



OUR WORK

Our Outreach van

We provide intensive and practical support to a socially isolated and vulnerable group of women involved in street prostitution.

WHY WE ARE NEEDED

Women involved in street prostitution are likely to suffer physical deprivation: homelessness, lack of food, violence; physical and sexual assaults, illness and injury, drug and alcohol abuse, isolation, ostracisation and social exclusion.

An increase in risk-taking behaviour increases their risk of harm. This risk particularly impacts on their mental and emotional health. Not forgetting that all the above is on top of whatever life experiences led to prostitution in first place!

SWWOP's remit is to support this group of women to look after themselves and to enable them to make informed choices about their lives.

HOW WE HELP

SWWOP's primary service is making contact with women involved in street prostitution and being a friendly face to offer non-judgmental and confidential support and information.



Setting off to receive our DOYCI Award 2019

SWWOP Ltd

61-63A The Wicker, WMS House, Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HT
0114 2536899 / 07957 567937 E-mail: info@swwop.org or sali@swwop.org
web site: www.swwop.org
Reg Charity No. 1109759, Company Reg. No. 5413661



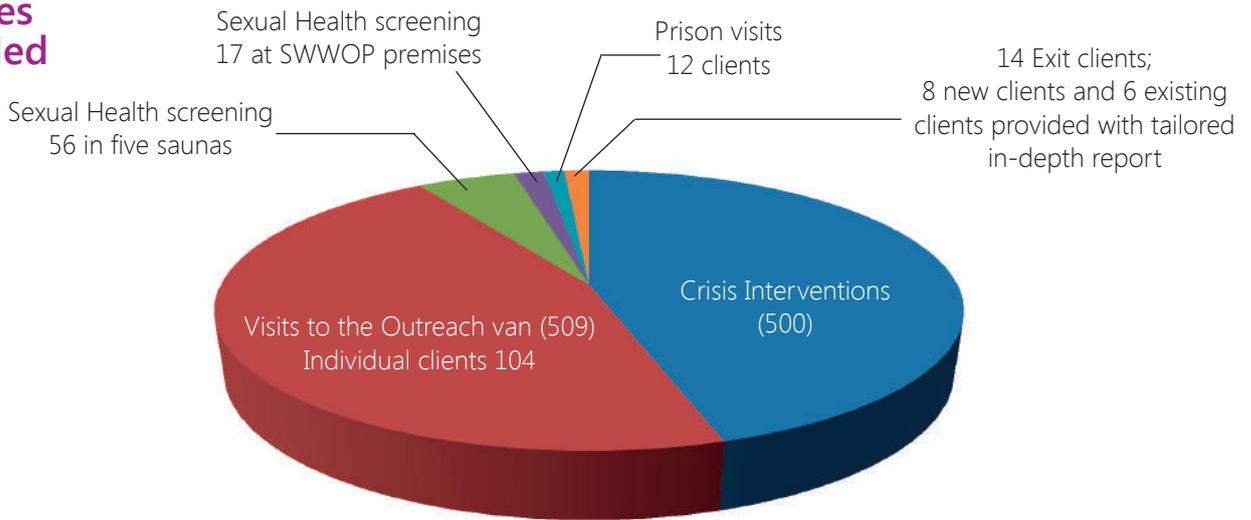
Welcome to the SWWOP annual report for 2019/20. This year started on a high for us, receiving the Duke of York's award, and ended with a scramble to provide the best possible service for our clients as the pandemic began and we went into lockdown. In between those extremes, the last year has been a busy one for the project. We have continued to play an important role in supporting vulnerable women via our outreach work. As well as our outreach service, many women have benefitted from the service provided from our base in the Wicker. Our office has proved to be a welcoming and well-used space for the women we support, and although there have been some staffing changes during the last year, we continue to provide a comprehensive and empathic service to women in need.

I'd like to thank all our funders, particularly Sheffield City Council, the Police and Crime commissioner and the National Lottery as well as the many other groups and individuals who have helped us raise funds to support our activities.

I would also like to thank Andrew Martin, who served as chair for much of this year but had to step down due to ill health; Lottie Aweimrin, who has become our treasurer; and all the other trustees. And of course, as always huge thanks go to our team of workers and volunteers who continue to rise to any challenge.

Catherine Cassell
(Acting Chair of Trustees)

Services provided



- SWWOP would like to thank the following for their support in kind and in funding:**
- ⇒ Safe & Sustainable Communities Partnership
 - ⇒ NHS Primary Care Trust
 - ⇒ Sheffield City Council
 - ⇒ FareShare South Yorkshire
 - ⇒ Grace Food Bank, Low Edges
 - ⇒ Genitourinary Medicine
 - ⇒ Big Lottery Fund
 - ⇒ South Yorkshire Police
 - ⇒ Sheffield University Medical School
 - ⇒ St Martin in the Field
 - ⇒ The Suit Works
 - ⇒ Diva
 - ⇒ Our Staff Committee and volunteers
 - ⇒ Women's Print



Start of the year

The start of this financial year was very exciting as last year we had been put forward by the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, Andrew Coombe for the Duke of York Award and had been successful in gaining the award.

The Award Ceremony was to be held at The Infantry Training Centre, Catterick Garrison on the 3rd April 2019. We were so excited ☺, Lis (Finance/Admin Worker), Annette (Crisis & Exit support) and Jane (SWWOP Ambassador) as well as me (Manager) all headed down, driven there by a friend in a very nice car!

I was very happily surprised, on the day, to receive an additional award in recognition of exceptional leadership skills plus £250 for the project. This of course was spent on delights for our clients. It was a very exciting day and we made contacts with a number of other community organisations including 'The Suit Works' in Sheffield, who have since donated lots of really nice clothes and shoes to our clients over the past year.

During this year

We have continued to provide outreach to women on the street, though in the early part of the year (April/March), we had fewer women but all with higher needs and more chaotic lives. As the year progressed, the numbers began to increase until we were averaging our usual number of women.

We provided drop-in for general support and crisis interventions, tailored packages of support for exit clients, prison in-reach, sexual health screening at SWWOP and in local saunas.

New developments – Specialist Safeguarding Awareness Training

We were approached by Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership to develop a training pack which we would then deliver to staff of lap dancing clubs and saunas in Sheffield, to help protect vulnerable women. This would be aimed primarily at managers and staff with safeguarding responsibility but be useful at a practical level for security and bar staff.

The completed training package includes: trafficking and exploitation; domestic abuse (including coercive control); financial problems/debt; mental ill health; substance misuse; problem gambling; and how operators of venues



Sali Harwood, Manager

can recognise and respond to risk. We were only able to deliver the training to one establishment before Covid. We hope to reach all the saunas at a later stage.

Some of the more unusual challenges clients face

Two clients received Universal Credit back payments of between £18,000 - £21,000. One of them spent £9000 in a week, the other client is an exit client and doing quite well with her monies. Another very vulnerable client, still out on the streets, received £25,000 from a relative dying. This is illustrated in the case study below.

Sarah – Case study

In December 2019 sadly Sarah was informed that her mother had died. Sarah was abused by her Mother as a child and it therefore brought back a lot of memories and trauma. The sale of her mother's house meant that in March 2020 Sarah received £27,000 in inheritance. Although this sounds like a life-changing amount of money – and for many it would be, for Sarah this money was painful. It immediately meant that she was no longer eligible for public funds and all her benefits were stopped. She now also has to pay for her daily prescription of methadone. Sarah has been brought up on benefits and has never been in this situation before. At the time she was living in supported accommodation and was having to pay more than £1000 a month to be there. Of course, it would have been much cheaper to rent privately but due to her vulnerabilities she is unable to sustain her own tenancy. The money lasted 3 weeks. We will never know exactly what the money was spent on but in her own words 'That money was the devil – from my mum who tortured me – I don't want it, so it's gone'. Now Sarah awaits a long process in trying to reinstate her benefits. This can potentially take two years. She is currently has no recourse to benefits and has support from us and foodbanks to get by. All her appointments for drug services and probation are in the city centre and at least one bus ride away. Such large amounts of money are often awarded to vulnerable people via back payment of benefits or inheritance and more should be done to safeguard individuals in these situations.

Student placements

Once again, we were privileged to have four medical students on placement with us from the medical school at Sheffield University. They all undertook outreach sessions to meet our clients in their night-time role and get a greater understanding of the women's lives. Women involved in street prostitution are the most vulnerable, exploited and excluded members of our community. They experience regular violence and homelessness and much

Manager's Report (cont.)

of their substance abuse is self-medication to cope with this and their poor physical and mental health.

Each of our students produced a specific piece of work relating to sex work including mental health issues, medical students' knowledge and attitudes, and a guide for health workers.

The students also undertook a survey of our more stable Exit clients covering their involvement in prostitution, how they exited, stayed exited and how much support they received/are still receiving from SWWOP.

We really enjoy having the students with us, and it is good for our clients

Covid pandemic in March – the end of SWWOP's year

With the first lockdown SWWOP had to drastically change its activities. The majority of our clients are substance misusers, many are homeless and most live chaotic and dangerous lives. They continued to work on the street as usual.

In March 2020, SWWOP had to temporarily halt outreach via the van and all face to face, one to one and group sessions, while we undertook a full risk assessment for both workers and clients. In the short term, the more stable clients were issued with mobile phones so they could have telephone support and we began to deliver food parcels to those with accommodation. We liaised with the Council and homeless charities to trace women to offer accommodation to those who needed it.

Sali Harwood, SWWOP Manager

A day in the life of a Specialist Crisis Support Worker

One thing can be said for sure and that is that every day at SWWOP is different. As we step foot onto the streets of the Wicker on an early morning few people are around. Taxi's taking people to their city office jobs and people rolling up at the local hairdressers for an early cut. Occasionally someone will be waiting at our door. Before we even get a chance to roll up the shutters, we have been told exactly what they need to get through the day. 'Socks, nickers, hot chocolate and condoms please'. Sometimes this is all our clients need. They may not feel ready to look at their benefits or housing or sort out getting on a methadone script. It is important we respect this but remind our clients we are here for whatever they may need. Even if that is just a friendly face and a chat. Some women will ring our doorbell just to say hi and 10 minutes later someone is coming to us for support in reporting a rape that happened on the beat in the early hours.

Harm-reduction is a massive part of our work and providing a free and easy needle exchange means that our clients have access to clean drug paraphernalia reducing the risk of blood borne infections and other diseases associated with sharing and re-using needles. We signpost and refer to external agencies where necessary which ensures our clients receive dedicated support from all angles. We also provide exit support

for clients who have stopped sex working. When an individual decides to move away from sex work, they often rely on the benefits system to support them. We will support women to make the relevant claims and refer them for counselling to deal with the trauma they have most likely experienced whilst 'working'. The problem we often see is that if an individual is sanctioned for missing an appointment and they are without money for just a month – they often return back to street prostitution which has the potential to fuel past behaviours such as drug abuse.

On a Thursday afternoon we provide a drop-in service for our clients. We run different activities each week which are often chosen by the women themselves. We sometimes visit parks, bowling alleys or pizza hut! Although they each have their differences and do not always see eye to eye, drop-in provides a sanctuary where any issues are left at the door. We laugh, we cry, and we eat yummy food and cake. We have started to look at the possibility of running a separate drop in for Exit clients which will give them a safe space away from the chat of sex work which is inevitable at our Thursday drop in. Based on the client evaluation forms our drop ins are enjoyed by all and we are always looking at ways we can adapt and improve with the times.

Lis's story

What an exciting day we had on 3rd April 2019. After applying months earlier, SWWOP had been picked to attend the Duke of York's Community Initiative Award Winners 2019 at the Infantry Training School, Catterick Garrison, where Prince Andrew would present the awards.

I was lucky enough to be able to go as each charity was only allocated 4 places. Each charity had to give a short talk on what they were about and Jane, a lovely lady, who had exited years ago but who still keeps in touch with SWWOP, volunteered to give a talk about how SWWOP had helped her.

Before the day came Sali had a phone call to let her know that she had been put forward for a DOYCI Outstanding Leadership Award.

The day loomed fine and dry which was lucky because it was very security conscious and we - Sali, Annette, Jane and I - had to queue a while. Once through the doors there were tea/coffee and biscuits before we were seated.

Introductions were made before Prince Andrew entered the stage and gave a very good, humorous speech. Each charity then made their speeches and collected their awards. Jane looked lovely and spoke beautifully, we were very proud of her.

Before the end, the (two) winners of the Outstanding Leadership award were announced. Sali was presented with £250 for SWWOP. We were all thrilled and applauded loudly.

We then all moved into a larger room where there was a buffet. Prince Andrew moved around the room and spoke briefly to each charity in turn. He was very interested in SWWOP, but I cannot remember what exactly was said.

It was a wonderful ending to a smashing day, and I felt privileged to have been asked to go.

Lis Storey (Finance/Admin)

Jane's story

When Sali first asked me to be there in beginning when the adjudicator was coming about the award I was blown away. Then I got nervous about it because when I am nervous I ramble and I did, couldn't help it, but also I wanted to do everyone proud. I could talk about swwop

all day because I truly believe I would not be here without all the support and the amazing staff. So when I got asked, not only to go but to accept the award on SWWOP's behalf, I was so honoured and blown away to be a part of it all. It was just amazing and then to top it off it was in the army barracks that my dad trained in. You have to understand, my dad to the day he died still stood up and saluted the queen. He respected the Royal family so for me to meet one in his army barracks I just kept thinking: I wish he was alive to see this. It was one of my proudest moments and a memory I will never forget.

Jane (SWWOP ambassador)



Jane collecting our DOYCI Award 2019

Client's personal story - Jenny

When I found out I was pregnant, I was still working in 'Sex Work' via 'AdultWork'. I was drinking up to a litre of spirits a day, smoking crack, and heroin, and I hardly ate unless it was to stop me being sick before I started smoking for the day.

I had been with SWWOP for four years but hadn't been able to keep away from sex work and drugs. I didn't really think that there was any other life left for me. I'd been what I was for a long time, on and off since 18... mostly on.

When I realised, I was having my daughter, I made myself change because I couldn't let her be born and turn out like I had. And I couldn't lose her because I knew from seeing it happen to women I have worked with, how that affects everyone involved.

With SWWOP's help I started going to TWP sessions and Fitzwilliam. I stopped drinking and haven't touched drink or drugs in a very long time – over two years, the longest time in fifteen years. SWWOP helped me get clothes and equipment for the baby and by going to 'drop in' every week I was able to stay in touch with women I was friends with.

I couldn't have done this without SWWOP. Eight years ago, I left London and came to Sheffield to get away from the pimp I was working for. Without SWWOP, I would certainly have gone back and would be dead by now. Now, my daughter is almost starting nursery, and I'm starting to think about getting a real job again. Life is better than I imagined it would ever be.

A flavour of what volunteering for SWWOP entails:

SWWOP aims to provide a non-judgmental holistic service that is able to respond to a broad range of health & social welfare issues & strives to provide a service to all women involved in street prostitution locally, without discrimination on the basis of race, sexuality, class, disability, religion, political belief or criminal record. As we are such a small project, we rely on volunteers especially for outreach (evenings only) drop-ins and sometimes during the day to support clients attending appointments, Court etc.

On outreach, volunteers always partner a paid worker to either drive the van or they are in the back and welcome clients onto the van, providing condoms, hot drinks, sandwiches etc as well as offering an excellent needle exchange service.

The van has bench seating in the back so our clients can sit and while away a few moments in the warmth, stress free atmosphere, just have a chat or report issues such as attacks against them on the streets. We have a couple of volunteer doctors who can give advice re injuries (a number of our clients have ulcers etc from 'skin popping and/or injecting in same injection site over and over again). it is a very satisfying role on outreach and the clients

immediately trust you as SWWOP has been around for about twenty five years. Yes, some of the clients have also been around for the same length of time!

We also provide a 'Drop-in' three Thursday afternoons per month, which was originally set up for Exit clients (clients exiting 'sex work' and substance misuse) but it has now become popular with all our clients. The drop-in offers activities e.g. craft workshops, alternative therapies, basically just a social space where clients can chat together away from the 'beat'. What goes down especially well is the lunch we provide and of course clients can pick up a clothing outfit and claim busfares for attending. During the warmer months, outings are arranged, tea and cake down by the canal or further afield such as Rother Valley or Graves Park.

All our Volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and reflect our client group in terms of ethnicity and diversity. We accept * Female applicants only and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, Sec.7 (2) (e) applies.* Volunteers are trained and supported throughout their time with us.

SWWOP Volunteers' stories

I have volunteered for SWWOP for two and a half years. I heard about SWWOP and the work they do when I applied for a role with them, although I wasn't successful, I was so enthused by the work being delivered that I applied to Volunteer. I started on outreach and had an induction about how staff keep themselves safe and how to consider the safety of service users.

I was a little apprehensive at first, although I have a lot of experience in other areas, this was new to me. I work one evening every month, I have found that all of the staff I have worked with have been very professional but also alongside this we always have a laugh and try to keep it light hearted for the women we come across. The support is second to none, being out there serving these marginalised women doesn't get enough praise or funding, I hope to continue with volunteering and maybe even work for SWWOP in the future.

I really can't praise the staff enough and they have such a respect for the experience that Sali has, the empathy and support knows no bounds, and it has been a brilliant experience for me. This project is about walking alongside service users and supporting them when they need and want the support.

Eve Woods

I have been volunteering for SWWOP for too many years now (I think! – time flies by when you are having fun). I met Sali at a 'Women in Leadership' event hosted by South Yorkshire Police. I had previously been a drug worker and missed the client contact. I pondered for a while and got in touch with SWWOP about volunteering with them. I can honestly say it's been life changing. I have met some amazing people who have inspired me, whose attitude to life is inspiring and who have always had a kind word and a giggle. The team at SWWOP are all fantastic and do great work, day in day out, helping women make a difference to their lives. They always make a cracking brew too! I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff, volunteers, on-call workers and board members for keeping the wheels on the cart to enable us to go out there and deliver the outreach that is required.

Mel Howard

The Great Windermere Swim Challenge 9th June 2019

Back in the spring 2019 I allowed Sali to talk me into doing a sponsored swim for SWWOP, a half a mile 'marathon' in Lake Windermere. What was I thinking??

Initially this involved open water training sessions, in a lake at Hatfield outdoor activity centre in Doncaster, starting in March. The first challenge was to actually squeeze myself into the very unbecoming wet suit, not an easy feat, I never realised that it had to be so tight, no wonder the professional's call them 'skins'. In fact, Sali had to help spoon me into it. Next, I actually had to get into the water, I have never felt so cold, my jaw, teeth, hands, and feet really really hurt, and I thought my brain would freeze. Once I stopped gasping for breath I began to swim slowly and very splashily.

I did get to enjoy the sessions, the mist over the water, the singing of birds and the true beauty of swimming in the open air. Though I never really got over the shock of that first wade into the cold water and the sensation of it slowly creeping into my wet suit.

On one memorable occasion as I was swimming, I felt what I thought was another swimmer brushing by me. How rude I thought, you are definitely invading my personal space and it's not like the lake wasn't big enough for both of us. I looked up to see a very friendly golden retriever bobbing along beside me. Sadly, he soon lost interest in being my swim buddy, too slow and too splashy compared to his sleek doggy paddle.

Finally, the great day arrived. There were hundreds of people registering and getting ready to swim various distances and I could not fail to notice that they all looked like 'real' serious swimmers. As we were called to the

start, we did various warm up exercises and the music blared out 'Mister Blue Skies', the siren wailed, and we were off.

I would like to say that I completed the course in spectacular fashion. The truth is that I was really slow, very uncoordinated and it was the longest half mile I have ever swum. Why did no one mention that there are tides on lakes and I was definitely swimming against the tide?

Finally I made it to the finish line, a very nice supporter helped me out of the water, which was good 'cos my legs had turned to jelly and I really didn't want to have to crawl up the bank on my hands and knees.

Was I proud of my achievement? Yes! and I even got a medal (as did everyone). Would I do it again? probably not. But I really did enjoy the experience of open water swimming. I wish I could tell you that I kept it up, but sadly not. However, I think of it now as we live through these strange and challenging times and a part of me would love to be swimming again in open water, watching the mist rise from the lake and the sun peeking through the clouds. And just maybe my doggy swim buddy will join me again.

Claire Blundell

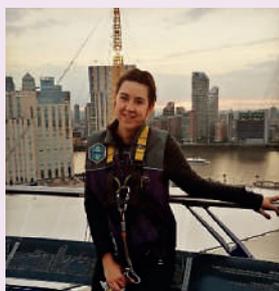
SWWOP Volunteer (and serious swimmer!)



Jane collecting our DOYCI Award 2019

Climbing the O2 Arena

In May 2019 myself plus two friends decided to challenge ourselves to climbing the O2 in London to raise money for SWWOP. As somebody who has a fear of heights this was a great challenge. The team at the O2 were wonderful and made me feel at ease the whole way up. The views from the top were outstanding and I am very happy that in doing the climb we were able to raise £400 for SWWOP. What will the next challenge be?



Rosie Peers (Crisis and Exit Support worker)

St Martin in the Fields – Frontline Network

This year, we were very fortunate to receive funding from St-Martin in the Fields Frontline Network. The Network, established in 2016, provides funds, community and resource for frontline workers across the UK. The money we have received (£7300) is for three years and to be used to support our clients upon release from prison and to reduce the chances of re-offending and becoming homeless.

Other Good News

In February 2020 we had success in the courts as Boris Edwards was sentenced to 10 years for the rape of a vulnerable woman. We and the police provided support to her throughout.

Treasurers Report

We once again would like to thank our core funders, the NHS Primary Care Trust for their grant of £55,800. However, as the Police and Crime Commissioner's Safe and Sustainable Communities Partnership was only able to provide us with half our usual amount (£23,500 rather than £47,000), this year was quite a struggle. Thankfully, we still had the 3rd and final year of funding from The Big Lottery from 1st December so after losing one worker and cutting our costs we were able to carry on regardless.

We were very fortunate in August 2019 to secure a small pot of funding from St Martin's in the Field of £7,320 to be spent over 3 years. We thank them most sincerely.

Our heartfelt thanks to our generous supporters who have donated, through JustGiving/PayPal and Charitable Giving, £3,524 over the year. We are also grateful to those who sponsored Sali Harwood and Claire Blundell who undertook the Lake Windemere challenge and Rosie Peers who climbed the 02 building.

We received £1800 from the Sheffield City Council for the training pack Sali & Katie designed to promote safeguarding in saunas.

Other funds were made up from unallocated money of NIC allowance and bank interest etc.

Finally, we would really like to thank our amazing volunteers including the Management Committee and just reiterate how much they are appreciated for all their hard work and commitment in keeping SWWOP running smoothly providing support to all our vulnerable clients.

Lotte Aweimrin (Treasurer)

SHEFFIELD WORKING WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Incoming resources	1				
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants and donations	3	5,591	156,632	162,223	174,951
Activities for generating funds:		3,399	-	3,399	3,413
Total Incoming resources		8,990	156,632	165,622	178,364
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities					
Wages	6	-	115,898	115,898	133,652
Payroll service		-	425	425	491
Travel, training & conference		864	1,231	2,095	2,683
Premises		-	18,000	18,000	18,109
Office equipment		-	0	0	1,431
Volunteer expenses		-	952	952	1,564
Insurance		985	0	985	1,064
Memberships, meetings and supervision		-	246	246	1,363
Telephone, mobile & internet		-	1,442	1,442	1,042
Vehicle maintenance/tax/insurance, diesel		-	3,271	3,271	3,572
Equipment and IT		-	875	875	649
Printing, postage and stationery		-	479	479	553
Publicity		192	0	192	386
Outreach		30	151	181	147
Exit support		-	4,141	4,141	4,775
Health items		-	2,335	2,335	2,172
Newhall prison		-	1,165	1,165	951
Sauna work		-	13	13	30
Depreciation		5,285	-	5,285	5,285
New van and refurbishment		-	-	-	-
Other expenditure		286	15	301	354
Accountancy and independent examination		-	425	425	425
Total resources expended		7,642	151,065	158,705	180,698
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		1,348	5,567	6,917	(2,335)
Total funds brought forward		21,910	21,579	43,489	45,824
Total funds carried forward	4	23,258	27,146	50,404	43,489

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting Policies

(a) General

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

(b) Donations and fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

(c) Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accrual basis.

3 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Reaching Communities Big Lottery Fund	-	70,012	70,012
Sheffield City Council Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership	-	23,500	23,500
Sheffield City Council Public Health - Children & Young People	-	55,800	55,800
St Martin in the Field	-	7,320	7,320
Donations and gifts	5,591	-	5,591
	5,591	156,632	162,223

4 Restricted Funds

	Opening balance at 01/04/19	Incoming resources	Outgoing expenditure	Closing balance at 31/03/20
Reaching Communities Big Lottery Fund	21,579	70,012	(71,466)	20,125
Sheffield City Council Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership	-	23,500	(23,500)	-
Sheffield City Council Public Health - Children & Young People	-	55,800	(55,800)	-
St Martin in the Field	-	7,320	(299)	7,021
	21,579	156,632	(151,065)	27,146

6 Staff costs and trustees remuneration

	£
Gross salaries	101,243
Employers national insurance	4,725
Pension	9,930
	115,898

An equivalent of four full-time employees were employed during the year.

No remuneration was paid to any trustees during the period.