

Charity registration number 1019779

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Gurdeep Hanspaul (Chair) Lesley Donnelly Pat Golding Geraldine Brown Carmen Tulloch
Charity number	1019779
Principal address	28 Wood Street Tipton West Midlands DY4 9BQ
Independent examiner	Neal and Co Business Services Limited Shakespeare Buildings 26 Cradley Road Cradley Heath West Midlands B64 6AG
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank Plc Nine Brindleyplace 60 Broad Street Birmingham B1 2HB

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

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SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity whose operational name is "Sandwell Advocacy" is governed by a constitution originally adopted by the members on 26th March 1993 but subsequently amended and adopted at the AGM on 26th June 1996, and further amended at the AGM on 17th November 2011.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Lesley Donnelly	(Resigned Chair 06/02/2025)
Patricia Golding	
Geraldine Brown	
Gurdeep Hanspaul	(Appointed Chair 06/02/2025)
Carmen Tulloch	
Leah Haynes	(Resigned 11/04/2024)
Yvonne Murray	(Resigned 06/02/2025)

The Management Committee is elected annually by the membership and comprises of:

1. at least four members
2. up to three people co-opted by the management committee
3. representatives of active advocates and partners up to a maximum of nine

The committee meets as and when required but not less than once every three months and a quorum of one third of the committee, including an officer is required. Each management committee member whether elected or co-opted has one vote.

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to promote and safeguard the rights and wishes of marginalised and vulnerable individuals within our community. To support people to ensure that they are able to explore avenues open to them, to plan and discuss options and make informed decisions. Ultimately, we aim to empower the people of Sandwell to have more say and control over what happens in their lives, which we feel promotes a more inclusive society.

The aims adopted by the Charity to achieve these objects are as follows:

- a) To assist such people to obtain their full rights as a citizen.
- b) To provide long term personal support.
- c) To provide advocacy support on a one to one basis whether they reside in their own homes, in institutional care, or with relatives.

These aims and objectives will be achieved through provision of both paid and volunteer advocates. Both will receive relevant and appropriate training and support to ensure that they are able to perform their roles effectively.

We refer to those we support as 'advocacy partners' as we feel that our relationship is an equal partnership. The term 'client' or 'service user' are those used by providers of services and often have negative connotations for those who have accessed them.

An advocate will:

- Support the partner in expressing their views, concerns and opinions.
- Speak on behalf of the partner, raising any issues where required, but only as the partner wishes. It is desirable that people regain their own power to speak for themselves where possible. Advocates will support people when they speak for themselves.
- Develop a one to one relationship with a person for as long as the person wishes it to continue.
- Allow the partner to make his or her own decisions and choices whenever possible, even if the process of engagement is slow and uncertain. An advocate ensures that their partner retains maximum control.

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and Performance.

The period from April 2024 to March 2025 was another busy and impactful year for Sandwell Advocacy. Our Board of Trustees have supported our staff, and volunteers to continue to deliver essential independent advocacy support to those most in need within our community. We are proud to note that during this time, we entered our 31st year of providing independent advocacy across Sandwell, a milestone that reflects our ongoing commitment and dedication. Throughout these three decades, we have remained unwavering in our core belief: ensuring that people's voices are heard and their rights are protected.

Our Board of Trustees plays a pivotal role in overseeing governance and shaping our strategic direction. Throughout this period, we maintained a proactive approach to advancing our objectives and strategies. During the year, we saw a significant change in leadership as Lesley Donnelly, our Chair since 2013, stepped down after an outstanding 16 years of service, having first joined the Board in 2009. Lesley's dedication and commitment to our organisation and its values have been truly remarkable. I was delighted to step into Lesley's shoes and accept the position of chair going forward, I will continue to champion our vision and drive forward vital advocacy projects to meet the needs of those who rely on us most. We also, with regret, accepted the resignations of both Leah Hayes and Yvonne Murray during this period. We extend our sincere thanks for their valuable contributions, which are very much appreciated. We continued to promote opportunities for potential new members to join the Board and began developing a more structured approach to Trustee recruitment, training, and induction.

As always, the management team works closely with Dave Bradshaw, our Chief Executive Officer, who oversees the day-to-day management of our staff and services. Dave brings both vision and a wealth of experience to the organisation, leading a dedicated and focused team committed to delivering excellence. He keeps the Board fully informed on activities and collaborates with us to shape and implement our strategic objectives. At the same time, Dave maintains a hands-on, team-focused approach, ensuring strong support for our operational activities.

Our Advocacy Project for Young Carers continued to thrive throughout this period, providing vital support to children, young people, and their families. We are extremely grateful to Sandwell Children's Trust for funding this much-needed project for a further 12 months.

Helen Charles (Senior Independent Advocate) and Sharon Wilson (Independent Advocate) remained dedicated to delivering one-to-one, person-centred advocacy support. In addition to this individual support, we organised group activities and continued to work closely with our User-Engagement Group to ensure young carers' voices were heard. A highlight of the year was a popular summer outing to Inflata-Nation, where children, young people, and their parents/carers enjoyed a fun-filled day together.

We also remain committed to investing in our staff and their ongoing professional development, an essential part of maintaining a highly skilled team capable of delivering quality advocacy services. It was particularly rewarding to see Helen Charles achieve her qualification in Independent Advocacy in Child Protection and Family Courts during this period. Helen also led safeguarding training sessions for our team this year, ensuring everyone was up to date with best practices.

Our Advocacy Feedback Support Service continued to receive grant funding from Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. This vital service, delivered by Carol Turley (Advocacy Support Officer), operates across Nursing, Residential, and Extra Care settings, as well as Day Centre Units. It ensures that residents in these environments have a voice, enabling them to share their experiences and express their views on the care they receive and the changes they would like to see.

A notable development during this period was the recruitment of new volunteers to support the project. After completing a structured programme of training and shadowing, these volunteers gained the skills and confidence to work independently, while continuing to receive guidance and support from Carol.

The Sandwell Advocacy Voice and Empowerment (SAVE) Project continued to make a significant impact throughout this period, thanks to the generous support of various Trusts, grant-making foundations, and charities. This vital project provides advocacy, enabling, and support services for children and young people experiencing poor mental health and/or behavioural challenges. Its aim is to empower them, ensuring their rights are upheld and their voices and wishes are heard. Our dedicated independent advocates, Helen Charles and Sharon Wilson, delivered person-centred support through this project, helping young people navigate difficult circumstances with confidence and dignity.

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

This period marked the final year of our Voices and Choices project, a three-year initiative funded by the Albert Gubay Foundation. Helen Charles, our Senior Independent Advocate, has taken the lead on this project, which continued to be busy with referrals from a variety of sources, including Adults Social Care, Social Prescribers, the Community Offer, and relatives or family members.

The project provides vital support for older people with long-term health conditions, helping to:

- Ensure that older people who wish to remain living independently in their own homes receive the appropriate support to do so.
- Ensure that older people, along with their families, carers, or friends, have access to relevant information and guidance when considering a move into care provider accommodation, enabling them to make informed decisions about their care options.

Louise Jones continued her role as Volunteer Co-ordinator for our Sandwell Together telephone befriending service throughout this period. We were proud to mark our 400th referral since the service was established in 2020. Sandwell Together continues to grow, providing volunteer befrienders who offer emotional support and a listening ear to lonely and isolated residents across Sandwell.

Louise's primary responsibilities as Volunteer Co-ordinator include:

- Developing a volunteer recruitment strategy
- Managing volunteer enquiries and the application process
- Promoting the service to a broad range of stakeholders
- Reviewing volunteer policies and the handbook
- Training volunteer befrienders
- Managing referrals and matching volunteers with service users
- Providing ongoing support and supervision for volunteers

Our volunteer recruitment efforts were particularly successful this period, resulting in a significant increase in the number of volunteers. This has allowed us to expand the service and provide greater support to lonely and isolated residents.

In October 2024, we introduced a Volunteer Peer Support Group to further enhance the support offered to Sandwell Together volunteers. This initiative has been highly successful in fostering team cohesion, sharing information and good practice, supporting ongoing development, and providing a forum to discuss any challenges faced by volunteers.

As is customary, we celebrated National Volunteers Week in June this year to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of all our volunteers. This year, we hosted an afternoon tea at Langley Lodge, which was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

Our Birmingham Bereavement and Wellbeing Service, funded by Birmingham City Council, continued throughout the year, providing vital support to carers experiencing loss and bereavement. This service is delivered in partnership with a range of local health, social care, and wellbeing providers as part of the Communities in Sync consortium. Helen Charles leads the project in her role as Senior Bereavement Officer. As expected, the service experienced high demand, with a significant number of referrals received, reflecting the essential support it provides to the community.

Our Parents Advocacy, Guidance and Empowerment (PAGE) Project, funded by the National Lottery, supports parents with a learning disability and/or autism who are subject to, or at risk of, interventions from Children's Services. The Project offers a range of support, including independent advocacy and independent living skills training. We work closely with Ideal for All, another partner organisation within the Communities in Sync (CIS) consortium, to deliver this service.

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

PAGE focuses on developing trusting, user-led relationships, ensuring that parents with a learning disability understand proceedings, explore their options, and remain at the centre of all decision-making processes. Kirsty Kemp continued to deliver the project in her role as Independent Advocate for most of this period. In March 2025, Kirsty moved on to pastures new, and Helen Charles stepped in on an interim basis to ensure a seamless handover and continuity of support for parents.

Our management and operational team are ably supported by Sharon Jenkins, our Business Support Officer. Sharon has been with the organisation since 2021 and is often the first point of contact for callers and visitors to Sandwell Advocacy, handling each interaction with confidence and expertise. She has become a versatile and invaluable member of the team, bringing a wealth of skills and experience to the role.

The operational activities of Sandwell Advocacy are supported by the extensive work of our management team, staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries in developing clearly defined aims and objectives. To ensure effectiveness, we conduct thorough consultations with all stakeholders, the results of which are incorporated into our Business Plan. This plan outlines our key priorities over a three-year period and serves as a roadmap for achieving our vision for the future.

We recognise the importance of involving as many stakeholders as possible in shaping our strategic direction. Regular Development Away Days provide an opportunity for trustees, staff, volunteers, and users to share their views and feedback, which informs our strategic and business development model. Our most recent Development Away Day took place at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre on 15th October 2024 and was facilitated by Steph Vidal-Hall of Making Meetings Matter, a qualified Thinking Environment coach and facilitator. The primary focus of the day was to explore what makes the organisation sustainable and to consider how this informs our goals for the next three years.

We recognise the importance of building an effective digital and social media presence in today's digital world and have considered the investment required to ensure our output is current and impactful. To achieve this, we worked with Brand Creative Media, who also manage our website, to develop a coherent communications strategy that is well-planned and properly resourced. In July 2024, we made the decision to outsource our digital marketing strategy to Brand Creative Media. This partnership allows us to hold monthly planning meetings to coordinate and optimise our digital marketing programme and campaigns.

During this period, we undertook a significant piece of work to fully review and evaluate our commitment to equality, inclusion, and diversity. A dedicated working group was established to analyse our policies, approaches, and practices. As a result of this work, we agreed and/or implemented the following actions:

- Inclusion of dates commemorating and celebrating LGBTQ+, gender awareness, and trans awareness in our social media calendar.
- Updating volunteer equal opportunities monitoring to include gender and sexuality options on all documentation, with anonymised central records maintained.
- Amending the Volunteer Handbook to include guidance on pronoun usage and updating training materials accordingly.
- Publishing an inclusion statement on our website.
- Organisation-wide discussion on the use of pronouns in email signatures, with agreement that individuals may decide for themselves.
- Continued use of quality marks across the organisation to ensure all criteria are met.

Steve Leighton continued to manage our finances throughout the year, overseeing payroll, budget monitoring, and day-to-day financial operations. He prepares and presents detailed management accounts and cash flow projections at our Board meetings, providing the Board with the financial insight needed to make informed decisions and ensure the ongoing financial stability of the organisation.

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Of course, we cannot overstate the incredible contribution of our dedicated volunteers. Our organisation could not operate as effectively without their commitment and generosity. By freely giving their time, skills, and expertise, they play an essential role in delivering our services and supporting our mission. We greatly value their efforts and recognise the meaningful impact they have on the lives of the people we support and the wider community.

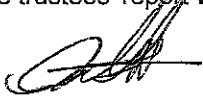
We gratefully acknowledge the financial contribution received from a variety of sources throughout 2024/2025, without which our valuable work could not be delivered or sustained. Funding, grants and donations were most gratefully received from the following:

- Sandwell Children's Trust
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Birmingham City Council
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Tipton Civic Society
- The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation
- Baron Davenports Charity
- The Roger and Douglas Turner Trust
- Heart of England Community Foundation (Birmingham and Black Country Community Fund)
- The Eveson Trust
- The Tipton and Coseley Building Society Charitable Foundation

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to Neal and Co Business Services Limited for their guidance, support, and professional advice throughout the year, including the preparation of our annual accounts. Their expertise and assistance have been invaluable in ensuring accurate financial reporting and maintaining the integrity of our financial management.

We remain committed to making independent advocacy available and accessible to those in our community who experience social exclusion or marginalisation. At the heart of advocacy lies a deep commitment to amplifying the voices of people who have been overlooked, silenced, or treated unfairly. This principle continues to guide everything we do at Sandwell Advocacy, and we will steadfastly uphold it in the years ahead. We remain committed to raising awareness of its importance and embedding it into our core principles and values. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed in any capacity to support our essential work and warmly encourage more volunteers to become part of the organisation.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Gurdeep Hanspaul (Chair)

Trustee

Dated: 25 September 2025

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Nigel Kirkham FCCA



Chartered Certified Accountant
Shakespeare Buildings
26 Cradley Road
Cradley Heath
West Midlands
B64 6AG

Dated: 25 September 2025

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Income from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	2	85,595	144,502	230,097	35,963	223,639
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable activities	3	61,915	145,819	207,734	15,097	209,890
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/						
Net movement in funds		23,680	(1,317)	22,363	20,866	(7,117)
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		150,430	1,317	151,747	8,434	137,998
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		174,110	-	174,110	1,317	151,747

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

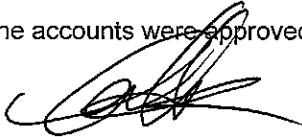
SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	6	2,603		27,270	
Cash at bank and in hand		333,057		277,955	
		<u>335,660</u>		<u>305,225</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(161,550)		(153,478)	
Net current assets			<u>174,110</u>		<u>151,747</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	9		-		1,317
Unrestricted funds			<u>174,110</u>		<u>150,430</u>
			<u>174,110</u>		<u>151,747</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 25 September 2025



Gurdeep Hanspaul
Chair

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Resources expended on charitable activities include all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity. Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

Governance costs include the cost of the independent examination together with the cost of the AGM and the trustees insurance.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% Straight Line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1.9 Retirement benefits

The pension costs charged in the accounts represent the contributions payable by the charity during the year in accordance with FRS 17: Retirement Benefits.

1.10 Taxation

The charity has been registered for VAT since 1st December 2011. Income and expenditure is shown net of VAT where applicable. Expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT where it is irrecoverable.

The organisation, being a registered charity with minimal trading income, is exempt from tax under Section 505 of Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. No provision for taxation is made in these accounts.

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	5,322	-	5,322	10,297	-	10,297
Grants receivable for core activities	80,273	144,502	224,775	25,666	187,676	213,342
	<u>85,595</u>	<u>144,502</u>	<u>230,097</u>	<u>35,963</u>	<u>187,676</u>	<u>223,639</u>

3 Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	165,382	168,968
Provision of advocacy, support and information	40,739	39,328
	<u>206,121</u>	<u>208,296</u>
Share of governance costs	1,613	1,594
	<u>207,734</u>	<u>209,890</u>

4 Trustees

The charity has not at any time entered into any material transactions, contracts or other arrangements with its trustees, employees or any other persons, business, or charities connected with them.

Trustee indemnity insurance has been taken out by the charity at an annual premium of £713 (2024- £694).

5 Employees

The average monthly number employees during the year was 9

2025	2024
Number	Number
7	9
<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5 Employees		(Continued)	
Employment costs	2025	2024	
	£	£	
Wages and salaries	156,634	161,263	
Other pension costs	8,748	7,705	
	<u>165,382</u>	<u>168,968</u>	
There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.			
6 Debtors		2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£
Trade debtors		499	25,805
Prepayments and accrued income		2,104	1,465
		<u>2,603</u>	<u>27,270</u>
7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2025	2024
	Notes	£	£
Other taxation and social security		8,489	4,636
Deferred income	8	148,265	144,960
Trade creditors		973	58
Other creditors		848	774
Accruals and deferred income		2,975	3,050
		<u>161,550</u>	<u>153,478</u>

SANDWELL CITIZEN ADVOCACY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	148,265	144,960
Creative Communities	868	868
SAVE	26,997	30,103
Time for Me	8,453	8,453
BBWS	3,000	1,600
Awards for All - SAVE		19,955
Sandwell Together Befriending	8,857	14,864
Tipton Town Grant	547	547
PAGE	74,528	53,455
Albert Gubway	15,015	15,115
Housing Advocacy Support Service	10,000	-
	<u>148,265</u>	<u>144,960</u>

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 March 2025 £
	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	
Young Carers	-	88,281	(88,281)	-
Advocacy Feedback Support Service	-	13,892	(13,892)	-
Albert Gubay	1,316	30,322	(31,638)	-
Sandwell Together Befriending Service	-	12,007	(12,007)	-
	<u>1,316</u>	<u>144,502</u>	<u>(145,818)</u>	<u>-</u>