

**SAFER PLACES**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

<b>Charity number</b>	1018832
<b>Company number</b>	02789572
<b>Regulator of Social Housing number</b>	4761

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

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

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<b>Charity number</b>	1018832
<b>Company number</b>	02789572
<b>Governing document</b>	The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
<b>Known as</b>	Safer Places
<b>Registered office</b>	PO Box 2489 16-20 Bush House Bush Fair Harlow Essex CM18 6NS
<b>Auditors</b>	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank Billericay Commercial Centre Lloyds Commercial 89 High Street Billericay Essex CM12 9AT
<b>Trustees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Douglas Wildey</li><li>• Erica Bowen (resigned 25 October 2021)</li><li>• Chloe Ahmed</li><li>• Gift Kapswara</li><li>• Lorraine Larman</li><li>• Laila Abraham</li><li>• Sian Chambers (appointed 25 May 2021)</li><li>• Clare Arnold (appointed 25 May 2021)</li><li>• Kathy Osborne (appointed 25 May 2021)</li><li>• Garry Matthews (appointed 25 May 2021, resigned 28 November 2021)</li></ul>
<b>Secretary</b>	Allison Gardner

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

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022**

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### **Structure Governance and Management**

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of Safer Places and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C and Safer Properties Limited.

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 Group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Group 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 Group and 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 Group and 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 Group and 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

### **Code of Governance**

Safer Places has adopted the Charity Governance Code as it best reflects the objectives and aims of the organisation as a registered charity. The Board undertake a 5-year external audit against the Charity Code of Governance and review the compliance internally on an annual basis. We can report that there are no outstanding actions or non-compliance against the code and the outcome of the prior audit was that the auditor considered the charity to be well governed.

### **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 2021/22

In spite of the continuing concerns around Covid 19 2021/22 was a good year for Safer Places. The changes we had made as a result of the pandemic were embedded during 2020/21 and we had been forced, as all organisations were, to think differently about how we delivered services and operated as an organisation. This made us implement at pace changes, that with hindsight, we needed to make which would have otherwise taken many years. 2021/22 was the year in which we built on changes implemented in the previous year to further develop our offer to our beneficiaries.

For example:

- We closed a large, shared facility refuge in Harlow and moved clients into smaller properties rented from private landlords in 2020/21 in order to ensure we could accommodate clients safely but then in 2021/22, through our work with the WISH Foundation and others, we were able to upgrade provision as new properties were purchased and refurbished to replace those we had acquired in haste. This means we have replaced an old-style shared facility 16-unit refuge which was no longer fit for purpose with a cluster of high-quality dispersed accommodation appropriate for the 21st century which is flexible and better meets the diverse needs of the whole population
- We put onto a permanent footing change to our hours of operation to enable more people to reach and engage with our services us in more ways such as live chat SMS and evening group programs online which we trialled in the previous year and had proven very popular with clients and enabled us to reach groups we would not have reached otherwise.
- Our training department continued to grow and we provided training to professionals across the UK including as a major provider of sector specific accredited training (IDVA, ISVA and ISAC) and the training of professionals in associated fields (Police, NHS, Social Care, Probation) as well as awareness raising program delivery such as J9 and work in schools and universities. Such was the growth and success of the training department that the business was transferred into a Community Interest Company "Brighter Future" which is wholly owned by Safer Places and we are able to dedicate profits from this company to improving our client services.
- From the start of the pandemic, we had been keen to do all we could to support our staff. This continued during 2021/22 and whilst we had thought that remote working could lead to a fracturing of relationships between teams and departments, the reverse was true. On the one hand staff worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible service delivery to clients and to support each other whilst at an organisational level the senior team were prioritising communication, consultation and frequent risk assessment involving one to one discussion of the personal circumstances and concerns of individuals. As a result, relationships and teamwork across the organisation were strengthened. We all got to know and understand each other better because everyone was equally close and accessible to each other. This has made us a much more inclusive organisation, staff engagement is improved and mutual trust and respect have grown. This is influencing how staff are managed and the level of discretion to be given to local seniors and managers.

Just as we established a different way of working with our clients and our staff so we developed a more collaborative approach working with other organisations. We developed a number of partnerships including with CHES Homeless in Chelmsford with whom we run the Safe Haven project for women whose interests are not best serviced within a refuge e.g., single short stay clients approaching the council who are victims of domestic abuse who are supported by the Housing IDVA. We are also working with CHES to provide services to male victims in Essex and have a male IDVA / ISAS who has been embedded within that service so we can, together, improve the response to homeless male victims of domestic abuse.

We also established a partnership with the Hertfordshire Asian Women's Association (HAWA) and have learned a great deal as a result and we have secured a property which we will run with their support for Women from the BAME community. HAWA have provided us with invaluable advice and this has enabled us to recruit a workforce which better reflects the communities we serve

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We also established a partnership with Drug Link as we were conscious of the limitations of our Hope House provision because we lacked the experience and skills to safely manage some of the women at greatest need because of the extent of their substance misuse. We ran a pilot project with Drug Link providing a women only unit and experienced recovery staff working alongside our specialist domestic abuse staff. This is meeting a need for service that we had been unable to fulfil and this partnership will continue.

We also became part of the ADVANCE partnership which works with women in the Criminal Justice System. We deliver housing advice as part of that partnership as well as providing bases for the Advance teams in Essex and Hertfordshire

Separate from our work with the Advance Partnership our work with women offenders has also extended and a property has been purchased and awaits a planning permission appeal to enable us to move forward with the establishment of a service for women offenders leaving prison or as an alternative to prison. We will be providing support to the residents and running the service. The building has been purchased by a benefactor and the project has the full support of the Criminal Justice and associated agencies within Essex. Further partnership work with the probation service is progressing and we continue to work with them to support women offenders through our Women's Centres and providing opportunities for completing unpaid work requirement. Plans for the establishment of a community café in Hertfordshire have progressed and we are currently awaiting the installation of a commercial kitchen within our new women's centre in Hertfordshire funded by the Ministry of Justice.

The new Domestic Abuse Act became law in April 2021. The Act brought in changes to facilitate major change in the way that domestic abuse is dealt with in the UK ranging from new definitions , the recognition of children as victims in their own right , the creation of new offences, new duties for statutory bodies including housing and local authorities, the establishment of a national commissioner for domestic abuse reporting to parliament, new sanctions for perpetrators including new orders , special measures and changes in procedures in all courts and many other changes that will , if implemented well , substantially change the way domestic abuse is dealt with and improve services to victims . As part of the Act, from April 1st 2021, Local Authorities are required to fund support within Safe Accommodation within their area As Safer Places was not funded by Essex County Council, we had struggled to sustain our Essex refuge provision even though we are the major provider of Safe Accommodation in Essex. There were delays in additional funding being provided to support this new duty and so we had to continue to raise funds through bidding but eventually funding was secured and at last the future of our Essex refuges was secured. We anticipate this will be the case until recommissioning occurs in two years' time and we are working closely with Essex County Council to play our full part in helping to develop their strategy and in collaboration with other Essex agencies.

Also, in 2021/22 we bid for additional funding from Hertfordshire and this enabled us to enhance our services by increasing children's support staffing, continuing the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House and increasing staff to be able to provide resettlement support to those leaving refuge. We were very fortunate to be able to recruit some excellent staff who have brought much to the organisation and we also ran a trainee scheme, recruiting many new graduates or people with appropriate experience who we trained over a six-month period and will be retaining within our services as qualified staff.

Towards the end of the year Hertfordshire County Council tendered the provision of safe accommodation services for the county and we submitted a bid to provide these services as lead provider in a consortium made up of St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge and Drug Link and with a close working relationship with Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (Stevenage). We were delighted to secure this contract which will run from July 1st 2022.

All in all, it has been a very successful year and we look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm, and in a better position and as a better organisation than we were at the beginning of the year. For this we are grateful to our excellent Trustee board, staff and volunteers, partners and supporters and to those we support from whom we learn so much and witness a level of courage, determination and achievement against the odds that inspires us all.

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### **Our Beneficiaries and 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.

- During the year we responded to 3583 referrals
- 234 clients and 345 children and young people commenced and completed a stay in one of our refuges between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022
- 614 new clients were accepted into Outreach services between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022, whilst 902 clients were in Outreach services during the same period . These clients received a package of services which included regular one to one support geared to their assessed needs through an individualised safety and support plan delivered by an IDVA
- There were 204 clients completed their episode of support from our specialist service for stalking victims (ISAS) whilst 415 clients were referred into ISAS services between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022 showing the continuing growth in the demand for these specialist services
- 515 clients attended our CBT based Triple R recovery programme
- 148 professional qualifications for the sector ( IDVA , ISVA and ISAS) were obtained by people from across the UK. On average every qualified practitioner will be able to effectively support 80-100 victims per year and so the benefit of this work is a very substantial and sustainable impact on driving down the impact of domestic abuse
- 931 people participated in short courses and J9 awareness training. This type of training is key to supporting recognition and early intervention to avert the suffering and long term damage that domestic abuse causes to victims but as every incident of domestic abuse is calculated to cost the public purse on average over £34,000 in associated costs, the value of this activity cannot be underestimated and is critical to the delivery of our mission and the delivery of public benefit
- This year we have also implemented a trainee program which enables graduates with relevant degrees or those with extensive relevant experience to join the organisation as a trainee and train and qualify as an IDVA. This has been very successful providing employment and skills within our community and developing staff able to deliver the standard of support required and to progress within the sector

The work of Safer Places is guided by our strategic plan which set outs the strategic objectives we seek to deliver over a 3 to 5 years period and in every year of the plan period we identify objectives in our annual business plan that will build towards the delivery of the objectives within our strategic plan. The first table below sets out the annual plan objectives for 2021/22.

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### Review of 2021/2022 (continued)

The one year Business Plan objectives for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022

Objective	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	Achieved and exceeded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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%</li> </ul>	Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	Property acquired but project delayed pending planning appeal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce an achievable budget for the financial year 2021/22 that is break even in terms of profit</li> </ul>	Achieved

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Progress against the strategic objectives agreed within our strategy 2017-2022 are set out below with narrative regarding progress in this the final year of the plan account of how we delivered our mission and public benefit in the year.

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 were delivered within our commissioned contracts and we secured a contract for our refuge provision in Essex
Delivering an excellent ISAS (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	<p>Funding has been secured to continue the service until December 2022 with a view to recommissioning thereafter</p> <p>There is little benchmarking information against which to compare the performance of our service but from other studies we can confidently say that our service has a much higher than average rate of clients feeling safer after engagement with the service and of protective orders being implemented</p> <p>19 people from 14 different organisations including police forces and local authorities were trained and obtained their level 4 Hertfordshire University accredited qualification as an independent stalking advocacy specialist ( ISAS)</p> <p>Whilst 204 victims started and completed an episode of support from the stalking service in the year, there were 450 new referrals which is an indication of the growth in demand for the service which began during the pandemic and has been sustained</p>
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 continued to acquire more fit for purpose accommodation for victims of domestic abuse including a property which will open shortly which is specifically for Asian women and we entered a new partnership with SADA (Survivors against Domestic Abuse) and with Drug link to extend the range of accommodation and support available within Hertfordshire where we secured the safe accommodation contract as lead provider
Achieving the gold standard as a Trauma Informed organisation and for our Trauma Informed practice by the end of 2022	We secured the bronze award for Trauma informed practice from One Small Thing and were the first in our sector to gain such an award. We delayed progressing up to gold accreditation because there is a new accreditation specifically for our sector being developed which we will consider in due course but in the meantime we have worked on two key areas: We strengthened our focus on Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and set standards we will monitor year on year within this report and we signed up to the Mental Health at Work Commitment and the delivery of the standards

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<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>IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) – 81 people from 73 different organisations including Domestic Abuse charities, Local Authorities, NHS workers and Social Care workers trained and qualified as IDVAs</p> <p>ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advocate) – 48 people from 32 different organisations including police forces and social care workers trained and qualified as ISVAs</p> <p>ISAS (Stalking Specialist) 19 people from 14 different organisations including police forces and local authorities. Were trained and obtained their level 4 Hertfordshire University accredited qualification as an independent stalking advocacy specialist (ISAS)</p> <p>Short courses –653 people were trained through short courses which included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy relationship talks in schools</li> <li>• Stalking masterclass</li> <li>• DASH risk assessing and safety planning</li> <li>• Black, Asian and minority ethnic victims of domestic abuse</li> </ul> <p>J9 Domestic Abuse awareness training was delivered to 278 people</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 became part of the Advance Partnership working with women involved in the Criminal Justice System under contract to the Ministry of justice. We also await planning permission for the development of a property which will support 6 women leaving prison or living in the accommodation as an alternative to prison. We have also worked successfully with Hertfordshire Asian Women’s Association and with their support we are opening a refuge for Asian women and we have diversified our workforce through being able to engage better with different communities. We are increasingly working with the LGBTQ community to increase our engagement with that community so as to develop services to better meet their needs and wishes</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 have been working with partners and academics to better understand the specific needs and wishes of children and young people in refuge and to develop services which best meet the diversity of intersecting needs and wishes they have. In the coming year we will be publishing a comprehensive needs assessment and working closely with our commissioners and partners to develop better pathways and internally delivered services for those we work with</p>

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### Highlights of 2021/22

During the year we received a great deal of encouragement from those we serve, our partners and our colleagues. The table below provides a snapshot of the year.

<p><i><b>"My babies are home and safe. My ex will not be allowed to be alone with them and all contact will take place in a contact centre ... With the knowledge I have learnt from you, even though I know there is a long road ahead, I also know that we will be ok."</b></i> ( client)</p>	<p>100% of staff say they are proud or very proud to work for Safer Places (staff survey)</p>	<p>"This was a really thought-provoking session and allowed time to consider the many societal and cultural norms which could impact on the likelihood of domestic violence taking place, and on victims not reporting it"  ( trainee)</p>
<p>Safer Places secured the SAFE cic kite mark for Safeguarding</p>	<p><i><b>"The support and services delivered to me were excellent. It was oxygen for me when I felt I was suffocating"</b></i> ( Client)</p>	<p>100% of staff say they have access to the learning and development they need to do their job well (staff survey)</p>
<p>The trainers on the course were really attentive, being aware that some of the content was very distressing. (Trainee)</p>	<p>On average more than 90 people participated in our Triple R recovery program every week</p>	<p><i><b>"I don't know what I would have done without Safer Places and especially I. who became my lifeline during this awful experience"</b></i> (stalking victim)</p>
<p>100% of staff agree or strongly that their manager is a great role model for employees (staff survey)</p>	<p><b>Survey results for those attending the Triple R recovery program the last quarter showed that for each of the following: Feeling safer; improved self -esteem, reduced feelings of isolation , improved emotional wellbeing and feeling able to reach out between 98 and 99% reported improvements in their answer to each question</b></p>	<p>"I have always wanted to work with survivors of Domestic Abuse but didn't know how I would even begin to get into it. I completed the J9 training course, which was amazing. I then enquired about further courses and was directed to the IDVA training course"  (Trainee)</p>
<p><i><b>"You have saved my life, no joke and my sons and so many others the awareness this course has given me and that I will pass on to my nearest and dearest will stay with me for life, you have given me a life skill"</b></i> ( Client )</p>	<p>Every week of the year on average 186 adults and their children are referred or self- refer to Safer Places</p>	<p>SaferPlaces became the first organisation in our sector to secure the Trauma informed practice bronze award</p>
<p>"Another amazing course i have attended via safer places, this training compliments and adds to my IDVA training undertaken with yourselves. I love how informal yet informative the sessions are"  ( Trainee)</p>	<p>"Safer Places does everything it can to support staff – staff then pass that on in the way they work with each other and their clients" (comment from staff survey)</p>	<p><b>Participants in the 4 module Triple R program recorded substantial improvements in feelings of safety, self -esteem , feeling isolated and being confident to reach out for support and emotional wellbeing with 100% of participants in the final module on</b></p>

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		resilience reporting improvements in all four areas
<p><b><i>“We are leaving refuge today and the big thing we love about this place – one of the best things is that we can play and there are lots of lovely things to do“</i></b></p> <p>Two children saying farewell to staff on leaving refuge )</p>	<p>Safer Places was selected to work with the Disabilities Trust on a research project into Domestic Abuse and Acquired Brain injury. The results of this research could lead to much greater understanding and better support for victims</p>	<p>“This course was brilliant and opened up a whole new world for me. It was directed at me doing the job that I’ve always wanted. Next month I leave my job in a school to go and work as a Health IDVA in a hospital. Thank you Safer Places for changing my life Qualified IDVA trained by Safer Places” ( Trainee)</p>

Much has changed over the last three years with the experience of and the new Domestic Abuse Act which has a major impact on the strategic context and resources available for domestic abuse. Trustees and Officers are investing much effort in developing the strategy from 2023-28 in order to take advantage of the opportunities we envisage. The revised strategy will be signed off in November. The following objectives have been agreed for 2022/23 and will make a bridge between the old and new strategic direction for the organisation:

1. Review the Estate and make decisions as to the future arrangements for the provision and maintenance of safe accommodation
2. Design and implement evidence-based children’s services in refuge which meet the specific needs of children in refuge from a combination in house provision and referral to community-based provision and ensures excellent collaboration with statutory agencies and strong advocacy where necessary to ensure safeguarding needs are met
3. Implement the new senior management structure and the new roles reporting to the Head of Policy and Influence and ensure that there is a clear set of KPIs in respect of increasing Safer Places Voice and Visibility beyond the local level and that there are clear communication and social media KPIs and that these are being met
4. Review the Business Plan and governance arrangements for Brighter Futures implementing recommended changes to ensure the long-term development and sustainability of the subsidiary
5. Achieve a balanced budget in 2022/3 & and re-engineer business processing to achieve our Value for Money objective

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022

### 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 Housemark Sector Scorecard.

Metric	2022	2021	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	30.60%	11.68%	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	(1,791.8)%	(976.4)%	33.80%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	1,497.47%	1,331.44%	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	£13,497	£13,689	£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)	(0.14)%	(28.56)%	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)	6.94%	5.52%	21.50%	
Return on Capital Employed	12.12%	9.05%	2.80%	The ROCE reflects the low operating margin on the Charity's activities.

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

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022**

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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.

### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The major risks facing Safer Places are:

1. In light of the current economic conditions, increased costs related to utilities and the supply chain caused by increased fuel costs are a principal risk to Safer Places. This is further exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and these issues will inevitably impact the cost of running services, particularly refuge provisions and office overhead costs. Staff monitor the situation, seeking quotes to ensure best value for all services and utilities in order to mitigate this risk as much as possible.
2. Like many charities, in the mid to long term the organisation must also face the challenge of ensuring adequate funds are available to meet the obligations of its defined benefit pension scheme. We continue to hold assets necessary to manage the fund however the pension obligations remain volatile. The economic conditions again prove challenging not just for the Charity but for the client base and we continue to take action to support clients on financial matters as well.
3. To sustain and enhance income related to the training subsidiary in order to provide enhanced services to the stakeholders. The year reflects that the provision of training has proved a successful venture to date.
4. Covid-19 (coronavirus) which threatened our ability to provide refuge spaces in an isolated environment during the pandemic. We closed a large, shared facility refuge in Harlow and moved clients into smaller properties rented from private landlords in 2020/21 in order to ensure we could accommodate clients safely. In 2021/we were able to upgrade provision as new properties were purchased and refurbished to replace those we had acquired in haste.

### **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.

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

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022**

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### **Review of Financial position**

Safer Places' continued strategy to diversify income and provide fully funded frontline services has resulted in a sustained operating surplus for the group of £242k (2021: a surplus of £225) which will be re-invested to services in the coming financial period to ensure we continue to meet the changing needs of our client base. Donations whilst still amounting to a modest proportion of income had increased nearly 33% from 2021.

Social housing income remained relatively constant showing a slight reduction from 2021 due to adjustments in the types & quantity of units provided £1,006,513 (2021: £1,085,647)

The cash position of the group has increased by £470,555, again as a result of the success of training services, and other efforts to diversify our income stream. 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.

### **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 2021/22 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**

During the period we extended our work on Equity , Equality , Diversity and Inclusion which is fundamentally important to the delivery of truum informed , quality service delivery and we set the following objectives that we will report on

#### **Safer Places EEDI Action Plan 2022-2023**

##### **Objective 1 – Our Team**

We aim to increase the diversity of our workforce and continue to build an inclusive culture where all staff feels valued, that they belong, and have opportunities to succeed and celebrate our differences

- Ensure representation and inclusivity is a key factor in succession planning for senior management and management positions
- Baseline and monitor diversity across organisation and individual teams (including agency and volunteers), using data to inform recruitment development
- Continue to develop recruitment processes so they are accessible and actively encourage a diverse range of applicants, giving value to lived and intersecting experiences
- Include EDI within the training plan for all staff (including agency and volunteers) to embed and build capability and understanding of EEDI practice and enhance learning across all levels of the organisation
- Review EEDI performance on an annual basis and publish EEDI report
- Regularly seek employees' views on EEDI as a static item on the spot-check employee surveys
- Regularly publicise ways for staff to engage and participate (Daisy, Feedback email inbox etc.)

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022

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- Develop health and well-being strategy with staff

Objective 2 – Our Clients – We will make sure our services are responsive to the individual needs of all survivors so anyone experiencing or at risk of abuse can access our services, when, where and how they need to on an equitable basis of risk, need and choice

- Routinely monitor and reflect on EEDI service data, ensuring data analysis provides insight into the outcomes survivors from different communities achieve as a result of our service
- Identify gaps in service provision through data analysis
- Continually look for ways to develop services by working in partnership with by and for organisations
- Include survivors in all service development

Objective 3 – Our Partners – We will actively seek opportunities to collaborate with by and for organisations and challenge structural inequalities that exclude or marginalise their presence

- Continue to expand partnership network, especially with under-represented by and for organisations
- Seek to support by and for organisations with DA specialism, both in service delivery and training opportunities supporting their need for autonomy and independence
- Share experience and lessons learnt and collaborate with wider sector regarding EEDI (community of practice etc.)

Objective 4 – Community Engagement – We will pro-actively engage with the communities that we serve

- Expand partnerships with community organisations such as places of worship, community centres, youth groups etc. to build a network of connections
- Continue to grow Women’s Centre work
- Research and engage with our communities in order to identify their needs

Objective 5– Our communication – We will be clear, accessible, and inclusive in all of our communication both internally and externally

- Continue working on the website to make it more accessible (Recite me)
- Raise awareness of our EDI agenda through Comms strategy
- Ensure all messaging is assessable and inclusive across all platforms for a range of audiences
- Provide comms and engagement support for stakeholder organisations that further evidence our commitment to EEDI
- Reject the use of ‘BAME’ or ‘BME’ terms within our reporting, instead using disaggregating information so we can discuss issues with clarity and focus

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)**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022**

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### **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 \(Sep 27, 2022 21:20 GMT+5.5\)](#)

**Laila Abraham**

**Chair of Trustees**

Date: September 2022

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

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Safer Places (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in reserves, the consolidated and company statement of financial positions, the consolidated 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 group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 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 AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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### **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 group and parent 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 by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company 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 group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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 AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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

- 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.
- We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to Safer Places and determined that the most significant are the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Companies Act 2006, the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, and the regulatory standards issued by the Regulator of Social Housing.
- We understood how the Association is complying with those frameworks via communication with those charged with governance, together with the review of the Association's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Group's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements. These included risks associated with revenue recognition, application of accounting estimates, management override of controls and the increased incentive and pressure to commit fraud due to the Covid-19 environment, which were discussed and agreed by the audit team.
- Our approach included agreeing the recognition of income to the terms of tenancy agreements, reviewing the assumptions used and controls applied in the calculation of accounting estimates, the review of journal entries processed in the accounting records and the investigation of significant and unusual transactions identified from our review of the accounting records.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the board members with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the Group.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

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](http://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

September 2022

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

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Turnover</b>	2	3,407,029	2,980,776
Less: Operating costs	3	(3,156,039)	(2,818,907)
Other Income		2,175	2,155
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	5	253,165	164,024
Interest Receivable		525	343
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Liability	17	(18,000)	(19,000)
Gain on revaluation of investments	9	6,622	-
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	-	80,000
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		242,312	225,367
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability	17	914,000	(187,000)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<b>£1,156,312</b>	<b>£38,367</b>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF  
CHANGES IN RESERVES**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2021	-	673,623	673,623
Total Comprehensive Income	-	1,156,312	1,156,312
Transfers between funds	-		
Balance at 31st March 2022	£ -	£1,829,935	£1,829,935

The notes on pages 25 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

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

COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Housing property assets	7a		74,830		88,095
Other fixed assets	7b		50,720		52,037
Investment Properties	8		915,000		915,000
Investments	9		106,622		-
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			1,147,172		1,055,132
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	10	214,904		129,499	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,341,849		871,294	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
			1,556,753		1,000,793
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	11	(779,990)		(356,302)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			776,763		644,491
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities</b>			1,923,935		1,699,623
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			(94,000)		(1,026,000)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities</b>			£1,829,935		£673,623
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Restricted funds	14		-		-
Unrestricted funds	15		1,923,935		1,699,623
Pension reserve	15		(94,000)		(1,026,000)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total Funds</b>			£1,829,935		£673,623
			<hr/>		<hr/>

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 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

*Laila Abraham*

Laila Abraham (Sep 27, 2022 21:20 GMT+5.5)

*Douglas Wildey*

Douglas Wildey (Sep 28, 2022 14:07 GMT+1)

**Laila Abraham - Director**

**Douglas Wildey - Director**

The notes on pages 25 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

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

**COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572**

**COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Housing property assets	7a		74,830		88,095
Other fixed assets	7b		50,720		52,037
Investment Properties	8		915,000		915,000
Investments	9		106,723		100
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			1,147,273		1,055,232
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	10	185,553		130,399	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,340,799		870,394	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
			1,526,352		1,000,793
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	11	(759,890)		(356,302)	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			766,462		644,491
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities</b>			1,913,735		1,699,723
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			(94,000)		(1,026,000)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities</b>			£1,819,735		£673,723
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Restricted funds	14		-		-
Unrestricted funds	15		1,913,735		1,699,723
Pension reserve	15		(94,000)		(1,026,000)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total Funds</b>			£1,819,735		£673,723
			<hr/>		<hr/>

The parent company's total comprehensive income for the year amounted to £1,146,012 (2021: £38,367).

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 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

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**Laila Abraham - Director**

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**Douglas Wildey - Director**

The notes on pages 25 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

**SAFER PLACES**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Net cash generated from Operating Activities</b>	A	617,152	143,347
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(47,122)	(25,166)
Purchase of Fixed Asset Investments		(100,000)	-
Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	-
Interest Received		525	343
		<u>(146,597)</u>	<u>(24,823)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		470,555	118,524
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		871,294	752,770
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	<u>£1,341,849</u>	<u>£871,294</u>

**A. Cashflows from Operating Activities**

Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	242,312	225,367
Depreciation and losses on disposal	61,704	98,895
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(85,405)	18,102
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	423,688	(60,674)
Interest Receivable	(525)	(343)
Net Interest on Pension Liability	18,000	19,000
Pension Costs/Expense	(36,000)	(77,000)
Gains on revaluation	(6,622)	(80,000)
	<u>£617,152</u>	<u>£143,347</u>

**B. Analysis of Changes in net funds**

	At 01/04/2021	Cash flows	At 31/03/2022
Cash	<u>£871,294</u>	<u>£470,555</u>	<u>£1,341,849</u>

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

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### 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 Practice 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

Safer Places is a charitable 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) Group Financial Statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charitable Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Properties Limited (08704415) and Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C. (13524749), on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Comprehensive Income has not been presented for the parent Charitable Company itself, having taken advantage of the exemption afforded by the Companies Act 2006.

#### (d) 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.

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

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### (e) 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.

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.

### (f) 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.

### (g) 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

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# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

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### (h) Pension costs

The charitable 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 17 to the Accounts.

### (i) Operating Leases

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

### (j) 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.

The charitable company's investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Comprehensive Income includes the net gains and losses arising on the revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

### (k) 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.

### (l) 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.

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

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### **(m) 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.

### **(n) 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.

### **(o) 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 2022 was £782,303.

#### *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.

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

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### (o) Significant Management Judgements and Estimation Uncertainties (continued)

#### *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 £94,000 is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2022 for the Essex Pension Fund. See note 17 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 2022**

2 Income - Group	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>				
Donations	50,110	6,064	56,174	42,294
Nationwide	-	-	-	12,500
Children In Need	-	38,798	38,798	42,668
Herts Community Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
Infection Control Fund	-	8,000	8,000	16,000
Coronavirus Community Support	-	-	-	43,288
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	3,997
Other grants	18,750	18,116	36,866	61,602
	<u>68,860</u>	<u>80,978</u>	<u>149,838</u>	<u>222,349</u>
<b>Charitable Activities:</b>				
Refuge rents receivable	947,226	-	947,226	1,015,764
Refuge service charges	59,287	-	59,287	69,883
Supporting People Hertfordshire	1,504,250	-	1,504,250	618,000
Emergency COVID Funding MoJ	-	-	-	278,527
Emergency COVID Funding MHCLG	-	-	-	103,570
EFDC Essex Womens Refuges	-	-	-	16,944
Essex COVID Recovery & Response	-	-	-	37,000
PCC ISAC Service	-	78,000	78,000	26,500
Homeless Link	-	-	-	80,000
Advance	-	72,961	72,961	-
EDASS	-	283,200	283,200	-
CRC Services	25,770	-	25,770	109,585
Herts County Council Sunflower	2,100	-	2,100	10,773
Ministry of Housing, CLG	-	99,938	99,938	286,669
Training Services	142,699	-	142,699	63,452
	<u>2,681,332</u>	<u>534,099</u>	<u>3,215,431</u>	<u>2,716,667</u>
<b>Investment Properties</b>				
Rents receivable	41,760	-	41,760	41,760
	<u>41,760</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,760</u>	<u>41,760</u>
Turnover	<u>£2,791,952</u>	<u>£615,077</u>	<u>£3,407,029</u>	<u>£2,980,776</u>

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

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

**3 Operating costs - Group**

	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Services to victims seeking support</b>		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,121,254	1,022,560
Professional fees	30,929	17,782
Refuge rents and service charges	341,724	386,843
Refuge running expenses	317,205	309,119
Refuge depreciation	36,161	71,613
Other operating expenses	557,366	435,752
Bad debts	48,538	37,318
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	465,643	336,337
Depreciation	25,544	27,281
Insurance	25,226	17,480
Legal and professional fees	28,036	13,770
Audit fee	19,700	14,002
Meeting expenses	-	1,323
Other overhead expenses	129,512	119,603
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,146,838	2,810,783
<b>Other activities</b>		
Investment property management costs	9,201	8,124
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	£3,156,039	£2,818,907
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds	2,540,962	1,924,234
Restricted Funds	615,077	894,673
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£3,156,039	£2,818,907
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

4	<b>Accommodation in management</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	Social housing income and expenditure:	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	947,226	1,015,764
	Service charges receivable	59,287	69,883
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,007,968)	(1,395,700)
	Net surplus/(deficit) from social housing activities	£(1,455)	£(310,053)
	Void losses	£297,148	£139,836
		<b>Units</b>	<b>Units</b>
	Supported housing	74	94

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

5	<b>Operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	This is stated after charging:	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Trustees' emoluments	-	-
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	10,425	12,500
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	364,264	413,601
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	12,350	20,756
	Depreciation of owned assets	59,903	98,895

6	<b>Staff costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Wages and salaries	1,230,546	1,101,700
	Social security costs	109,019	99,380
	Pension costs	164,553	130,178
	Termination payments	-	-
		£1,504,118	£1,331,258

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
The average weekly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was:	44	40
The average number of employees during the year was	51	46

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 £346,697 (2021: £343,309). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £83,042 (2021: £83,052) and is an ordinary member of the defined benefit pension scheme as disclosed in Note 17. Employee benefits comprise salaries, social security contributions and pension contributions. No trustee received remuneration for their role as a trustee during the year (2021: £nil).

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

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

7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties Group and Parent	Leasehold Refuge Improvements £	Refuge Equipment £	Total £
	<b>Cost:</b>			
	At 1 April	30,318	393,527	423,845
	Additions	-	22,895	22,895
	Disposals	-	(7,465)	(7,465)
	At 31 March	<u>30,318</u>	<u>408,957</u>	<u>439,275</u>
	<b>Depreciation:</b>			
	At 1 April	7,376	328,374	335,750
	Charge for the Year	5,554	28,805	34,359
	Disposals	-	(5,664)	(5,664)
	At 31 March	<u>12,930</u>	<u>351,515</u>	<u>364,445</u>
	<b>Net Book Value 31 March 2021</b>	<u>£22,942</u>	<u>£65,153</u>	<u>£88,095</u>
	<b>Net book Value 31 March 2022</b>	<u>£17,388</u>	<u>£57,442</u>	<u>£74,830</u>

7b	Other Fixed Assets Group and Parent	Leasehold Office Improvements £	Furniture and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
	<b>Cost:</b>				
	At 1 April	63,615	366,642	14,094	444,351
	Additions	-	24,227	-	24,227
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 March	<u>63,615</u>	<u>390,869</u>	<u>14,094</u>	<u>468,578</u>
	<b>Depreciation:</b>				
	At 1 April	38,263	339,957	14,094	392,314
	Charge for the Year	12,723	12,821	-	25,544
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 March	<u>50,986</u>	<u>352,778</u>	<u>14,094</u>	<u>417,858</u>
	<b>Net book value 31 March 2021</b>	<u>£25,352</u>	<u>£26,685</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£52,037</u>
	<b>Net book value 31 March 2022</b>	<u>£12,629</u>	<u>£38,091</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£50,720</u>

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

8 Investment properties Group and Parent	Investment Properties £	Total £
At 1 April 2021	915,000	915,000
Change in fair value	-	-
At 31st March 2022	£915,000	915,000

The investment properties have been valued by the Trustees at 31 March 2022 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.

9 Investments	Group		Parent		
	Investment in unit trust £	Total £	Group Undertakings £	Investment in unit trust £	Total £
At 1 April	-	-	100	-	100
Additions	100,000	100,000	1	100,000	100,001
Unrealised gains	6,622	6,622	-	6,622	6,622
At 31 March	£106,622	£106,622	£101	£106,622	£106,723

Investments in group undertakings comprises 100% of the ordinary share capital of Safer Properties Limited (company number: 08704415) and Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC (company number: 13524749).

The principal activities of the subsidiaries are property investment and the provision of training courses, respectively. Summaries of the trading results are shown below:

	Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C.		Safer Properties Limited	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Turnover</b>	65,669	-	-	-
Costs of sales	(40,942)	-	-	-
<b>Gross profit</b>	24,727	-	-	-
Administrative expenses	(14,577)	-	-	-
<b>Operating (loss)/profit</b>	10,150	-	-	-
Interest receivable	150	-	-	-
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	£10,300	£-	£-	£-

The aggregate capital and reserves of the subsidiary companies at 31 March 2022 were: Safer Properties Limited £Nil (2021: £Nil), and Brighter Futures@Safer Places C.I.C. £10,301, (2021: £Nil).

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

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

10 Debtors	Group		Parent	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Social housing rent arrears	110,660	148,632	110,660	148,632
Less provision for doubtful debts	(102,594)	(102,211)	(102,594)	(102,211)
	8,066	46,421	8,066	46,421
Trade debtors	136,062	36,154	105,811	36,154
Other debtors and accrued income	2,394	5,000	3,294	5,900
Prepayments	68,382	41,924	68,382	41,924
	£214,904	£129,499	£185,553	£130,399

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Parent	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	32,398	89,938	32,398	89,938
Trade creditors	83,950	51,029	83,950	51,029
Taxation & social security	28,366	26,764	28,366	26,764
Accruals and deferred income	633,604	188,571	532,194	188,571
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	81,310	-
Other creditors	1,672	-	1,672	-
	£779,990	£356,302	£759,890	£356,302

12 Deferred Income	Group		Parent	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Brought forward	106,991	206,667	106,991	206,667
Released to income	(106,991)	(202,742)	(106,991)	(202,742)
Income deferred in the year	542,298	103,066	443,888	103,066
	£542,298	£106,991	£443,888	£106,991

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

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

13 Analysis of net assets between funds			
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Group</b>			
Investments	1,021,622	-	1,021,622
Tangible fixed assets	125,550	-	125,550
Net current assets	776,763	-	776,763
Pension liabilities	(94,000)	-	(94,000)
	<u>£1,829,935</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£1,829,935</u>
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Parent:</b>			
Investments	1,021,723	-	1,021,723
Tangible fixed assets	125,550	-	125,550
Net current assets	766,462	-	766,462
Pension liabilities	(94,000)	-	(94,000)
	<u>£1,819,735</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£1,819,735</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Group</b>			
Investments	915,000	-	915,000
Tangible fixed assets	140,132	-	140,132
Net current assets	644,491	-	644,491
Pension liabilities	(1,026,000)	-	(1,026,000)
	<u>£673,623</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£673,623</u>
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Parent:</b>			
Investments	915,000	-	915,000
Tangible fixed assets	140,132	-	140,132
Net current assets	644,491	-	644,491
Pension liabilities	(1,026,000)	-	(1,026,000)
	<u>£673,723</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£673,723</u>

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

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

14	Restricted Funds Group and Parent	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
	ISAC service	-	78,000	(78,000)	-	-
	ADVANCE	-	72,961	(72,961)	-	-
	Herts Community Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	EDASS	-	283,200	(283,200)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	38,798	(38,798)	-	-
	MHCLG	-	99,938	(99,938)	-	-
	Infection Control Fund	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	14,364	(14,364)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	9,816	(9,816)	-	-
		£ -	£615,077	£(615,077)	£ -	£ -
	<b>Restricted Funds – prior year Group and Parent</b>	<b>At 1 April 2020</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>At 31 March 2021</b>
	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)	-	-
		£20,901	£873,772	£(894,673)	£ -	£ -

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

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- (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) **ADVANCE**  
Funding received as part of the ADVANCE partnership which works with women in the Criminal Justice System.
- (xi) **Herts Community Foundation**  
Funding received to enhance services provided in Hertfordshire. The fund is used to increase children’s support staffing, the provision of the complex needs refuge Hope House, and for the provision of resettlement support for those leaving refuge.
- (xii) **EDASS**  
Funding is received for Essex Domestic Abuse Support Services and utilised for the support and education of those in Essex at medium risk of domestic abuse in order to recognise, recover from, and develop resilience against abuse.
- (xiii) **Infection Control Fund**  
This fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of Covid-19 transmission.

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

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

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**(xiv) Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project**

This is a social welfare grant from the Pilgrim Trust to support early action projects that improve the life chances of vulnerable women and girls.

**(xv) 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 2022**

**15 Unrestricted Funds - Group**

	<u>Designated Funds</u>			General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £				
Balance brought forward 1 April 2020	750,000	175,000	925,000	586,355	1,511,355	(897,000)	614,355
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 31 March 2021	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£774,623</u>	<u>£1,699,623</u>	<u>£(1,026,000)</u>	<u>£673,623</u>
Balance brought forward 1 April 2021	750,000	175,000	925,000	774,623	1,699,623	(1,026,000)	673,623
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	260,312	260,312	(18,000)	242,312
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	914,000	914,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(36,000)	(36,000)	36,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2022	<u>£750,000</u>	<u>£175,000</u>	<u>£925,000</u>	<u>£998,935</u>	<u>£1,923,935</u>	<u>£(94,000)</u>	<u>£1,829,935</u>

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

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

**15 Unrestricted Funds - Parent**

	<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>General Fund £</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Pension Reserve £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
	<b>Building Fund £</b>	<b>Refurbishment Fund £</b>	<b>Sub Total £</b>				
Balance brought forward 1 April 2020	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 31 March 2021	<b>£750,000</b>	<b>£175,000</b>	<b>£925,000</b>	<b>£774,723</b>	<b>£1,699,723</b>	<b>£(1,026,000)</b>	<b>£673,723</b>
Balance brought forward 1 April 2021	750,000	175,000	925,000	774,723	1,699,723	(1,026,000)	673,723
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	250,012	250,012	(18,000)	232,012
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	914,000	914,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(36,000)	(36,000)	36,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2022	<b>£750,000</b>	<b>£175,000</b>	<b>£925,000</b>	<b>£988,735</b>	<b>£1,913,735</b>	<b>£(94,000)</b>	<b>£1,819,735</b>

**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 2022

### 16 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.

### 17 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:

	2022		2021	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	4,820	60	4,627	63
Gilts	192	3	186	3
Other Bonds	352	4	356	5
Property	658	8	515	7
Cash	204	3	184	3
Alternative Assets	992	12	841	11
Other Managed Funds	810	10	605	8
	<u>£8,028</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£7,314</u>	<u>100%</u>

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2022	2021
Retiring today – Males	21.6	21.6
– Females	23.7	23.6
Retiring in 20 years – Males	23.0	22.9
– Females	25.1	25.1

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

RPI Increases	3.55%	3.2%
CPI Increases	2.85%	2.85%
Salary Increases	4.25%	3.85%
Pension Increases	3.25%	2.85%
Discount Rate	2.60%	2.00%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2022 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2022. The results of these valuations are set out below.

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

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

**17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)**

**(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	8,122,000	8,340,000	6,523,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	(8,028,000)	(7,314,000)	(5,626,000)
Net defined benefit liability	<u>£94,000</u>	<u>£1,026,000</u>	<u>£897,000</u>

**(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Service Costs	125,000	94,000
Net Interest on defined liability	18,000	19,000
Administration Expenses	4,000	4,000
	<u>£147,000</u>	<u>£117,000</u>

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	8,340,000	6,523,000
Current Service Cost	125,000	94,000
Interest Cost	165,000	152,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	-	(71,000)
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	18,000	(91,000)
Change in Financial Assumptions	(383,000)	1,869,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(163,000)	(157,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>£8,122,000</u>	<u>£8,340,000</u>

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	7,314,000	5,626,000
Interest on Assets	147,000	133,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	549,000	1,520,000
Administration Expenses	(4,000)	(4,000)
Contributions by Employer	165,000	175,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	20,000	21,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(163,000)	(157,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£8,028,000</u>	<u>£7,314,000</u>

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

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

**17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)**

**(e) Sensitivity Analysis**

	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>
<b>Adjustment to Discount Rate</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
Present Value of Total Obligations	7,957	8,122	8,291
Projected Service Costs	118	122	125
<b>Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,131	8,122	8,113
Projected Service Costs	122	122	121
<b>Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,281	8,122	7,967
Projected Service Costs	126	122	119
<b>Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions</b>	<b>+ 1 Year</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>-1 Year</b>
Present Value of Total Obligations	8,703	8,122	7,810
Projected Service Costs	147	122	117

**(f) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	549,000	1,520,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	-	71,000
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	(18,000)	91,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	383,000	(1,869,000)
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	<u>£914,000</u>	<u>£(187,000)</u>

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

Service Cost	122,000
Net Interest on deferred liability	2,000
Administration Expenses	4,000
Total Loss	<u>£128,000</u>
Employer Contribution	<u>£166,000</u>

# SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

### 18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £15,900 (2021: (£14,490) from D.Wildey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2021: no trustee received any reimbursement of expenses).

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC, an unregistered body. Safer Places recharged staff costs amounting to £40,624 to Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC and paid £11,895 of expenses on that company's behalf. The recharge of staff costs was calculated on the basis of time spent by those employees on the activity of the subsidiary with no markup. In addition, the charity collected receipts from customers of the company amounting to £133,828. At the year end, £81,310 was owed by the Safer Places to Brighter Futures@Safer Places CIC.

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Properties Limited, an unregistered body. There were no transactions with Safer Properties during the year. At the year end £900 (2021: £900) was owed by Safer Properties to Safer Places.

### 19 Ultimate control

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

### 20 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2022 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases.

Group	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	241,109	241,109	8,622	8,927
Between two and five years	85,548	135,223	17,243	-
In more than five years				
	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£376,332</u>	<u>£25,865</u>	<u>£8,927</u>

Parent	Land and Buildings		Other	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	241,109	241,109	8,622	8,927
Between two and five years	85,548	135,223	17,243	-
In more than five years				
	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£376,332</u>	<u>£25,865</u>	<u>£8,927</u>

### 21 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2022 Safer Places had no capital commitments.


# Safer Places 2022


Final Audit Report


2022-09-28


Created:	2022-09-26
By:	Allison Gardner (allison.gardner@saferplaces.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAuWulAp4A08ryW_GooMP7jbcUAEEG5AmE


## "Safer Places 2022" History


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