REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2009 FOR SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

THURSDAY

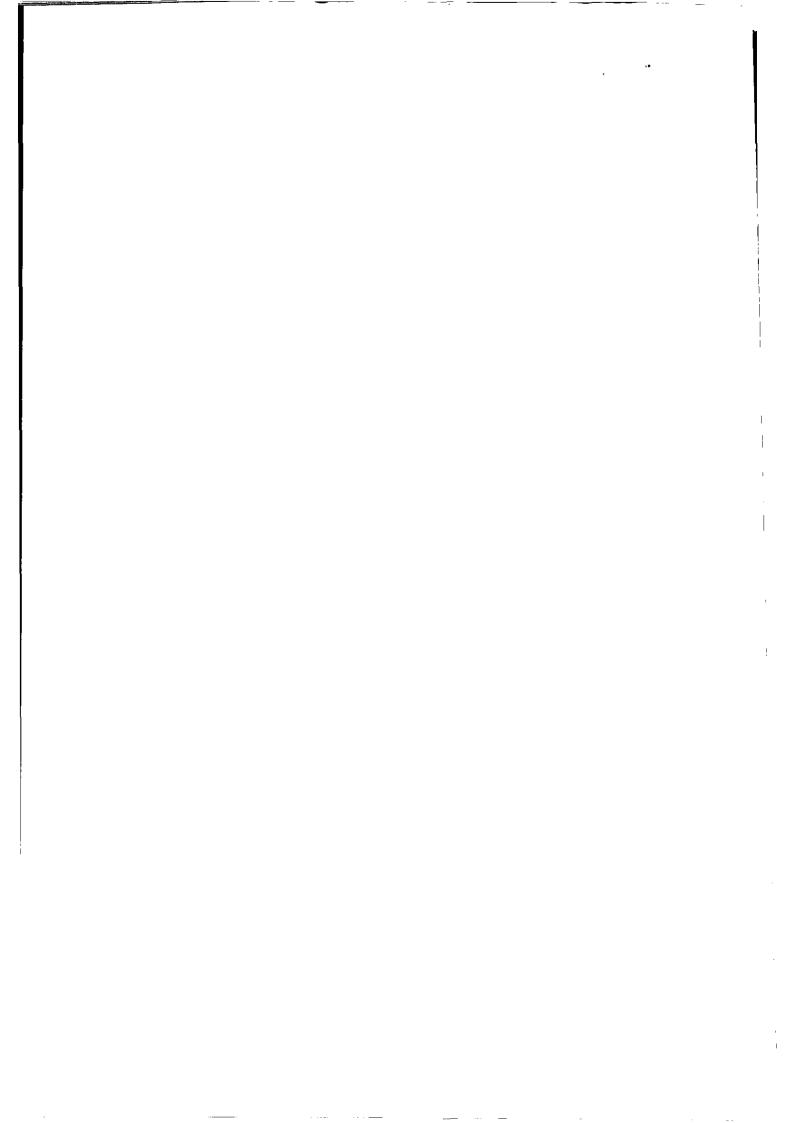
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F W Berringer & Co Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley BR1 3RA

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2009

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 1985, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2009. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

01418763 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

277927

Registered office

Hanover Park House

14-16 Hanover Park

Peckham

London

SE15 5HG

Trustees

E Alford

M S Ashe

P Cather

A Davies

S G Hesketh

C H Joseph

A D S King

H Malik

R A D Palmer

T Precious

T Richards-Clarke

B J Samuel

Ms L A Butcher

Ms P M Salvador-Jones

- appointed 2.6.08

- appointed 7.7.08

Company Secretary

C M Evans

Auditors

F W Berringer & Co Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley BR1 3RA

Bankers

SE15 5ET

HSBC Bank plc 47 Rye Lane Peckham London

All members of the company, which include members of the Management Committee, undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each in the event of the winding up of the company, whilst a member, or within one year of cessation of membership.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2009

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 1985.

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

All the trustees who are recruited live or work within the Centre's area of benefit. The recruitment procedures comprise advertising in national and local press and via the internet. Prospective trustees are invited to attend and observe at Trustees' meetings and are recruited on the basis of relevant skills, experience and knowledge.

The trustees are selected every year at our Annual General Meeting.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new trustees are invited to an induction meeting with the Director to observe the work of the Centre. All trustees receive full details of the policies and procedures of the Centre.

Organisational structure

The charity is organised so that the Management Committee meet regularly to manage its affairs. There is one full time Director, Catherine Evans, who is accountable to the Management Committee, who manages the day to day administration of the charity, and is accountable to the Solicitors' Regulation Authority for the conduct of legal cases, providing day to day supervision of casework. Individual staff specialists provide legal supervision in their areas of specialisation (e.g. Housing, Employment, Immigration and Welfare Rights Law).

Risk management

The trustees are keenly aware that their responsibilities include the duty to plan for the future and to prepare the Law Centre for the risks and opportunities they have identified beyond the current financial year. The immediate future is particularly uncertain due to the changing strategies of the Legal Services Commission, which makes the Law Centre's income increasingly uncertain having regard to the high number of difficult cases which the Law Centre presently undertakes. The Law Centre's income is also highly dependent on staff performance, something that could be disproportionately affected by, for example, long-term sickness. The Law Centre's reserves have been set in accordance with the Centre's reserve policy, which is formulated pursuant to Charity Commission guidance. Best practice suggests that the Law Centre should have an appropriate proportion of its annual outgoings available by way of reserves and the level of the Law Centre's reserves is regularly monitored by the trustees.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity's principal object and activity continues to be that of providing legal advice to the residents of the London Borough of Southwark. Its fundamental aims continue to be providing free Legal Advice and Representation for the people who live or work in Southwark.

We will achieve this by:

- (i) Providing specialist legal advice and representation, which is free and of high quality, in the areas of Employment, Housing, Welfare Rights and Immigration Law. We prioritise cases involving discrimination, breaches of human rights and cases that are not dealt with by other agencies.
- (ii) Providing training in legal rights.
- (iii) Legal support for local advice and community agencies.
- (iv) Campaigning to influence law, policy and practice and promoting human and civil rights.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2009

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The Management Committee and staff met twice during the year to discuss and review the Law Centre's Business plan.

The Law Centre was able to meet both the targets under the Contract with the London Borough of Southwark. The Law Centre was also able to meet the targets required by the London Councils and the Equal and Human Rights Commission.

The Law Centre secured funds from Equality and Human Rights Commission to provide a specialist discrimination casework and representation service. The Centre continued to work in Bromley and Lewisham with the assistance of London Councils. The homeless charity, Broadway, provides debt outreach sessions at the Law Centre once a week.

Volunteers

The Law Centre continues to make use of volunteers to assist with the day to day administration of the Centre.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

We continue to be one of the main providers of specialist employment law casework and representation in the borough. We advise and represent on a wide variety of employment related problems including unfair dismissal, breach of contract, redundancy and discrimination at work whether on the grounds of religion, age, sexuality, sex, race or disability.

Housing cases comprise a high proportion of our work. We prioritise evictions, homelessness and serious disrepair. We have taken several cases on homelessness and the allocation of properties to homeless people to the High Court.

We continue to be in discussion with the council on the duties owed to homeless people which we hope may have assisted both parties in understanding these issues.

During the year the Law Centre took on the following number of cases and second tier advice given:

	2009	2008
Housing	505	564
Employment	69	102
Immigration	321	327
Welfare Rights	156	165
	1,051	1,158

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Designated funds are those the trustees have earmarked for a particular use. This year, the trustees have maintained the designated funds to cover liabilities arising from our lease and funds to replace equipment as last year. The Staff Contingency Fund to cover unplanned staff costs, such as, for example, maternity leave and long term sickness absence also remains as last year. The trustees have negotiated a ten year lease of the same premises and in the view of the increased liability considered it prudent to maintain lease and premises funds at the same level. Allocations or transfers between funds are decided upon annually by the trustees.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the Law Centre continue to be the London Borough of Southwark and the Legal Services Commission. We acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of those who give grant funding to the Law Centre including EHRC and London Councils.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 March 2009

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Law Centre will continue to build on its wide range of experience and deliver the highest quality legal advice to the population of Southwark.

TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

The Centre's gross income was slightly lower this year at £527,992 against £532,277 last year, a decrease of £4,285. Higher outlay on charitable activities, up from £513,453 to £522,584 resulted in net incoming resources of £1,208 against £14,624 for the previous year. At the year end restricted funds amount to £1,688 a decrease from the balance held at the end of last year of £2,336, whilst unrestricted income funds amount to £165,854 against £163,998 at the previous year. On 1 October 2007, six months into the financial year the Legal Services Commission required the Centre to enter into a new contract: "the Unified Contract". This changed the method of payment for work carried out under the Legal Help and Controlled Legal Representation Scheme. The Centre is now paid for work completed under this scheme whereas in the past the Centre was paid for hours worked i.e. work in progress. A transitional period of 18 months has been provided by the Legal Services Commission to enable the Centre to adjust to the change. The Centre's performance under this contract was within the required "buffer" for the financial year 2008-2009 and therefore no funds will be recouped by the Legal Services Commission in respect of Legal Help and Controlled Legal Representation Scheme payments made this financial year.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Southwark Law 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 Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity 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.

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 1985. 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.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 234ZA of the Companies Act 1985) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, F W Berringer & Co, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Sandra G. Hekall

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

S G Hesketh - Trustee

13 July 2009

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

We have audited the financial statements of Southwark Law Centre for the year ended 31 March 2009 on pages seven to thirteen. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein and the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees' (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accounting Practice) are set out on page four.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and whether the information given in the Report of the Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Report of the Trustees and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTHWARK LAW CENTRE

Opinion

In our opinion:

the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;

the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and

the information given in the Report of the Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

F W Berringer & Co Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley BR1 3RA

13 July 2009

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 March 2009

	U	nrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2009 Total funds	2008 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	105	-	105	750
Investment income	3	5,601	•	5,601	7,576
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4				
Providing legal casework and representation		441,645	80,641	522,286	523,951
Total incoming resources		447,351	80,641	527,992	532,277
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities	5				
Providing legal casework and representation		441,295	81,289	522,584	513,453
Governance costs	6	4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Total resources expended		445,495	81,289	526,784	517,653
				-	
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		1,856	(648)	1,208	14,624
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		163,998	2,336	166,334	151,710
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		165,854	1,688	167,542	166,334
TO FALL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		105,054			

BALANCE SHEET At 31 March 2009

		nrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2009 Total funds	2008 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				770	000
Tangible assets	11	669	-	669	892
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	98,817	-	98,817	22,743
Cash at bank and in hand		164,795	1,688	166,483	201,743
		263,612	1,688	265,300	224,486
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(98,427)	-	(98,427)	(59,044)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		165,185	1,688	166,873	165,442
				•	
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		165,854	1,688	167,542	166,334
					444.004
NET ASSETS		165,854	1,688	167,542	166,334
FUNDO	1.0				
FUNDS	15			165,854	163,998
Unrestricted funds Restricted funds	•			1,688	2,336
Restricted fullus					
TOTAL FUNDS				167,542	166,334
					

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 13 July 2009 and were signed on its behalf by:

dra G. Hekett

S G Hesketh -Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2009

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007), the Companies Act 1985 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

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.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings

-25% on reducing balance

Law library

-25% on reducing balance

Computer equipment

-100% on cost

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

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.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

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.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Donations	2009 £ 105	2008 £ 750
3.	INVESTMENT INCOME		
		2009 £	2008 £
	Deposit account interest	5,601	7,576

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED for the year ended 31 March 2009

4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

5.

6.

7.

	Activity	2009 £	2008 £
	Providing legal casework and		
Grants Legal Aid and Costs	representation Providing legal casework and	319,976	284,130
Recovered	representation	202,310	239,821
		522,286	523,951
Grants received, included in	the above are as follows:		
Orang received, mendeda m	and 150 ve, and 15 ronover	2009	2008
		£	£
Southwark Council		239,335	233,726
London Councils		61,208	31,196
Awards for All		-	10,000
Charities Aid Foundation		-	7,208
SORBAEE		10.500	2,000
Equality and Human Rights		12,529	-
Law Centres Federation		6,904	
		319,976	284,130
PROVISION OF LEGAL	SERVICES		
		2009	2008 £
Or M.O		£ 403,459	384,283
Staff Costs		31,144	29,957
Premises costs		87,982	99,213
Other support costs			
		522,585 ———	513,453
GOVERNANCE COSTS			
GOVERNANCE COSTS			
		2009	2008
		£	£
Auditors' remuneration		4,200	4,200
NET INCOMING/(OUTG	OING) RESOURCES		
Net resources are stated afte	r charging/(crediting):		
		2009	2008
		£	£
		4,200	4,200
Auditors' remuneration			
Auditors' remuneration Depreciation - owned assets Other operating leases		223 3,090	11,033 2,909

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED for the year ended 31 March 2009

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2009 nor for the year ended 31 March 2008.

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2009 nor for the year ended 31 March 2008.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2009 £	2008 £
Wages and salaries	331,425	322,665
Social security costs	34,942	33,914
Other pension costs	37,092	27,704
	403,459	384,283
		

10. CLIENTS BANK ACCOUNTS

	2009 £	2008 £
Monies held in client bank accounts	37,783 ====	9,869
Monies due to clients	37,783	9,869

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures and fittings	Law library £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST At 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009	27,160	8,708	15,390	51,258
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2008	26,685	8,291	15,390	50,366
Charge for year	119	104		223
At 31 March 2009	26,804	8,395	15,390	50,589
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2009	<u>356</u>	313		669
At 31 March 2008	475	417	-	<u>892</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED for the year ended 31 March 2009

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

1			2009	2008
			£	£
	Trade debtors Other debtors		76,270 22,547	22,743
	Other debiors			
			98,817	22,743
			====	
13.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN C	ONE YEAR		
			2009	2008
			£	2008 £
	Trade creditors		40,005	13,248
	Taxation and social security		26,550	26,847
	Other creditors		31,872	18,949
	Office creations			
			98,427	59,044
14.	OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS			
	The following operating lease payments are committed to be	e paid within one year	r:	
			*000	2000
			2009 £	2008 £
	Evenisiens		L	L
	Expiring: Within one year		20,000	-
	Between one and five years		70,000	-
	Detricon one and nive years			•
			90,000	-

15.	MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			
			Net	
			movement in	
		At 1.4.08	funds	At 31.3.09
		£	£	· £
	Unrestricted funds			44.054
	General fund	10,000	1,856	11,856
	Staff Contingency fund	50,000	-	50,000
	Equipment fund	5,000	•	5,000 98,998
	Lease and premises fund	98,998		
		163,998	1,856	165,854
	Restricted funds			
	Law Centre Federation	1,587	(648)	939
	Providing Disabled Access to Charity's Premises	749	-	749
		2,336	(648)	1,688
				165 540
	TOTAL FUNDS	166,334	1,208	167,542

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED for the year ended 31 March 2009

15. 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	447,351	(445,495)	1,856
Restricted funds			
Law Centre Federation	6,904	(7,552)	(648)
London Councils	61,208	(61,208)	•
Equality and Human Rights	12,529	(12,529)	-
	80,641	(81,289)	(648)
•			
TOTAL FUNDS	527,992	(526,784)	1,208

Section 37 Statement

Grant Aid of £18,197 was received in the year ended 31 March 2009 from London Councils for the Refugee and Asylum Representation Project (completed 30 September 2008), £24,408 for the Legal Advice and Representation in Social Welfare Project and £18,603 for the Young People Advice Project. The grants were awarded to fund salaries and associated support costs and have been utilised for that purpose.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 March 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
	-	~
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income Donations	105	750
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	5,601	7,576
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Grants	319,976	284,130
Legal Aid and Costs Recovered	202,310	239,821
	522,286	523,951
Total incoming resources	527,992	532,277
. Total mediang resources	,	,
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Charitable activities		
Salaries	331,425	322,665
Social security	34,942	33,914
Pensions	37,092	27,704
Other operating leases	3,090 20,804	2,909 18,350
Rent and rates	1,657	1,453
Insurance	4,070	3,422
Light and heat Telephone	6,640	5,325
Printing and stationery	7,390	8,348
Recruitment, temporary staff & training expenses	12,696	11,474
Sundries	1,060	2,748
Maintenance of property	2,346	3,051
Equipment maintenance	653	1,756
Cleaning	4,603	5,134
Replacement law books	6,920	5,732
Bad debts	-	297
Travelling and subsistence	1,486	379
Postage	5,578	2,857
Computer accessories, software & support	6,012	9,397 3,929
Subscriptions	4,251 11,195	10,800
Bookkeeping	5,057	7,167
Legal and professional fees AGM and Management Committee expenses	719	223
Annual report	1,184	1,118
Practicing certificates	6,345	6,400
Insurance professional indemnity	2,839	3,098
Lawtel	1,958	2,593
Bank charges	349	177
Depreciation of fixtures & fittings	119	158
Depreciation of law library	104	139
Carried forward	522,584	502,717

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 March 2009

T.	2009 £	2008 £
Charitable activities Brought forward Depreciation of computer equipment	522,584	502,717
	522,584	513,453
Governance costs Auditors' remuneration	4,200	4,200
Total resources expended	526,784	517,653
Net income	1,208	14,624