DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008



Company No. 4099352 (England & Wales)
Charity No. 1085220

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors and Trustees

Linda Binns (Chairman)

Mary Fraser

Lt Col Bryan Littlejohns

Claire Cartlidge Niall McCormack

Keir Hirst John Lucas Roger Lumley

Kim Hollamby (Representative Member – resigned 29 February 2008)

Elizabeth Andrews

Robert Adderley (Representative Member - resigned 20 November 2007)

Andrew Davies

Michael Maddocks (resigned 18 December 2007)

Richard Powell

Alistair Kerr (appointed 17 January 2008) Pam Smith (appointed 17 January 2008) Glynn Woollam (appointed 17 January 2008) Val Steward (appointed 19 March 2008)

Cameron Beard (appointed 24 May 2007, resigned 19 July 2007) Elaine Moss (appointed 1 January 2008 – Representative Member)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Secretary

Elizabeth Warren

Registered Office

The Roy Fletcher Centre,

12-17 Cross Hill, Shrewsbury, SY1 1JG

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc,

Shrewsbury Mardol Head,

8 Mardol Head, Shrewsbury, SY1 1HE

Auditors

James, Holyoak & Parker Limited,

Longden House, 105, Longden Road,

Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 9DZ

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the annual return and financial statements of the Charity

Objects of the Charity, Principal Activities and organisation of our work

The Charity is constituted as a Company limited by guarantee, and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association The Charity's object and its principal activity is the provision of advice and assistance to the local community concerning individual rights and responsibilities as well as providing information about the range of services available to the individual

The Charity is organised so that the Trustees meet regularly to manage its affairs. The day to day operations are controlled by Mrs. E.J. Warren who is the Service Director and who reports to the Trustees. The Charity has a number of full and part-time paid, and unpaid advice workers and administrative staff.

Development, activities and achievements this year and future developments

The Citizens Advice Service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing information and advice, and by influencing policymakers

Negotiations were successfully completed and Bridgnorth CAB merged with Citizens Advice Shropshire on 1st January 2008. Together the service provided core information and holistic advice services to the general public at 5 CAB offices and 8 outreach venues and through 20 casework projects throughout the districts of North Shropshire, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, South Shropshire and Bridgnorth

Clients raised a total of 30,027 new issues. Of these enquiries 66% concerned finances, regarding either benefits or debts. Over £2½ million pounds of annual benefits income was claimed by clients as a result of our assistance, and new clients sought help to manage over £16 million of new debt. Much debt casework concerns the prevention of homelessness by negotiation of realistic repayment schedules to landlords or mortgage companies and by representing clients at court possession hearings.

Service developments included the introduction of the countywide telephone advice line, a website for public use together with an intranet for improved inter-site communication, the installation of a public information kiosk, advice via Tellytalk and debt casework services in Shrewsbury Prison

Future plans include a move to larger premises in Shrewsbury which will enable services to develop

NB A separate more detailed activity report is available from the Service Director

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

Transactions and Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 9 shows net deficit for the year of £4573 with Reserves rising to £955,969 at 31 March 2008 from £877,575 at the previous year end. There has again been a significant rise in the Charity's unrestricted reserves. However this is largely due to the receipt of funds from Bridgnorth CAB at merger, the remainder of the insurance claim for Market Drayton, and the levels of bank interest on the legacy and reserves. Income and expenditure for its normal running costs are finely balanced, and without investment income from this legacy the Charity would be in financial difficulties. Details of the Charity's reserves are given at Note 14 to the accounts from which it can be seen that unallocated reserves as at 31st March 2008 stood at £170,310

The legator intended that the funds should be applied for the improvement and development of the activities of Citizens Advice Shropshire into the long term. Trustees have so far agreed to use capital to fund a trainee supervisor post and to develop access to advice services via webcam and Tellytalk. To date, £44,450 has been made available from the legacy to fund these developments.

The changes in rules and the way payments for Legal Services Commission contracts are made has resulted in a repayment to the LSC of £34,279 Trustees are closely monitoring the increased risks

Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

Details of movements in fixed assets are set out in Note 10 to the accounts

Investment policy and returns

The Trustees take a cautious approach towards the investment of cash reserves Whilst the situation with premises is being resolved, all reserves have been held in the NatWest Treasury Reserve A smaller amount to cover immediate costs is invested on a monthly basis, with movement in and out of longer term deposits, the length of the deposit being determined according to interest rates current at the time. The policy is under review

Reserves

The present level of funding is adequate to support the continuation of the Charity's activities and the Trustees consider the financial position of the Charity to be satisfactory. It is the policy of the

Trustees to maintain reserves at a sufficient level such as to provide adequate cover for all the Charity's commitments in the event of its winding up or a significant reduction in the levels of its activities. Further details are disclosed at Note 14 to the Accounts

The reserves policy is reviewed every year, and adjusted in the light of current funding and staffing levels

Directors and Trustees

All Directors of the Company are also Trustees of the Charity, and there are no other Trustees — The Trustees at 31 March 2008 are listed on page 2—The Board has the power to appoint additional Trustees as it considers fit within the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association

Risk Management

The Management Board has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A Risk Analysis document has been produced and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Significant shortfalls in core-funding have led to the development of a long term strategic plan to increase the range of access to services by changing methods of service delivery.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

Risk Management (continued)

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the organisation. The continuing implementation of Community Legal Service Quality Mark standards, and of the Citizens Advice Membership Scheme ensure a consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charity. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are required by Company Law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Charity and of its financial position at the end of that year In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:-

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- (b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and with applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- (d) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In the case of each of the persons who are trustees at the time when the trustees report is approved

- so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing the re-appointment of James, Holyoak & Parker Limited as auditors of the Charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting

This report was approved by the board of Directors and Trustees on 17 September 2008 and signed on their behalf

Linda Binns Trustee

1.B-

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CITIZENS ADVICE SHROPSHIRE

We have audited the financial statements of Citizens Advice Shropshire for the year ended 31 March 2008 on pages 9 to 18 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and related notes. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 11 and 12.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with S 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

As described on page 5, the Charity's Trustees, who are also Directors of Citizens Advice Shropshire for the purposes of company law are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

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

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Report of the Trustees is not consistent with the financial statements, if the charitable Company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and transactions with the Company is not disclosed

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

Basis of opinion

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

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. However, the evidence available to us was limited because it was not possible for us to perform auditing procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence as regards the value and completeness of funds transferred to the Charity on the

1 January 2008 totalling £82,967 as a result of the amalgamation referred to at Note 16 to the accounts Any adjustment to these figures would have a consequential effect on the net incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2008 In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CITIZENS ADVICE SHROPSHIRE (CONTINUED)

Qualified Opinion arising from Limitation in audit scope

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2008 and except for any adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning the value and completeness of funds transferred on 1 January 2008, of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, in the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Report is consistent with the financial statements

Longden House, 105, Longden Road, SHREWSBURY, SY3 9DZ JAMES, HOLYOAK & PARKER LIMITED

Chartered Accountants and

Registered Auditors

17: Lytunku Vool.

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2008

SUMMARY INCOME AND E	SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT						
	Notes	Restricted	Unrestricted	<u>Total</u> 2008	<u>Total</u> 2007		
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£	£		
Taxaming wasawasa fuam							
Incoming resources from Generated funds							
Voluntary income	2	-	269,111	269,111 53,002	305,510		
Investment Income	3	•	53,002	53,002	37,944		
Incoming resources from							
charitable activities	4	78,531	344,211	422,742	449,235		
Other incoming resources	5	-	20,224	20,224	10,534		
Total incoming resources			686,548				
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Charitable activities	4	66,268	621 662	697,931	502 845		
Charitable activities	6	00,208	031,003	097,931	392,043		
Governance costs	6	-	71,721	71,721	68,612		
Total resources expended			703,384				
Net incoming resources	8	12,263	(16,836)	(4,573)	141,766		
Gross transfers between funds	s 7	(19,962)	19,962	-	-		
		(7,699)	3,126	(4,573)	141,766		
Total funds brought forward		11,527	866,048	877,575	735,809		
Funds transferred on amalgamation	16	9,167	73,800	82,967	-		
Total funds carried forward	14	12,995	942,974	955,969	877,575		

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

	<u>Notes</u>		2008 £	£	<u>2007</u>
Fixed assets Tangible Assets	10		52,465		31,219
Comment exects					
Current assets Debtors	11	15,170		17,204	
Cash at bank and in hand	••	965,584		854,134	
		980,754		871,338	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(77.250)		(24,982)	
within one year	12	(77,250)	903,504		846,356
Net assets	13		955,969		877,575
Unrestricted funds	14		942,974		866,048
Restricted funds	14		12,995		11,527
			955,969		877,575

Approved by the board of directors and trustees on 17 \leq ptyles Z 008 and signed on its behalf

Gu, woollam
Director and Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005 and, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985

1.2 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are 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

- Voluntary income is 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
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable
- Where entitlement is dependant on the fulfilment of one or more specified conditions grants received by the charity are recognised and taken into revenue unless the conditions are within the charity's control and uncertainty exists as to whether the conditions will be fulfilled

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

1.3 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates

- 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
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory
 requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic
 management of the charity
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities 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.

1.4 Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Management Committee for particular purposes
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

1.5 Finance and operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period they are incurred

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows -

Computer equipment

- over 3 years

Telephone system

- over 3 years

Furniture & Office Equipment

- 10% reducing balance basis

1.7 Pension costs

The charity contributes to its staff's defined contribution pension schemes. Costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

2.	Voluntary Income				
		Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
	Donations	-	4,721	4,721	4,906 53,686
	Legacy Core funding grants	-	264,390	264,390	
			269,111	269,111	305,510
3.	Investment Income	Restricted £	<u>Unrestricted</u> £	<u>Total</u> 2008	<u>Total</u> 2007 £
	Interest received on legacy and other deposits	-	53,002		37,944
4.	Income resources from Charitable Activities				
		Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2008 £	<u>Total</u> <u>2007</u> £
	Hire of premises & services Grants from funders	78,531	5,550	5,550	9,139
		78,531	344,211	422,742	449,235
5.	Other incoming resources	Restricted	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u> 2008	<u>Total</u> <u>2007</u>
	Insurance claims		20,224	20,224	10,534

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

6.	Resources Expended	Charitable	Governance	Total	<u>Total</u>	
		Restricted	Unrestricted		2008	2007
		£	£	£	£	£
	Costs directly allocated					
	to Activities					
	Salaries & wages	60,560	450,805	57,904	569,269	470,066
	Travel & training	1,224	37,673	-	38,897	39,612
	Reference books & software	209	5,718	-	5,927	5,810
	Disbursements	2,844	-	-	2,844	
	Publicity	-	4,145	-	4,145	659
	Cleaning	-	3,383	-	3,383	3,483
	Depreciation	1,206	13,732	-	14,938	12,804
	Recruitment	-	826	-	826	1,974
	Audıt	-	-	1,556	1,556	1,414
	Legal & professional fees	-	2,269	-	2,269	2,624
	Meeting expenses	200	1,655	-	1,855	1,630
	Support Costs allocated to Activities					
	Repairs & renewals	_	2,785	309	3,094	5,613
	Telephone	20	13,847		•	•
	Insurance	-	7,148	•	•	•
	Printing, postage & stationery	5	18,159			17,429
	Rent, rates, service charges & utilities	-	58,133	•		68,723
	IT Support	_	3,397	•	•	1,275
	Sundries	-	7,988		- 3	9,128
		66,268	631,663	71,721	769,652	661,457

7. Contribution to General Overheads

Costs apportioned to restricted funds from general funds amounted to £19,962

8. Net Incoming Resources for the Year

This is stated after charging

	<u>2008</u>	<u> 2007</u>
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		
- owned by the charity	14,938	12,804
Auditors remuneration - audit services	1,556	1,414
- non audit services	1,057	996

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

9. Staff costs

No remuneration was paid to trustees for the year Expenses reimbursed to trustees totalled £193. The staff costs are summarised below -

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	510,065	419,196
Social security costs	41,476	34,353
Pension costs	17,728	16,517
	569,269	470,066

The average weekly number of staff employed, calculated as full time equivalents during the year was as follows -

•	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Direct charitable work	23	19
Administrative	2	2

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer &	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Furniture</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Office Equipment		Equipment	_
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2007	76,877	12,650	32,879	122,406
Additions	13,243	-	17,983	31,226
Fixed assets transferred				
on amalgamation	2,950	-	2,008	4,958
At 31 March 2008	93,070	•	52,870	158,590
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2007	68,287	12,650	10,250	91,187
Charge for the year	10,676	-	4,262	14,938
At 31 March 2008	78,963	12,650	14,512	106,125
Net book values				*********
At 31 March 2008	14,107	-	38,358	52,465
Net Book values				
At 31 March 2007	8,590	_	22,629	31,219

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

11.	<u>Debtors</u>		2008 £	2007 £
	Other debtors		15,170	
12.	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
1	Orderton announce running was violated and year		2008 £	2007 £
	Social security and other taxes		22,494	
	Accruals and other creditors		20,477	•
	Monies repayable to funder		34,279	-
				04.000
			77,250	24,982
13.	Analysis of Net Assets between the Funds	Tangibl <u>e</u>	Net	
15.	Analysis of Net Assets between the Funds	Fixed	Current	
		Assets	Assets	Total
		£	£	£
	Unrestricted General Fund	37,752		170,310
	Designated Funds	12,823		772,664
	Restricted LSC - Disbursements Account	-		2,202
	Restricted Financial Inclusion Fund	1,890	1,393	
	Lottery Project	-	7,510	7,510
		52,465	903,504	955,969

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

14. Statement of Funds

Unrestricted General Reserve	1/4/07 £ 649,843	·	£ 686,548	Expend- iture £ (675,319)	Funds £ (564,562)	
	649,843	73,800 	686,548 	(675,319)	(564,562)	170,310
Designated Funds Cit Ad – access to service improvements	83,705	-	-	(28,065)	(7,976)	47,664
Contractual & wind up costs reserve Premises & development	125,000	-	-	-	75,000	200,000
reserve	1,000	-	-	-	299,000	300,000
IT replacement & development	6,500	-		-	18,500	
Operating reserve	-	,,	-		200,000	200,000
	216,205	-		(28,065)	584,524 	772,664
Restricted Funds Lottery project	_	9,167	14,828	(16,485)	_	7,510
Legal Services Commission –	-	9,107	14,020	(10,465)		7,510
Disbursements Financial Inclusion Fund	2,057	-	2,989	(2,844)	-	2,202
- Rural	9,470	-	40,848		(14,517)	2,318
- Prison	-		19,866	(13,456)	(5,445)	965
Total Restricted Funds	11,527	9,167	78,531	(66,268)	(19,962)	12,995
Total Funds	877,575	82,967	765,079	(769,652)	-	955,969

15. Operating Lease Commitments

As at 31 March 2008, the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases on land and buildings as follows -

Expiry Date	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
	£	£
Within one year	26,025	26,830
Within five years	-	5,000
More than five years	-	-
	26,025	31,830

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 (CONTINUED)

16. Amalgamation

On 1 January 2008 the Bridgnorth and District Citizens Advice Bureau was amalgamated with Citizens Advice Shropshire At the same time, the funds of the Bureau were transferred to the charity as follows:-

Unrestricted Funds	73,800
Restricted Funds	9,167
	£82,967
	102,907

17. Related party transactions

During the year legal services were provided by Wace Morgan, Solicitors, to the value of £713 Keir Hirst, who is a Director and Trustee of the charity is also a partner in Wace Morgan