Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2026

Registered Charity Number : 1106399
Company Number : 05250366

HAILWOOD & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2026

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Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Charity registration number 1106399
Company number 05250366

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Chair
M Marshall

Treasurer
D Bennett

Directors
M Marshall
D Bennett
A Beech
V Beech — Resigned 31/12/25
C Ross
K Rigby
L Parry
I Batman

PATRONS

Dr Katy Kidd
Dame Lorna Muirhead DCVO DBE
Stephen R Ross
Samantha Hillas KC

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

P O Box 14
Birkenhead
CH41 6PX

REGISTERED OFFICE

392-394 Hoylake Road
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 6DF

AUDITORS

Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
392-394 Hoylake Road
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 6DF

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Chair of Trustees' Report

For the year ending 31 March 2026

It has been another year of remarkable achievement for Wirral Women's and Children's Aid (WWACA). Together, we have continued to provide life-changing support to women, children and families fleeing domestic abuse. Every successful outcome represents a family finding safety, hope and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

As Chair of Trustees, I remain immensely proud of our dedicated staff, volunteers, trustees, supporters and partners, whose commitment enables the charity to fulfil its mission every day.

Setting Our Strategic Direction

During the year, the Board held a Trustee Strategy Day, where we agreed to develop a long-term business strategy rather than a traditional business plan. This approach reflects our commitment to sustainable development and continual improvement.

Five strategic themes emerged from that work and now underpin our Board discussions, staff reviews, decision-making and this Annual Report:



These themes ensure that every aspect of our work contributes to delivering the greatest possible benefit for survivors and their families.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Chair of Trustees' Report

For the year ending 31 March 2026

People

Our staff continue to demonstrate exceptional determination in navigating an increasingly complex and ever-changing landscape to secure the best possible outcomes for every family we support.

Recognising the emotional demands of this work, every member of staff receives regular clinical supervision, which they consistently value. The team also attended the Domestic Abuse Conference in Liverpool and will participate in an Away Day in October to reflect on the year, share learning, and plan for the future.

Finance

Following a period of uncertainty and several postponements, we were delighted to learn that our tender submission to the local authority was successful. This achievement provides welcome stability and, together with grants and generous charitable donations—including the continued support of Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity and PH Holt Foundation—allows us to plan confidently whilst continuing to deliver our essential services.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our diligent Treasurer for her continued oversight and commitment. I also wish to recognise our talented Business Manager, Helen, whose dedication extends beyond her role as she continues to study for further accountancy qualifications. Thanks to their expertise and careful financial stewardship, the charity remains in a strong and sustainable financial position.

Community

Our charity shop continues to thrive under Diane's excellent leadership. Whilst financial returns are modest, the shop delivers far greater value than income alone. It serves as a welcoming presence within the community, signposting individuals to support services, raising awareness of domestic abuse and strengthening our local profile.

Trustees and the Friends of the Refuge continue to represent WWACA at fundraising events throughout the year. We are deeply grateful to the many community groups and businesses that have chosen us as their Charity of the Year, including the 3 L's Choir, whose ongoing generosity is greatly appreciated.

Our staff also continue to deliver the programmes in local schools, helping young people recognise healthy behaviours and build positive relationships.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Chair of Trustees' Report

For the year ending 31 March 2026

Social Value

Social value is the wider benefit our work creates beyond the support we provide directly to survivors: money and jobs retained in the local economy, demand reduced on housing, health and policing services, and knowledge shared with the partners who work alongside us. This year we have taken deliberate steps to strengthen that contribution and to understand it better.

Our Service Manager is one of the chairs for the Wirral Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), which meets to consider approximately six high-risk cases each day — in the region of 1,500 over the course of a year. This role is given free of charge and is not funded by any contract or grant. It is a substantial commitment of senior time to the wider safeguarding system rather than to our own caseload, and it places our specialist knowledge of domestic abuse at the centre of how the borough's most dangerous cases are assessed and managed by police, health, housing and children's services.

We continue to work closely with Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, housing providers, health services and voluntary sector organisations. Effective partnership does more than improve individual outcomes: it prevents duplication, shortens the time a family spends waiting for the right help, and reduces the repeat demand that falls on housing, health and policing when a family is not supported properly the first time.

Eight of our thirteen staff live on the Wirral, so the wages we pay are earned and largely spent locally, and the skills in which we invest stay in the borough. We use local tradesmen and suppliers wherever possible. Wirral businesses continue to raise funds for us, donate goods and services, and partner with us on awareness work, which extends our reach far beyond that which our own resources would allow.

We are also enormously grateful to Costco, who donate food and flowers to us every week with an approximate retail value of £300 to £400. We also use a local person to make the collection. Residents of the refuge and families in temporary accommodation come to collect food from the van on the day, and each week approximately 25 women and 40 children take food home. Some of the women placed in temporary accommodation have no cooking facilities at all, and they are welcome to use the refuge kitchen to prepare a meal, either to eat with us, or to take back home. For an outlay of roughly £60 a week, we put food on the table for those families and remove a cost that would otherwise fall on the women who have arrived with almost nothing.

Social Value (continued)

The same donation underpins our weekly communal lunch held every Sunday and open to residents, former residents and women and children placed in temporary accommodation. Sunday is the day when most other services are closed and when isolation is felt most keenly. The group plans the menu around what has been donated. An average of 15 women and 18 children eat together every week. The lunch delivers far more than a meal. It provides companionship, enables cooking and budgeting skills to be shared, provides a reason for former residents to stay connected, and is an informal route for support for anyone struggling. The donated flowers are shared with families too - a significant gesture that means so much to those who come to us with so little. Together these are among the clearest examples of the value we create beyond our funded services.

Our annual summer activities, including visits to Chester Zoo, Wirral's beaches and Brimstage Maze, were accessed by more than 100 children and 60 adults. For children who have lived with abuse, these days out offer the ordinary childhood experiences they have often missed, and they give mothers the chance to be with their children without crisis, rebuilding confidence and the parent–child relationship.

We also want to be able to evidence this contribution, not simply describe it. Later this year our Business Manager will attend a Social Value Conference, and the Board's intention is to use that learning to begin measuring and reporting our social value consistently.

Premises

We are grateful to Wirral Methodist Housing Association for continuing to maintain our purpose-built refuge to a high standard. During the coming year, we look forward to the refurbishment of the two communal kitchens, improving facilities for the families we support. We also hope to develop at least one living unit to improve accessibility for wheelchair users, ensuring that our accommodation is inclusive and responsive to a wider range of needs.

Our eight dispersed accommodation units continue to play an important role in reducing the need for temporary accommodation while enabling us to support an increasingly diverse range of survivors, including members of the LGBTQ+ community.

We recognise the growing need for larger family accommodation and hope to secure a three-bedroom property that better reflects current demand.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Chair of Trustees' Report

For the year ending 31 March 2026

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on another successful year, we do so with confidence and determination. The challenges facing survivors of domestic abuse continue to evolve, but so too does our commitment to meeting those challenges with compassion, professionalism and innovation.

Our strategic priorities provide a clear framework for the years ahead, ensuring that we continue to strengthen our services, invest in our people, maximise our social value and remain financially resilient.

Closing Remarks

During the year, the charity experienced the tragic death of one of our residents. This was an immensely distressing event for everyone involved, particularly our staff team and the families living within the refuge. Trustees ensured that appropriate support was made available to staff and residents and oversaw a full review of the circumstances alongside partner agencies. The learning identified has informed further improvements to our policies, procedures and staff development, particularly in relation to coercive and controlling behaviour and the management of complex, high-risk cases. While no words can lessen the sadness of this loss, we remain committed to continually learning and strengthening our services so that we provide the safest and most effective support possible.

We will never forget this young person whose life was curtailed too soon.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who supports the vital work of Wirral Women and Children's Aid. In particular, I would like to thank our remarkable staff team. I remain in awe of what they achieve every single day. Their compassion, professionalism, resilience and unwavering commitment transform lives and offer hope to families at the most difficult time in their lives.

It is a privilege to serve as Chair of Trustees, and I look forward to continuing our work together as we build on this year's achievements and create an even stronger future for those who need us most.

Meg Marshall
Chair of Trustees

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Introduction

Since 1981, the charity has provided a place of safety for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, working closely with Wirral communities to offer a trusted, comprehensive support pathway for both local families and those forced to flee from other areas due to risk. Families are helped to reclaim their futures with dignity, strength and hope.

Aims and objectives for the public benefit

The Board of Trustees confirms that it has had full regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in shaping our objectives and future plans.

Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is to provide a supportive family environment so that those who are overcoming the trauma of domestic abuse and seeking a place of safety do not have to face the hardest of times alone. By doing this, we are helping to empower women and children so that they can start a new life of independence, free from harm and fear.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid (WWACA) do this by providing high quality accommodation and intensive, tailored and trauma-informed support to women aged 18 and over (and their children) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse, to enable them to reach their potential and improve their health and wellbeing, including addressing complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse issues, whilst always promoting recovery and resilience.

WWACA will work to engage and educate the wider community to challenge perceptions around domestic abuse. WWACA will continue to be an innovative refuge, to provide a safe, therapeutic and trauma-informed place for women and children, within which they will be supported and educated to enable them to break the cycle of domestic abuse.

A supportive environment is provided for staff who are valued, respected and protected.

Since 1981, a total of 3,677 women and 6,400 children and young people have been accommodated within the Refuge (excluding use of the emergency bed space), all of whom have endured domestic abuse. Our primary focus remains women and children affected by domestic abuse living on the Wirral, but we are also able to respond to high-risk referrals from further afield. Whilst the Refuge continues to be a female only accommodation space, due to the funding under the Domestic Abuse Act, we are now able to support anyone fleeing domestic abuse through our outreach and dispersed accommodation options. We value inclusivity and welcome people from all groups in society including those with disabilities and complex needs. We provide interpreters, adaptations and any other specialist support required to meet their needs.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Achievements and Performance 2025-2026

Trauma informed approach

Our trauma-informed practices have continued to evolve with the support of ongoing Trauma Informed Schools UK (TISUK) supervision, working on ensuring that our assessments, support planning and interventions do not re-traumatise those we work with. This is grounded in reflective practice which continues to enhance staff understanding of trauma, emotional regulation and resilience.

The Board has acknowledged the need for a more clinical approach to staff supervision. Going forward, all staff will be offered clinical, trauma-informed supervision delivered by external supervisors. Providing this independently of the management structure allows staff to be as open and honest as they need to be, supporting reflection, wellbeing and continued improvement in practice.

Outputs and Outcomes - Numbers supported

During 2025-2026, 36 women and 50 children were accommodated within the Refuge with an occupancy rate of 94%. In addition, the emergency bed space was utilised for 68 nights, accommodating a further 10 women and 13 children in the Refuge to ensure their immediate safety. Subsequently, 2 families were moved from the emergency bed space into a room in the Refuge and 2 households moved from the Refuge into our dispersed accommodation.

During the year, the specialist floating support team dealt with 101 cases who were placed in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation by Wirral Housing Options due to a lack of alternative suitable accommodation locally. These cases covered single individuals and families with a total of 87 children accommodated in temporary housing. The team also supported 20 adults and 41 children who were housed in one of the 8 dispersed properties managed by the charity. The dispersed accommodation allows provision of support to men fleeing abuse as well as those women and children for whom the Refuge is not an appropriate sanctuary. It also allows risk at the Refuge to be managed effectively, through moving a lower risk woman into the dispersed accommodation and freeing space in the Refuge for a woman at higher risk. Over the year, the team supported 10 men housed in temporary accommodation.

In total, 6,871 accommodation nights were provided during the year across the Refuge, emergency bed spaces and dispersed properties. 64 households completed planned move-ons into stable accommodation and 35 households transferred to other accommodation within the safe accommodation network.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Achievements and Performance 2025-2026

Addressing demographic barriers to accessing refuge provision

Addressing demographic barriers to accessing refuge provision has become a specialism for the deputy manager, developed through research and targeted training. The number of cases involving No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) has risen sharply, from 2 out of 64 cases in the previous year to 13 out of 53 this year. Understanding the routes to settled status, and the financial support these unlock for safe accommodation, has therefore become essential. Alongside this, we have built strong working relationships with a range of specialist services who work alongside the refuge team to support women through the immigration and settlement process.

Immigration status is not the only barrier. Language and cultural stigma also affect how readily survivors can reach and use refuge provision. Where immediate translation is unavailable, survivors are delayed in explaining their circumstances and referrals can stall. Practitioners must be able to identify the underlying issue and assess risk from both the perpetrator and the survivor's wider network, which is considerably harder when risk is emerging or changing. Strong family and community pressures can also create deep shame that prevents survivors from seeking help, so a sound understanding of cultural context is essential to accurate risk assessment.

Impact of temporary accommodation

For many of the people we support, temporary accommodation is not a pause in the crisis but an extension of it. Families placed in bed and breakfast accommodation frequently arrive with complex and multiple needs, and those needs are compounded by the conditions they are living in: no safe space to cook, limited access to laundry, no room for children to play or do homework, and little privacy in which to begin recovering from what they have experienced. Our Outreach practitioners work alongside these individuals and families throughout that period, providing consistent, trauma-informed support at the point where isolation and uncertainty are at their greatest. The local authority has worked hard during the year to move families with children out of temporary accommodation more quickly, and that effort is recognised. Single women and men, however, continue to wait considerably longer for suitable accommodation to become available.

That support is deliberately practical as well as emotional. Families are welcomed into the Refuge to use the cooking and washing facilities and are invited to join the trips and activities organised during the school holidays, so that children experience some normality and parents are not left to manage alone. Practitioners advocate on housing, benefits, safeguarding and health, coordinate with statutory partners, and hold the relationship steady while longer-term accommodation is secured.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Achievements and Performance 2025-2026

The value of this work is best measured in confidence regained and isolation broken, rather than in numbers alone. Women who arrived unable to speak about what had happened to them leave able to name it, make decisions about their own futures, and ask for help when they need it. That change is reflected in the feedback we receive:

"I feel I gained a lot of confidence to talk about my domestic abuse and feel I was respected and valued, I feel I choose myself and make a choice to change my life"

"I feel more safe and supported and no longer alone knowing that I have people to rely on"

Work with children

WWACA continues to prioritise the needs of children within the refuge. Recognising children as victims in their own right, the focus on emotional wellbeing, stability, and recovery has been strengthened, so that every child feels safe, valued, and cared for as the impact of domestic abuse is addressed holistically. There were a total of 88 children supported during the year (53 girls and 35 boys) with outreach work undertaken across 15 schools. This included direct support for children and families, liaison with school staff, safeguarding support, and signposting to specialist services where required.

Impact through education

A longer-term aim of Wirral Women & Children's Aid is to improve the lives of those affected by domestic abuse, and that means influencing the response of the wider system as well as supporting individuals directly. Domestic abuse is rarely disclosed to one agency alone, so the quality of the response depends on how well police, housing, health, social care and the voluntary sector understand what they are seeing and how they act on it. Effective partnership working is therefore central to our purpose, and we continue to work closely with Merseyside Police, Wirral Council, housing providers, health services and voluntary sector organisations.

Education is the most sustainable way we extend that reach. Senior staff have again delivered Wirral Council's Level 2 Domestic Abuse training to professionals across a range of sectors, covering trauma-informed practice and including a dedicated session on The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children. Every professional who leaves that training better equipped to recognise coercive control, respond without judgement and refer appropriately multiplies the protection available to survivors well beyond the people we support ourselves.

Through our participation in multi-agency forums and strategic partnerships, we also contribute to service development, information- sharing and the continuous improvement of the borough's response to domestic abuse. This helps ensure that high-risk victims receive coordinated, effective safeguarding, and that the expertise built up in the refuge over more than forty years informs decisions made well beyond it.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Structure, governance and management

Wirral Women & Children's Aid is a company limited by guarantee (company number 525036), governed by its memorandum and articles of association, incorporated on 5 October 2004 and is registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1106399). The charity was originally established in 1981 as The Women's Refuge.

All trustees who served during the year are listed on page 1, along with details of the registered office and the charity's professional advisers

The Management Committee meets at least six times per year, with delegated authority given to the Head of Service for operational decisions. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the Management Committee, following an open process to ensure that the board maintains a diverse and skilled team.

Financial Review

Results

A surplus for the year of £74,782 was generated from incoming resources of £903,457 less resources expended of £828,675. Total funds at 31 March 2026 were £480,720, comprising £16,725 restricted funds, £72,079 in fixed assets and the charity's general fund of £391,916.

Principal policies

The Management Committee expect to maintain a position whereby the combination of fees charged for accommodation, grants received and fund-raising are at least equal to operational expenses.

Significant sources of income

The contract with Supporting People together with the rental income from Housing Benefits comprises the core funding of the Refuge. The contract is based on the maximum capacity of 12 women and up to 28 children being accommodated at any one time. This combined income funds the basic staff costs and day to day running costs. There are staff on site 24/7.

Wirral Borough Council provide grants towards the costs of the Outreach and Family Link roles. Both roles are critical to the delivery of trauma-informed, needs-led support for individuals and families affected by domestic abuse and fit into the Domestic Abuse Act. The costs of the dispersed properties are covered by Housing Benefits claimed under Intensive Housing Management funding.

P H Holt Foundation awarded a grant for 3 years from 1 September 2025 which covers both additional hours for the Family Link workers and therapy and counselling sessions for women, children, families and staff.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Financial Review

Significant sources of income

Other Family Link activities, including a wide range of inclusive, enriching experiences for all our service users which promote normality, enjoyment and shared experiences, are funded from the generous donations received. These include days out, seasonal events, in-house sessions such as movie nights, arts and crafts, pamper sessions, cooking and baking which all support social connection, inclusion and confidence building.

Income from fundraising in the form of the charity shop in Moreton is largely used to cover the costs of operating the shop. However, the shop enables direct contact with supporters, strengthens our local profile and raises awareness of domestic abuse. The shop would not be viable without the commitment of the manager and her team of 9 dedicated volunteers.

Other funding sources during the year included grants from NatWest Circle Fund, Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity, VOLA and Women's Aid Federation England (WAFE) which enable us to provide additional support in specific circumstances as determined by the grant conditions.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy has been developed following the guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and applies to the free reserves, excluding restricted and designated funds. Details of the various funds are given in notes 9 and 11 to the accounts. Reserves are held for three distinct reasons: working capital reserve sufficient to avoid financial difficulties in the event that income is significantly reduced in the short term; cessation reserve to enable costs in a winding up situation to be covered; and opportunity reserve for new initiatives.

Our policy is for working capital reserves to be maintained at between 3 and 6 months of operating expenditure (between £140,000 and £280,000), costs of cessation are estimated at £62,000 and we currently have no opportunity reserve. The actual free reserves at 31 March 2026 (being unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets and excluding the designated Hardship Fund) were £372,071, comfortably covering both working capital and cessation reserves.

Risk management

The Management Committee oversees a robust system of internal controls, budgeting, and quarterly performance reviews. Risks—whether from current operations or future plans—are regularly reviewed and mitigated with evolving policies and practices. Other key risks include the wider economic environment, the increasingly challenging environment created by misogynistic national and international public discourse, and the weaponisation of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Mitigation strategies are in place and regularly updated.

Since the year end

A successful tender bid for the Supporting People contract has confirmed the core funding for the next two years from 1 June 2026. Contracts with the local authority for the specialist floating support and Family Link roles have been renewed for a further 12 months to 31 March 2027.

Four new staff have been recruited into Domestic abuse refuge practitioner and Domestic abuse children and families advocate roles to replace team members who have moved on to other roles. Due to the increasing demand and complexity of the work, additional part-time domestic abuse refuge and outreach and resettlement practitioners have been recruited, funded independently of the local authority.

Senior staff have delivered Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP) Level 2 training, helping to improve professional knowledge, awareness, and responses to domestic abuse across the borough. Six sessions have been delivered to staff in children's social care in Wirral Borough Council, looking at Hidden Harm and coercive control.

Conclusion and looking ahead

The past year has demonstrated both the continuing importance of Wirral Women & Children's Aid and the increasing complexity of the challenges faced by those experiencing domestic abuse. Women and children arriving at our services are often experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage, including poor mental health, financial hardship, insecure immigration status, substance misuse and homelessness. These factors require increasingly specialist, flexible and trauma-informed responses, and our staff have continued to adapt their practice to meet these changing needs.

While we are proud of the positive outcomes achieved throughout the year, we remain concerned that demand for safe accommodation and specialist support continues to exceed the capacity available. Of the 317 referrals received, 260 could not be taken up because we had no capacity at the time which reflects the ongoing national shortage of refuge provision and highlights the continuing need for investment in specialist domestic abuse services. As trustees, we remain committed to ensuring that the charity uses its resources responsibly and continues to develop services that respond to identified need whilst maintaining the highest standards of governance, safeguarding and financial management.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Conclusion and looking ahead

Our achievements during the year have only been possible through the dedication, professionalism and compassion of our staff team, whose commitment enables women and children to begin rebuilding their lives following abuse. We also wish to thank our volunteers, trustees, commissioners, funders, donors and partner agencies, whose continued support and collaborative working have been instrumental in helping us deliver safe, effective and high-quality services.

Looking ahead to 2026–2027, the charity will continue to strengthen its trauma-informed practice, develop services that improve access for under-represented groups, and work in partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations to improve outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse. We will continue to seek opportunities to expand our capacity where resources allow, ensuring that more women, children and families can access the safety and support they need.

Above all, our focus remains unchanged. Every woman who regains her confidence, every child who begins to recover from trauma, and every family that is able to build a future free from abuse reminds us why this work matters. Despite the challenges ahead, the trustees remain confident that Wirral Women & Children's Aid is well placed to continue making a lasting and meaningful difference to the lives of those we serve.

The following reflection from a former member of staff illustrates the culture and values of the organisation:

> *I have never worked anywhere as supportive, caring, and compassionate as this organisation. One of the things I will miss most is our staff team. The closeness of the team, the way we support each other, lift each other up, and genuinely care makes refuge a very special place to work.*

This report has been prepared in accordance with special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

8 September 2026 **Meg Marshall - Chair of Trustees**

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's examiner is unaware;
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

On behalf of the Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report

to the members of Wirral Women & Children's Aid

I report to the trustees of Wirral Women and Children's Aid on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise of the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records have not been kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with these records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adam French B.Eng FCA
Hailwood & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors

8 September 2026
Moreton, Wirral

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Income		890,490	781,943
Interest and investment income		12,967	10,518
Total income		903,457	792,461
Expenditure		824,021	723,501
Depreciation		4,654	3,973
Total expenditure		828,675	727,474
Net income for the year	**10**	74,782	64,987

Movements in reserves are shown in note 9.

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial periods.

There are no recognised gains and losses in the year ended 31 March 2026 or the year ended 31 March 2025 other than the surplus for each year.

Total income comprises £729,893 for unrestricted funds and £173,564 for restricted funds. A detailed analysis of income by source is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The summary income and expenditure account is derived from the statement of financial activities on page 18 which together with the notes to the accounts on pages 20 to 29, provides full information on the movement during the year on all the funds.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 £	2025 £
Income from:					
Donations		55,139	-	55,139	42,037
Other trading activities		49,302	-	49,302	48,580
Investment income		12,967	-	12,967	10,518
Charitable activities		612,485	173,564	786,049	691,326
Total income	**2**	**729,893**	**173,564**	**903,457**	**792,461**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**3**	543,893	238,279	782,172	683,057
Raising funds	**4**	46,503	-	46,503	44,417
Total expenditure		**590,396**	**238,279**	**828,675**	**727,474**
Net incoming resources before transfers		139,497	(64,715)	74,782	64,987
Transfers between funds	**9**	(46,686)	46,686	-	-
Net movement in funds		92,811	(18,029)	74,782	64,987
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	**9**	371,184	34,754	405,938	340,951
Total funds carried forward	**9**	**463,995**	**16,725**	**480,720**	**405,938**

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

BALANCE SHEET

As At 31 March 2026

	Note	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**6**		72,079		71,101
Current assets					
Debtors	**7**	52,619		36,814	
Cash at bank and in hand		445,991		384,639	
		498,610		421,453	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**8**	(89,969)		(86,616)	
Net current assets			408,641		334,837
Net assets	**11**		480,720		405,938
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted income funds	**9**		463,995		371,184
Restricted income funds	**9**		16,725		34,754
			480,720		405,938

For the year ended 31 March 2026 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements on pages 17 to 29 were approved by the Trustees on 8 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

_____ _____

M Marshall - Chair D Bennett - Treasurer

Company Number : 05250366

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules and comply with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 but does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

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

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The company has no share capital.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

General funds comprise funds which represent accumulated surpluses and deficits in the Statement of Financial Activities, after transfers to/from the designated funds.

The purposes and uses of all funds are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Income

All donations, sundry income and rental income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Grants are recognised in the period to which they relate, and are allocated to either the restricted fund they are intended for, or to unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

The cost headings comprise expenditure, including staff costs, directly attributable to the organisation's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Improvements to property	1% of Cost
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	15% of Net Book Value
Office equipment	15% of Net Book Value
Computers	33.33% of Net Book Value
Play equipment	15% of Net Book Value

All significant assets are reviewed annually for impairment and provision made where considered necessary.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2026

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 £	2025 £
2	**Income**				
	Donations	55,139	-	55,139	42,037
	Interest receivable	12,967	-	12,967	10,518
	Fundraising trading	49,302	-	49,302	48,580
	Grants receivable	-	173,564	173,564	149,101
	Rental income	604,436	-	604,436	539,232
	Income from other operating activities	8,049	-	8,049	2,993
		729,893	173,564	903,457	792,461
3	**Charitable activities**				
	Salaries and related costs	312,992	160,274	473,266	405,990
	Rent and rates	91,656	-	91,656	91,474
	Light and heat	15,248	5,758	21,006	18,008
	Insurance	3,933	1,874	5,807	5,800
	Sundry expenses	17,419	15,019	32,438	27,252
	Grant expenditure	-	51,716	51,716	45,416
	Training costs	5,117	1,825	6,942	13,063
	Repairs and maintenance	51,272	750	52,022	29,685
	Rent arrears written off	2,192	-	2,192	2,889
	Management fees	18,252	-	18,252	18,408
	Printing and stationery	3,208	-	3,208	3,674
	Telephone and postage	5,036	-	5,036	4,105
	Travel and car expenses	3,947	808	4,755	4,709
	Bank charges	235	-	235	320
	Legal and professional fees	2,839	255	3,094	2,541
	Accountancy fees	5,893	-	5,893	5,750
	Depreciation: Property improvements	686	-	686	686
	Depreciation: Furniture, fixtures and fittings	1,357	-	1,357	1,234
	Depreciation: Play equipment	831	-	831	978
	Depreciation: Office equipment	270	-	270	169
	Depreciation: Computer equipment	1,510	-	1,510	906
		543,893	238,279	782,172	683,057

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2026

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 £	2025 £
4	**Raising funds**				
	Salaries and wages	31,346	-	31,346	27,991
	Rent and rates	8,500	-	8,500	8,500
	Light and heat	1,958	-	1,958	1,394
	Insurance	1,074	-	1,074	1,037
	Repairs and maintenance	2,578	-	2,578	4,191
	Telephone	720	-	720	935
	Sundry expenses	327	-	327	369
		46,503	-	46,503	44,417

		2026 No	2025 No
5	**Salaries and wages**		
	Average number of full time equivalent employees	15	14
	Staff costs for the above:	**£**	**£**
	Wages and salaries	449,502	393,966
	Employers' national insurance	45,210	31,240
	Employers' pension	9,900	8,775
		504,612	433,981

There were no employees earning a salary in excess of £60,000 in either year.
The trustees received no remuneration or expenses in either year.
The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2026

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Property improvements £	Furniture fixtures & fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Play equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
1 April 2025	68,552	41,221	3,708	4,872	8,085	126,438
Additions	-	2,053	843	2,736	-	5,632
Disposals	-	(1,700)	-	-	-	(1,700)
31 March 2026	68,552	41,574	4,551	7,608	8,085	130,370
Depreciation						
1 April 2025	12,780	34,226	2,752	3,033	2,546	55,337
Charge for year	686	1,357	270	1,510	831	4,654
Disposals	-	(1,700)	-	-	-	(1,700)
31 March 2026	13,466	33,883	3,022	4,543	3,377	58,291
Net book amount						
31 March 2026	55,086	7,691	1,529	3,065	4,708	72,079
31 March 2025	55,772	6,995	956	1,839	5,539	71,101

7 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Rent and service charges receivable	27,897	18,336
Sundry debtors and prepayments	24,722	18,478
	52,619	36,814

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2026

8 Creditors due within one year	2026 £	2025 £
PAYE and national insurance	9,390	7,813
Sundry creditors and accruals	80,579	78,803
	89,969	86,616

9 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2026 £
Restricted Funds					
P H Holt Foundation	-	30,068	18,237	-	11,831
Family Link Activities	-	50,712	67,967	17,255	-
Claude Ballard	1,485	10,000	10,295	-	1,190
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	31,274	68,238	128,943	29,431	-
WAFE Emergency Fund	-	4,850	4,150	-	700
Other funds	1,995	9,696	8,687	-	3,004
	34,754	173,564	238,279	46,686	16,725
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	271,205	679,591	542,590	(47,664)	360,542
Charity Shop	8,730	49,302	46,503	-	11,529
Hardship Fund	20,148	1,000	1,303	-	19,845
Capital Fund	71,101	-	-	978	72,079
	371,184	729,893	590,396	(46,686)	463,995

9 Funds (continued)

Restricted fund - P H Holt Foundation - Action on Abuse

WWACA applied for and were awarded a grant to provide trauma-informed therapy and counselling for women, children and staff in refuge, supporting recovery, preventing re-traumatisation, and breaking the cycle of abuse through long-term, tailored therapeutic support. In addition to funding individual therapy sessions delivered by external professionals and play therapy packages for families, the grant also covers the cost of additional hours for our Family Link workers enabling them to work full time.

The total grant of £156,969 will be paid over three years from 1 September 2025. In the initial period from 1 September 2025 to 31 March 2026, there was limited take-up for individual therapy sessions for women and children resulting in an underspend for the first 7 months of £11,831. The additional hours for the Family Link workers have enabled an increase the therapeutic one-to-one support for children in the Refuge.

Restricted Fund - Family Link Activities

As previously reported, Wirral Borough Council identified WWACA as its preferred partner to meet its obligations under new Domestic Abuse legislation for the delivery of two part-time Family Link Workers who work within the Refuge and community working with children fleeing domestic abuse or who have experienced domestic abuse. A grant of £50,712 was received for the year to 31 March 2026 and is classified as a Restricted Fund.

The service uses neuroscientific-informed approaches such as relational and co-regulatory frameworks, cognitive and mindfulness tools and PACE, supporting children whose distress can surface as missed school, constant fear, anger or withdrawal. Both the children and the adults caring for them build the skills to stay safe, settle themselves and make sense of what has happened. The service also gives children access to the ordinary activities of childhood play, trips and time together as a family, which in themselves strengthen attachment and help children learn to regulate.

School-based domestic abuse support was provided across 15 schools in Wirral during the year, covering 88 children (53 girls and 35 boys). This included direct support for children and families, liaison with school staff, safeguarding support and signposting to specialist services where required.

The grant is not intended to cover the costs of all the Family Link activities and the deficit of £17,255 has been covered by donations received which are included in unrestricted general funds.

9 Funds (continued)

Restricted fund - Claude Ballard

WWACA received a grant of £2,970 from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity in September 2023 for the costs of clinical supervision sessions for our staff to allow them to maintain their accreditation in Trauma and Mental Health for the next three years. The remaining balance of £1,190 has been spent since the year end.

We received a grant of £10,000 in August 2025 from the Claude Ballard Southall Memorial charity towards the cost of trips out for individuals and families, including those living at the Refuge, past residents and those in dispersed and temporary accommodation. Trips were enjoyed to Alton Towers, Chester Zoo, Imagine That, cinema trips, karting, Ottersghoul, Brimstage Maze and the pantomime at the Floral Pavilion.

Restricted fund - Dispersed Accommodation and Floating Support/Outreach Fund

WWACA received a grant from Wirral Borough Council to fund two full time Outreach and Resettlement Practitioners to continue the vital service supporting individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse who are placed in temporary accommodation by the local authority and to manage the eight dispersed properties which are funded under the Intensive Housing Management scheme. Advocating for individuals within complex systems is often a key component of the role, particularly where there are barriers to accessing appropriate support.

The impact of the Outreach service on the individuals and families supported is significant and includes increased access to essential services such as health and housing, improved stability within temporary accommodation, greater engagement with support services, improved outcomes for children including access to education, all of which helps them to stabilise their circumstances and move towards a safer and more secure future.

The dispersed properties provided 2,680 accommodation nights this year (2,575 last year) to 19 adults and 38 children. This included 2 families who moved out of the Refuge and into a dispersed property. We were able to support more families due to 12 families (including 23 children) moving-on to other accommodation during the year when they no longer needed the intensive support provided at the dispersed properties.

The floating support service provided by our Outreach workers is not tied to any specific unit of accommodation. During the year, 101 adults and 87 children were supported in temporary accommodation, including 10 men. We were able to move 8 households from temporary accommodation into the Refuge as space became available, and overall, 85 households were able to leave the service during the year.

9 Funds (continued)

Restricted fund - Dispersed Accommodation and Floating Support/Outreach Fund (Cont'd)

Due to the increasing complexity of the work, WWACA has recruited an additional Outreach and Resettlement Practitioner, funded independently of the local authority. The balance of the restricted fund from the initial pilot scheme and extension has been spent during the year on the upgrading and maintenance of the dispersed properties. The deficit in funding for the year Outreach service for the year of £29,431 has been covered from general unrestricted funds.

Restricted fund - WAFE Advocacy Fund

Over the last three years we have received grants from Women's Aid Federation England totalling £10,500 from various funding rounds including Emergency, Advocacy, Flee Fund and Survivor Safety. These grants are to help individual residents with specific costs and applications are submitted by the Domestic Abuse Practitioners. Circumstances may change between an application being submitted and a grant being received and since the year end two grants totalling £700 have been repaid to WAFE as they were no longer required by the individuals concerned.

Charity Shop

Our shop in Upton Road, Moreton is open 5 days per week and generated a turnover of £49,302 and a surplus of £2,799 this year. The successful operation of the shop is dependent on the team of volunteers and the innovation and commitment of the manager, supported by the generosity of our regular customers and donors.

Hardship Fund

This is a designated fund to be used at the discretion of the Management Committee. It has been used to cover the housing costs of women whose circumstances prevent them from claiming full state benefits and to provide short term financial support where required.

During the year £1,303 of the Hardship Fund has been used in respect of two women, leaving a balance in the fund at the year end of £19,845.

Capital Fund

This is a fund, designated by the trustees, which represents the net book value of fixed assets.

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2026

10 Income and expenditure account

	£
1 April 2025	405,938
Surplus for the year	74,782
31 March 2026	480,720

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted Funds			
P H Holt Foundation	-	11,831	11,831
Family Link Activities	-	-	-
Claude Ballard	-	1,190	1,190
Pilot Scheme - Outreach fund	-	-	-
WAFE Emergency Fund	-	700	700
Other funds	-	3,004	3,004
	-	16,725	16,725
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	-	360,542	360,542
Charity Shop	-	11,529	11,529
Hardship Fund	-	19,845	19,845
Capital Fund	72,079	-	72,079
Unrestricted Funds	72,079	391,916	463,995
Total Net Assets	72,079	408,641	480,720

Wirral Women & Children's Aid

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2026

12 Related parties

There were no related party transactions during the year.

13 Financial Commitments

At 31 March 2026 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2026	2025
Expiry date:	**£**	**£**
Within one year	9,250	-
Between one and five years	37,000	-
	46,250	-