

TUESDAY



ACDUGJAW

A11

10/10/2023

#40

COMPANIES HOUSE

GLOUCESTER LAW CENTRE

Trustees report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Management Committee, trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act, present their report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Gloucester Law Centre

Charity Registration Number: 900439

Company Registration Number: 1937081

Those who served as management committee members otherwise known as trustees during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Trustees and Their Interests

Jim Dale

Chris Hill

Stella Jensen

Angela Porter

No trustee has any beneficial interest in the company. All trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of winding up. The number of guarantees at [31st March 2023] was 4.

Bankers

The company's bankers are the Co-operative Bank, 1 Balloon St. Manchester.

Independent Examiner

The company's Independent Examiner is Dick Maule, The Cross House, South Woodchester, GL5 5EL

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 August 1985 and registered as a charity on 29 May 1990. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustees are provided with an induction pack which includes information about the responsibilities of charity trustees, the roles of trustees and officers, how to be an effective charity trustee and a code of conduct for meetings.

Trustees are encouraged to attend training sessions provided by Gloucester AVCA on the roles and responsibilities of trustees.

Reserves Policy and Risk Assessment

The trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity's Commission and have set aside or designated unrestricted reserves of £137,268 to cover expenditure, in the event of redundancy.

The trustees consider it prudent that the Law Centre should also aim to hold general unrestricted reserves equivalent to 4 months of the charity's average general expenditure over the preceding two years. In 2022/23 this equated to £107,123. [In 2021/22 this equated to £102,531].

This is to safeguard the charity's service commitment in the event of loss of or delays in receipt of grant income.

To comply with our Reserves Policy, reserves as at 31.3.23 should be £137,268 set aside for redundancy + £107,123 general reserves = £244,391. As at 31.3.22 £136,971 set aside for redundancy £117,054 general reserves = £254,025.

General unrestricted reserves are currently below the stated range by £33,727. [2022 : currently above the stated range by £14,523]

The level of reserves is monitored and reviewed by the trustees twice a year.

Organisational Structure

The Law Centre has a Management Committee of up to 8 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the committee has 4 members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

Objectives and Activities

The company is a charity and exists to promote the following aims and objectives:

1. To provide free, independent, high quality advice and representation in welfare benefits, council tax, and housing, law to persons resident in the whole of the county of Gloucestershire.
2. To provide advice and consultancy in these and related areas to local voluntary and statutory agencies.

3. To work with other organisations and local authorities on matters of mutual concern e.g. meeting unmet need for legal services.
4. To inform local people of their legal rights and obligations and to enable them to understand them and to become more assertive in obtaining their rights.
5. To involve the community in the management of the services and in the decision making about the type of service and the way it is provided.
6. To provide training and information to local groups.

All activities are considered to be for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Our main activities are described below. Our charitable activities focus on providing free legal advice in particular areas of law.

Our barristers, solicitors, professional and skilled staff continue to champion the rights of citizens of Gloucester city, and in some areas of law throughout the county, through:

- Legal representation, including through the courts and tribunals and at the very highest level, even with ground breaking test cases.
- Consultation, advice and assistance to other less specialised agencies
- Policy work with local statutory agencies

Our quality of work is maintained through:

- Stringent annual auditing by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to ensure that we continue to meet the high standards for the award of the Specialist Quality mark, which we hold in all our casework areas
- Detailed annual monitoring of our services by Gloucester City Council
- Analysing client feedback obtained through a client satisfaction survey
- Attendance by all staff at regular specialist training

Management Committee Responsibilities

Company law requires the management committee, who are also the charity trustees, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- * select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- * make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- * state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- * prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

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

Members of the Board who are management committee for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's independent examiner is unaware; and

the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

Plans for future periods

We are still in discussions with the Law Centres Network about how we can make the organisation viable beyond 31st March 2024.

Independent Examiners

The independent examiners have expressed their willingness to be reappointed in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees on 27/09/2023 and signed on their behalf by



..... Chris Hill, Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Gloucester Law Centre

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 company'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 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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.

Dick Maule FCA

The Cross House
South Woodchester GL5 5EL
Date

Dick Maule FCA

3-10-23

Gloucester Law Centre

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st. March 2023**

| | Notes | Unrestricted Fund | Restricted Fund | Total | | |
|--|-------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| | | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 | 2022 | |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| Income from | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous income | | 3,651 | - | 3,651 | 10,816 | |
| Investment income | | 960 | - | 960 | 109 | |
| Donations | | 157 | - | 157 | - | |
| Charitable activities | | | | | | |
| Legal Aid and legal fees | | 97,667 | - | 97,667 | 110,701 | |
| Grants and contracts | | 92,792 | - | 92,792 | 110,000 | |
| Total | | <u>195,228</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>195,228</u> | <u>231,626</u> | |
| Expenditure on: | [3] | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | <u>232,882</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>232,882</u> | <u>314,513</u> | |
| Total | | <u>232,882</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>232,882</u> | <u>314,513</u> | |
| Net income / [expenditure] | | (37,654) | - | (37,654) | (82,887) | |
| Gain/[loss] in value of investment | | (5,707) | - | (5,707) | 8,687 | |
| Total funds at 1st. April 2022 | | <u>254,025</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>254,025</u> | <u>328,226</u> | |
| Total funds at 31st. March 2023 | | <u>210,664</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>210,664</u> | <u>254,025</u> | |

Gloucester Law Centre

Balance sheet as at 31st. March 2023

| | Notes | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Tangible assets | (2) | | |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors and prepayments | (6) | | 11,201 |
| Cash invested | (11) | 162,384 | 168,081 |
| Cash at bank | | 57,390 | 117,493 |
| | | <u>219,774</u> | <u>296,776</u> |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within 12 months | (7) | (9,110) | (42,751) |
| Net Current assets | | <u>210,664</u> | <u>254,025</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>210,664</u> | <u>254,025</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | (8) | | |
| General funds | | 73,693 | 117,054 |
| Designated funds | | 136,971 | 136,971 |
| | | <u>210,664</u> | <u>254,025</u> |
| Restricted funds | (8) | | |
| Total funds | | <u>210,664</u> | <u>254,025</u> |

For the year ended 31st March 2023:

The company was entitled to the exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006

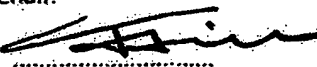
The members have not requested the company to obtain an audit

in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

On behalf of the Trustees


CHRIS HILL

dated:- 27.9.2023

Gloucester Law Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st. March 2023

(1) Principal Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year.

(a) Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) 2nd edition the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Fund accounting

[i] Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

[ii] Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Management Committee for particular purposes.

[iii] Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

(c) Income

Income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

[i] Income received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

[ii] Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.

[iii] The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

[iv] Investment income is included when receivable.

[v] Income from charitable trading activity are accounted for when earned.

[vi] Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered

[i] Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

[ii] Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

[iii] All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Gloucester Law Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st. March 2023

(1) Principal Accounting Policies

(e) Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are written off over the expected useful life of the asset, at 20% per annum.

Items costing over £500 are capitalised.

(2) Tangible Assets

| | Furniture fittings equipment £ |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Cost: | |
| balance brought forward | 79,430 |
| additions in the year | - |
| | <u>79,430</u> |
| Depreciation | |
| balance brought forward | 79,430 |
| charge for the year | - |
| | <u>79,430</u> |
| Net book value at 31st. March 2023 | <u>-</u> |
| Net book value at 31st. March 2022 | <u>-</u> |

(3) Expenditure

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Wages | 170,362 | 160,226 |
| Rent and rates | 30,049 | 18,882 |
| Non capitalised equipment | - | 140 |
| Books and periodicals | - | 240 |
| Staff training and conferences | 250 | 500 |
| Print, post, stationery and photocopier | 2,238 | 5,052 |
| Grants refunded | - | - |
| Volunteers' expenses | - | - |
| Subscriptions and affiliations | 5,758 | 9,192 |
| Miscellaneous office expenses | 66 | 3,367 |
| Bank charges | 219 | 209 |
| Independent examination | 975 | 900 |
| Insurance | 2,524 | 3,118 |
| Legal and professional | 16,287 | 107,796 |
| I.T. and website design | 4,154 | 4,257 |
| Practising certificates | - | 634 |
| | <u>232,882</u> | <u>314,513</u> |

Gloucester Law Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st. March 2023

(4) Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There are none at 31st. March 2023

(5) Status

Gloucester Law Centre is a company limited by guarantee [no. 1937081], and also a registered charity [no. 900439].

(6) Debtors

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|----------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Legal Aid and legal fees | - | 11,201 |
| Prepayments | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>11,201</u> |

(7) Creditors

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Amounts falling due within 12 months | | |
| V.A.T. | 5,007 | 14,272 |
| Deferred grants | - | - |
| Sundry creditors | <u>4,103</u> | <u>28,479</u> |
| | <u>9,110</u> | <u>42,751</u> |

(8) Movements in funds

| | Balance 1st. April | 2022 Income | Expenditure | Gain/loss on Investment | Transfers | Balance 31st. March 2023 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | | |
| Designated Funds | | | | | | |
| Provision for redundancy | <u>136,971</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>136,971</u> |
| General Fund | <u>117,054</u> | <u>195,228</u> | <u>(232,882)</u> | <u>(5,707)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>73,693</u> |

Gloucester Law Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st. March 2023

(9) Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Designated Funds £ | Total £ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Current assets | 82,803 | - | 136,971 | 219,774 |
| Current liabilities | (9,110) | - | - | (9,110) |
| Net assets at 31st March 2023 | <u>73,693</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>136,971</u> | <u>210,664</u> |

(10) Employee and trustee information

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------|------|------|
| Number of employees | 5 | 5 |

The average weekly number of employees during the year were calculated on the basis of full time equivalents.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

| | £ | £ |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Salaries and wages | 137,405 | 128,562 |
| Social security costs | 12,220 | 17,762 |
| Pensions | 20,737 | 13,902 |
| | <u>170,362</u> | <u>160,226</u> |

The Law Centre makes a contribution of 8% of gross annual salary to its employees' stakeholder pension scheme, or an alternative personal pension scheme.

Trustees remuneration and expenses

| | |
|----------|----------|
| <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
|----------|----------|

The trustees received no remuneration in the year.

Gloucester Law Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st. March 2023

(11) Cash invested

An initial £100,000 was invested in Sarasin Investment Funds Limited.
50,505 units in the Alpha CIF for Endowments [Accumulated Units] have been purchased.

(12) Analysis of prior year funds [required by F.R.S.102].

Gloucester Law Centre

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st. March 2022**

| | Unrestricted Fund | Restricted Fund | Total | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income from | | | | |
| Miscellaneous income | 10,816 | - | 10,816 | 13,047 |
| Investment income | 109 | - | 109 | 1,080 |
| Donations | - | - | - | 370 |
| Charitable activities | | | | |
| Legal Aid and legal fees | 110,701 | - | 110,701 | 166,294 |
| Grants and contracts | 110,000 | - | 110,000 | 250,140 |
| Total | 231,626 | - | 231,626 | 430,931 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 314,513 | - | 314,513 | 301,598 |
| Total | 314,513 | - | 314,513 | 301,598 |
| Net income / [expenditure] | (82,887) | - | (82,887) | 129,333 |
| Gain/[loss] in value of investment | 8,687 | - | 8,687 | 30,757 |
| Total funds at 1st. April 2021 | 328,226 | - | 328,226 | 168,137 |
| Total funds at 31st. March 2022 | 254,025 | - | 254,025 | 328,226 |

Gloucester Law Centre

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st. March 2023

| (12) Movements in funds | Prior year | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Balance | | | Gain/loss on | | Balance |
| | 1st. April | 2021 Income | Expenditure | Investment | Transfers | 31st. March |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | 2022 |
| | | | | | | £ |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | | |
| Designated Funds | | | | | | |
| Provision for redundancy | <u>124,000</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>12,971</u> | <u>136,971</u> |
| General Fund | <u>204,226</u> | <u>231,626</u> | <u>(314,513)</u> | <u>8,687</u> | <u>(12,971)</u> | <u>117,054</u> |