Company registration number: 02114435 Charity registration number: 1135396

# CITIZENS ADVICE NEWCASTLE LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2020



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### **Reference and Administrative Details**

**Secretary** S Alexander

Trustees N S Ahmad

A Carver

R A Chadeyron (deceased 21 April 2020)

A L Crawley C Hall I R Harris C C Irving S Jaidka I Mackintosh C M Purdon K Reed

Key Management Personnel S Alexander - Chief Executive

T Armstrong - Head of Advice Services C Iredale - Head of Customer Services

G Dryden - Business Manager

Principal Office 4th Floor City Library

Charles Avison Building 33 New Bridge Street Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE18AX

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.

Company Registration Number 02114435

**Charity Registration Number** 1135396

Auditor MHA Tait Walker

Chartered Accountant & Statutory Auditor

Bulman House Regent Centre Gosforth

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 3LS

Bankers Unity Trust Bank plc

4 Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB

### **Trustees' Report**

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2020.

#### Structure, governance and management

#### Nature of governing document

Citizens Advice Newcastle is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. The charity was originally formed in September 1939, and incorporated as a not-for-profit limited charity on 23 March 1987, All references to the "Charity" or "Company" refer to the Charitable Company. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which set out the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association state that the Company's main objectives are "the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, sickness and distress." This is achieved through the provision of free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and information for the benefit of the community, and by influencing the development of social policies which ensure individuals do not suffer through a lack of knowledge, or an inability to express their needs effectively.

The Charity is organised so that the members meet regularly to manage its affairs. The Chief Executive, who is also Company Secretary, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Charity, together with the staff management team. The workforce comprises a combination of paid staff and volunteers, and they provide all the Charity's services and activities.

#### Recruitment and appointment of trustees

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 Trustee Board. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Trustee Board are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next General Meeting.

The Trustee Board seeks to ensure that the needs of the Charity's clients are appropriately reflected and met through the diversity of the Trustee Board, which includes members with local charitable and voluntary agency knowledge, sound business skills, professional experience and knowledge of working with statutory agencies. Trustees are drawn from a cross section of different cultural and community backgrounds, and include members with disabilities.

### **Trustees' Report**

#### Induction and training of trustees

All new Trustees are provided with an induction which:

- · informs them about their roles, responsibilities and liabilities;
- inform them about the current work of the Charity; the business and development plans; financial and staffing resources; service quality standards and performance, and project funding requirements.
- enables them to identify and utilise the particular knowledge, skills and experience which their particular contribution brings to the Trustee board;
- identifies any further information, training or support they might require to fulfil their roles.
- · Supports and encourages them to develop new skills and expertise which will benefit the charity.

#### Organisational structure

The activities of the Charitable Company are overseen by the Board of Trustees (see page 1) and the Company Secretary. The Trustees receive no remuneration for their services and no trustees were reimbursed for any expenses incurred in the year.

All the trustees, as listed on page 1, have undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the Charitable Company being wound up. This guarantee applies during the period of membership and extends for one year after membership ceases.

New Trustees are elected by the Board or by the members of the Charity in a general meeting. New members are encouraged to attend all regular Board meetings to ensure that they are fully informed about the objectives and current activities of the Charity. Each Trustee is encouraged and supported to regularly review and update their Trustee skills and knowledge so that they are fully aware of their responsibilities as a Trustee of the Charity.

#### Major risks and management of those risks

The Directors / Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, and safeguarding the assets of the Charity. They continuously assess the major risks which the Charity is exposed to and put in place mitigation to remove, minimise and manage those risks, in particular those relating to finance and to the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff, volunteers and clients.

The Trustees have appointed one Trustee to be their "Risk Champion" and he has compiled a specific Risk Register which he maintains. He provides an updated Risk Register report for all Trustees to consider at Board meetings.

### **Trustees' Report**

#### Objectives and activities

#### Objects and aims

Citizens Advice Newcastle is established for the purpose of benefiting the community of the Metropolitan District of Newcastle upon Tyne and the wider North East region. The Charity achieves this by advancing the education of the public in matters relating to mental, physical and social welfare, and by relieving poverty and distress.

Citizens Advice Newcastle provides free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and information for the benefit of the community, The Charity provides advice to everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, sexuality or disability.

The Charity continues to employ skilled and experienced staff in order to supply advice services to clients face-to-face, by telephone, e-mail and webchat. The Charity has not made any material changes to these policies in the last year.

To obtain necessary funding, applications were made to various local, regional and national providers of community finance.

#### Fundraising disclosures

The Charity is required to report how it deals with fundraising from the public. The Charity does not use a professional fundraiser or commercial participator to raise funds. Any monies raised direct from the public are used for charitable activities, in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Charity Commission and UK law. We always respect the privacy and contact preferences of all public donors, including those who choose to remain anonymous.

#### **Public benefit**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

### **Trustees' Report**

#### Achievements and performance

The main objective of the Charity is the provision of free, impartial and independent advice to people who live, work or study in Newcastle upon Tyne, and to improve the policies and practices which affect their lives.

In 2019 – 20 we helped 12,617 clients with their 31,242 different problems.

The Charity continued to operate from a prime city centre location, the City Library. However, on 18 March the office was closed completely to comply with the requirements of the Coronavirus pandemic. All staff very quickly reverted to working from home to ensure that we continued to provide local people with the advice and support they needed from us during the crisis. The advice was provided entirely by phone, e-mail and webchat. Staff had to contend with various technological challenges, and new ICT equipment was purchased to ensure connectivity. Although client numbers were greatly reduced, the service was still able to function and was deemed by Newcastle City Council to be a key part of their Covic-19 emergency response.

Outreach advice sessions were provided at various community venues across the city, in partnership with a number of other agencies. Continued funding was secured for core research and campaigning work, which included Universal Credit problems, low pay, and getting more employers to become formally accredited to the Living Wage scheme.

Our newly established Help to Claim service, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, supported hundreds of clients with their Universal Credit claims and other benefits advice. Our home energy advice team was developed further during the year, funded by Northern Powergrid.

We continue to see increasing numbers of clients in crisis, unable to buy food or heat their homes. Requests for food bank vouchers continue on a daily basis. Since the Covid-19 lockdown these have been made electronically which can also involve a home delivery for vulnerable clients.

We continued to work in a number of very successful partnerships with other agencies, including the WISE Group, Action for Children and Northumbria University Law School. During the year a new partnership was established with Mesothelioma UK to provide a part-time welfare advisor working specifically with people affected by the cancer. Since November, our advisor Sarah Thomas has been supporting Meso patients and their families to cope with the illness and ensure that they claim all the benefits and compensation to which they are entitled. This has already amounted to hundreds of thousands of pounds of income for them.

#### Financial review

The overall surplus for the year is £20,545 (2019 - £37,073). The memorandum of association does not provide for any distribution to members. The trustees consider the reserves position to be satisfactory.

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the Charity, at a level which provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs.

Further detail is given under the Reserves Policy heading below.

### **Trustees' Report**

#### Policy on reserves

This Reserves Policy is monitored and reviewed on an annual basis by the Trustees. The Trustees consider that the Charity should hold financial reserves in order to ensure that the Charity can continue to operate and meet the needs of clients in the event of unforeseen and potentially damaging financial circumstances.

The Charity operates with only limited financial resources.

The calculation of free reserves is based on the definition included in the Charity Statement Of Recommended Practice (SORP) which provides recommendations for accounting and reporting for charities. The Trustees have examined the requirements of the charitable company to hold free reserves – those reserves not invested in tangible fixed assets, excluding long term liabilities, or designated for a particular purpose. This exercise considered both the normal requirements for working capital and the loss of income of a hypothetical but reasonable reduction in the scale of the Charity's operations. Resulting from this, the Trustees considered it would be appropriate to hold the equivalent of three months' unrestricted running costs. Thus, considering the next 12 months expenditure of circa £600k, 3 months free reserves would equate to approximately £150k.

As at 31st March 2020 free reserves were £247,534 (2019: £231,674). The Trustees have designated reserves accordingly, but continue to balance the ongoing pressures placed upon those free reserves by the demand for the Charity's services, against future obligations. Therefore, the Trustees recognise that in the medium and longer term the Charity will need to continue to generate surpluses in order to be in a position to meet those future obligations. Further, demand for the Charity's services continue to grow each year, so the demand on future free reserves will also be greater. The Charity will therefore seek to secure continued funding from existing sources, but also diversify the funding base by attracting appropriate new sources of income.

Restricted funds are those which are specifically restricted by the donor or funder for a particular project or activity and which cannot be used for the general purposes of the Charity. Their existence, and the sums of money therein, do does not imply that there has been an underspend. They may have accrued through a variety of circumstances including timing differences between the Charity's financial year and the funding year of the project concerned. Details of these can be found in Note 18 to the financial statements.

### **Trustees' Report**

### Investment policy and objectives

The trustees are committed to retaining a prudent amount of reserves within the Charity's funds. However, most of these funds are spent in the short term, so there are few funds available for long term investment. Having considered the options available, the Trustee Board decided to invest monies in a high interest account.

#### **Key Management Personnel**

The Board all give their time freely and no Trustees received remuneration in the year. They consider that the Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the charity are those noted in the Reference and Administration section of this report. Together with the Board, these KMP are those in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the activities of the Charity on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the KMP is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with the average cost of living award. The Trustees benchmark salaries against the pay levels of other comparable charities and similar organisations within the advice sector. Pay levels are set using this information, together with the budget and forecast figures to ensure that the Charity can afford any proposed increases. The Board then agree any uplift in staff remuneration.

#### Plans for future periods

#### Aims and key objectives for future periods

The Trustees continue to ensure business continuity during a period of considerable change caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their priority will be to sustain the provision of advice services to those who need them most, particularly those who are in poverty, vulnerable or at risk from harm. Sustainability of these services will be an absolute priority, as will ensuring the health and welfare of the all the charity's staff and volunteers. In the next twelve months every effort will be made to make the charity's services best able to meet the ever-changing advice needs of local people. Innovative digital communication systems will be key to this, and so the Trustees will continue to invest the charity's resources accordingly.

#### Going concern

The Trustees are satisfied that the organisation is able to operate for the foreseeable future on the basis of known and reasonable projected levels of income and therefore the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. Covid-19 risk is continually reviewed as noted above.

#### Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Charity's assets are held in order to facilitate the giving of free, confidential and independent advice and their estimated value is not materially different from that shown on the balance sheet. The Trustees consider that the Charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Charity.

### **Trustees' Report**

#### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Citizens Advice Newcastle Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- · select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP:
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

#### Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

#### Reappointment of auditor

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution for the re-appointment of MHA Tait Walker as auditors of the charity is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 9.1220 and signed on its behalf by:

Moed K Reed Trustee

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Citizens Advice Newcastle Limited

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Citizens Advice Newcastle Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2020, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended:
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that
  may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis
  of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements
  are authorised for issue.

#### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Citizens Advice Newcastle Limited

#### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- · certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 8], the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation\_of\_financial\_statements\_that\_are\_free\_from\_material\_misstatement,\_whether\_due-to-fraud-or-error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Citizens Advice Newcastle Limited

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Simon Brown BA ACA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

MMD/TMM

For and on behalf of MHA Tait Walker
Chartered Accountant & Statutory Auditor
Bulman House
Regent Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3LS

Date: 11-12 2020

MHA Tait Walker is a trading name of Tait Walker LLP.

# Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2020 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments	from:		r		•
Donations and legacies	3	13,947	191,583	205,530	170,574
Charitable activities	4	115,650	426,895	542,545	513,607
Other trading activities	5	2,941	-	2,941	4,138
Investment income	6	2,668		2,668	<u> </u>
Total Income		135,206	618,478	753,684	688,319
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	(118,027)	(615,112)	(733,139)	(651,246)
Total Expenditure		(118,027)	(615,112)	(733,139)	(651,246)
Net income		17,179	3,366	20,545	37,073
Transfers between funds		4,749	(4,749)	<u> </u>	
Net movement in funds		21,928	(1,383)	20,545	37,073
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		289,615	3,202	292,817	255,744
Total funds carried forward	19	311,543	1,819	313,362	292,817

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

# Comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2019 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total

(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	NI - 4 -	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2019 £
	Note	£	£	Z.
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	36,148	134,426	170,574
Charitable activities	4	116,700	396,907	513,607
Other trading activities	5	4,000	138	4,138
Total income		156,848	531,471	688,319
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(125,874)	(525,372)	(651,246)
Total expenditure	-	(125,874)	(525,372)	(651,246)
Net income		30,974	6,099	37,073
Transfers between funds		3,634	(3,634)	
Net movement in funds		34,608	2,465	37,073
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		255,007	737	255,744
Total funds carried forward	19	289,615	3,202	292,817

# (Registration number: 02114435) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	3,009	4,513
Current assets			
Debtors	15	6,560	7,255
Cash at bank and in hand		349,081	319,863
		355,641	327,118
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(45,288)	(38,814)
Net current assets		310,353	288,304
Net assets	=	313,362	292,817
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		1,819	3,202
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		311,543	289,615
Total funds	19	313,362	292,817

\_The\_financial\_statements\_on-pages\_12-to-27-were-approved-by-the-trustees;-and-authorised-for-issueon .**.9.t./15.:.2.a**.. and signed on their behalf by:

A L Crawley Trustee K Reed Trustee

# Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income		20,545	37,073
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items Depreciation Investment income Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	6	1,504 (2,668) - 19,381	1,916 - 529 39,518
Working capital adjustments Decrease in debtors	15	695	32,901
(Decrease)/increase in creditors Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	16	(1,443) 7,917	12,399 (19,426)
Net cash flows from operating activities		26,550	65,392
Cash flows from investing activities Interest receivable and similar income Purchase of tangible fixed assets	6 14	2,668 	- (6,017)
Net cash flows from investing activities		2,668	(6,017)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		29,218	59,375
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		319,863	260,488
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	:	349,081	319,863

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is: 4th Floor City Library, Charles Avison Building, 33 New Bridge Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8AX.

#### 2 Accounting policies

#### Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

#### Statement of compliance

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis

The financial statements have been prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Citizens Advice Newcastle Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### Going concern

The Trustees have considered the resources available, taking into account reasonable possible changes in performance and the potential impact on the level of donations received arising as a result of COVID-19. Given the level of reserves and cash held, and the ability to reduce costs accordingly, the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charities ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Summary of disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined by FRS 102. As such, advantange has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under paragraph 1. 12 of FRS102:

(a) Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 2 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Estimation uncertainty and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

Management have approved depreciation, prepayments, accruals and other cut-off adjustments. Whilst management believe that these estimates and judgements are accurate, there is every liklihood that these will not be exact.

These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### Income and endowments

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

#### **Donations and legacies**

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.

#### Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

#### **Deferred income**

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- -The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- -The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

#### Other trading activities

Income from other trading activities is recognised when goods or services are sold.

#### Charitable activities

Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 2 Accounting policies (continued)

#### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

#### Charitable activities

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.

#### Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

#### **Governance costs**

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements,\_including\_audit,\_strategic\_management\_and\_trustees'—meetings—and\_reimbursed\_expenses.

#### **Taxation**

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Assets which are individually less than £1,000 are not typically capitalised.

#### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

#### **Asset class**

Fixtures. fittings and equipment Computer equipment

Depreciation method and rate

25% reducing balance 25% straight line

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 2 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Trade 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.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### 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.

#### **Fund structure**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### Leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

#### Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expenses in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

Donations from individuals Grants from other charities	Unrestricted funds  General £ 4,747 9,200  13,947	Restricted funds £ - 191,583	Total 2020 £ 4,747 200,783 205,530	Total 2019 £ 6,813 163,761 170,574
4 Income from charitable activitie		191,000	203,330	170,374
Charitable activities	Unrestricted funds  General £ 115,650	Restricted funds £ 426,895	Total 2020 £ 542,545	Total 2019 £ 513,607
5 Income from other trading activ	vities			
Other income from other trading acti	vities	Unrestricted funds  General £ 2,941	Total 2020 £ 2,941	Total 2019 £ 4,138
6 Investment income				
Interest receivable on bank deposits		Unrestricted funds  General £ 2,668	Total 2020 £ 2,668	Total 2019 £

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds			
	General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Generalist Advice	81,104	455,298	536,402	410,828
Support Costs	36,923	159,814	196,737	240,418
	118,027	615,112	733,139	651,246
	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Generalist Advice	536,402	177,255	713,657	628,621
Governance Costs		19,482	19,482	22,625
	536,402	196,737	733,139	651,246

### 8 Analysis of governance and support costs

### Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Direct charitable £	Governance costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Staff costs	88,007	7,497	95,504	128,087
Premises	44,160	2,315	46,475	59,749
Communications and IT	9,148	-	9,148	7,189
Staff and volunteer	6,239	532	6,771	5,907
Depreciation	1,386	118	1,504	1,916
Office costs	26,763	4,506	31,269	31,676
Audit fees	-	3,550	3,550	3,815
Legal and professional	1,552	964	2,516	2,079
	177,255	19,482	196,737	240,418

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 9 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Audit fees	3,550	3,815
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	529
Depreciation of fixed assets		1,916

#### 10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

During the year 0 (2019: 1) trustee was reimbursed expenses totalling £nil (2019: £163).

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

#### 11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs during the year were:	and the second s	
Wages and salaries	546,776	461,461
Social security costs	44,112	35,985
Pension costs	16,087_	11,667
	606,975	509,113

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2020 No	2019 No
Employees	24	21

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

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £114,631 (2019 - £111,133).

#### 12 Auditors' remuneration

	2020 £	2019 £
Audit of the financial statements	3,550	3,815

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost	0.047	2 2 4 7
At 1 April 2019	6,017	6,017
At 31 March 2020	6,017	6,017
<b>Depreciation</b> At 1 April 2019 Charge for the year	1,504 1,504	1,504 1,504
At 31 March 2020	3,008	3,008
Net book value	_	
At 31 March 2020	3,009	3,009
At 31 March 2019	4,513	4,513
15 Debtors		
	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	2,000	5,340
Prepayments	1,727	1,915
Accrued income	2,833	-
	6,560	7,255
16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2020 £	2019 £
Other taxation and social security	12,312	-
Other creditors	1,630	12,547
Accruals	5,846	8,684
Deferred income	25,500	17,583
	45,288	38,814

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2019	17,583	37,009
Resources deferred in the period	25,500	17,583
Amounts released from previous periods	(17,583)	(37,009)
Deferred income at year end	25,500	17,583

#### 17 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Within one year	4,645	5,487
In two to five years	634	4,401
	5,279	9,888

#### 18 Pension and other schemes

#### Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £16,087 (2019 - £11,668).

Contributions totalling £1,630 (2019 - £2,546) were payable to the scheme at the end of the year and are included in creditors.

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
<b>General</b> General funds	228,615	135,206	(118,027)	4,749	250,543
Designated Designated - service curtailment	61,000	<u> </u>			61,000
Total Unrestricted funds	289,615	135,206	(118,027)	4,749	311,543
Restricted funds SKINT Money Advice Service Wise Group Project Millfield House Powergrid Care NPG Hardship Help to Claim	3,063 - - 139	5,609 306,563 37,573 35,000 125,500 10,000 55,078	(5,807) (309,566) (37,123) (32,927) (127,368) (8,320) (56,365)	198 3,003 (3,513) (2,073) 1,868 - 1,287	- - - - 1,819
Help to Claim P&W Action for Children Big Energy Week Mesothelioma Northern Powergrid - Prospect Medical Group	- - - -	19,072 3,000 7,000 12,000	(19,081) (4,785) - (12,025) (1,745)	9 1,785 (7,000) 25 (338)	- - - -
Total restricted funds	3,202	618,478	(615,112)	(4,749)	1,819
Total funds	292,817	753,684	(733,139)		313,362

Transfers have been made during the year to either correct overspends of restricted funds or to move restricted funds into general funds following discussions with funders.

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

#### 19 Funds (continued)

#### **Unrestricted Funds**

#### Designated - service curtailment

In accordance with the Charities Commission's guidance, the trustees have provided for staff redundancy costs in the event that the charity's operations needed to cease. Whilst this is not part of the future plans that trustees have for the charity, it is prudent to earmark against these potential costs.

#### **Restricted Funds**

#### Millfield House

Funding to employ a research and campaigns officer.

#### Money Advice Service

This is funding from National Citizen Advice to continue face to face debt advice.

#### SKINT

This fund is to provide a weekly advice session for people using the Kitchen, many of them homeless or vulnerable, funded by the Sherburn House Charity.

#### **Powergrid Care**

This fund is to provide vulnerable individuals with support in the event of power cuts.

#### Wise Group Project

This fund is to provide unemployed individuals with advice and support.

#### **NPG Hardship**

This is to fund a project to help vulnerable customers, particularly those affected by fuel poverty, on all aspects of home energy, including best energy deals and fuel efficiencies. Project to be extended to support patients at the chest clinic of the Royal Victoria Infirmary for whom efficient and affordable home energy is essential for their health.

#### Help To Claim

This project, which helps people to claim Universal Credit and prepare for their first payment, continued for a further year. It is run as a sub-contract with Citizens Advice, as part of a national service which is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions.

#### **Action for Children**

This national charity funds us to provide a specialist advisor for a weekly outreach session at their premises in the West End of Newcastle. Our advisor works closely with local families, particularly from the Czech and Roma communities.

#### **Big Energy Week**

This funding is used to provide targeted home energy advice and guidance during a national campaign organised by Citizens Advice.

#### Mesothelioma

Since July 2019, this national charity has been funding us to provide a specialist welfare advisor to support people affected by Mesothelioma, an asbestos-related cancer, across the North East region.

#### Northern Powergrid - Prospect Medical Group

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

### 19 Funds (continued)

We have been running a weekly home energy advice session at the Prospect Medical Group, funded by Northern Powergrid.

#### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestric	ted funds	<b>Doctricted</b>	
	General £	Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets Net current assets/(liabilities)	3,009 247,534	- 61,000	- 1,819	3,009 310,353
Total net assets	250,543	61,000	1,819	313,362
	Unrestric	ted funds		
	General £	Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets Net current assets/(liabilities)	4,513 224,102	61,000	3,202	4,513 288,304
Total net assets	228,615	61,000	3,202	292,817
21 Analysis of net funds				
		At 1 April 2019 £	Cash flow £	At 31 March 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand		319,863	29,218	349,081
Net debt		319,863	29,218	349,081
		At 1 April 2018 £	Cash flow £	At 31 March 2019 £
Cash at bank and in hand		260,488	59,375	319,863
Net debt		260,488	59,375	319,863

### 22 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.