

Charity registration number 1063655

Company registration number 03351855 (England and Wales)

**SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

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SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objects of the charity

1) To promote any charitable purpose and Social Enterprises for the benefit of the community in Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire and, in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

2) To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and, to that end, to bring together in council representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory bodies within the area of benefit.

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

The charity aims to achieve its objects by working closely with a wide range of partners, including other Voluntary and Community sector groups, the public and private sectors and health organisations. Beneficiaries come from all walks of life and include children through to older people.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. The review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those we aim to support. These are incorporated into an annual operational plan, which is supported by a three-year strategic plan.

Significant activities

The charity, as a council for voluntary services (CVS), undertakes 5 core functions with the additional volunteering function:

Development work

Identifying local need, working with others to develop appropriate action and working strategically to benefit the local voluntary and community sector.

Liaison and representation

Liaison: Helping to maintain links with a wide range of voluntary and community organisations and promoting cross sector relations.

Representation

Enabling the local voluntary and community sector to present its views on service design and delivery to statutory sector agencies through consultation, networking, seminars and workshops.

Services and support

Funding, legal, financial, management and constitutional information and guidance, training, providing local and strategic information via a range of methods, back office support, office lettings and room hire.

Strategic partnership

Forming partnerships between the major Public, Community and Voluntary sectors with the aim of improving Southend for the benefit of all within our local area.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Volunteering

To provide stimulation and support for individual volunteers and organisations that involve them.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

The Trustees always consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set for the charity.

In consideration of the significant activities stated above the Trustees are satisfied the Charity meets all requirements for the provision of providing a Public Benefit.

Achievements and performance

Our work as an organisation:

Our Vision is a strong empowered, inclusive Third Sector, made from organisations, communities and individuals that are catalysts for change.

Our Mission is to promote, develop and support a thriving, responsive, influential and inclusive voluntary and community sector in Southend.

We do this across all of the work and services we deliver to communities, built on a foundation of our values; **Equality, Inclusion, Diversity, Independence, Innovation & Collaboration.**

Southend's Council for Voluntary Services

SAVS is an independent charity known as a Council for Voluntary Services or CVS. We work behind the scenes to help local charities and community groups achieve their full potential. As of the end of this year, we have over 410 individuals and organisations signed up as members.

CVSs are located across the country with funding predominately secured via Local Authorities. Southend City Council went out to tender in late 2022 for a five plus five year contract to deliver infrastructure across Southend. SAVS submitted a bid, and was awarded the contract in February 2023. This work will begin April 2023 with a particular focus on supporting new and emerging groups, volunteering and embedding new technologies to support the delivery and accessibility of the work.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Our service is tailored to the unique and specific needs of the organisations we support; however, it can be summarised into three main themes;

- **Support:** We directly support emerging and existing organisations as well as supporting individuals. Each group is supported based on their specific needs, with help provided on topics such as setting up a charity, governance, capacity building, fundraising, partnership working and involving volunteers. This year we provided over 600 instances of support, via phone, email and in-person meetings. Throughout the year we held a number of events, workshops and meetings to further support the sector. 43 events, with a total of over 900 attendances included topics such as; Safeguarding, Community Awareness, Fundraising, LGBTQ+, Mental Health Wellbeing, Primary and Emergency Care and Hate Crime Awareness. We also provide funding support, including completing tailored funding searches, reviewing funding applications, helping groups be 'funding ready' and hosting events to build relationships with local groups and funders.
- **Promotion:** A key element of our work as a CVS is promoting the Voluntary Sector, the groups within it and their work. This year we have seen a continual growth in our Digital Reach, which now stands at over 12,000 contacts. This includes over 2,200 people that receive our weekly email update, containing on average 30+ pieces of shared content from the sector. Our Social Media channels help to share useful and relevant information across the City and beyond, with over 100 posts per month. We have also heavily invested in our digital infrastructure, marketing and communications to help evolve and adapt so that we are in a position to best promote the sector over the coming years. This work is enhanced by the Networks we host including our; Networking Brunches, Southend Police IAG meetings, Southend Homeless Action Network, Southend Family Network and the Voluntary Sector Leadership Network.
- **Representation & Partnerships:** We continue to play a key role in representing the Voluntary Sector at Key Strategic Partnerships both Southend focused and across the wider South East Essex footprint. Examples include: Health Inequalities, Safeguarding, Community Safety and Domestic Abuse. The partnerships support SAVS and our sector relationships with key partners such as Southend City Council, South East Essex Alliance (SEE), Essex Police, EPUT, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust and the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and many others. This helps us ensure the voice of the VCFSE sector is heard, valued and considered in the delivery, development and design of services. This year we have built further upon these relationships in order to influence and help shape strategy and policy SAVS holds significant positions i.e. SEE Alliance Chair, Domestic Abuse Vice Chair, Safeguarding Partnership Vice Chair (Adults & Children) and Co-chair of Safeguarding Neglect Group.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Community Based Delivery

We deliver a number of our own Community projects that support and empower the rich and diverse communities of Southend. These projects provide residents with a voice and opportunities to help shape the future of where they live. They also help to identify gaps in provision, champion local assets and promote strength based working.

The work of our community projects continues to develop into new areas with the key theme being that of engaging with the public to raise awareness, provide information, seek their views, keep them safe and build resilience. By engaging with the public in their neighbourhoods, we were able to identify and support the most vulnerable people in the community, many of whom have little or no social contact.

• Community Support

- **Social Prescribing:** We host six out of the eight Social Prescribing Link workers in Southend, contracted directly by their associated PCNs. Social prescribing is open to patients aged 18+ who present to their GP with issues that have a non – clinical underlying cause. Patients may have a social need, on-going health conditions, regularly attend their GP surgery or are at risk of unplanned admission. Social Prescribing Link Workers meet patients referred by their GP at their practice before referring and signposting to appropriate voluntary and community sector services. Patients are treated holistically with the point of referral determined by individual need; this could include information to support health, finance or social isolation. This year SAVS' Social Prescribing Team completed 2753 referrals.
- **The SAVS' Reception Team:** Our front of house team is there to support residents with any queries relating to the Voluntary Sector in Southend and beyond. Residents are welcome to call or visit the team five days a week with any questions and are then either directly supported, or signposted to groups or organisations across the City. Paid members of staff lead the team, but the majority of people are volunteers who donate their time to supporting those who need a helping hand.
- **HomeSafe SOS Community Hub:** In order to provide patients, family members and the community with essential support, nine Community Hubs were setup across Mid and South Essex. An ICB grant-funded pilot programme was run between December 2022 and May 2023. HomeSafe SOS was the service delivered in Southend, a partnership project by; Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS), Southend Carers, South Essex Advocacy Services (SEAS) and Citizens Advice Southend. Utilising existing assets and the experience and knowledge of partners, it provided an effective gateway to community-based support accessible by all residents in Southend. By the end of March 2023, it had already received 81 referrals.
- **Foodbank Vouchers:** SAVS is a referral partner for Southend Foodbank, a network of foodbanks across Southend funded by the Trussell Trust. We provide a free referral service, either in-person or over the phone to help vulnerable Southend residents access food support. This year we made 1317 referrals to Southend Foodbank.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- **Youth & Family Development**

- **A Better Start Southend:** A Better Start Southend is a 10-year programme to develop and test new ways of supporting Southend's children and families. This year marked our fifth year of supporting the programme, with our contracted role primarily focussing on parent engagement and co-production. Our work includes empowering local parents through our Parent Champions/Ambassador programmes and supporting them to become the voice of parents and participate in the various governance meetings of ABSS.
- **Triple Ts:** Children from central Southend have Triple T's clubs to help inspire them and raise their aspirations with thanks to funding from BBC Children in Need. We provide weekly sessions for youngsters aged 8-12 years through a programme of activities, designed to develop each individual child in a safe environment. We aim to give the youngsters opportunities to build confidence, improve mental & physical wellbeing and participate in community initiatives. In 2022-2023, the Triple T Youth Clubs supported 68 young people through the delivery of 114 sessions.
- **HAF:** The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) is a free and exciting holiday programme for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who get benefits related free school meals. The programme runs over the Easter (1 week), summer (4 weeks) and Christmas (1 week) school holidays and is funded by the Department for Education (DfE). SAVS is a leading partner of the HAF programme in Southend. This year we supported 47 young people with 22 sessions that enabled them to access free healthy and nutritious meals, as well as learning about food and nutrition, take part in healthy level of physical activity. Above all, the young people have fun and meet new friends, feel safe and secure, get access to support services and return to school feeling engaged and ready to learn.

- **Wellbeing**

- **Supported Volunteering:** this project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund supports people who may have experienced mental ill health into volunteering. The aim of the project is to give volunteers one to one support to increase confidence and reduce isolation, to highlight skills and experience and help identify the type of volunteering they might wish to do. Each year the project supports over 40 individuals.
- **Folk Like Us:** This National Lottery Community Fund funded initiative provides support and advice to people over the age of 55, living in the borough of Southend who are experiencing loneliness and isolation. These people are supported by Turning Tides Community Team and where required will be signposted to services who can assist them further. This year the team have continued to support hundreds of older people in Southend via one to one home visits, group social sessions, trips out and large-scale Connect events. In 2022-2023, we saw the number of beneficiaries of this project reach 132 people.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- **Community Development**

- **Community Builders** – This year we continued our pilot project for Southend City Council called 'Community Builders'. Three members of paid staff deliver the initiative in three areas across Southend, operating in a strength-based way; they are out in local communities, helping residents connect with each other and to amplify their voice. They discover local skills and resources, supporting residents to take action on what matters to them. The engagement has so far been a success, with over 100 connections/conversations happening each month. In 2022-2023 the Community Builders project completed over 1660 conversations with local residents.
- **COPD Community Connectors:** A pilot programme delivered in partnership with Healthwatch Southend designed to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experience of those living with COPD in Southend when accessing support and living a healthier life. It is also an opportunity to share what works well. This programme forms part of the national drive to reduce health inequalities focusing on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and supported through the CORE20Plus5 framework. Programmes are taking place across all seven regions in England and encompass the five clinical areas of focus outlined in the Core20PLUS5 approach: maternity care, severe mental illness, respiratory disease, cancer and cardio-vascular disease.

- **Facilitated Community Funding**

- **Community Investment Board:** With the aim of building a culture of community ownership and resilience, SAVS supports an independent board made up of local experts by experience. The Community Investment Board is responsible for investing £1.5m of Southend City Council funding to realise a vision of a sustainable Southend, where residents engage in their wider communities and are empowered to achieve their full potential. This allows residents to demonstrate influence and positive impact in a city they are proud of, feel safe in and enjoy healthy and fulfilling lives. By the end of March 2023, the board had distributed £753k of the £1.5m in grants to local groups.
- **Southend Emergency Fund:** As part of the emergency response and support to residents in Southend, SAVS supports the Southend Emergency Fund, which is independent of SAVS. The Fund provides a vehicle to distribute financial based relief to individual residents via local Voluntary Sector organisations. Particular work of the Fund this year has been with Household Support (for energy, bills and food). The Fund is led by an independent panel and has awarded over £600,000 in grants.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Financial review

Principle funding sources

The principal funding sources for the charity are currently by way of grants and commissioned project income under service level agreements from our projects. A secondary source of income is from renting office space within the SAVS building.

Investment policy and objectives

The charity continues to review its investment policy, and our policy is to spread cash investments across a selection of reputable banking providers. Where possible deposits are within the government backed protection limits.

Reserves policy

We are pleased to report that SAVS financial position continues to be sound and that the organisation continues on a firm financial footing. This achievement is due to a dedicated and committed workforce, who work with enthusiasm and imagination to meet the changing needs of the Southend Voluntary and Community Sector and the Southend Community.

At the year end, the charity had unrestricted reserves of £256,786 (2022; £210,680) of this amount £108,970 (2022; £62,908) has been designated for future repairs and renewals and a contingency fund should redundancies be required. This leaves an unrestricted fund position of £147,816 (2022; £147,772).

Given that the majority, approximately 91%, (2022; 93%), of the charity's income is derived from grants and contract income, renewals of which are not guaranteed beyond their current agreement periods. The trustees feel that it is necessary to accumulate unrestricted reserves to a level, which, in their opinion, will safeguard its continued operation for a period long enough to obtain alternative sources of funding, should its current sources of grant funding cease completely.

Target reserves for 2023/24 are £238,866. The reserves policy is to add to unrestricted reserves until that level is reached, and thereafter review the position to ensure that any surplus funds are correctly used.

Going concern

Whilst preparing these financial accounts the continued operation of the Charity has been given due consideration. On the back of the pandemic period, SAVS continues to work in an agile way with remote and homebased working embedded in our delivery. The cost of living crisis and high inflation has affected the Charity, with significant increases across our general running costs including utility bills and resources. Where available uplifts in funding or additional funds have been successfully secured to help mitigate some of the risk within this period. Therefore, these accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Funds in deficit

There were no funds in deficit at the end of the Financial Year.

FUTURE PLANS

Our key focuses for 2023/24 include:

To develop our work under five strategic objectives:

1. Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support
2. Building Dynamic Communities
3. Empowering voices
4. Develop successful partnerships, collaborations and relationships
5. Sustainability

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

Trustees are recruited through a formal and transparent process and are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Provision exists for trustees to be co-opted onto the board for skills availability purposes.

Organisational structure

Southend Association of Voluntary Services has a Board of Trustees that meets every 3 months and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the organisation. The Board is made up of individuals from a variety of different professional backgrounds, with the technical expertise to support the services provided by the charity.

A scheme of delegation is in place and the day-to-day responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer along with the Finance Manager and Management Team.

The Chief Officer is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services and that the key performance indicators are met. The Finance Manager is responsible for the day to day management of the finances. The management team has responsibility for individual supervision of their staff and ensuring that the team continue to develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees new to the charity take part in the induction programme, which introduces the following:-

- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Latest minutes and financial statements
- Annual report
- Resourcing and current financial position as set out in the latest financial statements
- Future plans and objectives
- Contact information for fellow trustees and staff

All new trustees receive a comprehensive Induction Pack for ease of reference. In addition, trustees have received a copy of Trustee and Management Committee - National Occupational Standards.

All of our trustees are familiar with the work of the charity and are involved in annual planning days for both staff and trustees.

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and have put in place a system to mitigate these risks.

A risk register has been established which will be reviewed and updated annually.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
03351855 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1063655

Registered office
SAVS Centre
29/31 Alexander Street
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS1 1BW

Trustees
Gabrielle Rydings
Adrian Buggle
Nigel P Havens (resigned 1/11/2022)
Paul Hill
John L Lamb
Janice Walker
Pippa Bavington (resigned 28/02/2023)
Sarah Mitchell (appointed 1/11/2022)
David Hurst (appointed 1/11/2022)
Chris DeBond (appointed 1/11/2022)
Roshan Romal (appointed 1/11/2022)

Auditors
Azets Audit Services
Chartered Accountants
1-5 Nelson Street
Southend
Essex
SS1 1EG

Solicitors
BTMK Solicitors
19 Clifftown Road
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS1 1AB

President
His Worship, The Mayor

Chief Officer
Anthony Quinn

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS

The charity sometimes holds funds on behalf of a small number of local voluntary organisations who are themselves in the process of obtaining charitable status. This is a sponsorship and governance service which we provide in the formative months of an emerging charity and Social Enterprise only.

The funds are held in our Metro account and are separately accounted for in our accounting records. These funds are only distributed on receipt of appropriately authorised requests from the organisations involved.

At the year-end no funds (2022: £50) was held in this manner.

In addition, SAVS holds funds on behalf of the Southend Emergency Fund (SEF) and the Southend Community Investment Board (CIB). Both these bodies are hosted by SAVS, but the funds for these bodies comes from Southend City Council. As at 31st March 2023 funds held on behalf of SEF was £8,510 (2022: £5,262) and CIB £108,336 (2022: £163,428).

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

G Rydings

Trustee

Dated: 31 October 2023

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors of Southend Association of Voluntary Services for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustee 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity 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 charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southend Association of Voluntary Services (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

31 October 2023

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

1 Nelson Street
Southend-On-Sea
Essex
United Kingdom
SS1 1EG

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	4	11,444	7,938	19,382	2,095	4,558	6,653
Charitable activities	3	151,285	905,216	1,056,501	150,666	827,355	978,021
Investments	5	5,625	-	5,625	2,522	-	2,522
Total income		168,354	913,154	1,081,508	155,283	831,913	987,196
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Charitable activities	6	122,248	892,904	1,015,152	147,346	778,616	925,962
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		46,106	20,250	66,356	7,937	53,297	61,234
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		210,680	277,016	487,696	202,743	223,719	426,462
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		256,786	297,266	554,052	210,680	277,016	487,696

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		1,386		2,687
Current assets					
Debtors	12	33,022		25,486	
Cash at bank and in hand		697,286		694,639	
		<u>730,308</u>		<u>720,125</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(167,642)</u>		<u>(222,616)</u>	
Net current assets			562,666		497,509
Total assets less current liabilities			564,052		500,196
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(10,000)		(12,500)
Net assets			<u>554,052</u>		<u>487,696</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		297,266		277,016
Unrestricted funds			256,786		210,680
			<u>554,052</u>		<u>487,696</u>

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 31 October 2023

G Rydings
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03351855

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	19		2,022		163,170
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(2,772)	
Interest received		5,625		2,522	
		<u>5,625</u>		<u>2,522</u>	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			5,625		(250)
Financing activities					
Repayment of loans		(5,000)		-	
		<u>(5,000)</u>		<u>-</u>	
Net cash used in financing activities			(5,000)		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			2,647		162,920
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			694,639		531,719
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>697,286</u>		<u>694,639</u>

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Southend Association of Voluntary Services is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is SAVS Centre, 29-31 Alexandra Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, SS1 1BW, United Kingdom.

1.1 Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

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 purposes of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenses are allocated per project on a controlled and calculated basis depending on work load and funding agreement as per grant applications.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Fixtures and fittings	25% on cost
Computers	33% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost

1.7 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income 2023 £	Charitable Income 2022 £
Resource office lettings	57,610	40,414
Sundry income	7,881	22,487
Grants	906,346	830,452
Service level agreement income	84,664	84,668
	<u>1,056,501</u>	<u>978,021</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	151,285	150,666
Restricted funds	905,216	827,355
	<u>1,056,501</u>	<u>978,021</u>
Performance related grants		
Folks Like Us	625	2,088
Triple T's including CIN	54,508	90,075
A Better Start	165,615	189,982
Wellbeing	204,009	157,487
Social Prescribing	198,142	154,306
Police and Crime Commissioner: Safe as Houses	-	10,702
Community Builder	71,250	71,250
Co-production champion	-	60,000
Supported Volunteering	-	6,531
Community investment board	37,000	28,350
Other	175,197	59,681
	<u>906,346</u>	<u>830,452</u>

4 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Donations	11,444	7,938	19,382	2,095	4,558	6,653
	<u>11,444</u>	<u>7,938</u>	<u>19,382</u>	<u>2,095</u>	<u>4,558</u>	<u>6,653</u>

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank deposit interest	5,625	2,522

6 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	762,749	714,622
Charitable expenditure	245,683	204,998
	<u>1,008,432</u>	<u>919,620</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	6,720	6,342
	<u>1,015,152</u>	<u>925,962</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	122,248	147,346
Restricted funds	892,904	778,616
	<u>1,015,152</u>	<u>925,962</u>

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023 Support costs		Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	-	6,720	6,720	-	6,342	6,342
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,720</u>	<u>6,720</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,342</u>	<u>6,342</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	6,720	6,720	-	6,342	6,342
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,720</u>	<u>6,720</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,342</u>	<u>6,342</u>

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Trustees

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

No director/trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2022 - none).

No director/trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2022- none).

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was: 35

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Chief officer	1	1
Project workers	25	25
Caretaker	-	2
Administration / Financial Management	9	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	35	38
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	762,749	714,622
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	60,376	46,338	13,670	120,384
At 31 March 2023	60,376	46,338	13,670	120,384
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2022	58,244	45,783	13,670	117,697
Depreciation charged in the year	746	555	-	1,301
At 31 March 2023	58,990	46,338	13,670	118,998
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2023	1,386	-	-	1,386
At 31 March 2022	2,132	555	-	2,687

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	21,548	18,844
Other debtors	3,565	1,603
Prepayments and accrued income	7,909	5,039
	33,022	25,486

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans (see note 14)	15	2,500
Trade creditors	6,602	1,070
Other creditors	137,677	184,774
Accrued expenses	20,863	31,772
	167,642	222,616

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans (see note 14)	15	10,000

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15 Loans and overdrafts	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans	12,500	17,500
	<u>12,500</u>	<u>17,500</u>
Payable within one year	2,500	5,000
Payable after one year	10,000	12,500
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>12,500</u>

The loan above was received from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in 2005 to finance the deficit on the Alexandra Street project. It is interest free and repayable in annual instalments of £2,500, the last instalment falling due on 30th November 2027.

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Restricted funds

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

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended between funds	Transfers between funds	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended between funds	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Folk Like Us	10,211	2,088	(9,219)	(1,080)	2,000	625	(242)	-	2,383
Safe As Houses	725	10,702	(11,335)	-	92	-	(25)	(67)	-
Social Prescription	12,254	154,306	(136,360)	(14,600)	15,600	198,142	(177,791)	(21,600)	14,351
Supported Volunteering	32,797	6,531	(11,380)	(27,948)	-	-	-	-	-
Triple T's	11,731	54,174	(16,222)	(4,760)	44,923	23,373	(41,490)	-	26,806
Turning Tides	34,429	-	(456)	(2,708)	31,265	-	(610)	67	30,722
Wellbeing	-	157,487	(124,595)	(26,473)	6,419	204,009	(170,144)	(39,016)	1,268
South Essex Active Transport	3,594	-	-	-	3,594	-	-	(3,594)	-
Timebanking	5,485	3,378	(20)	(8,843)	-	-	-	-	-
Folk Like Us- Shoebury	6,974	-	(6,614)	(360)	-	-	-	-	-
Triple T's- Family	9,951	-	(934)	-	9,017	4,840	(4,004)	-	9,853
Community Builders	-	71,250	(29,649)	-	41,601	71,250	(74,429)	(5,000)	33,422
A Better Start	2,156	189,982	(146,822)	(26,006)	19,310	165,712	(145,158)	(30,563)	9,302
CIN Triple T's	15	35,900	(32,596)	(1,661)	1,658	31,109	(28,572)	(1,690)	2,505
Innovation Fund	20,791	-	(10,486)	-	10,305	3,766	(10,014)	5,011	9,068
Co-production Champion	53,629	60,000	(60,800)	-	52,829	-	(28,818)	(900)	23,111
Community Connectors	-	-	-	-	-	79,000	(15,117)	(3,677)	60,206
Home Safe	7,041	-	(41)	-	7,000	-	-	-	7,000
Hospital Discharge	-	-	-	-	-	46,600	(33,600)	(3,000)	10,000
Misc projects including Southend projects	11,936	86,115	(75,942)	9,294	31,403	84,728	(51,305)	(7,557)	57,269
	<u>223,719</u>	<u>831,913</u>	<u>(673,471)</u>	<u>(105,145)</u>	<u>277,016</u>	<u>913,154</u>	<u>(781,319)</u>	<u>(111,585)</u>	<u>297,266</u>

SOUTHEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:					
Tangible assets	1,386	-	1,386	2,687	2,687
Current assets/(liabilities)	265,400	297,266	562,666	262,093	497,509
Long term liabilities	(10,000)	-	(10,000)	-	(12,500)
	<u>256,786</u>	<u>297,266</u>	<u>554,052</u>	<u>225,603</u>	<u>487,696</u>

18 Related party transactions

The aggregate compensation paid to key management personnel in the period was £142,179 (2022: £131,976).

19 Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus for the year	66,356	61,234
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(5,625)	(2,522)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	1,301	5,758
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(7,536)	(2,314)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(52,474)	101,014
Cash generated from operations	<u>2,022</u>	<u>163,170</u>

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	694,639	2,647	697,286
Loans falling due within one year	(5,000)	2,500	(2,500)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(12,500)	2,500	(10,000)
	<u>677,139</u>	<u>7,647</u>	<u>684,786</u>