

Company No. 01913555
Charity No. 291890

Voluntary Action Islington Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)
Annual Report & Financial Statements
31 March 2023

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Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Charity registration number 291890

Company registration number 01913555

Registered Office 200a Pentonville Road
London
N1 9JP

Board of Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Colin Adams MBE
Emma Victoria Hutchins (Vice Chair)
Hussain Ahmed
Joseph David Irvin OBE (Chair)
Josephine Mary Langdale (Vice Chair - resigned 01.11. 2022)
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)
Ken Hettiarachi
Kevin Turner (Joined 07.02.23)
Madeleine Gascoigne (Joined 07.02.23)
Philip John Kelly
Santa Gascoigne

**Chief Executive Officer and
Company Secretary**

Navinder Kaur

Independent Examiners

Goldwins Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EG

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
9 Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice-Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Purpose and Aims

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness
- b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not-for-profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit

In the past year the staff and trustees reviewed VAI's mission, vision, values and aims and this annual report reflects these strategic changes.

Our Vision

A thriving voluntary and community sector in Islington: enriching people's lives and building stronger communities.

Our Mission

To strengthen our local voluntary and community sector's ability to deliver services effectively and to promote social justice.

Our Values

- **Effective:** creative, energetic and responsive
- **Collaborative:** building partnerships and co-designing solutions
- **Inclusive:** valuing the importance of diversity and equality
- **Positive:** building on strengths, not just focusing on problems
- **With Integrity:** honest, professional and respectful

Our Strategic Aims

- To support the **development, effectiveness and sustainability** of Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE)
- To empower Islington's diverse **communities**
- To enable **volunteering**
- To facilitate a stronger **VCFSE voice** to influence local policy, decision-making and system change.
- To facilitate stronger **partnership** working across the VCFSE sector

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

Public Benefit

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity

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Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, Community Safety and Health.

Our strategic aims include enabling the VCFSE to address these issues, by supporting organisations to:

- Be more sustainably funded and resourced
- Deliver more effective services
- Be more able to influence local policy

In addition, we want to support the people who volunteer for VCFSE organisations by ensuring:

- Volunteers gain more social contacts, employability experience and skills, and improved health and wellbeing

Through the development of our Theory of Change for Voluntary Action Islington, we were able to map out the changes that we want to achieve for the sector, and the steps that we will take to achieve this change. These specific activities have been briefly described below, as they relate to each aim.

STRATEGIC AIM 1: TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ISLINGTON'S VCFSE

1a. Advice, Information and Support

During this period, we received 240 requests for support and advice from local groups and residents, and responded to these requests via emails, phone calls, and mainly through in-person and online meetings. We held over 130 one-to-one advice sessions with over 80 different groups. We also provided some groups with support over a longer period.

We worked with a broad range of groups, with most working in the area of Health and Wellbeing, Children & Young People and other groups who worked with the whole community. Most of the groups that received support are BAME led. We also provided support to a number of women's groups who mainly focus on health and well-being issues.

This year the top 4 most requested areas of support proved similar to last year, however this year many more (20+) wanted to register as a charity with several of them achieving charity status thus enabling them to approach a broader range of funders. The top areas of support requested:

- Funding and fundraising
- Registering as a charity or company limited by guarantee
- General organisational development (planning, governance, financial management)
- Starting-up an organisation

Evaluation

In general groups who attended the advice sessions felt that they gained practical advice, skills, knowledge, and information that would help them to set up and run their organisations more effectively. Some groups also said that the sessions generated ideas that they wouldn't have thought of. One group reported that the session gave them confidence to set up their Community Interest Company on their own.

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1b. National Lottery 1-to-1 Surgeries

Our work with the National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) is a partnership which enables local community groups to have 1-to-1 sessions with the local Lottery Officer. We have done more outreach this year, with sessions taking place in community centres such as Elizabeth House and Brickworks – in order to reach out to local groups and make the sessions more accessible.

The sessions were held every 2 months and the Lottery Officer advised groups on how best to apply for Lottery funding. This year we held 5 sessions, in which 19 groups received advice on their funding applications. In total 13 groups applied for funding, 4 were successful with Awards for All funding, totalling approximately £40,000, and 2 organisations are being assessed for the Reaching Communities programme.

Evaluation feedback from these sessions shows that most of the groups felt that they had gained better knowledge about what it takes to write a good Lottery application and what the process involved.

1c. Funding Booklet and Funding Updates

This year we produced two funding booklets (July 2022 and February 2023) each having more than 20 new entries and a total of at least 100 funding programmes in each booklet. The booklet is promoted on VAI's news group, and it is placed on our website in both word and PDF formats.

We also collated and disseminated over 35 funding updates through the year, with at least two per month.

1d. Meet the Funder Event

VAI also works with local funders, and on 9 November 2022 we held an event for the Cloudesley's Health programme. This fund supports Islington residents who have physical or mental health issues and who have low levels of income. 35 people attended the session which involved a presentation and a Q&A session.

1e. Writing Better Funding Applications Workshop

This year we ran a training workshop with 12 groups attending. This session was for groups who struggled to write good funding applications because they are new to fundraising or have very little experience and have not been successful with funding applications in the past. The feedback forms showed that all the groups found the workshop very helpful and informative.

1f. Resource Centre Facilities

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road continues to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFSE and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources.

During the year, we continued to provide desk and room hire facilities to charities and community groups. Activity increased as groups recovered from the impact of the pandemic. We applied a flexible approach, with hot desking being introduced as a new feature.

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The community space provided permanent and hot desking facilities to the following organisations working in the equalities and social justice sectors:

Permanent & Hot Desk Users	Postal Addresses
Action for Empty Homes	Christian Muslim Forum
Action for Race Equality (ARE)	Community Tool Bank/ Things in Common
ACTSA	Eritrean Youth Club
ALAG	Metrobox London
Al-Asharaf Community Welfare Association/ Somali Woman's Group	Performing Production
Betknowmore UK	
British Institute of Human Rights	
Capacity London	
Change Communications	
City Year UK	
First Step Action	
Gendered Intelligence	
Headliners UK	
Healthprom	
Hear Network	
Islington Refugee and Migrant Network	
Lakwera Services	
Migrant Voice	
Sapphire Foundation	
Say it Out Loud Club	
SERA	
Universal Ease to Redress	
Wipers CIC	

During the year, we provided training, conference and meeting room facilities to charities and communities groups and did so on 250 occasions.

STRATEGIC AIM 2: TO EMPOWER ISLINGTON'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

2a. Local Wellbeing Network Meetings and Events

The development of the Local Wellbeing Networks (LWNs) continued to be a major priority over the year. We strengthened our partnership with the Octopus Community Network and continued to develop the mechanisms for promoting community voice, connecting the VCFSE, public sector and residents and using this partnership to co-deliver services.

Monthly Local Wellbeing Network meetings in community settings located in the North, Central and South localities took place in July (79 registrations), September, (74 registrations), October (35 registrations) and November (36 registrations).

On the 2 February 23, we held a joint event – with all 3 localities coming together at Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre.

2b. Community Organising

In partnership with Octopus Community Network, we teamed up with Community Organisers, a national agency, who went on to deliver a series of 'An Introduction to Community Organising' training to empower resident voice and engage localised communities:

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- North Locality – 26 April & 10 May (36 registrations for each)
- Central Locality – 28 April & 11 May (33 registrations for each)
- South Locality – 5 May & 12 May (34 registrations for each)

2c. Network Development

We also teamed up with the Social Change Agency to deliver Network Development training, with 9 out of 10 'Change Makers' going through the intensive Network building canvas.

2d. Disabled People's Access to LBI's Employment Support Offer

In partnership with Healthwatch Islington, we carried out research to better understand the barriers in accessing Islington Council's employment support offer. This piece of work was funded by the Islington Integrated Care Board, and we interviewed 25 disabled people as part of this project. We also engaged with local VCFSE organisations working closely with the target group to help identify the gaps in the support offer and what more can be done to enable better access.

2e. Access to Islington's Employment Support Offer

In addition to the above research, we held a session on the 10 November in partnership with Islington Council and Healthwatch to raise awareness of the Council's employment service. 29 organisations registered for the event.

STRATEGIC AIM 3: ENABLE VOLUNTEERING

3a. Volunteer of the Year Awards 2022

We hosted the first in person Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards celebration since the Covid-19 outbreak in November 2022 at London Metropolitan University. That helped us to create a more positive environment in which the value of volunteering was recognised with the biggest number of attendees ever.

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes, and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by the Mayor of Islington, Cllr Marian Spall. The winners were:

- Older Volunteer of the Year 60+: Molly McConville, nominated by the Sunday Club at St John's Church
- Volunteering Team of the Year: Islington Bereavement Support Volunteers
- Volunteer of the Year 26-60: David Batchelor, nominated by Help on Your Doorstep
- Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year: Guilene Marco, nominated by Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation (MEWSO)
- Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25: Edward Campbell, Soapbox Youth Centre

3b. Volunteering Fairs and Outreach

VAI increased the number of volunteering fairs, hosting 4 fairs (April, June & September 2022 and February 2023) in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden, to support the recruitment of volunteers, both online and in person.

We also increased our outreach in public places like community centres, colleges, universities and Islington libraries to enable and raise awareness of volunteering in the broader community.

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3c. Development of New Partnerships to Promote Volunteering

We have started a couple of new projects working in partnership with HeathProm and Union Chapel to support Ukrainian families and asylum seekers living in bridging hotels in Islington to improve their welfare and engagement with the local community whilst volunteering with VSCFE organisations in the borough.

We continued to work in partnership with the Peabody Trust to enhance the existing service and create new volunteering opportunities among Peabody Trust and south Islington residents, to improve their wellbeing and employability skills, and aid community cohesion. As part of our Community Research project on Disabled People's Access to LBI's Employment Support Offer, we asked local volunteers about their awareness of the help and advice that Islington Council can offer to those who are looking for work.

3d. Our Reach

Although the number of volunteers declined in other parts of London, we had 351 new volunteers registered with the Volunteer Centre – almost reaching pre-pandemic numbers – and bringing a total of 4,122 local residents registered as volunteers. 56 new VCFSE groups/organisations registered with our Volunteer Centre, bringing the total of organisations registered to 489, with 262 volunteer roles promoted.

STRATEGIC AIM 4: TO FACILITATE A STRONGER VCFSE VOICE TO INFLUENCE LOCAL POLICY, DECISION-MAKING AND SYSTEM CHANGE

4a. Young Islington Inclusion Project

From May 2022 onwards, VAI worked with Islington Council to support the development of the three Young Islington Locality Networks and the New Youth Offer as part of the 'Fairer Together' Islington initiative. VAI engaged small groups and grassroots organisations (those with a turnover of up to £500k per annum) working with young people (aged 11 – 25 years of age) that are under-represented and/or not engaged with the Islington Youth Work Offer focussing on those from the Bangladeshi, Kurdish, Somali and Turkish communities. This was a new area of work, in which VAI engaged small groups and grassroots organisations to explore their barriers to engaging with the Young Islington Locality Networks (YILNs) and support their stepping into more visible influential roles within the YILNs. By doing this it was envisaged that this would result in the development of an enriched universal youth work offer that was shaped by the YILNs growing diverse and inclusive membership. Additionally, VAI worked to establish standards for engagement of these underrepresented/marginalised groups in the YILNs and wider youth provision and, partnership working.

Between 13 June 2022 and 25 January 2023, VAI's Young Islington Development Officer met with 84 youth providers/small community groups. 42 in person and 42 remotely. Of these 39 were groups/individuals working with young people from the Bangladeshi, Kurdish, Somali and/or Turkish communities.

Young Islington Locality Event - 26 January 2023

Based on feedback VAI obtained from the listening sessions held with the small community groups working with young people it emerged that the groups wanted to come together to share their experiences, network, meet local funders and hear more about the new Youth Work Offer.

On 26 January 2023 the Young Islington Locality Event was held at VAI's Resource Centre. The main aims of the event were a) to provide the opportunity for small community groups working with young people (particularly from the aforementioned under-represented communities) and representatives from the YILNs to come together, share information and

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build bridges. The intention being for this event to start the process of an ongoing dialogue between these groups and for local funders to share their insights and encourage the groups to submit funding applications.

Additionally, the event provided the opportunity to directly gather the participant's views and opinions on:

- The things they are doing with their young people that work well
- What their young people would like to do more of and
- How they would like to develop their relationship with established youth providers to benefit their young people

62 delegates from 41 organisations attended.

Over the duration of the project, the Young Islington Development Officer reached out to 125 organisations. 89 of these organisations were active and, he worked more closely with 13 Pilot Group organisations working exclusively or mostly with target groups. Of these Pilot Groups Galbur Foundation, MEWSO, Minority Matters, Turkish Kurdish Children's Group and the Somali Women's Speakers Group were supported to work closely with and develop positive relationships with the YILNs/network members.

Also, Galbur Foundation, Masjid e Yusuf Mosque, MEWSO and, Turkish Kurdish Group attended Young Islington Locality meetings, and Eritrean Community In UK and the Muslim Welfare House have/are interested in attending YILNs meetings.

4b. London Youth - Centre for Youth Impact Research & Analysis - March 2023

The above-mentioned pilot groups were invited to engage with/join London Youth to share the ways they meet their young people's needs and engage and provide them with high-quality and impactful services. London Youth were keen to hear about what their young people's needs are. The sessions took place online on Tuesday 21 and 22 March.

London Youth and Partnership for Young London used this information to inform the work they did with young people and youth practitioners to produce a resource on how to best support minoritised groups.

4c. Community Conversations

We continued to host Community Conversations, helping to set the agenda and co-chairing the series with Public Health Islington on the 28 April and 29 November 2022.

4d. Health and Wellbeing Network

With a view to ensuring inclusivity and widening participation around the theme of health and the LWN, in February 2022 we created the borough-wide Health and Wellbeing Network, as a direct response to the pandemic, but also around the growing need for clear communications around health, both physical and mental throughout Islington. We held a series of Health and Wellbeing Network meetings on the following dates:

- 28 April (24 registrations)
- 26 May (21 registrations)
- 21 July (26 registrations)
- 29 September (34 registrations)
- 20 October (27 registrations)

4e. VAI's Advisory Group

Our CEO assembled an Advisory Group made up of the following organisations and networks in the borough and facilitated monthly meetings and workshops: Age UK, Brickworks Community Centre, Copenhagen Youth Project, Cripplegate, Healthwatch Islington, Islington

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CAB, Islington Faiths Forum, Islington Mind, Islington Refugee and Migrant Forum, Octopus Community Network, St Lukes Community Centre, Stuart Low Trust, and Talk for Health.

4f. Islington Compact

One of the significant areas of work that the Advisory Group started working on was the refresh of the Islington Compact – the partnership agreement between Islington Council and the VCFSE sector.

4g. Local Representation

Our CEO represented the VCFSE at the following LBI partnership boards:

- Islington Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Inequality Task Force
- Let's Talk Islington
- Fairer Together
- Islington Together Cost of Living Summit
- Emergency Planning – Corporate Contingency Exercise
- Islington Together Leaders Group
- Fairer Together Partnerships Board
- Community Partnership Board
- Winter Wellness Partners Group

4h. North Central London (NCL) Representation

Our CEO represented Islington's VCFSE at the following NCL partnership boards:

- VCFSE Alliance – which includes CVSs and service providers from Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey
- NCL Integrated Care Board – Strategy and Development Committee

STRATEGIC AIM 5: TO FACILITATE STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS THE VCFSE

5a. Annual VCFSE Conference – 18 May 2022

VAI held its annual conference at the London Metropolitan University. The discussions highlighted the following main challenges for the sector:

- Increasing poverty and health inequality amongst Islington's communities resulting from the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis
- Lack of connectivity and joint working between the VCFSE and between the sectors which has an impact on meeting the growing needs of our communities
- Lack of infrastructure and workforce development to support the VCS to work together more effectively and with the statutory sector
- Lack of access to statutory funding, and complex procurement processes

Summary of key actions needed:

- Build on the successes of the COVID-19 pandemic to address the cost-of-living crisis, and health inequality amongst Islington's communities
- Celebrate VCFSE successes and demonstrate its added value, quality and impact. More resources and investment required to do this and needs to include volunteering
- Share more information on how we work and have the infrastructure to enable sharing online and through forums and networks
- VCFSE should be recognised as a key strategic partner that should be involved in every conversation – and be a vehicle for influence and positive social change. Where

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challenges/issues have been identified by statutory agencies, they need to approach the VCFSE for solutions and vice versa

- Build stronger links amongst statutory bodies, statutory provision, funders and community and residents whether by having events where commissioners and beneficiaries can have a dialogue or having statutory services coming to the community and residents to raise awareness of current services and/or changes in services
- Address our capacity issues with more resources invested in premises, building capacity and organisational development as well as back-office support, peer support and mentoring, leadership, and succession planning
- Build a greater level of collaboration and connectivity amongst the VCFSE to enable the sharing of learning and skills as well as providing opportunities for joint funding
- Build stronger links with statutory sector to demonstrate the diversity of the VCFSE and the value of this diversity but one that has a shared identity
- Develop a Code of Conduct between sectors (i.e. COMPACT)

5b. Grassroots and Small Organisations Summits – 12 July & 29 September 2022

We received extensive feedback from groups in the following areas:

- Stronger voice
- Volunteering
- Communications and demonstrating impact
- Organisational development and
- funding and resources

We will input this feedback into the development and implementation of our new 2024-27 strategy as well as the VCFSE strategy and implementation plan which we will create in partnership with Islington Council.

5c. Supporting Ukrainian Families

We secured funding from NAVCA to start supporting organisations which were preparing for the arrival of people from Ukraine and subsequent support for them as well as better co-ordination of activities within the VCFSE and Islington Council and to build capacity where it is needed. We teamed up with Healthprom who were commissioned by Islington Council to provide direct support to Ukrainian families arriving in Islington of which there were 270 mostly women and children as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Our partnership started in March 2023, with the bulk of the activity taking place from April 2023 onwards.

5d. Other Partnerships

As we have outlined in previous sections, we sought to foster stronger partnerships and cooperation, through:

- Supporting Local Wellbeing Networks, in partnership with Octopus Community Network
- Creating VAI's Advisory Group of 13 voluntary and community groups and borough-wide networks
- Delivering Volunteering Fairs in partnership with Voluntary Action Camden
- Supporting the borough-wide Health and Wellbeing Network
- Supporting the development of three Young Islington Locality networks and bringing organisations together at the Young Islington Locality Event
- Convening our annual VCFSE conference and two Grassroots Summits
- Representing the VCFSE on several LBI partnership boards
- Representing the local VCFSE on the NHS Integrated Care Board for North Central London
- Beginning a review of the Compact – the overarching partnership agreement between Islington Council and the VCFSE sector

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- Working with Healthwatch Islington to promote health issues and LBI's employment support service

5e. Celebrating 50 Years of Service

We were proud during the year to celebrate our 50 years of service to the Islington community. We paid tribute to the founders of VAI and all the people who, across over five decades, served as volunteers, staff and trustees; our member organisations and everyone in the Borough's voluntary and community bodies; as well as our hugely valuable partners in the public sector, charitable trusts and businesses.

We hosted a major event at London Metropolitan University to commemorate these 50 years of work at our AGM on 2 November 2022, along with the Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards. We were pleased to welcome the Council Leader Cllr Kaya Comer Schwartz, local MP Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn, the Mayor of Islington Cllr Marian Spall, two former CEOs and several representatives of the local VCFSE to contribute to the occasion.

We published a history of our 50 years ('VAI - Celebrating 50 Years of Service'). The achievements of those five decades include:

- Pioneering work to set up new community centres and fostering new voluntary organisations and tenants associations
- Negotiating with the Council to set a baseline for staff working in the local voluntary sector, including the London Living Wage and appropriate pay scales
- Establishing the only accredited volunteer centre for the borough, matching thousands of volunteers with opportunities in local charities and community groups
- Supporting hundreds of local VCFSE organisations to get off the ground and flourish
- Providing a common voice for the VCFSE in times of need
- Setting standards for childcare and play areas
- Supporting greater equality and diversity
- Fostering the development of BAME, ethnic community and refugee support charities
- Organising thousands of volunteers to support our community during the Covid pandemic, including delivering food and essential supplies to homes and helping at vaccination centres

More information about our history and the impact we have made over the last 5 decades and continue to make can be found here: [VAI's 50th Anniversary Publication. Annual Impact Report 2021/2022](#)

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES

Our core activities, undertaken in our capacity as a Council for Voluntary Services are detailed below:

- We organise an annual conference for the local VCFSE sector on themes of particular relevance for the sector. This is an opportunity for our members to provide feedback and to inform future priorities
- We continue to provide an email news service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities
- We have negotiated an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate
- Our website is an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including local volunteering opportunities, funding and resources for organisations. We continued to add to and update our online directory of local organisations

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- We provide charities with desk spaces, affordable meeting and conference rooms and shared facilities through our Resource Centre. There are special rates on room hire for members
- We promote community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting
- We continue to run advice sessions and also run monthly "surgeries" where people can get initial advice about starting or developing a local community organisation
- We are proud to run the only nationally accredited Volunteer Centre for Islington - matching people interested in volunteering with local opportunities in the VCFS. We have a small team of volunteers involved in this work which provides a drop-in twice a week and promotes volunteering at local community events
- We provide a volunteering database that enables organisations to post their own volunteer opportunities, while at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Membership Services

During the year, we grew our membership to 568 local VCFSE organisations. Going forward we will be reviewing our membership offer and will work on improving our services to our membership.

Regular Communications

We circulated funding updates, job alerts and local community events via all our messaging platforms:

Social Media

VAI and its Volunteer Centre have 6,373 followers on Twitter with 3,758 following VAI and 2,615 following the Volunteer Centre. We have increased our Instagram followers by 22% to 808 from the previous year.

Newsgroup

The VAI Newsgroup increased from the previous year to over 700 local groups/organisations. This is a platform where the VCFSE shared local news about their services in Islington. Upon request, we also disseminated news and information from our council and public health colleagues. In 2022-23, 1,152 news emails were shared using this platform.

Volunteer Centre

We sent regular communications to organisations and residents registered at the Volunteer Centre.

Website

Our website had over 37k visits from VCS groups/organisations accessing a range of capacity building and organisational development information/resources and events to support the VCS in the delivery of their services.

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OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENT PLACEMENTS

In addition to our trustees, during the past year, VAI had a small team of volunteers assisting us in delivering some of our activities. The volunteers supported the customer service of VAI Resource Centre and assisted with our Volunteer Centre brokerage service. They arranged face to face meetings with potential volunteers, supported the online Volunteer Fairs and promoting volunteering opportunities across Islington. By volunteering for VAI, the volunteers gained valuable work experience which resulted in one volunteer gaining paid employment at VAI.

Our volunteers during this year included: Justyna Kniec, Juliana Jalo, Kidist Melka, Nadine Johnson, Nisreen Abou Henda, Marlene Lall, Megan Malloy and Tara Harman. They provided support at the Resource Centre and Volunteer Centre, as well as providing support at Local Wellbeing Network events and meetings.

DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

We continued to develop new and existing cross-sector partnerships – please see Strategic Aims 4 & 5 above.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCFSE organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED

Our main sources of income are grants and donations from public authorities and charitable trusts and foundations, together with space rental income from our Resource Centre. The breakdown of our funding during this year:

- Islington Council core grant to continue our work in building capacity among local VCFS organisations and operating our Volunteer Centre brokerage service - £75,000.
- Islington Council - Local Wellbeing Networks - £45,000
- Islington Council – Young Islington Inclusion Project - £20,000
- Public Health Islington - hyperlocal vaccination and volunteering support - £39,372
- Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service) – Young Londoners Fund Network - £3,930
- VAI Resource Centre - £272,006

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net income, before gains on investments, of £53,307 (2022: £36,277). That surplus comprised net expenditure of £37,825 (2021: £64,750 surplus) on restricted funds and a £91,132 surplus (2022: £28,473 loss) on unrestricted funds. The surplus on unrestricted funds was the effective operating surplus for the year.

After incorporating the £14,976 loss incurred on investment values in the year (2022: £16,035 gain), net income (the annual surplus) reduces to £38,331 (2021: £52,312). The trustees consider that to be a satisfactory result for the year and consistent with their commitment to rebuild the charity reserves.

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Income increased from £407,946 in 2021-22 to £490,853 for the current year. Voluntary Action Islington's Resource Centre generated the largest source of income, as it has done in recent years, and continued its recovery from the Covid-19 impacted years. The London Borough of Islington (LBI) continued to support VAI's core activities under the Strategic Borough-wide Partners and Strategic Volunteering Partners grants.

At the year end all funds totalled £359,076 (2022: £320,745) of which £289,192 (2022: £213,036) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £181,729 (2022: £162,527).

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

Reserves

On 31 March 2023 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £289,192 (2022: £213,036).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £181,729 (2022: £162,527). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £181,729 is equivalent to 36% (2022: 36%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £107,436 (2022: £50,509), designations having been made to invest in VAI's IT infrastructure and to support potential relocation from the Resource Centre in 2024 including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £69,884 of restricted funds (2022: £107,709), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

Investment Policy and Performance

This year, Voluntary Action Islington implemented the investment policy as agreed in October 2022. The objectives of the policy are:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long-term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington
- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Investment values fell from £173,579 to 158,603 during the year resulting in annual unrealised losses of £14,976 (2022: £16,035 gains). The investments continue to be held with the expectation that values will rise in the future.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

During the year the trustees carried out a review of the risks faced by the charity in relation to personnel, finance, property, reputation, new business, health and safety, governance and management, and performance. Plans to mitigate these risks were developed and reviewed. A risk register is maintained as part of the Business Plan and the trustees keep this under review.

The main factors likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity are a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to VCFSE organisations, a loss of funding or insecurity in our Resource Centre lease. We mitigate these risks by improving the facilities at the Resource Centre. We plan to maintain our financial resources by careful financial management and by continuing to provide excellent public benefit in conjunction with our partners and seeking funding for our projects and charitable services to the local VCFSE.

We also plan to ensure continuity in our Resource Centre provision by negotiating renewal of the lease in October 2024.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local VCFSE organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in partnership boards that influence how Islington Council including Islington's Integrated Care Board (ICB), the North Central London Integrated Care System and Public Health make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level. This includes multi-agency initiatives such as Fairer Together, where we represent our membership.

We will continue to work with VCFSE organisations to help diversify funding and other support, including by engaging with private business. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will continue to work with VCFSE by providing networking and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one-to-one support and training workshops.

We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road is an important community asset for local VCFS organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility.

Our website and social media are well used resources, and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013. The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 11 trustees with plans to recruit one further 1 trustee. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and during the past year a skills audit of current trustees was carried out. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building and organisational development. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law. The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), NCVO, and Children England. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9th September 2016 the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30th September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Hussain Ahmed remains a director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans as yet to appoint new Directors.

Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. A register of trustee interests is maintained and was updated during the year. Any potential conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each trustees meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. All job descriptions are independently evaluated, and staff receive the rate of pay applicable to the scale at which the post is evaluated. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees, who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and 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 and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees 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. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees on 31st March 2023 was 568. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

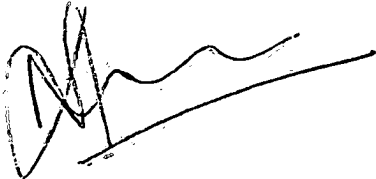
Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the Independent Examiners of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 30 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Navinder Kaur', written over a horizontal line.

Navinder Kaur
Company Secretary

Registered office:
200a Pentonville Road
London N1 9JP

Independent examiner's report

To the members of Voluntary Action Islington Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its 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 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Anthony Epton

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

14 November 2023

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	1,000	75,000	76,000	-	75,000	75,000
Charitable activities	3						
Community Development		50,000	-	50,000	41,132	-	41,132
Member Services and Support		20,000	3,930	23,930	-	4,939	4,939
Sector Development and Volunteering		44,372	288,423	332,795	75,781	199,334	275,115
Investments		-	8,128	8,128	-	7,478	7,478
Other	4	-	-	-	-	4,282	4,282
Total income		115,372	375,481	490,853	116,913	291,033	407,946
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Community Development		45,273	-	45,273	14,020	2,434	16,454
Member Services and Support		30,488	51,606	82,094	4,274	63,304	67,578
Sector Development and Volunteering		77,436	232,743	310,179	33,869	253,768	287,637
Total expenditure	5	153,197	284,349	437,546	52,163	319,506	371,669
Net (expenditure) income before net gains (losses) on investments		(37,825)	91,132	53,307	64,750	(28,473)	36,277
Net gains (losses) on investments	10	-	(14,976)	(14,976)	-	16,035	16,035
Net (expenditure) income for the year	8	(37,825)	76,156	38,331	64,750	(12,438)	52,312
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(5,565)	5,565	-
Net movement in funds		(37,825)	76,156	38,331	59,185	(6,873)	52,312
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		107,709	213,036	320,745	48,524	219,909	268,433
Total funds carried forward	15	69,884	289,192	359,076	107,709	213,036	320,745

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 23 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited (Limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet

Company No. 01913555

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	13,468	27,522
Investments	10	<u>158,603</u>	<u>173,579</u>
		172,071	201,101
Current assets			
Debtors	11	27,227	17,179
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>254,605</u>	<u>176,072</u>
		281,832	193,251
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(94,827)</u>	<u>(73,607)</u>
Net current assets		<u>187,005</u>	<u>119,644</u>
Net assets	14	<u>359,076</u>	<u>320,745</u>
Funds	15		
Restricted funds		69,884	107,709
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated funds		107,463	50,509
General funds		<u>181,729</u>	<u>162,527</u>
Total funds		<u>359,076</u>	<u>320,745</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Approved by the trustees on 30 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:


Jorge Llorens
Treasurer


Joseph David Irvin
Chair

The notes on pages 23 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	16		70,405		69,165
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends from investments		8,128		7,478	
Sale (purchase) of fixed assets		-		(2,915)	
Sale (purchase) of investments		-		-	
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities			8,128		4,563
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			78,533		73,728
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			176,827		103,099
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17		255,360		176,827

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Voluntary Action Islington meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

1b Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. They are confident that the level of reserves, the strong recovery from Covid-19 disruption in the last year and the on-going diversification of income streams will together ensure its ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgements have been made by the charitable company which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1c Income

Income, including income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants are credited to incoming resources when they are receivable as the charity's own money, unless they are for activities that relate to a specific future period, in which case they are deferred to that period.

Income received under contracts for services which cross over the year end are recognised in the financial statements in line with the percentage of completion of the contract at the year end.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Distributions from listed investments are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally the date on which the holding is first quoted ex dividend or the end date of the period for which it is accrued as notified by the fund manager.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1d Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

1e Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of services and support to members and developing volunteering and the local voluntary sector undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

1f Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with their use of resources.

Premises are allocated proportionate to floor space occupied by each activity as follows:

Community Development	1.2%
Member Services and Support	2.3%
Sector Development and Volunteering	95.6%
Support costs	0.8%
Governance costs	0.1%

Other costs of administration are allocated per capita VAI staff and other occupants of the Resource Centre as follows:

Community Development	2.7%
Member Services and Support	5.4%
Sector Development and Volunteering	89.9%
Support costs	1.9%
Governance costs	0.1%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Community Development	7.4%
Member Services and Support	14.9%
Sector Development and Volunteering	77.7%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1g Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the length of the lease.

1h Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	4 years
Leasehold property	The lesser of 15 years or the remaining lease term

1i Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1j Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1k Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington	<u>1,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>76,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>76,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>

Voluntary Action Islington benefit from a Section 106 Agreement that provides accommodation at a peppercorn rent. As it is not possible to put an accurate value to this, it has not been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
London Borough of Islington				
Local Wellbeing Network	45,000	-	45,000	30,000
Peabody				
Local Wellbeing Network	-	-	-	11,132
Donations and similar income, under	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Sub-total for Community Development	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>41,132</u>
	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service)				
Young Londoner's Fund Network	-	3,930	3,930	4,939
London Borough of Islington				
Young Islington Networks	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Sub-total for Member Services and Support	<u>20,000</u>	<u>3,930</u>	<u>23,930</u>	<u>4,939</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

3 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Community resource and other service income	-	272,006	272,006	154,322
London Borough of Islington				
COVID-19 vaccination roll-out support	-	-	-	36,026
COVID-19 vaccine uptake	-	-	-	59,281
Public Health	39,372	-	39,372	-
Peabody (via The London Community Foundation)				
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	-	-	15,000
Donations and similar income, under £10,000 each	5,000	16,417	21,417	10,486
Sub-total for Sector Development and Volunteering	44,372	288,423	332,795	275,115
Total income from charitable activities	114,372	292,353	406,725	321,186

4 Other income

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	4,282
	-	-	-	4,282

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

5 Analysis of expenditure

5a Current year	Charitable activities			Governance costs	Support costs	2023 Total	2022 Total
	Community Development	Member Services and Support	Sector Development and Volunteering				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 6)	21,868	53,032	169,077	1,711	21,021	266,709	216,686
Agency staff	-	-	728	-	19,812	20,540	21,872
Other staff costs	223	970	2,918	10	144	4,265	2,488
Direct activity costs	16,749	423	6,610	-	19	23,801	6,221
Premises	709	1,359	56,478	35	496	59,077	67,504
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	14,054	14,054	14,621
Admin and ICT	821	2,449	37,044	39	557	40,910	34,681
Compliance	-	-	183	5,189	2,818	8,190	7,596
	40,370	58,233	273,038	6,984	58,921	437,546	371,669
Governance costs	685	1,368	4,931	(6,984)	-	-	-
Support Costs	4,218	22,493	32,210	-	(58,921)	-	-
Total expenditure 2023	45,273	82,094	310,179	-	-	437,546	371,669
5b Prior year							
Direct expenditure	13,607	56,561	241,541	5,333	54,627	371,669	
Support and governance costs allocated	2,847	11,017	46,096	(5,333)	(54,627)	-	
Total expenditure 2022	16,454	67,578	287,637	-	-	371,669	

Support and governance costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity (note 1f).
Of the total expenditure, £284,349 was unrestricted (2022: £319,506) and £153,197 was restricted (2022: £52,163).

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses and key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	234,372	187,400
Redundancy and termination costs	-	4,208
Social security costs	18,886	14,731
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	13,451	10,348
	<u>266,709</u>	<u>216,687</u>
Agency costs	20,540	16,601
	<u>287,249</u>	<u>233,288</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2022: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and employer's national insurance of the key management personnel were £78,026 (2022: £57,330).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022 £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity in the year (2022: £nil) and no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2022: none).

Staff numbers:

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 8 (2022: 6).

The average number of employees (full time equivalent) during the year and by activity was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Community Development	0.6	0.3
Member Services and Support	1.2	1.1
Sector Development and Volunteering	4.3	3.0
Support and governance	0.5	0.4
	<u>6.6</u>	<u>4.8</u>

7 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

8 Net income (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	14,054	14,621
Board of Trustees - indemnity insurance	505	492
Operating lease charges	8,613	8,319
Independent Examiner's remuneration:	3,000	3,000

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment £	Leasehold property £	2023 Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	101,397	133,950	235,347
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	(5,279)	-	(5,279)
At 31 March 2023	96,118	133,950	230,068
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	97,899	109,926	207,825
Charge for the year	2,041	12,013	14,054
Eliminated on disposal	(5,279)	-	(5,279)
At 31 March 2023	94,661	121,939	216,600
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	1,457	12,011	13,468
At 31 March 2022	3,498	24,024	27,522

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

10 Fixed asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Listed investments (note 10a)	158,602	173,578
Investment in subsidiary company (note 10b)	1	1
	158,603	173,579

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

10a Listed investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of movement of investments		
Market value at start of year	172,823	156,788
Disposals at market value	-	-
Realised gains / (losses)	-	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	<u>(14,976)</u>	<u>16,035</u>
Market value at year end	157,847	172,823
Cash instruments and cash held for reinvestment	<u>755</u>	<u>755</u>
Fair value at year end	<u>158,602</u>	<u>173,578</u>
Historical cost	<u>158,595</u>	<u>158,595</u>

The investments comprise two UK unit trusts.

10b Investment in subsidiary company

VAI beneficially owns the entire share capital of Voluntary Action Services Limited (a company limited by share capital, company no. 8612449 (England and Wales)), through which VAI's commercial trading previously took place. In September 2016 the decision was taken to suspend trading through the company. The company remained dormant at 31 March 2023.

The share capital and reserves of the subsidiary are not material and therefore no consolidated accounts have been prepared. Disclosure is confined to this note to the accounts.

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment in Voluntary Action Services Ltd at cost	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

At 31 March 2023 VAI held one share of £1, being the entire share capital of the trading company.

10b Investment in subsidiary company (continued)

Relevant financial information regarding Voluntary Action Services Ltd is as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Assets	1	1
Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

11 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	18,456	9,108
Other debtors	3,152	798
Prepayments	5,619	7,273
	<u>27,227</u>	<u>17,179</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Tax and social security costs	6,488	4,777
Trade creditors	14,955	10,543
Other creditors	-	1,515
Accruals	73,214	53,119
Deferred income (note 12)	170	3,653
	<u>94,827</u>	<u>73,607</u>

Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	3,653	4,884
Amount released to income in the year	(3,653)	(4,884)
Amount deferred in the year	170	3,653
Balance at the end of the year	<u>170</u>	<u>3,653</u>

Deferred income comprises resource centre income received in advance (2022: one partially delivered service contract).

13 Related party transactions

Colin Adams is a trustee of VAI and a trustee of Octopus Community Network.

VAI paid Octopus Community Network £8,149 towards costs incurred in supporting the Local Wellbeing Network programme in the year. There were no related party transactions to disclose for 2022.

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

14 Analysis of group net assets between funds

14a Current year

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	7,005	6,463	-	13,468
Investment assets	-	60,000	98,603	158,603
Net current assets	62,879	41,000	83,126	187,005
Net assets at 31 March 2023	69,884	107,463	181,729	359,076

14b Prior year

	Restricted £	Designated £	General £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	14,013	13,509	-	27,522
Investment assets	-	33,000	140,579	173,579
Net current assets	93,696	4,000	21,948	119,644
Net assets at 31 March 2022	107,709	50,509	162,527	320,745

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15 Movements in funds

15a Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	17,664	-	(10,488)	-	7,176
Cost of living	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	34,818	-	(34,818)	-	-
Local Wellbeing Network	27,112	45,000	(44,194)	-	27,918
Public Health and Community Engagement	-	39,372	(15,508)	-	23,864
South Islington volunteering opportunities	14,102	-	(14,102)	-	-
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	-	5,000	(1,079)	-	3,921
VCFS Annual Conference	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Young Islington Networks	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Fixed assets	14,013	-	(7,008)	-	7,005
Total restricted funds	107,709	115,372	(153,197)	-	69,884
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	33,000	-	-	64,000	97,000
Fixed assets	13,509	-	(7,046)	-	6,463
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>50,509</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(7,046)</i>	<i>64,000</i>	<i>107,463</i>
General funds	162,527	375,481	(292,279)	(64,000)	181,729
Total unrestricted funds	213,036	375,481	(299,325)	-	289,192
Total funds	320,745	490,853	(452,522)	-	359,076

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15 Movements in funds (continued)

15b Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming and gains £	Outgoing and losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	21,938	-	(4,274)	-	17,664
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	-	59,281	(24,463)	-	34,818
Islington Environment Forum	5,565	-	-	(5,565)	-
Local Wellbeing Network	-	41,132	(14,020)	-	27,112
South Islington volunteering opportunities	-	15,000	(898)	-	14,102
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Fixed assets	21,021	-	(7,008)	-	14,013
Total restricted funds	48,524	116,913	(52,163)	(5,565)	107,709
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Building improvement	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
ICT infrastructure development	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Relocation	33,000	-	-	-	33,000
Fixed assets	11,081	-	(7,613)	10,041	13,509
<i>Total designated funds</i>	53,081	-	(12,613)	10,041	50,509
General funds	166,828	307,068	(306,893)	(4,476)	162,527
Total unrestricted funds	219,909	307,068	(319,506)	5,565	213,036
Total funds	268,433	423,981	(371,669)	-	320,745

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds

Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Funds provided by the London Borough of Islington to support activities by the Children's Voluntary Sector Forum.
Cost of Living	NAVCA funding to facilitate the sharing of data and insight between VCFS and LBI. Includes facilitation and support for the LBI staff volunteering programme.
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	Funded by NCL Clinical Commissioning Group and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the programme aimed to improve Covid-19 vaccination take up in areas and communities where it is low.
Islington Environment Forum	Funds originally transferred from Groundwork London for activities undertaken by the Islington Environment Forum, led by an Independent Chair. After five years of inactivity, with multiple attempts made over time to contact representatives of the Forum to ascertain their intentions for this funding, VAI's trustees concluded in 2021-22 that they were no longer required for this restricted purpose and took them back to general funds.
Local Wellbeing Network	As part of Islington Council's 'Fairer Together' initiative, VAI and Octopus Community Network have been funded to develop Local Wellbeing Networks in the North, Central and South localities to increase collaboration between local services and to provide a platform for community voice.
Public Health and Community Engagement	Funding to develop effective partnerships with Public Health and the local VCFS to promote Covid vaccination and other health and wellbeing offers.
South Islington volunteering opportunities	To provide outreach services to Peabody residents especially those located in the south of the borough.
Ukraine Refugee Infrastructure Fund	To partner with Healthprom, and develop a network of organisations to provide more effective support to Ukrainian families hosted through the sponsorship programme.
VCFS Annual Conference	LBI funding towards catering costs for event held at London
Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership	Grants from NAVCA to provide local intelligence, supplied via weekly Emergency Partnerships Pulse Check Surveys, about local priority concerns arising from Covid-19.
Young Islington Networks	To widen the engagement and participation of Islington's VCFS in the Young Islington Networks and the Universal Youth Work Offer.

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15c Movements in funds (continued)

Purpose of restricted funds (continued)

Fixed assets To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from restricted funding.

Purpose of designated funds

ICT infrastructure development A fund to invest in essential improvements to the ICT infrastructure of the Resource Centre.

Relocation A fund to be built up over 10 years so that Voluntary Action Islington is in a position to manage its liabilities at the end of the lease on the current building in October 2024 and to seek alternative premises. £64,000 was designated to the fund in the year.

Fixed assets To cover the future depreciation of Voluntary Action Islington's fixed assets originally paid for from unrestricted funds.

16 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	38,331	52,312
Depreciation	14,054	14,621
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	(8,128)	(7,478)
(Gains) / losses on investments	14,976	(16,035)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(10,048)	17,287
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	21,220	8,458
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	70,405	69,165

17 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	Other changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	176,072	78,533	-	254,605
Cash held by investment managers	755	-	-	755
Total cash and cash equivalents	176,827	78,533	-	255,360

Voluntary Action Islington Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

18 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Less than one year	8,610	8,582
One to five years	24,869	31,538
Over five years	-	1,913
	<u>33,479</u>	<u>42,033</u>

19 Contingent liability

Under the terms of the lease for its current premises Voluntary Action Islington is liable for the costs of restoring the property to its original condition, including removal of all fixtures and fittings, if so required by the landlord when yielding up the property at the end of the lease term (October 2024). The extent of the works that will be required and the consequent cost cannot reasonably be estimated at this time and so no provision has been made for this in the accounts.

20 Company limited by guarantee

Voluntary Action Islington is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.