

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: NI040485 (Northern Ireland)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: NIC 101850

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

for

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Lynn Drake & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
34 B-D Main Street
Moira
Co. Armagh
BT67 0LE

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES

Ann Martin
Amanda Maguire
Bernadette McConnell
Colin Robinson
Richard Williamson
Gerard Morgan

COMPANY SECRETARY

Gerard Morgan

REGISTERED OFFICE

East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT5 4FP

**REGISTERED COMPANY
NUMBER**

NI040485 (Northern Ireland)

**REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER**

NIC 101850

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Lynn Drake & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
34 B-D Main Street
Moira
Co. Armagh
BT67 0LE

CHIEF EXEC OFFICER

Mr Gerard Morgan

BANKERS

Ulster Bank
Connswater Branch
Arches Retail Park
Belfast
BT5 4AF

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre targets people affected by poverty and disadvantage by providing free, independent and confidential advice within the community in greater East Belfast. EBIAC believes in a community development approach to advice, providing an advice service which promotes community participation, is community based and community led. EBIAC exists to ensure that the community in East Belfast does not suffer from a lack of advice/information as to their rights and responsibilities.

The aims and objectives of EBIAC are as follows:

- (1) Maintain and develop an effective and high quality service.
- (2) Ensure the service is accessible especially to the most vulnerable people in the area.
- (3) Inform and influence policy and service developments in the context of Welfare Reform.
- (4) Sustain and develop the organisation and its resources.

Activities during the year

EBIAC is committed to promoting social justice and equality, our staff work to ensure that the community has access to the information and resources they need to navigate the complex social security systems. Our services are free of charge, to ensure that individuals from all backgrounds can seek help and support.

EBIAC has played a crucial role in supporting vulnerable individuals and families struggling with financial hardship. Our advisors work closely with clients, providing advice, form filling, crisis support through referrals, advocacy, representation, and practical solutions to help them overcome obstacles to making informed decisions. We also continued to increase the awareness of access to advice, accessing justice and information on welfare reform issues, benefits, debt, housing issue and the social security system.

Our services and access to our services are already tailored to those with significant physical access and health issues because of the nature of our work, but we continue to reach out to groups with information and awareness raising activities, when we have identified underrepresented communities which maybe be facing barriers to accessing services. During 24-25 we organised workshops, training sessions, and awareness raising information sessions to equip individuals with information on their entitlements. Participants included those with mental health issues, their carers, support staff and family members. Through these sessions we aim to build upon the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate various systems effectively.

We have also provided information sessions on accessing pension credit with older groups. This year the cost of living continued to effect household income and expenditure. Those with mental health issues and the elderly on fixed income pensions and pension credits are still among those most vulnerable in our community in these circumstances, and are more likely to experience severe financial difficulties which result in struggling to maintain stable warm homes, ensuring they have access to healthy and nutritious food and maintaining their health and wellbeing.

During the year advice was delivered through a number of projects including:

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

Mental Health and Wellbeing and Advocacy and Tribunal Services

The Mental Health and Wellbeing project continues to support individuals with mental health issues to access their entitlements and send referrals to the Mental Health Advocacy and Tribunal project which provides support with appeal applications and representation at Social Security Tribunals. The continuing pattern of Personal Independence Payment making up the majority of the appeals continues with increasing number of refusals and appeals.

The Project delivered Information sessions with local community-based organisations working in the fields of mental health support, health and well-being services and those supporting Carers. We continue to refer vulnerable individuals, who previously did not engage with community or other services to support their on-going mental health needs including to counselling services, volunteering opportunities, family support organisations and debt management advice.

Welfare Reform Support Project

The WRSP project continues to provide advice for people navigating the range of welfare reform and mitigation schemes. It includes advice and support with benefit application processes, assistance with sanctions, enhancing employability and financial capability where appropriate and supporting people to improve their digital capability.

Community Advice and Training Project

During 2024-25 delivery of our Generalist Advice Services was again supported by our Community Advice and Training Project. Our volunteer advisers are recruited from the local community, and we develop the skills and capacity of our volunteers to support the local community, deliver advice services, improve their own employability and access opportunities in the local area.

Our programme supports those currently excluded from the workplace for a variety of reasons and encourages some of the most vulnerable local people to become involved in volunteering, gain qualifications and gain employment for those seeking to do so. Our volunteers have supported individuals to improve their financial position by conducting benefits checks on all clients and assisting people to maximise their income by supporting people with making applications for social security benefits including Universal Credit, Employment Support Allowance and Personal Independence Payments. By conducting budgeting reviews with clients they have been able to support individuals to address issues of debt directly or through referrals to local debt management services.

Feeding Britain

We continue to work with Feeding Britain through their Pathways from Poverty programme to work with local food banks providing expert welfare rights advice sessions within existing food projects to help address the wider issues that people may be facing.

Wiser and Better Off

During the year, this project has continued to ensure that pensioners in East Belfast have reduced levels of poverty through promotion of pension credit and other benefit take-up, and better access to services through the provision of direct advice services on a face-to-face basis.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

We have publicised the project within the local community and public sector to promote the project. These links have also enabled us to refer pensioners to additional support services which they were unaware of, or unable to access independently. We have publicised the project throughout the community particularly in locations where we might be able to target older people not currently engaged in additional support services, including GPs, Post Offices, local shops and cafes. We continue to deliver awareness raising sessions on pensions and pension credit entitlement to organisations working with and supporting older people.

PLANS FOR 25-26

Once again for the coming year we again anticipate high demand for services from people struggling with the cost of living. We will continue to work together with partners in the wider voluntary, community and public sector to ensure we support clients to avoid hardship and destitution.

In the coming year, we will continue to provide crucial support to clients through, our drop-in services, appointment-based services, phone and on-line support when requested, providing information and referrals services and specialist advice on housing, employment, benefits, debt, and mental health advocacy. We will also deliver information and awareness raising sessions, to equip those working with vulnerable individuals with knowledge of the social security system and raise awareness of the services available.

We will continue to collaborate with our existing and new partner organisations, to provide a comprehensive support network for clients, drawing upon the expertise and resources of other organisations to address complex issues.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

Purposes (a) and (b)

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include:

1. Claiming welfare benefits for those who have a physical or mental disability.
2. Maximising the income of all clients who are in need.
3. Resolving debt related issues.
4. Reducing the levels of stress and anxiety of those in the area of benefit through the provision of advice.
5. Providing quality advice to those in need due to a low income, ill health, disability or age.
6. Providing a signposting service to specialist organisations for those needing them.
7. Providing quality advice to all those in the area of benefit who are impacted negatively by legislation.

These benefits will be evidenced by:

1. Amount of yearly benefit maximisation recorded
2. Amount of debt dealt with.
3. The numbers of people from the area of benefit using our service.
4. Feedback from the people in the area of benefit.

Purpose (c)

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include

1. Improved mental health and well being for those in the area of benefit.
2. Reduced levels of stress and anxiety for those in the area of benefit. Purpose through the provision of advice that allows them to resolve practical issues that are impacting negatively on their mental health.
3. Signposting to other specialist mental health services.

These benefits will be evidenced through

1. Numbers of clients accessing services
2. Direct referrals from Community Voluntary and Statutory health services.
3. Amount of benefit maximisation
4. Amount of debt dealt with.
5. Client and stakeholder feedback.

Purpose (d)

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include, -

Training of Volunteers from the area of benefit -Education of people from the area of benefit as to their rights in relation to those areas of NI -legislation which directly affects them. -People from the area of benefit will not suffer through a lack of knowledge or an inability to express themselves.

These benefits will be evidenced through:

1. the number of volunteers trained each year
 2. feedback from clients who use our services
- These purposes do not give rise to any harm. The beneficiaries of these purposes are those people residing in the Greater Belfast and Castlereagh Area.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

A private benefit to Trustees may arise as a result of ongoing training in Good Governance, Finance, HR. Through this training Trustees gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

A private benefit to individual volunteers may arise as a result of their basic training. Volunteers gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

The trustees has complied with the duty to have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 4(b) of the Charities Act.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The company had net outgoing resources for the year of £18,280 (2024: net outgoing resources of £1,485), which reflected the completion of a number of projects during the year. Unrestricted funds increased by £7,744, while restricted funds decreased by £26,024.

Reserves policy

The charity's policy is to retain a level of reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The charity has developed a plan to establish and maintain this agreed level of reserves. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

During the period under review the directors met monthly. Trustees/directors are appointed by nominations made in writing by any existing director. At the General Meeting nominated directors are appointed by election.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The principles of good governance are embedded within all aspects of East Belfast Independent Advice Centre's operations with management and staff being keenly aware of the Boards responsibility of ensuring that the organisation protects itself from financial exposure and reputational damage, A close working relationship is maintained between the Board and management to ensure that operationally staff are aware of the standards required of them by the Board and the Board are always in a position to provide guidance and support to management in the discharge of their duties. This two way relationship is the key feature of East Belfast Independent Advice Centre governance arrangements and is a key strength in the company.

A conscientious approach to ensuring that contractual project requirements are achieved has been maintained at all times both in the accounting period being reported on and since East Belfast Independent Advice Centre establishment. Very tight financial controls on expenditure and all financial commitments are maintained at all times and project staff have been trained and have become experienced in budgetary controls. In both these areas ie Project delivery and financial controls management all staff have established close working relationships with funding organisations to ensure all mandatory standards are consistently achieved. Board representatives also actively engage with funding bodies.

The Board, management and staff are fully aware that the nature of the work in which East Belfast Independent Advice Centre is involved can bring with it a high level of scrutiny to ensure that all activities are fully compliant with funding requirements and, therefore, beyond reproach. The Board of East Belfast Independent Advice Centre is, therefore, greatly reassured of the company's compliance with the highest of standards of governance on the basis that all monitoring and evaluation of project delivery demonstrates achievement of all funders objectives and that funders' audits and vouching of financial expenditure and the Independent Examiners Report confirm compliance with both probity and regularity in the use of monies received.

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The trustees (who are also the directors of East Belfast Independent Advice Centre for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT - continued

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 4 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Ann Martin - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
East Belfast Independent Advice Centre**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages eleven to twenty five.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees (and also the directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under Section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Mr Billy Drake FCA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland

Lynn Drake & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
34 B-D Main Street
Moirá

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
East Belfast Independent Advice Centre**

Co. Armagh
BT67 0LE

4 December 2025

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Charitable activities	3				
Grants Receivable		-	287,066	287,066	324,822
Other trading activities	2	8,070	-	8,070	-
Total		<u>8,070</u>	<u>287,066</u>	<u>295,136</u>	<u>324,822</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct Charitable Expenditure		326	309,748	310,074	323,229
Governance		-	3,342	3,342	3,078
Total		<u>326</u>	<u>313,090</u>	<u>313,416</u>	<u>326,307</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		7,744	(26,024)	(18,280)	(1,485)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		118,226	39,714	157,940	159,425
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>125,970</u></u>	<u><u>13,690</u></u>	<u><u>139,660</u></u>	<u><u>157,940</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2025

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	1,198	23,631
Cash at bank		141,539	137,301
		<u>142,737</u>	<u>160,932</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(3,077)	(2,992)
		<u>139,660</u>	<u>157,940</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>139,660</u>	<u>157,940</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		139,660	157,940
NET ASSETS		<u>139,660</u>	<u>157,940</u>
FUNDS	12		
Unrestricted funds		125,970	118,226
Restricted funds		13,690	39,714
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>139,660</u>	<u>157,940</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Statement of Financial Position - continued

31 March 2025

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 4 December 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Ann Martin - Trustee



Colin Robinson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre Limited is constituted as a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland (NI040485). 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.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in 2019 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds 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 are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Basis of preparing the financial statements

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled. Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when receivable. Income received from collections is recognised when received.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably, and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

The charity receives government grants which are detailed within the notes to these financial statements. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

Costs of raising funds includes the costs associated with attracting voluntary incomes.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them; and Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Basis of preparing the financial statements

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the charity.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Premises overheads have been allocated on an insert detail basis and other overheads have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows

Improvements to property - 25% Straight Line
Fixtures and fittings - 25% Straight Line

(g) Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provision of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amounts receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or relived and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Basis of preparing the financial statements

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designed hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain is recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

(h) Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

(i) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(j) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued **for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Basis of preparing the financial statements

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

(k) Tax

No provision is required for taxation as the company is defined as a charity for taxation purposes. The charity is a registered charity and so such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

(l) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

(m) Judgements estimates

The following judgements including those involving estimates that have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements and that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year:

- (i) depreciation method and asset useful lives
- (ii) principal assumptions used to measure multi-employer defined benefit pension schemes' liabilities, sensitivities to changes in assumptions and future funding obligations

The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis considering the current and future market conditions.

Fund accounting

The Company has various types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure.

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Defined contributions plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in the future payments of a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in finance costs in profit or loss in the period in which it arises.

Contingent liability

A contingent liability exists to repay any grants received should certain conditions not be fulfilled by the Company.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Fundraising and Donations	110	-
Ascertainment	460	-
Advice NI Feeding Britain	7,500	-
	<u>8,070</u>	<u>-</u>

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Grants	287,066	324,822
	<u>287,066</u>	<u>324,822</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Halifax Foundation (NI)	-	10,000
Public Health Agency	38,014	34,381
The National Lottery Community Fund	19,974	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	60,000
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - Mental Health	115,181	98,958
Belfast City Council - Generalist Advice Funding	76,571	73,221
Belfast City Council - Advice Space	1,500	-
Belfast City Council - Welfare Reform Support Project	32,826	31,262
Advice NI - Debt Project	3,000	2,000
	<u>287,066</u>	<u>309,822</u>
Carried forward	287,066	309,822

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Brought forward	287,066	309,822
Advice NI Feeding Britian	-	15,000
	<u>287,066</u>	<u>324,822</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Bank Fees	162	188
Independent Examiner Fee	3,180	2,890
	<u>3,342</u>	<u>3,078</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

6. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	221,794	231,590
Social security costs	13,286	14,407
Other pension costs	18,852	19,685
	<u>253,932</u>	<u>265,682</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Management & Administration	10	10
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Charitable activities			
Grants Receivable	-	324,822	324,822
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct Charitable Expenditure	-	323,229	323,229
Governance	-	3,078	3,078
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	326,307	326,307
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	-	(1,485)	(1,485)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	118,226	41,199	159,425
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>118,226</u>	<u>39,714</u>	<u>157,940</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	4,066	34,526	38,592
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	4,066	34,526	38,592
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Belfast City Council	-	15,631
Public Health Agency - Service Pressure	1,198	-
Advice NI	-	8,000
	<u>1,198</u>	<u>23,631</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>3,077</u>	<u>2,992</u>

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	125,970	16,767	142,737	160,932
Current liabilities	-	(3,077)	(3,077)	(2,992)
	<u>125,970</u>	<u>13,690</u>	<u>139,660</u>	<u>157,940</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/24	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	118,226	7,744	125,970
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	11,210	11,210
Henry Smith Charity	28,660	(28,660)	-
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - Mental Health	6,955	(6,955)	-
Belfast City Council - Generalist Advice Funding	980	-	980
Belfast City Council - Advice Space	-	1,500	1,500
Advice NI Feeding Britian	3,119	(3,119)	-
	<u>39,714</u>	<u>(26,024)</u>	<u>13,690</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>157,940</u>	<u>(18,280)</u>	<u>139,660</u>

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	8,070	(326)	7,744
Restricted funds			
Public Health Agency	38,014	(38,014)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	19,974	(8,764)	11,210
Henry Smith Charity	-	(28,660)	(28,660)
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - Mental Health	115,181	(122,136)	(6,955)
Belfast City Council - Generalist Advice Funding	76,571	(76,571)	-
Belfast City Council - Advice Space	1,500	-	1,500
Belfast City Council - Welfare Reform Support Project	32,826	(32,826)	-
Advice NI - Debt Project	3,000	(3,000)	-
Advice NI Feeding Britian	-	(3,119)	(3,119)
	<u>287,066</u>	<u>(313,090)</u>	<u>(26,024)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>295,136</u>	<u>(313,416)</u>	<u>(18,280)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	118,226	-	118,226
Restricted funds			
Henry Smith Charity	22,133	6,527	28,660
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - Mental Health	8,661	(1,706)	6,955
Belfast City Council - Generalist Advice Funding	-	980	980
Department for Communities	2,905	(2,905)	-
Advice NI Feeding Britian	7,500	(4,381)	3,119
	<u>41,199</u>	<u>(1,485)</u>	<u>39,714</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>159,425</u>	<u>(1,485)</u>	<u>157,940</u>

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Restricted funds			
Halifax Foundation (NI)	10,000	(10,000)	-
Public Health Agency	34,381	(34,381)	-
Henry Smith Charity	60,000	(53,473)	6,527
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - Mental Health	98,958	(100,664)	(1,706)
Belfast City Council - Generalist Advice Funding	73,221	(72,241)	980
Belfast City Council - Welfare Reform Support Project	31,262	(31,262)	-
Advice NI - Debt Project	2,000	(2,000)	-
Department for Communities	-	(2,905)	(2,905)
Advice NI Feeding Britian	15,000	(19,381)	(4,381)
	<u>324,822</u>	<u>(326,307)</u>	<u>(1,485)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>324,822</u>	<u>(326,307)</u>	<u>(1,485)</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

14. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There were no events after the reporting period therefore no material issues need disclosed.

15. WINDING UP

Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company, in the event of the same being wound up while it is a member, or within one year after it ceases to be a member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before it ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributor's among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

16. SHARE CAPITAL

The Company is Limited by Guarantee and has no Share Capital

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Other trading activities		
Fundraising and Donations	110	-
Ascertainment	460	-
Advice NI Feeding Britain	7,500	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,070	-
Charitable activities		
Grants	287,066	324,822
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	295,136	324,822
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	221,794	231,590
Social security	13,286	14,407
Pensions	18,852	19,685
Insurance	3,340	3,058
Telephone and Internet	350	362
Postage	426	1,595
Sundries	-	1,326
Publicity	515	-
Volunteers Expenses & Training	3,030	5,578
Repairs and Maintenance	1,603	-
Affiliation Fees & Publications	8,935	8,880
Office Consumables	1,733	-
Cleaning & Consumables	-	2
Rent and Room Hire	21,932	20,640
IT Support & Equipment	1,359	2,081
Staff Travel & Training	3,520	2,428
Consultancy	6,930	8,680
Health & Safety	483	643
Service level agreement	1,600	1,600
Catering and Hospitality	386	674
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	310,074	323,229
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Bank Fees	162	188
Carried forward	162	188

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

East Belfast Independent Advice Centre

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Governance costs		
Brought forward	162	188
Independent Examiner Fee	3,180	2,890
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,342	3,078
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	313,416	326,307
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net expenditure	<u>(18,280)</u>	<u>(1,485)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements