Company number: 3988903

Charity Number: 1081654

Voluntary Sector North West

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administrative information

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Company number 3988903

Charity number 1081654

Registered office and operational address 3rd Floor Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street,

Manchester, M4 5JW

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year

and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Alison Page Chair (resigned 1 June 2023)

Ed Moss Vice Chair (resigned 24 May 2022)

Daniel Moxon Treasurer (resigned 20 March 2023)

Circle Steele

David Packwood (resigned 23 November 2022)

Gill Bainbridge

Jeremy Hodgkinson (appointed 17 May 2023)

Khansa Taha (resigned 23 November 2022)

Margaret Cheshire

Ridwanah Gurjee (resigned 6 August 2022)

Sally Yeoman

Yakub Patel (appointed 20 April 2023)

Key management Warren Escadale Chief Executive

personnel Yen Siang Tan Operations Manager

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc

P.O. Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Unity Trust Bank

PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

Voluntary Sector North West Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Independent Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA Slade & Cooper Limited

Examiner Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") were updated on 26 September 2000. They are:

To promote such purposes as are charitable according to the law of England and Wales for the benefit of the public in the North West of England by:

- (a) Providing a channel of information between voluntary organisations and local and central government agencies or other organisations in the region.
- (b) Providing a network of communication for voluntary organisations and agencies in the region.
- (c) Bringing together representatives from voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and other agencies in the region to identify the funding and policy needs of voluntary organisations.

The area of benefit, the North West of England is defined as the ceremonial counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Merseyside.

Ensuring our work delivers our object & aims

The Trustee Board of VSNW reviews the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year in order to ensure activities remain focused on our stated purposes. The trustees established in consultation with member organisations, a Strategic plan for 2022-2025. The following four strategic aims were established:

- Increase **connectivity** within the sector
- Enable **influence** for the sector
- Demonstrate the value of VSNW and the sector as a whole
- Build an effective **voice** for the North West VCSE sector

Underpinning this is our work to ensure VSNW is a well governed and financially sound organisation.

This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how

for the year ended 31 March 2023

planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The Charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Voluntary Sector North West's charitable purposes for the public benefit. We continued to carry out the work of VSNW in accordance with our mission, our strategic aims and in accordance with our strategic priorities for 2022-2025 (above).

This ensured that all our work was of benefit to, and reflected the priorities of, the North West voluntary and community sector and therefore the wider public in the North West.

Core Activities

The North West has always consisted of five sub regions and of a stark mix of economic success and marginalisation. Via our members and networks, we are in contact with over 50,000 groups working with communities right across the region. VSNW's work has historically had three core elements:

- Supporting the sector's role in creating social and economic impact, driven by the need to create effective economic strategies and delivery for our communities.
- Supporting the sector's role in the future of health and social care, City Regions, the Combined Authorities, and the NHS's new and reconfigured Integrated Care Systems are the key focus for influencing with and on behalf of the sector.
- General support for the sector bridging national policy and local implementation. An important
 part of this role has been about how we can be a system leader and create change, always
 within the context of the membership, networks and relationships that make VSNW possible

Increase connectivity within the VCSE sector

Supporting healthy VCSE partnerships across the North West is the foundation of our operating model. Our vision is to play our part in developing and/or supporting healthy, connected partnerships that deliver value for the sector in each sub-region.

We know that we have limited resources, and that this is the best way to add value, building on local networks and relationships.

In 2022/23, VSNW provided formal support to VCSE partnerships operating in Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool City Region, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. As Cumbria CVS provides this function in Cumbria, we have not sought to duplicate but to build links and offer a different model of support through Cumbria CVS.

In **Liverpool City Region**, VSNW provides secretariat support to the VS6 Partnership whose members support and are connected to the 8,600 VCSE organisations in the City Region. Laura Tilston (Acting Programme Manager and Research & Policy Officer) and Ewan McGregor (Partnerships Manager) played a vital role in developing the partnership's policy, communications and engagement work throughout the year. We (VS6 and VSNW) have worked hard developing effective mechanisms to connect the wider sector into city region policy and influence work, using cascaded

for the year ended 31 March 2023

communications, developing the VS6 website (www.vs6partnership.org.uk). Through the Combined Authority, the VS6 Partnership secured investment to build collective delivery around mental wellbeing, community wealth building, and digital inclusion. Building on this model, Lottery investment has allowed us to embed this model and continue to support the wider engagement of the sector in partnership with the VS6 Partnership. An important element of this was supporting the formation of an independently chaired City Region race equality VCFSE group, mapping out the sector's role in contributing to delivering Sustainable Food support, as well digital inclusion services, for communities across the City Region.

In Greater Manchester (GM), the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group (facilitated and chaired by VSNW) connects to a broad range of VCSE networks: disability, Black Asian and minority ethnic, older people, young people, LGBTQ+, faith, carers, mental health, sport, refugee, women, local VCSE infrastructure, including 10GM and GMCVO, social enterprise, and VCSE providers, with links, through infrastructure organisations and equalities networks, to the 17,000 VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester. The Leadership Group's main bulletin has over 2,000 direct contacts. As a Leadership Group, as part of connecting to the wider sector, we use formal working groups (commissioning, inclusive economy, population health, workforce, GM VCSE mental health leaders and GM=EqAl), short term task and finish groups, focused networks (eg homelessness), events, consultations, and roadshows held with VCSE leaders in the ten boroughs.

Through **Answer Cancer** there are over 4,600 Cancer Champions, while 239 organisations have committed, with their staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, to preventing and tackling cancer. So far over 40,000 people working in Greater Manchester, through the 'Bee Seen, Get Screened' pledge now have the right to access screening services as part of their terms of employment.

In **Cheshire**, we set up and have supported the Cheshire and Warrington Infrastructure Partnership (CWIP) for the last three years. This group has ensured that the sector is connected into the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, developments in health and care, and to the re-emerged Cheshire and Warrington Leaders Board. Dena Kynaston (Head of Communications), Andrew Rainsford (Research and Policy Officer) and Marina Ma (Admin Officer) have been key parts of our support in Cheshire and Warrington throughout the year.

To complement the NHS footprint, the **Cheshire and Merseyside VCSE Health and Social Care Leadership Group** links 60 plus VCSE Leaders from each of the 9 boroughs. This includes: CVS, VCSE Place Board representatives, and equalities and specialist VCSE Providers. This Group links to the NHS Board, ensures accountability to the sector and provides a platform for connecting the sector more broadly.

In **Lancashire**, we (VSNW and local VCSE Leaders) have worked alongside the VCSE Alliance in order to support a connected and influential sector and helped to develop an agreed partnership model, with formal terms of reference now agreed. Having supported engagement across Lancashire, we developed a collective statement on ambitions for the local sector, a *VCSE Manifesto for the Lancashire sector*.

We also hosted the **North West Social Prescribing Network** with over 400 people signed up to a dedicated Bulletin. Working alongside Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS and a network of CVS across the North West, we have supported the regional VCSE Social Prescribing programme (Thriving

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Communities) working closely with partners from the National Academy of Social Prescribing (NASP). This included running a regional learning programme, which has been attended by just under 200 delegates driving the sector's role in social prescribing. Dena Kynaston and Marina Ma have been pivotal to this work.

Following a review of **VSNW membership**, this stood at 127 full members and 56 associates (as at 31st March 2023) and we have a general contact list of over 2,500 VCSE Chief Executives and senior staff across the region signed up to our bulletins: VSNW, GM Leadership, VS6 Partnership, Social Prescribing, and GM Cancer Champions.

Enable influence and demonstrating value of the sector

The VS6 Partnership of Liverpool City Region (LCR) have had an extremely busy and productive year advocating for the local sector. The LCR VCFSE sector is recognised as a local economic partner and the LCR VCFSE Manifesto has been central to this.

As champions for the LCR VCFSE sector, VS6 have supported a growth in VCFSE representation across the City Region. This includes key representatives on each of the three main governance bodies operating in Liverpool City Region: the Combined Authority Board (Ellen Loudon, VS6 Chair), the Local Enterprise Partnership Board (Angela White) and on NHS Cheshire and Merseyside main board (Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive). Following on from the joint work with the Combined Authority to supporting the City Region's Economic Recovery Plan, "Building Back Better", three main grant programmes were commissioned via VS6, VOLA and the Community Foundation: community wealth building, mental wellbeing, and digital inclusion. We have also mapped the sector's role in a Sustainable, Affordable and Inclusive Food Strategy across the City Region and are discussing models for better supporting this work and our communities.

Alongside this, considerable portions of the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** have been earmarked for the VCFSE sector as the lead on delivery (£6.635m). There will be considerable additional opportunities for VCFSE groups over and above this investment. This is in addition to the Combined Authority's commitment to delivering the manifesto, LCR Cares and the LCR Cares Grant Programme, which has previously invested (£0.5m) in the sector's role in community wealth building, tackling digital exclusion, supporting mental wellbeing and building volunteering support. Ewan McGregor and Laura Tilston have been central to our delivery of this work. Through the mental wellbeing and wealth building funds the sector was able to support over 13,200 people.

Across **Cheshire and Merseyside**, we are supporting and promoting the VCSE role in health neighbourhoods and primary care, the new Integrated Care Partnership, and place-based working. An important aspect of this is developing relationships with acute and community health providers. We are a key partner in the C&M NHS strategy and implementation.

Going forward, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside have committed to a larger VCFSE Transformation Programme in 2023/24 (£400k+) which includes large-scale investment in VCSE-place partnership working.

In **Greater Manchester** (GM), we have continued to develop the "template for VCSE involvement in Devolution across England" through the work of our members, partners and the GM VCSE Leadership Group. Through this work, over 70 VCSE representatives and leaders now sit on key public sector

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31 March 2023

boards and working groups, linking back through the Leadership Group to ensure focused, accountable representation and the full inclusion of the sector in shaping Greater Manchester. We also launched the GM **VCFSE Forum** with 10 Councils hosted by the GM Portfolio Cooperatives and Communities holder (Cllr Arooj Shah).

Major achievements include continued delivery of the **5 year Accord** agreement in Greater Manchester between the VCSE sector, the Combined Authority and the NHS. Key activities in the Accord include tackling inequality, creating an inclusive economy, building a stronger VCSE Ecosystem, developing a joint workforce approach, and implementing the VCSE Commissioning framework in order to build the sector's financial resilience. Anna Cooper, GM Programme Manager, Kassandra Banks, Partnerships Officer, and Tom Jackson, Communications Officer, have played an essential and vital role in this work and have finalized a three year £1.6m funding agreement to support the voice, influence and capacity building of the sector. Warren Escadale, VSNW Chief Executive, has chaired the GM VCSE Leadership Group.

Additional investment has landed with the sector through the influence of VSNW, sector leaders and the partnerships and collaborations that VSNW has helped establish. These include: £900k for VCSE equalities groups for mental wellbeing work; 12 month VCSE Workforce project £300k; £240k PCN and population health project to start in 2022; and an additional year's investment for a VCSE cancer screening programme (£500k) with grant investment throughout the programme for VCSE equalities groups (Answer Cancer) of over £400k to date.

Partnership achievements include:

- Launch a GM-wide VCSE workforce programme and support sector sign up to the Good Employment Charter;
- Establish the Alternative Provider Collaborative (APC), an innovative partnership of charities and social businesses delivering NHS services across the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System (which has a membership with a collective turnover of around £150m, employ in excess 2000 people and utilise around 1000 volunteers)
- Run a VCSE Ecosystem Fund to better connect faith groups, bolster collective capacity for action on tackling poverty; better connecting VCSE Mental Health leadership and sector ability to support refugee and asylum seekers.

In terms of our role in the **Answer Cancer partnership programme** (led by Salford CVS and in partnership with BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements), VSNW staff have played a strong role. Jacqui Naraynsingh (Project Coordinator), Kirit Patel and Sabina Khanum (Answer Cancer Development Workers), Vanessa Porter (Organisational Champion Lead) and Martin Hall (Communications Officer) have developed resources (in 14 community languages), case studies, and outreach strategies in order to build the evidence base for how to engage specific communities. This work includes case studies and over 80 videos supporting population health and prevention work with Black Asian and minority ethnic, disability, LGBTQ+, mental health, and carer groups and in communities of financial poverty. Answer Cancer continues to demonstrate the capacity of the VCSE sector to drive prevention in communities where previous approaches have been less successful. Yen Tan, our Operations Manager, has ensured VSNW has delivered effective support to groups and champions throughout.

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Nationally, we have continued to champion the sector's role in social prescribing advocating for investment for sector referrals and the VCSE role in being adequately funded link worker hosts. We are working with the **National Academy for Social Prescribing** and a unique VCSE partnership to deliver the regional Thriving Communities programme.

Build an effective voice for the North West VCSE sector

The VCSE sector is recognised as a core economic partner for **Liverpool City Region** Combined Authority. Over £6.6m of the UK SPF is being led by and delivered through the sector.

In Greater Manchester, the sector is also seen a core partner. The Combined Authority has earmarked five years' investment for the GM VCSE Leadership Group. The new Health and Care Partnership is matching this investment. Both have signed the **GM VCSE Accord**. This sits alongside £2.5m investment in the sector with further investment proposed through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF). Delivery of over £1m UK SPF is being led on by VCSE local infrastructure.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership is investing in a sizeable **VCSE Transformation Programme** (over £400k in 2023/24).

Through the NHS Charities Community Partnership programme, VSNW helped to secure £1.1m investment in local VCSE organisations in **Cheshire and Merseyside**. This 2-year investment has been used to fund NHS-VCSE pilot projects. Pilots include supporting BAME communities to access health services in East Cheshire and developing a sector-wide hospital discharge model with Halton and Warrington Hospital and the local CVS. The latter pilot, *Healthy at Home*, is being seen as a national and local exemplar project able, through a partnership of local VCSE organisations, to support over 125 people to leave hospital and be supported at home each month.

VCFSE delivery of mental wellbeing, cancer prevention, and 'complex lives' support is being piloted across Cheshire and Merseyside. This includes investment via mental health transformation funding of just under £1m to date.

In **Lancashire**, through the Lancashire Association of CVS, the sector has now secured £300k investment to champion the ambitions of the sector's Lancashire manifesto.

Nationally, we have maintained our links to NHS England's voluntary sector team. Over the past five years, we have successfully lobbied for a VCSE Partnership programme, linked to the NHS's 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS), modelled on our work in Greater Manchester, to be rolled out. VCSE Partnerships or Alliances are now established right across England, generally with six-figure annual local investment and clear goals for improved NHS-VCSE working, this includes all four areas that operate in the North West (Cheshire & Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria, Greater Manchester, North East and North Cumbria). The sector now has representatives invited to the main NHS Board in all 42 areas as default.

Over the past 18 months, VSNW has supported additional investment into the North West VCSE sector of over £12.3m. However, we know that our work and the partnerships we work with and for, have created far more investment than this for the local sector, far beyond what any single VCSE organisations could hope to achieve.

for the year ended 31 March 2023

An effective NW VCSE leadership organisation

VSNW organisational development has continued. We have increased our staffing to 12 as at 31st March 2023. We are moving to a point where we no longer rely on one or two staff operating as exceptional individuals but creating a fit for purpose organisation that has sufficient capacity to help the sector to connect, influence, and drive change for the benefit of our communities. We, as the Board, see this as a priority.

As part of this, the Board has committed to investing reserves and developing an expanded staff team in 2022/23, so that we can increase our capacity to support the sector in Lancashire, Cumbria and on a North West footprint, while maintaining and developing local partnerships.

We continue to review, develop and improve our internal systems. Given the increase in staff and activity, Yen Siang Tan, Operations Manager, is pivotal to the further development and evolution of VSNW. Alison Page and Dan Moxon have now left the VSNW board but their work as Chair and Treasurer has been an essential part of our development.

Income generation remains strong but largely project based, however, we have made significant steps forward in developing VSNW's delivery capacity. We continue to push for longer funding streams for VSNW. Answer Cancer delivery has been funded for the last five years and the VS6 Lottery funding until 2024. We are extremely pleased to have secured longer term investment in Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Merseyside until 2026.

The work that we do in Lancashire and Cumbria is funded through VSNW reserves.

Financial review

The charity held reserves of £429,240 at the year end (2022: £432,142) of which £8,840 (2022: £12,056) were restricted and £11,970 (2022: £130,203) designated leaving a general reserve of £408,430 (2022: £289,883). VSNW is in a reasonable financial position at this point. We have utilised a proportion of our unrestricted reserves in accordance with our Reserves Policy. A review of our financial position is conducted quarterly by the Resources Group and is then considered by the Trustee Board. This review is ongoing.

Reserves policy

The VSNW reserves policy is to maintain sufficient levels of reserves for the delivery of existing programmes of work to be completed and/or transferred to alternative providers should a shortfall in income occur. The required time to do this effectively is a minimum 6 months and the level of reserves required to achieve this is £156,758.

The general reserve, as stated above, is higher than this, however, given the short term funding environment and reliance on short-term and project funding, we will review our reserves.

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 19 February 1998.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2023 was 127 full members. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Trustee selection methods

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association half the members of the Trustee Board elected to serve must be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Both business and strategic skills are required on the Trustee Board and the Board has made a firm commitment to appoint trustees with strong strategic connections to the VCSE sector in each subregion whilst also being sensitive to inclusion and diversity. An annual skills audit is conducted to identify any skills gaps.

Trustees are appointed via an electoral process at the Annual General Meeting elections. Other Trustees can be co-opted by the Trustee Board throughout the year, in accordance with the constitution. The Trustee Board meets every six weeks.

Induction and training of trustees

New Trustees meet with the Chair and Chief Executive where the current financial position and the governing framework are presented, and the obligations of Board members and future plans and objectives are outlined. The NCVO booklet Trustees and Trustees Members National Occupational Standards is given to all new trustees.

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Organisational structure

VSNW has a Trustee Board of up to 12 members who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. As at 31st March 2023 the Board has 5 members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

VSNW's decision making process rests with the Trustee Board. Decisions regarding implementation of the charity's work and staff supervision are delegated to the Chief Executive, who has one-to-ones with the Chair.

Sub groups are established and agreed by the Trustees to meet between Trustee Board meetings to address any issues that require immediate attention and report any actions for agreement to the full Trustee Board.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, VSNW is guided by local, regional and national policy. Sub regional partnerships ensure engagement with thematic, geographic and specialist VCSE infrastructure and provides VSNW with a wide reach into the VCSE sector across the region.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

A subgroup of the board reviews remuneration with advice from our HR consultant, using comparable pay rates within and beyond the sector, including equivalent relationships.

Risk management

The Trustee Board conducts a risk analysis with its budget at outset each year. There is a Risk Register and Policy in place and the register is reviewed on a regular basis. Procedures are implemented internally to ensure proper authorisation for all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure Health and Safety compliance. These are currently under review for future improvement.

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Voluntary Sector North West for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then 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 and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 20^{th} November 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Sally Yeoman (Chair)

Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Independent examiner's report

to the members of

Voluntary Sector North West

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 31.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Christy Lau FCCA CTA DChA Slade & Cooper Limited Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Manchester, M4 6JG

Date: 07 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from: Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	3,000
Charitable activities:	4	211,127	389,051	600,178	431,740
Total income		211,127	389,051	600,178	434,740
Expenditure on: Charitable activities:	5	210,813	392,267	603,080	389,448
Total expenditure		210,813	392,267	603,080	389,448
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments	5	314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	7	314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Transfer between funds			-	-	
Net movement in funds for the year	ar	314	(3,216)	(2,902)	45,292
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward		420,086	12,056	432,142	386,850
Total funds carried forward		420,400	8,840	429,240	432,142

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Voluntary Sector North West Company number 3988903

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note		2023	202	22
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets Tangible assets	12		1,781		2,719
Total fixed assets			1,781		2,719
Current assets Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	13 14	218,760 275,143		130,395 356,203	
Total current assets	-	493,903	_	486,598	
Liabilities Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	15 -	(66,444))	(57,175)	
Net current assets			427,459		429,423
Total assets less current liabilities	5		429,240		432,142
Net assets			429,240		432,142
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds Unrestricted income funds	16 17		8,840 420,400		12,056 420,086
Total charity funds			429,240		432,142

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 17 to 31 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 20/11/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Sally Yeoman (Chair)	Gill Bainbridge (Treasurer)

Voluntary Sector North West Statement of Cash Flows for the year ending 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	(81,060)	(39,546)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(81,060)	(39,546)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	r	356,203	395,749
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>-</u>	275,143	356,203

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

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), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Voluntary Sector North West meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was

h Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures & fittings Computer equipment 5 years 3, 4 or 5 years

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

i 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 due.

j Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

k 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.

I Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

m Pensions

Employees of the charity are opted into a Pension Scheme (defined contribution 'money purchase' schemes) with an employer's contribution. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 8. There were outstanding contributions of £2,599 (2022: £1,827) at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations Society of the Holy Child Jesus CIO	-	3,000
Total	-	3,000

All donations and legacies income is unrestricted.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities

Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
	40,470	40,470
-	143,758	143,758
-	113,608	113,608
183,800 17,250 10,077	91,215 - - -	91,215 183,800 17,250 10,077
211,127	389,051	600,178
Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
11,558 - -	- 16,850 81,442	11,558 16,850 81,442
10,000 -	- 112,020	10,000 112,020
-	9,700	9,700
- - 116,143	4,750 54,750 -	4,750 54,750 116,143 9,834
	-	
3,433 1,260	-	3,433 1,260
152,228	279,512	431,740
	£	£ £ £ 40,470 - 143,758 - 113,608 - 91,215 183,800 - 17,250 - 10,077 - 2 211,127 389,051 Unrestricted £ Restricted £ £ 11,558 - 16,850 - 81,442 10,000 - 112,020 - 9,700 - 4,750 - 54,750 116,143 - 9,834 - 3,433 - 1,260 - 2

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs Other Staff costs Administration Accommodation Associates/Sub-contractors Conferences & events Other project costs Depreciation Governance costs (see note 6)	376,696 19,136 23,008 7,164 135,797 5,710 18,763 938 15,868	264,815 2,163 17,381 6,960 60,105 6,013 19,946 1,178 10,887
	603,080	389,448
	2023 £	2022 £
Restricted expenditure Unrestricted expenditure	392,267 210,813	330,041 59,407
	603,080	389,448

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

	Current reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2023 £
	Independent examiner fees Professional fees AGM and trustee costs	Governance Governance Governance	1,700 10,733 3,435	1,700 10,733 3,435
			15,868	15,868
	Previous reporting period	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Total 2022 £
	Independent examiner fees Professional fees AGM and trustee costs	Governance Governance Governance	1,575 7,727 1,585	1,575 7,727 1,585
			10,887	10,887
7	Net income/(expenditure) for	r the year		
	This is stated after charging/(cre	editing):	2023 £	2022 £
	Depreciation Operating lease rentals:		938	1,178
	Property Independent examiner's fees:		8,064	6,960
	Accountancy		1,130	1,050
	Independent examination		570	525
	Bookkeeping		4,400	5,250
	Payroll bureau		983	441
8	Staff costs			
	Staff costs during the year were	as follows:		
			2023	2022
			£	£
	Wages and salaries		322,313	232,756
	Social security costs		28,375	17,962
	Pension costs		22,529	14,097
	Redundancy costs		3,479	
			376,696	264,815

One (2022: Nil) employee has employee benefits between £60,000 and £70,000 in the year. The average number of staff employed during the period was 10 (2022: 8.5).

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

8 Staff costs (continued)

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed during the period was 10.8 (2022: 7.4).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer and the Operations Manager (2022: Chief Executive Officer). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £101,324 (2022: £61,498).

9 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2022: Nil).

Four (2022: one) member of the board of trustees received travel and subsistence expenses of £494 during the year (2022: £30).

GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project

In December 2018 VSNW worked in partnership with Salford CVS, BHA for Equality and Unique Improvements to secure a contract with NHS England (on behalf of GM Health and Social Care Partnership) in response to an OJEU tender to deliver the GM Cancer Screening Engagement Project. Salford CVS were the named lead provider within this partnership, on behalf of 10GM. The contract was awarded to this VCSE partnership (now known as Answer Cancer), with Salford CVS as the accountable body. Delivery commenced in the year 2019/20 and during 2022/23 Salford CVS made payments to VSNW (£113,607) in relation to delivery of this project (as per the partnership's revised budget submission). It should be noted that the Chair of VSNW (resigend 01/06/2023), Alison Page, is also the Chief Executive of Salford CVS.

10 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (via Liverpool CCG) NHS England GMCA	143,758 - 183,800	81,442 10,000 116,143
	327,558	207,585

There were no unfulfilled conditions and contingencies attaching to the grants.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

12 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Fixtures & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
At 1 April 2022 Additions Disposals	500 - -	5,772 - -	6,272 - -
At 31 March 2023	500	5,772	6,272
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022 Charge for the year Disposals	500 - -	3,053 938 -	3,553 938 -
At 31 March 2023	500	3,991	4,491
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	-	1,781	1,781
At 31 March 2022	-	2,719	2,719

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

13	Debtors		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Grants and fees receivable Prepayments and accrued income	213,719 5,041	124,853 5,542
	<u>-</u>	218,760	130,395
14	Cash at bank and in hand		
14	Cash at bank and in hand	2023 £	2022 £
	Cash at bank and on hand	275,143	356,203
	<u>-</u>	275,143	356,203
15	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
13	orealtors, amounts family due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
	Trade creditors	15,868	33,748
	Other creditors and accruals	40,571	13,704
	Taxation and social security costs	10,005	9,723
		66,444	57,175

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Social Prescribing Network NW GMCSE Answer	-	40,470	(40,470)	-	-
Cancer VCFSE Transformation	12,056	113,608	(125,664)	-	-
Programme VS6	-	143,758 91,215	(143,758) (82,375)	- -	- 8,840
Total	12,056	389,051	(392,267)		8,840
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
FutureNW Forum Social Prescribing	7,726	-	(7,726)	-	-
Network NW GMCSE Answer	4,220	16,850	(21,070)	-	-
Cancer	8,234	112,020	(108,198)	-	12,056
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site Make Smoking	36,130	81,442	(117,572)	-	-
History	1,900	9,700	(11,600)	-	-
<i>VS6</i> STP Merseyside &	-	54,750	(54,750)	-	-
Cheshire NW Recovery EP-Local Liaison	2,000 -	-	(2,000) -	-	-
Lead	2,375	4,750	(7,125)	-	-
Total	62,585	279,512	(330,041)	-	12,056

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Social Prescribing Network NW	Funding from National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), via Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS, to support VCSE role in Social Prescribing in North West England
GMCSE Answer Cancer	Subcontracted from Salford CVS delivery of the GM Cancer Screening Engagement service
VCFSE Transformation Programme	To support the VCFSE role in the transformation of health and care across Cheshire and Merseyside.
VS6	Reaching Communities Lottery Funds held on behalf of the VS6 Partnership in order to support the VCFSE role in shaping the future of Liverpool City Region
FutureNW Forum	Funding to support the North West Forum on Ageing, an unconstituted network
VCSE-ICS Accelerator Pilot Site	Funding from Cheshire & Merseyside Health and Social Care Partnership, with NHS England contribution, via Liverpool CCG to support the development of a Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) VCSE Partnership and VCSE role in C&M Health & Care Partnership
Make Smoking History	Subcontract from Salford CVS to support a smoking cessation social movement project
STP Merseyside & Cheshire	NHS England investment via NAVCA to support VCFSE engagement in NHS' Five Year Strategy
EP-Local Liaison Lead	Funding contribution to link Cheshire and Warrington into National VCSE Emergency Partnership Structures

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2023 £
General fund Designated Funds:	289,883	211,127	(189,914)	97,334	408,430
Carers C&M Lloyds Bank	10,666	-	(10,666)	-	-
Foundation	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
GM Accord Organisational	56,665	-	-	(44,695)	11,970
Development	47,872		(10,233)	(37,639)	-
	420,086	211,127	(210,813)	-	420,400
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund Designated Funds:	286,932	145,228	(37,773)	(104,504)	289,883
Carers C&M Lloyds Bank	14,000	10,000	(13,334)	-	10,666
Foundation NHS Volunteer	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Responder	8,333	-	(8,300)	(33)	-
GM Accord Organisational	-	-	-	56,665	56,665
Development	-	-	-	47,872	47,872
	324,265	155,228	(59,407)	-	420,086

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds (cont.)

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Designated Funds	
Carers C&M	Funding to support carers in Cheshire and Merseyside linked to NHS workforce development
Lloyds Bank Foundation	Lloyds Bank Foundation grant investment in VSNW's core funding
GM Accord	2021/22 funding brought forward to support agreed delivery in 2022/23 and 2023/24
Organisational Development	Funding designated by VSNW's Board for future development and sustainability and to support delivery, in line with our priorities, across the North West and the five subregions.
NHS Volunteer Responder	NHS England investment to develop potential integration of Good Sam and local volunteering services

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets Net current assets/(liabilities)	1,781 406,649	- 11,970	8,840	1,781 427,459
Total	408,430	11,970	8,840	429,240
Previous reporting	Caparal	Decimated	Destricted	
period	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
	fund	funds	funds	

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

19 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Property		
	2023	2022	
	£	£	
Less than one year	-	4,176	
	-	4,176	

20 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year Adjustments for:	(2,902)	45,292
Depreciation charge Decrease/(increase) in debtors Increase/(decrease) in creditors	938 (88,365) 9,269	1,178 (96,323) 10,307
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating	(81,060)	(39,546)

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from: Donations and legacies	3	3,000	-	3,000	-
Charitable activities:	4	152,228	279,512	431,740	380,080
Total income		155,228	279,512	434,740	380,080
Expenditure on: Charitable activities:	5	59,407	330,041	389,448	339,290
Total expenditure		59,407	330,041	389,448	339,290
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments	5	95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	
Net movement in funds for the year	ar	95,821	(50,529)	45,292	40,790
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward		324,265	62,585	386,850	346,060
Total funds carried forward		420,086	12,056	432,142	386,850

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.