

Trustees Annual Report
Annual Receipts & Payments Accounts

for

Survivors Unite SCIO
for the period

to 31st March 2023



Scottish Charity No: SC048563

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Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name: Survivors Unite SCIO

Scottish Charity No: SC048563

The Charities Principal Address:

Unit 3a Tweedmill Business Park
SELKIRK
TD7 5DZ

Charities Trustees on date of approval including office held:

Chairperson	Allyson McCollam
Treasurer	John Craig
Trustee	Catherine Elliott-Walker
Trustee	Barbara Caldicott
Trustee	Amanda Erskine
Trustee	Angela Freeman - April 22
Trustee	Alan Renton - Aug 22

Names of other trustees during the period:

Marina Arnot resigned June 22
Marilyn Aitkenhead resigned Dec 22
Maureen Roper resigned Dec 22

Independent Examiner:

Sue Bennett
21 Dounehill
JEDBURGH
TD8 6LJ

Bankers:

Bank of Scotland plc
PO Box 1000
BX2 1LB

Structure, Governance & Management

Governing Document:

Survivors Unite was recognised as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on the 23rd July 2018

Trustee Recruitment & Appointment:

At each AGM, the members may elect any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership under clause 56) to be a charity trustee. The board may at any time appoint any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership under clause 56) to be a charity trustee.

At each AGM, all of the charity trustees elected/appointed under clauses 58 and 59 (and, in the case of the first AGM, those deemed to have been appointed under clause 57) shall retire from office – but shall then be eligible for re-election under clause 58.

A charity trustee retiring at an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected unless:

- he/she advises the board prior to the conclusion of the AGM that he/she does not wish to be re-appointed as a charity trustee; or
- an election process was held at the AGM and he/she was not among those elected/re-elected through that process; or
- a resolution for the re-election of that charity trustee was put to the AGM and was not carried.

In addition to their powers under clause 59, the board may at any time appoint any non-member of the organisation to be a charity trustee (subject to clause 53, and providing he/she is not debarred from membership under clause 56) either on the basis that he/she has been nominated by a body with which the organisation has close contact in the course of its activities or on the basis that he/she has specialist experience and/or skills which could be of assistance to the board.

Objectives & Activities

The Charities Charitable Purpose:

As set out in the 'Constitution' and 'The Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005' the purpose(s) of Survivors Unite SCIO are the following: -

- The organisation's purposes are the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or others disadvantage through:

Any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives:

- Providing safe, confidential, person-centred support for adults who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, to their families and significant others in the Scottish Borders
- To be a credible and trusted peer support organisation with established referral pathways that those working with survivors can signpost to, and those using the service can be signposted from.
- Raising awareness, support prevention and reduce stigma around issues affecting survivors of childhood sexual abuse in the Scottish Borders

Achievement & Performance for 2023

For Survivors Unite, 2022- 23 brought a good deal of change in how and where we provide services. We have continued throughout to provide a range of support for and with those affected by the trauma of childhood sexual abuse and have been able to expand on what we can offer. The recruitment over the year of new staff to help with the management, co-ordination and administration of our services has brought additional energy and commitment that adds to the deep experience and extensive skills of our recovery therapists and peer support workers. Our new premises in Selkirk provide a welcoming space for those who attend support sessions in person. Alongside that we have found that many people prefer the option to meet with and connect with their therapist or peer support worker remotely.

We continue to be committed to the core Survivors Unite ethos of developing and delivering free and confidential survivor-centred services that evolve in line with what people tell us is needed. Group work and 1 to 1 support remain the foundation stones, to which we have added several short-term projects that offer participants different ways to engage with and give expression to their experiences and aspirations, using film and visual images.

We have been able to increase our counselling capacity in stages over the year to response to the steady numbers of people coming to us for help and have been fortunate to have the resources to do so through our portfolio of grant funding. We appreciate the continuing support received from the Scottish Government, National Lottery, Robertson Trust and Foundation Scotland. The confirmation during 2022- 23 of a second 3 year grant from the National Lottery assures a degree of stability, whilst we seek to source additional funding as other current grants come to a close.

Changes have been made to some of our systems and processes, with a focus on improving information-recording and communication internally and externally with services such as referrers. Feedback from those who use our services have prompted changes to the Survivors Unite website to make it easy for those coming anew to the site to find what is useful for them. We also instituted a review cycle of our policies and procedures to ensure these remain up-to-date and fit for purpose.

We are fortunate to be able to connect into a national network of organisations that have a similar purpose in providing safety, support and understanding so that survivors of sexual abuse can heal and flourish. Many of these are organisations that are much longer established than Survivors Unite. We can all learn from and support each other in tackling challenges that lie in our paths. A national evaluation report (published in July 2023) highlighted the many points of similarity among this family of organisations. It also indicated the range of different ways in which services are able to help people and make a significant impact. We will continue to listen to those who use our services in the Scottish Borders to ensure we develop responsive approaches, which are also in line with good practice and with what evidence shows to be helpful in other contexts.

The quality of what we do hinges on the dedication and skill of our employed and sessional workforce, so it has been important over this year to identify opportunities for learning and development. In one instance this has enabled a therapist worker to complete a specialist course with funding from Scottish Government. In addition, the organisation is investing our own resources in an online learning programme for the full workforce.

The Survivors Unite Board has seen some changes in trustee membership over the year. Marilyn Aitkenhead, a founding trustee and chair of the Board for a year stood down in December 2022 and we are very appreciative of the time, attention and experience that Marilyn contributed in the course of her involvement. Allyson McCollam took on the role of Chair.

We look forward to the coming year to consolidate our core work and to explore ways to enhance and expand that where possible.

Financial Review

Statement of Reserves Policy:

Reserves must be maintained at a level which ensures that SU's core activity can continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle. SU will plan to maintain a reserve figure to cover operating costs for 2 months at all times. An increase of up to 10% above the reserves figure is acceptable.

Details of any deficit:

There was no deficit at the end of the financial period. The SCIO has sufficient funds to continue to carry out its charitable objects for the foreseeable future.

Details of Donated Facilities & Services:

The Charity benefits from the time given by all the Trustees to the running of the Charity.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The members of the Charity must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Charity during the financial year. The members of the Charity are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Charity at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Allyson McCollam
Chairperson

Dated: 23rd October 2023.

Receipts & Payments Account
Period to 31st March 2023

	Notes	Un Restricted	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Receipts					
Donations		0.00	0.00	0.00	190
Receipts from Fund Raising Activities	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Other Charitable Activities		0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Grants	2	0.00	189,743.41	189,743.41	51,875
Total Receipts		0.00	189,743.41	189,743.41	52,065
Payments					
Expenses from Fund Raising Activities	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	160
Expenses from Charitable Activities	4	0.00	118,164.63	118,164.63	74,844
Independent Examination		221.50	0.00	221.50	150
Total Payments		221.50	118,164.63	118,386.13	75,154
Net Receipts/(Payments)		(221.50)	71,578.78	71,357.28	(23,089)
Transfer between Funds		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		(221.50)	71,578.78	71,357.28	(23,089)

**Statement of Balances as at
 31st March 2023**

	Un Restricted	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Balances at Start of Year	1,710.83	49,017.00	50,727.83	73,817
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(221.50)	71,578.78	71,357.28	(23,089)
Balances at End of Year	1,489.33	120,595.78	122,085.11	50,728

Other Assets

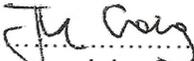
See Note 5

			2,287	2,287
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Liabilities

Heat & Light			2,338	0
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Financial Statements approved by the Charity and signed on its behalf by:

Signed..... 
 John Craig - Treasurer

Dated..... 23rd October 2023

Notes to the Accounts

	2023	2022
1. Income from Fundraising Activities		
Members Outing	0	0
Other Activities	0	0
	£0	£0
2. Grants		
Teviot & Liddesdale Community Fund	0	5,000
SOCAS Fund (Scottish Government)	41,410.41	19,375
The Robertson Trust	20,000.00	20,000
National Lottery	33,333.00	0
Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund	80,000.00	0
Foundation Scotland	15,000.00	7,500
	£189,743.41	£51,875
3. Expenses from Fundraising Activity		
The Kilt Walk	£0	£160
4. Expenses from Charitable Activity		
Staff Costs	40,883.41	26,565
Counselling Fees & Costs	52,972.46	28,797
Rent & Premises Costs	12,122.20	8,664
Overhead Costs (Phone, Postage & Stationery)	1,303.12	1,419
Website & Computer Costs	1,131.06	1,604
Volunteer & Travel Costs	581.28	3,007
Insurance	1,948.17	1,613
Lone Working	553.98	823
Meeting Costs	66.14	96
Group Members Outing	0.00	281
Equipment & Office Materials	1,057.50	379
Legal & Professional	0.00	600
Training Costs	1,853.36	896
Poetry Competition	0.00	100
Space to Breath	2,525.00	0
Other Project Costs	1,166.95	0
	£118,164.63	£74,844

Notes to the Accounts cont'd

5. Assets of Survivors Unite SCIO as at 31st March 23

	2022	Additions	2023
XL Display Boards	111.60	0.00	111.60
Dell Latitude 7350 Laptop	2,175.00	0.00	2,175.00
Total	2,286.60	0.00	2,286.60

6. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses during the year.

7. Nature & Purpose of Funds

The statements of account for the year show the financial figures for the Charity. The funds carried forward are made up of restricted and un-restricted funds as follows:

Bank of Scotland	
Un-Restricted Funds	1,442.65
Restricted Funds	120,595.78
Petty Cash	46.68
Total Funds	£122,085.11

Independent Examiner’s Report on the Accounts

Report to the trustees of Survivors Unite SCIO
 Registered charity number SC048563
 On the accounts of the charity for the period to 31st March 2023
 Set out on Pages 7 to 9

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner’s statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *Sue Bennett*.....

Sue Bennett 21 Dounehill Jedburgh

23.10.2023

Date:

Add text here

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:

Dip Business & Finance