - | - | - | - | - | (187,000) | (187,000) |
| Transfer between Funds | - | - | - | (77,000) | (77,000) | 77,000 | - |
| Balance carried forward | <u>£750,000</u> | <u>£175,000</u> | <u>£925,000</u> | <u>£774,723</u> | <u>£1,699,723</u> | <u>£(1,026,000)</u> | <u>£673,723</u> |

Building Fund

This fund is to be used for building new refuges on land to be gifted.

Refurbishment Fund

This fund was set up to cover the costs of planned refurbishment work on new and existing properties.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

15 Taxation

The nature of the income received and the company's charitable activities means that no corporation tax liability arises on the results for the year and no VAT is recoverable on inputs or payable on outputs.

16 Defined benefit pension scheme

Safer Places participates in a defined benefit pension scheme – Essex Pension Fund operated by Essex County Council. At 31 March 2019, Safer Places had 11 active, 64 deferred pensioners and 19 pensioners in the fund. The Employer pays contributions of 24.5% plus an additional monetary amount each year.

The assets allocation of the fund is as follows:

| | 2021 | | 2020 | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | £000's | % | £000's | % |
| Equities | 4,627 | 63 | 3,293 | 59 |
| Gilts | 186 | 3 | 242 | 4 |
| Other Bonds | 356 | 5 | 341 | 6 |
| Property | 515 | 7 | 506 | 9 |
| Cash | 184 | 3 | 234 | 4 |
| Alternative Assets | 841 | 11 | 648 | 12 |
| Other Managed Funds | 605 | 8 | 362 | 6 |
| | <u>£7,314</u> | <u>100%</u> | <u>£5,626</u> | <u>100%</u> |

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| Retiring today – Males | 21.6 | 21.8 |
| Females | 23.6 | 23.7 |
| Retiring in 20 years – Males | 22.9 | 23.2 |
| Females | 25.1 | 25.2 |

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| RPI Increases | 3.2% | 2.7% |
| CPI Increases | 2.85% | 1.9% |
| Salary Increases | 3.85% | 2.9% |
| Pension Increases | 2.85% | 1.9% |
| Discount Rate | 2.00% | 2.35% |

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2021 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2021. The results of these valuations are set out below.

**SAFER PLACES
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

16 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2021

| | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation | 8,340,000 | 6,523,000 | 7,058,000 |
| Fair Value of Fund Assets | (7,314,000) | (5,626,000) | (5,842,000) |
| Net defined benefit liability | <u>£(1,026,000)</u> | <u>£897,000</u> | <u>£1,216,000</u> |

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Service Costs | 94,000 | 189,000 |
| Net Interest on defined liability | 19,000 | 28,000 |
| Administration Expenses | 4,000 | 2,000 |
| | <u>£117,000</u> | <u>£219,000</u> |

(c) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balances of present Value of the defined benefit obligation

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Opening defined benefit obligation | 6,523,000 | 7,058,000 |
| Current Service Cost | 94,000 | 113,000 |
| Past Service Cost | - | 76,000 |
| Interest Cost | 152,000 | 169,000 |
| Changes in Demographic Assumptions | (71,000) | (75,000) |
| Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions | (91,000) | (32,000) |
| Change in Financial Assumptions | 1,869,000 | (667,000) |
| Estimated Benefits Paid | (157,000) | (142,000) |
| Contributions by Scheme Participants | 21,000 | 23,000 |
| Closing defined benefit obligation | <u>£8,340,000</u> | <u>£6,523,000</u> |

(d) Reconciliation of Opening and Closing Balance of Fair Value of Funds Assets

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets | 5,626,000 | 5,842,000 |
| Interest on Assets | 133,000 | 141,000 |
| Returns on Assets less Interest | 1,520,000 | (445,000) |
| Other Actuarial Gains | - | 29,000 |
| Administration Expenses | (4,000) | (2,000) |
| Contributions by Employer | 175,000 | 180,000 |
| Contributions by Scheme Participants | 21,000 | 23,000 |
| Estimated Benefits Paid | (157,000) | (142,000) |
| Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets | <u>£7,314,000</u> | <u>£5,626,000</u> |

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

16 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(e) Sensitivity Analysis

| | £000's | £000's | £000's |
|---|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Adjustment to Discount Rate | +0.1% | 0.0% | -0.1% |
| Present Value of Total Obligations | 8,169 | 8,340 | 8,515 |
| Projected Service Costs | 136 | 140 | 144 |
| | | | |
| Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase | +0.1% | 0.0% | -0.1% |
| Present Value of Total Obligations | 8,350 | 8,340 | 8,330 |
| Projected Service Costs | 140 | 140 | 140 |
| | | | |
| Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation | +0.1% | 0.0% | -0.1% |
| Present Value of Total Obligations | 8,503 | 8,340 | 8,180 |
| Projected Service Costs | 144 | 140 | 136 |
| | | | |
| Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions | + 1 Year | None | -1 Year |
| Present Value of Total Obligations | 8,703 | 8,340 | 7,992 |
| Projected Service Costs | 147 | 140 | 134 |

(f) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest | 1,520,000 | (445,000) |
| Other Actuarial Gains on Assets | - | 29,000 |
| Changes in Demographic Assumptions | 71,000 | 75,000 |
| Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations | 91,000 | 32,000 |
| Change in Financial Assumptions | (1,869,000) | 667,000 |
| Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability) | <u>£(187,000)</u> | <u>£358,000</u> |

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2022

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Service Cost | 140,000 |
| Net Interest on deferred liability | 18,000 |
| Administration Expenses | 6,000 |
| Total Loss | <u>£164,000</u> |
| | |
| Employer Contribution | <u>£173,000</u> |

17 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £14,490 (2020: (£13,544) from D.Willey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2020: travel expenses reimbursed to two trustees £550).

18 Ultimate control

The charity is under no overall control, but is administered by the trustees.

**SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

19 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2021 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

| Operating leases which expire | <u>Land and Buildings</u> | | <u>Other</u> | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Within one year | 241,109 | 360,043 | 8,927 | 16,875 |
| Between two and five years | 135,223 | 162,823 | - | 8,659 |
| In more than five years | | | | |
| | <u>£376,332</u> | <u>£522,866</u> | <u>£8,927</u> | <u>£25,534</u> |

20 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2021 Safer Places had no capital commitments.