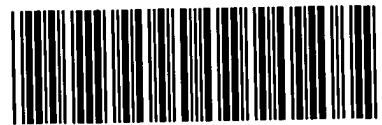


SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

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

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Charity number	1018832
Company number	02789572
Governing document	The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.
Known as	Safer Places
Registered office	PO Box 2489 16-20 Bush House Bush Fair Harlow Essex CM18 6NS
Auditors	Knox Cropper LLP 65 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Billericay Commercial Centre Lloyds Commercial 89 High Street Billericay Essex CM12 9AT
Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Douglas Wildey• Chloe Ahmed (resigned 25 October 2022)• Gift Kapswara• Lorraine Larman• Laila Abraham (resigned 25 October 2022)• Sian Chambers• Claire Arnold• Kathy Osborne• Sean Carroll (appointed 25 October 2022)
Secretary	Allison Gardner

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Structure Governance and Management

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of Safer Places and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Safer Places Professional Training and Development 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.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

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.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

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 and Governance and Financial Viability Standard

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.

The Board confirms Safer Places is compliant with the Governance and Financial Viability Standard.

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.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

Review of 2022/23

2022/2023 was a busy and exciting year. As life returned to almost normal following the pandemic restrictions, we took stock of how much we had learned and how much our operating environment had changed. As participants of the Thrive program run by The Cranfield Trust and funded for us by Essex Community Foundation, we embarked on a detailed review of our 5-year strategy for 2023-2028 with Trustees and Officers working together over a series of events. The work resulted in the identification of five main strategic themes from which our work programme and objectives for the next 5 years flow. Across the year as the work progressed, we implemented changes consistent with the emerging strategic direction and these included:

- The opening of a refuge for women from minority communities. This is principally occupied by women from South Asian countries.
- The establishment of Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC. This had been running previously as Brighter Futures at Safer Places. The organisation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Safer Places and had grown substantially over the last two years and so we needed to strengthen the governance and strategic management of the organisation and to invest in future growth. To that end, and in the light of changes implemented following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 additional staff were recruited including a senior trainer dedicated to the development of training in the delivery of services to children who are now recognised in law as victim of domestic abuse in their own right.
- We reviewed the senior management structure and appointed an Assistant Director, Children and Young People.
- We established a communications team comprising of a senior communications officer and two graduate placements from Charity Works. The team has made a significant impact and we will retain those on placement now as permanent members of staff. We also recruited a performance analyst and along with the communications team we are now able to better understand our performance, to hear victims' voices more clearly, to reach hidden victims more successfully and to demonstrate and communicate our impact better.
- In response to our recognition of the pressures all statutory services are working under resulting in a reduction in capacity for multiagency safeguarding and support we employed an additional designated safeguarding lead officer enabling us to have one for each county to strengthen our capacity to advocate for and ensure that the needs of our clients are met. This new approach has shown strong benefits at both the individual case and policy level.
- We introduced a new IT system for the running of "back office" functions which enabled us to make savings on processing costs.
- We undertook an audit of our estate and began a program of renovation and upgrading which has much improved the accommodation we offer.

We also successfully applied for the continuation of funding for our Essex refuges and successfully bid for funding for our community support services in Hertfordshire. As lead partner in the consortium providing Safe accommodation services for Hertfordshire, we mobilised the consortium and the services. We have worked with SAHWR in the past and the longstanding good working relationship continued, unfortunately one of the consortium members had to withdraw because of being unable to meet the specification but the new working relationship with Druglink has been excellent and we can confirm that together what we can offer is much greater than the sum of what we could without this collaboration which is paying dividends in terms of our learning as well as enabling women who in the past could not be managed within our services to receive a service jointly provided by Druglink and Safer Places.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

It has been a busy year for HR – the Domestic Abuse Act linked additional funding has meant we have had to recruit many additional staff at the same time as all other organisations such as ours are doing the same. We have been successful in part because we are able to offer training and trainee posts through our CIC, but it has certainly been challenging and we have benefitted from our third Charity Works graduate placement who has worked so hard on recruitment but also enabled us to much improve our recruitment process and HR reporting and monitoring. She too wishes to remain at the end of the placement, and we will be offering her a permanent contract.

Our own annual staff survey and Investors in People Assessment this year were cause for celebration reflecting how committed, engaged, empowered and well managed staff feel. This is very reassuring since Safer Places staff truly are its greatest asset. Our staff pull together and strive for excellence and in so doing help transform the lives of thousands of people every year.

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.

Over the last year Safer Places has delivered Public Benefit in line with the objects of the charity in the following ways:

To relieve distress and suffering amongst people living with or fleeing from domestic abuse including stalking and harassment

- We received a total of 4083 referrals of which 1443 were for refuge/safe accommodation
- We were able to accommodate 543 of the 1443 single people and families referred for refuge / safe accommodation within our properties in Essex and Hertfordshire
- 733 children and young people came into our refuges with their mother. We did receive some referrals for male victims with children (8) but at the time of referral we did not have accommodation available that was suitable as it was all occupied since the accommodation used for males is in dispersed single units and we will use those for whoever needs them when available. We will be expanding designated provision for males in the coming year.
- Within our community services which we deliver in Hertfordshire we supported 1081 adults and 1296 children
- Our specialist stalking support service supported 315 adults and 367 children
- Our specialist IDVA who works with victims who have no recourse to public funds which is paid for by The Pilgrims Trust supported 82 adults with 100 children

During the year we secured the contract to continue delivering safe accommodation services for Hertfordshire and the contract was extended to provide more resources to support children as victims in their own right and to provide therapeutic services to both adults and children. From July 2022 we were able to recruit a range of qualified therapists to work with clients and their children within our safe accommodation and refuges in Hertfordshire which meant we could enhance our offer aimed at relieving distress and suffering, supporting healing and the building of resilience. We offered group and 1:1 therapeutic service for adults and children. This included a variety of different therapeutic interventions and specialisms including art and drama therapy, therapeutic groups for women and for families, one to one counselling and psychotherapy including delivery by a range of therapists who speak the first languages of those in our services who do not speak English well. We continued to run our own in-house CBT based Triple R program in Essex and Hertfordshire and placement counsellors continued to deliver support to all other clients in those areas where we did not have funding for the extensive provision delivered by postgraduate, graduate and level 4 qualified therapists in Hertfordshire.

The outcomes we supported our clients to achieve demonstrate the impact on our beneficiaries and are as set out below. Further details of our impact during 2022/23 are set out in the impact report accompanying this report.

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

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023**

	Hertfordshire services beneficiaries (clients)	Essex Services beneficiaries (clients)
Felt safer after using the services	95%	79%
Reported improved health and wellbeing	92%	83%
Reported they had maintained or increased their support networks	95%	77%
Had access or maintained employment	49%	39%
Engaged with the CBT based RRR program	47%	31%
Had reduced depression clinical depression scores	89%	64%

To provide education for their future benefit

We continued to run our psychoeducational CBT based RRR Domestic Abuse group program. This is a 12-week program in four modules which covers Risk, Recovery and Resilience and Impact on Children. We sustained a very high level of uptake of the program which is highly valued by participants and those who refer to us. This year we had more staff delivering the program and it was delivered face to face in groups and online, during the working week and outside normal working hours, to women and to men and where necessary on a 1:1 basis. Participants describe the program as life changing and describe their experience as like a light being turned on. Referrers include participation in the program within Child Protection and Children in Need plans because they have witnessed the impact of it. We have also delivered many additional educational programs and interventions including programs around substance misuse, parenting, wellbeing, healthy eating, sleep hygiene, mindfulness and most recently maths' skills. We also run homework clubs as part of our refuge routine and employ learning support assistants able to assist children of all ages with their homework and to help mothers to do so.

To educate those who work with victims of Domestic Abuse

This year our Training services became a Community Interest Company, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC. (SPPDTCIC). The organisation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Safer Places with all profit deployed to enhance the direct client services to beneficiaries of Safer Places services. In 2022/23 SPPDTCIC delivered the following:

Professional Training for the domestic abuse sector (IDVA, ISVA, ISAS accredited qualifications at level 3 and level 4)	151 people from across the UK achieved their professional qualifications
Bespoke courses for people from different associated professions e.g., police, housing, social work, Local Authorities	22 courses with 596 participants
Eventbrite	9 short courses with 65 participants
Free webinars	11 sessions with 1277 participants
Healthy Relationships/ Crucial crew training for years 6 –10 children in schools	1501 participants

To provide social housing for those suffering, fleeing or at risk of Domestic Abuse stalking and harassment

Safe accommodation has been provided for 543 adults and 733 children and additional resettlement support has been provided to these families and single people on return to the community. In addition, we have provided housing navigators to work with Local Authority Housing Departments to assist in assessing and finding suitable accommodation to victims who could not or chose not to enter refuge / our safe accommodation.

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

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023**

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 2021/22 results (median figures, for Cost Per Unit the Supported Housing result has been used due to being more comparable to Safer Places).

Metric	2023	2022	Sector Score	Commentary
Reinvestment	68.53%	30.60%	5.70%	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%	1.20%	Safer Places has not developed any new properties during the year.
New supply % (non-social)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gearing	(758.4)%	(1,683.1)%	35.80%	Safer Places has no borrowings.
EBITDA MRI	N/A	1,497.47%	181.90%	Safer Places does not have any borrowings. The interest charge on the SOCI represents net interest on the pension deficit, which was nil for 2023.
Social Housing Cost Per Unit	£14,813	£13,497	£8,171	The nature of Safer Places' properties and the associated services provided means that there is a significantly higher cost base.
Operating Margin (social housing)	(14.66)%	(0.14)%	22.20%	The nature of Safer Places' properties means there is high resident turnover causing loss of rent through vacancies. Safer Places has seen reductions to the amount of Housing Benefit chargeable for clients due to local authority adjustments to service charge allowances, putting further pressure on margins.
Operating Margin (overall)	4.30%	6.94%	20.20%	
Return on Capital Employed	7.82%	12.12%	2.80%	Whilst the lease-based housing provision means Safer Places has lower level of capital employed, the nature of its income streams and activities means it generates a lower return than organisations providing solely housing.

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

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 continued uncertain economic conditions, increased costs related to utilities and the supply chain caused by increased fuel costs are a principal risk to Safer Places.
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.

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 2023

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 £192k (2022: surplus 253k), and taking into account investment returns and financing costs achieved a group surplus for the year of £219k (2022: surplus £242k) 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.

Social housing income remained relatively constant showing a slight increase from 2022 due to adjustments in the types & quantity of units provided £1,074,291 (2022: £1,006,513).

The cash position of the group has decreased by £176,753, due to a significant increase in debtors at the year end, the majority of which were paid immediately after the year end. The group and parent 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 in 2021/2022 the organisation setup a trading subsidiary to deliver high quality training services within the domestic abuse which continues in 2022/2023 to realise a significant profit. The organisation continues to operate with 6 months operating costs in reserve and has a strong cash balance.

We therefore consider that the future prospects for funding to continue to be encouraging and that we are well placed to secure additional income.

Future plans

During the period we extended our work on Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion which is fundamentally important to the delivery of trauma 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.)
- Develop health and well-being strategy with staff

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TOGETHER WITH AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023

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

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


Claire Arnold (Sep 21, 2023 15:40 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold

Chair of Trustees

Date: September 2023

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SAFER PLACES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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 2023 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 2023 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 2022.

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 2023

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 2023

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 estimate, and management override of controls, which were discussed and agreed by the audit team.
- Our approach included agreeing the recognition of income to the terms of tenancy agreements, grant agreements and contracts, 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. 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

25 September 2023

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

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	2	3,953,748	3,407,029
Less: Operating costs	3	(3,783,405)	(3,156,039)
Other Income		21,566	2,175
Operating surplus/(deficit)	5	191,909	253,165
Interest Receivable and Investment Income		7,611	525
Net Interest on Defined Benefit Liability	17	-	(18,000)
Gain on revaluation of investments	9	(5,774)	6,622
Gain on revaluation of investment properties	8	24,995	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		218,741	242,312
Remeasurement of Defined Benefit Liability	17	38,000	914,000
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		£256,741	£1,156,312

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF
CHANGES IN RESERVES**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
Balance at 1st April 2022	-	1,829,935	1,829,935
Total Comprehensive Income	1,413	255,328	256,741
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2023	1,413	2,085,263	2,086,676

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 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		122,170		74,830
Other fixed assets	7b		43,550		50,720
Investment Properties	8		939,995		915,000
Investments	9		105,863		106,622
			<u>1,211,578</u>		<u>1,147,172</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	10	524,721		214,904	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,165,126		1,341,849	
			<u>1,689,847</u>		<u>1,556,753</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(814,749)		(779,990)	
Net current assets			<u>875,098</u>		<u>776,763</u>
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			<u>2,086,676</u>		<u>1,923,935</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability			-		(94,000)
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			<u>£2,086,676</u>		<u>£1,829,935</u>
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		1,413		-
Unrestricted funds	15		2,085,263		1,923,935
Pension reserve	15		-		(94,000)
Total Funds			<u>£2,086,676</u>		<u>£1,829,935</u>

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on.... 19/09..2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold

Claire Arnold (Sep 20, 2023 15:32 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey

Douglas Wildey (Sep 20, 2023 15:21 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold - Director

Douglas Wildey – Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

SAFER PLACES
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY NUMBER: 02789572
COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Housing property assets	7a		122,170		74,830
Other fixed assets	7b		43,550		50,720
Investment Properties	8		939,995		915,000
Investments	9		105,964		106,723
			<u>1,211,679</u>		<u>1,147,273</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	10	600,973		185,553	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,017,953		1,340,799	
			<u>1,618,926</u>		<u>1,526,352</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(775,001)		(759,890)	
Net current assets			<u>843,925</u>		<u>766,462</u>
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			2,055,604		1,913,735
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17		-		(94,000)
Net assets/(liabilities) including pension scheme liabilities			<u>£2,055,604</u>		<u>£1,819,735</u>
Represented by:					
Restricted funds	14		1,413		-
Unrestricted funds	15		2,054,191		1,913,735
Pension reserve	15		-		(94,000)
Total Funds			<u>£2,055,604</u>		<u>£1,819,735</u>

The parent company's total comprehensive income for the year amounted to £235,869 (2022: £1,146,012). 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... 19/09... 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Claire Arnold
Claire Arnold (Sep 20, 2023 15:32 GMT+1)

Douglas Wildey
Douglas Wildey (Sep 20, 2023 15:21 GMT+1)

Claire Arnold - Director

Douglas Wildey - Director

The notes on pages 19 to 38 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 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash generated from Operating Activities	A	(77,568)	617,152
Cashflows from Investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible Fixed Assets		(101,751)	(47,122)
Purchase of Fixed Asset Investments		-	(100,000)
Proceeds from disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	-
Interest Received		2,596	525
		<u>(99,155)</u>	<u>(146,597)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent		(176,723)	470,555
Cash and Cash Equivalent at beginning of the year		1,341,849	871,294
Cash and Cash Equivalent at end of the year	B	<u>£1,165,126</u>	<u>£1,341,849</u>
A. Cashflows from Operating Activities			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		218,741	242,312
Depreciation and losses on disposal		61,581	61,704
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		(309,817)	(85,405)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		34,759	423,688
Interest Receivable		(7,611)	(525)
Net Interest on Pension Liability		-	18,000
Pension Costs/Expense		(56,000)	(36,000)
Gains on revaluation		(19,221)	(6,622)
		<u>£(77,568)</u>	<u>£617,152</u>
B. Analysis of Changes in net funds			
	At 01/04/2022	Cash flows	At 31/03/2023
Cash	<u>£1,341,849</u>	<u>£(176,723)</u>	<u>£1,165,126</u>

SAFER PLACES (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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 2022.

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 Safer Places Professional Training and Development 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 2023

(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

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

(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 2023

(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 2023 was £139,097.

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 2023**

(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 £Nil is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at 31 March 2023 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 2023**

2 Income - Group	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations	29,108	-	29,108	56,174
Children In Need	-	38,798	38,798	38,798
Herts Community Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Other grants	1,960	14,364	16,324	44,866
	<u>£31,068</u>	<u>£53,162</u>	<u>£84,230</u>	<u>149,838</u>
Charitable Activities:				
Refuge rents receivable	1,004,719	-	1,004,719	947,226
Refuge service charges	69,572	-	69,572	59,287
Supporting People Hertfordshire	1,661,822	-	1,661,822	1,504,250
Hertfordshire Community Funding	-	293,251	293,251	-
Tier 2 Housing Support	-	35,060	35,060	-
PCC ISAC Service	-	106,622	106,622	78,000
Advance	49,953	-	49,953	72,961
EDASS	-	290,912	290,912	283,200
CRC Services	-	-	-	25,770
Herts County Council Sunflower	1,650	-	1,650	2,100
Ministry of Housing, CLG	-	99,938	99,938	99,938
Training Services	216,819	-	216,819	142,699
	<u>£3,004,535</u>	<u>£825,783</u>	<u>3,830,318</u>	<u>3,215,431</u>
Investment Properties				
Rents receivable	39,200	-	39,200	41,760
	<u>£3,074,803</u>	<u>£878,945</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>	<u>£3,407,029</u>
Turnover	<u>£3,074,803</u>	<u>£878,945</u>	<u>£3,953,748</u>	<u>£3,407,029</u>

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

3 Operating costs - Group

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Services to victims seeking support		
<i>Direct costs</i>		
Staff costs	1,177,737	1,121,254
Professional fees	33,527	30,929
Refuge rents and service charges	432,752	341,724
Refuge running expenses	423,104	317,205
Refuge depreciation	34,836	36,161
Other operating expenses	831,729	557,366
Bad debts	27,571	48,538
<i>Support costs</i>		
Staff costs	546,546	465,643
Depreciation	26,745	25,544
Insurance	28,906	25,226
Legal and professional fees	34,336	28,036
Audit fee	10,510	19,700
Meeting expenses	-	-
Other overhead expenses	167,449	129,512
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,775,748	3,146,838
Other activities		
Investment property management costs	7,657	9,201
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total operating costs	£3,783,405	£3,156,039
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted Funds	2,905,873	2,540,962
Restricted Funds	877,532	615,077
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£3,783,405	£3,156,039
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

4	Accommodation in management	2023	2022
	Social housing income and expenditure:	£	£
	Rents receivable excluding service charges	1,004,719	947,226
	Service charges receivable	69,572	59,287
	Less: Social housing operating costs	(1,231,791)	(1,007,968)
	Net surplus/(deficit) from social housing activities	£(157,500)	£(1,455)
	Void losses	£185,176	£297,148
		Units	Units
	Supported housing	84	74

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

5	Operating surplus/deficit	2023	2022
	This is stated after charging:	£	£
	Trustees' emoluments	-	-
	Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT)	13,865	10,425
	Operating lease rentals – land and buildings	433,029	364,264
	Operating lease rentals – office equipment	6,664	12,350
	Depreciation of owned assets	61,581	59,903

6	Staff costs	2023	2022
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,371,591	1,230,546
	Social security costs	121,553	109,019
	Pension costs	152,477	164,553
	Termination payments	-	-
		£1,645,621	£1,504,118

	2023	2022
	No	No
The average weekly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was:	48	44
The average number of employees during the year was	54	51

There were two employees whose employee benefits fell in the banding £60,000 to £70,000 and one in the banding £90,000 to £100,000. The employee benefits for the Trustees and Key Management Personnel amounted to £319,286 (2022: £346,697). The highest paid Director received remuneration (excluding pension contributions) of £87,830 (2022: £83,042) 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 (2022: £nil).

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(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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7a	Tangible fixed assets – Housing properties Group and Parent	Leasehold Refuge Improvements £	Refuge Equipment £	Total £
	Cost:			
	At 1 April	30,318	408,957	439,275
	Additions	50,299	33,430	83,729
	Disposals	-	(316,971)	(316,971)
	At 31 March	<u>80,617</u>	<u>125,416</u>	<u>206,033</u>
	Depreciation:			
	At 1 April	12,930	351,515	364,445
	Charge for the Year	7,601	28,788	36,389
	Disposals	-	(316,971)	(316,971)
	At 31 March	<u>20,531</u>	<u>63,332</u>	<u>83,863</u>
	Net Book Value 31 March 2022	<u>£17,388</u>	<u>£57,442</u>	<u>£74,830</u>
	Net book Value 31 March 2023	<u>£60,086</u>	<u>£62,084</u>	<u>£122,170</u>

7b	Other Fixed Assets Group and Parent	Leasehold Office Improvements £	Furniture and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
	Cost:				
	At 1 April	63,615	390,869	14,094	468,578
	Additions	-	18,022	-	18,022
	Disposals	(52,479)	(321,243)	(14,094)	(387,816)
	At 31 March	<u>11,136</u>	<u>87,648</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,784</u>
	Depreciation:				
	At 1 April	50,986	352,778	14,094	417,858
	Charge for the Year	11,499	13,693	-	25,192
	Disposals	(52,479)	(321,243)	(14,094)	(387,816)
	At 31 March	<u>10,006</u>	<u>45,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,234</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2022	<u>£12,629</u>	<u>£38,091</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£50,720</u>
	Net book value 31 March 2023	<u>£1,130</u>	<u>£42,420</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£43,550</u>

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8 Investment properties Group and Parent	Investment Properties £	Total £
At 1 April 2022	915,000	915,000
Change in fair value	24,995	24,995
At 31st March 2023	<u>£939,995</u>	<u>£939,995</u>

The investment properties have been valued by the Trustees at 31 March 2023 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 2022	106,622	106,622	101	106,622	106,723
Additions	5,015	5,015	-	5,015	5,015
Unrealised gains	(5,774)	(5,774)	-	(5,774)	(5,774)
At 31 March 2023	<u>£105,863</u>	<u>£105,863</u>	<u>£101</u>	<u>£105,863</u>	<u>£105,964</u>

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

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

	Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C.		Safer Properties Limited	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	217,883	65,669	-	-
Costs of sales	<u>(145,122)</u>	<u>(40,942)</u>	-	-
Gross profit	72,761	24,727	-	-
Administrative expenses	<u>(42,239)</u>	<u>(14,577)</u>	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit	30,522	10,150	-	-
Interest receivable	<u>650</u>	<u>150</u>	-	-
Profit for the financial year	<u>£31,172</u>	<u>£10,300</u>	£ -	£ -

The aggregate capital and reserves of the subsidiary companies at 31 March 2023 were: Safer Properties Limited £Nil (2022: £Nil), and Safer Places Professional Training and Development C.I.C. £31,173, (2022: £10,301).

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10 Debtors	Group		Parent	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Social housing rent arrears	120,702	110,660	120,702	110,660
Less provision for doubtful debts	(46,724)	(102,594)	(46,724)	(102,594)
	<u>73,978</u>	<u>8,066</u>	<u>73,978</u>	<u>8,066</u>
Trade debtors	383,458	136,062	327,896	105,811
Other debtors and accrued income	4,927	2,394	138,189	3,294
Prepayments	62,358	68,382	60,910	68,382
	<u>£524,721</u>	<u>£214,904</u>	<u>£600,973</u>	<u>£185,553</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group		Parent	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Social housing rent paid in advance	48,627	32,398	48,627	32,398
Trade creditors	41,594	83,950	39,425	83,950
Taxation & social security	44,037	28,366	27,831	28,366
Accruals and deferred income	679,261	633,604	566,497	532,194
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	91,391	81,310
Other creditors	1,230	1,672	1,230	1,672
	<u>£814,749</u>	<u>£779,990</u>	<u>£775,001</u>	<u>£759,890</u>

12 Deferred Income	Group		Parent	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Brought forward	542,298	106,991	443,888	106,991
Other debtors and accrued income	(542,123)	(106,991)	(443,713)	(106,991)
Prepayments	583,979	542,298	478,068	443,888
	<u>£584,154</u>	<u>£542,298</u>	<u>£478,243</u>	<u>£443,888</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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13 Analysis of net assets between funds			
Fund balances at 31 March 2023	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Group			
Investments	1,045,858	-	1,045,858
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	873,685	1,413	875,098
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,085,263</u>	<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£2,086,676</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Parent:			
Investments	1,045,959	-	1,045,959
Tangible fixed assets	165,720	-	165,720
Net current assets	842,512	1,413	843,925
Pension liabilities	-	-	-
	<u>£2,054,191</u>	<u>£1,413</u>	<u>£2,055,604</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2022	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Group			
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>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Parent:			
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>

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14	Restricted Funds – current year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
	Herts Community Foundation	-	293,251	(292,782)	-	469
	EDASS	-	290,912	(290,912)	-	-
	MOJ PCC - Herts	-	106,622	(106,622)	-	-
	Children In Need	-	38,798	(37,854)	-	944
	MHCLG – Essex DA Support	-	99,938	(99,938)	-	-
	Pilgrim's Trust Safe Haven Project	-	14,364	(14,364)	-	-
	Other Donations & Grants	-	35,060	(35,060)	-	-
		£ -	£878,945	£(877,532)	£ -	£1,413
	Restricted Funds – prior year Group and Parent	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	ADVANCE	-	72,961	(72,961)	-	-
	ISAC service	-	78,000	(78,000)	-	-
	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)	£ -	£ -

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- (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) **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.
- (vii) **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.
- (viii) **ADVANCE**
Funding received as part of the ADVANCE partnership which works with women in the Criminal Justice System.
- (ix) **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.
- (x) **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.
- (xi) **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.
- (xii) **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.
- (xiii) **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.

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15 Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Designated Funds						
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
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	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£998,935	£1,923,935	£(94,000)	£1,829,935
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	998,935	1,923,935	(94,000)	1,829,935
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	217,328	217,328	-	217,328
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,160,263	£2,085,263	£ -	£2,085,263

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15 Unrestricted Funds - Parent

	Designated Funds						Total £
	Building Fund £	Refurbishment Fund £	Sub Total £	General Fund £	Total Unrestricted £	Pension Reserve £	
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	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£988,735	£1,913,735	£(94,000)	£1,819,735
Balance brought forward 1 April 2022	750,000	175,000	925,000	988,735	1,913,735	(94,000)	1,819,735
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-	-	196,456	196,456	-	196,456
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	38,000
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	(56,000)	(56,000)	56,000	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2023	£750,000	£175,000	£925,000	£1,129,191	£2,054,191	£ -	£2,054,191

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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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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. The subsidiary, Safer Places Professional Development and Training CIC Gift Aids its taxable profits to the company and as such no tax charge is recorded in accordance with FRS 102 paragraph 29.14A.

17 Defined benefit pension schemes

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:

	2023		2022	
	£000's	%	£000's	%
Equities	4,684	57	4,820	60
Gilts	113	1	192	3
Other Bonds	363	4	352	4
Property	656	8	658	8
Cash	270	3	204	3
Alternative Assets	1,268	15	992	12
Other Managed Funds	846	10	810	10
	<u>£8,200</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>£8,028</u>	<u>100%</u>

Demographic Assumptions include the following life expectancy from age 65

	2023	2022
Retiring today – Males	21.1	21.6
– Females	23.5	23.7
Retiring in 20 years – Males	22.3	23.0
– Females	25.0	25.1

The Financial Assumptions are as follows:

CPI Increases	2.90%	3.25%
Salary Increases	3.90%	4.25%
Pension Increases	2.90%	3.25%
Discount Rate	4.80%	2.60%

The pension cost and provision for the year ending 31 March 2023 are based on the advice of a professionally qualified actuary. The most recent formal FRS102 valuation is dated 31 March 2023. The results of these valuations are set out below.

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17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

(a) Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2023

	2023	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	5,255,000	8,122,000	8,340,000
Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>(8,200,000)</u>	<u>(8,028,000)</u>	<u>(7,314,000)</u>
Deficit/(surplus)	(2,945,000)	94,000	1,026,000
Impact of asset ceiling	<u>2,945,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net defined benefit liability/(asset)	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£94,000</u>	<u>£1,026,000</u>

An asset ceiling has been recognised to limit the defined benefit asset to £Nil. While it is possible under LGPS regulations for an employer to receive a refund of surplus, Safer Places is a minor participant in the scheme and does not have sufficient influence to reduce future contributions to the scheme.

(b) Amounts recognised in Income and Expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Service Costs	106,000	125,000
Net Interest on defined liability	-	18,000
Administration Expenses	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
	<u>£110,000</u>	<u>£147,000</u>

(c) Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Returns on Fund assets in excess of interest	(107,000)	549,000
Changes in demographic assumptions	125,000	-
Experience gains in deferred benefit obligations	(333,000)	(18,000)
Change in financial assumptions	3,224,000	383,000
Other actuarial gains/(losses) on assets	74,000	-
Changes in effect of asset ceiling	<u>(2,945,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Remeasurement of the net assets/(defined liability)	<u>£38,000</u>	<u>£914,000</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	8,122,000	8,340,000
Current Service Cost	106,000	125,000
Interest Cost	209,000	165,000
Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(125,000)	-
Experienced Gains on Deferred Benefit Assumptions	333,000	18,000
Change in Financial Assumptions	(3,224,000)	(383,000)
Estimated Benefits Paid	(187,000)	(163,000)
Contributions by Scheme Participants	21,000	20,000
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>£5,255,000</u>	<u>£8,122,000</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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17 Defined benefit pension scheme (continued)

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening Fair Value of Fixed Assets	8,028,000	7,314,000
Interest on Assets	209,000	147,000
Returns on Assets less Interest	(107,000)	549,000
Administration Expenses	(4,000)	(4,000)
Contributions by Employer	166,000	165,000
Contributions by Scheme Participants	21,000	20,000
Estimated Benefits Paid	(187,000)	(163,000)
Closing Fair Value of Fund Assets	<u>£8,200,000</u>	<u>£8,028,000</u>

(f) Sensitivity Analysis

	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,172	5,255	5,340
Projected Service Costs	54	55	57
 Adjustment to Long Term Salary Increase	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,259	5,255	5,251
Projected Service Costs	55	55	55
 Adjustment to Pension Increases and deferred revaluation	 +0.1%	 0.0%	 -0.1%
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,337	5,255	5,175
Projected Service Costs	56	55	54
 Adjustment to Life Expectancy Assumptions	 + 1 Year	 None	 -1 Year
Present Value of Total Obligations	5,441	5,255	5,076
Projected Service Costs	57	55	53

(g) Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2024

	£
Service Cost	55,000
Net Interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	(145,000)
Administration Expenses	4,000
Total Loss/(Surplus)	<u>£(86,000)</u>
Employer Contribution	<u>£140,000</u>

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18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made purchases of Professional Services £13,524 (2022: (£15,900) from D.Wildey, a trustee of the charity. No balance was due at the year end. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses (2022: no trustee received any reimbursement of expenses).

Safer Places is the parent undertaking of Safer Places Professional Training and Development CIC, an unregistered body. Safer Places acts as paymaster for staff jointly employed by both entities and recharged staff costs amounting to £127,572. Safer Places charged SPPTDCIC a management fee of £4,790 and recharged paid £5,974 of expenses on that company's behalf. The allocation 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 £7,900. At the year end, £91,391 was owed by Safer Places to SPPTDCIC.

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 (2022: £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	<u>Land and Buildings</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	413,710	241,109	35,139	8,622
Between two and five years	225,655	85,548	42,462	17,243
In more than five years	55,664	-	-	-
	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£77,601</u>	<u>£25,865</u>

Parent	<u>Land and Buildings</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Operating leases which expire	£	£	£	£
Within one year	413,710	241,109	35,139	8,622
Between two and five years	225,655	85,548	42,462	17,243
In more than five years	55,664	-	-	-
	<u>£695,029</u>	<u>£326,657</u>	<u>£77,601</u>	<u>£25,865</u>

21 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2023 Safer Places had no capital commitments.