

## **Voluntary Action Islington Limited**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

**For the year ended 31 March 2022**

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#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Registered charity name** Voluntary Action Islington Limited

**Charity registration number** 291890

**Company registration number** 01913555

**Registered Office** 200a Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9JP

#### **Board of Trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Joseph David Irvin (Chair from 27 April 2021)  
Philip John Kelly (Chair until 27 April 2021)  
Colin Adams  
Ken Hettiarachi  
Emma Victoria Hutchins  
Josephine Mary Langdale  
Jorge Llorens (Treasurer)  
Barbara Joan Ludlow (resigned 15 December 2021)  
Hussain Ahmed  
Santa Gascoigne

#### **Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary**

Navinder Kaur

#### **Auditor**

Goldwins Chartered Accountants  
75 Maygrove Road  
West Hampstead  
London  
NW6 2EG

#### **Bankers**

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindley Place  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

#### **Solicitors**

Bates Wells  
10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1BE

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

## Voluntary Action Islington Limited

### Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

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The trustees confirm that 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.

### OUR AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Purpose and aims

Our charity's purpose as set out in the objects contained in the Memorandum of Association is:

- a) To promote any charitable purpose primarily but not exclusively for the benefit of the community in the London Borough of Islington, hereinafter called "the area of benefit" and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.
- b) To promote and organise cooperation in achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of not-for-profit organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the area of benefit.

Over the year the staff and trustees reviewed VAI's mission, vision, values and aims and this annual report reflects these strategic changes.

#### Our Vision

A thriving voluntary and community sector in Islington: enriching people's lives and building stronger communities

#### Our Mission

To strengthen our local voluntary and community sector's ability to deliver services effectively and to promote social justice

#### Our Values

- **Effective:** *creative, energetic and responsive*
- **With Integrity:** *honest, professional and respectful*
- **Positive:** *building on strengths, not just focusing on problems*
- **Inclusive:** *valuing the importance of diversity and equality*
- **Collaborative:** *building partnerships and co-designing solutions*

#### Our Strategic Aims

- To support the **development** of Islington's Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)
- To empower Islington's **communities**
- To enable **volunteering**
- To facilitate a stronger VCS **voice** to influence policy
- To work in **partnership** across the VCS and all sector

We are an accredited Living Wage Employer and aim to be an equal opportunities employer.

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#### **Public Benefit**

During the year the trustees have considered section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We have sought to ensure that the charity is fulfilling its charitable purpose to benefit the public by focussing on some of the most pressing social issues in the borough, including Inequality, Poverty, Community Safety and Health.

Our strategic aims are to enable the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCFS) to address these issues, by supporting organisations to:

- Be more sustainably funded and resourced.
- Deliver more effective services.
- Be more able to influence local policy.

In addition, we want to support the people who volunteer for VCFS organisations by ensuring:

- Volunteers gain more social contacts, employability, and improved health.

Through the development of a new Theory of Change for Voluntary Action Islington, we were able to map out the changes that we want to achieve for the sector, and the steps that we will take to achieve this change. These specific activities have been briefly described below, as they relate to each aim.

#### **STRATEGIC AIM 1: Support Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Development**

**During this year, our main activities included:**

- In July 2021, we were pleased to secure a further 3 years core funding to enable us to continue to support the local VCS – mostly micro and small and grassroots organisations. As part of our forward plan, we have taken into consideration what the VCFS fed back through Islington Council's capacity building review carried out by Locality in early 2021 as well as our own insight from what VCFS organisations have been telling us and what we have observed through our service delivery and consultations. Providing advice, information, and Support for local groups.
- Throughout the year we responded to 195 requests for support and advice from local groups. We held 16 advice sessions in which 37 different groups attended. We provided advice and support to 59 different groups outside of the structured advice sessions, so in total we worked with 96 different groups via zoom meetings, in-person, through telephone calls and emails
- In partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF), we hosted 1- to -1 funding advice surgeries every 2 months, to help organisations make better applications to TNLCF Reaching Communities funding programme. Two Funding booklets were produced during the year (July 2021 and January 2022), and frequent updates both with over 100 funding programmes. In total 10 organisations applied for funding, 3 were successful with the Awards for All funding totalling approximately £30,000 and 2 organisations are being assessed for the Reaching Communities funding programme.
- We organised three workshops: 'Getting Back on Track' – April 2021, Finding the Funds - July 2021, and Writing Better Funding Applications – February 2022

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- In order to support VCS organisations to grow their network and professional connections and to improve relative digital literacy within the sector, we delivered free LinkedIn training in April 2021
- We conducted a consultation with youth providers to find out how we can best support them and the work they do.
- We worked with Peabody, who brought together a partnership including Cripplegate (via Islington Giving), Southern Housing Group, Hyde, Newlon, Help on Your Doorstep (HOYD), and Octopus Community Network to develop 'Make it Happen' – a Small Grants Programme for Local Ideas a borough-wide micro grant offer to residents to apply for £500 grants for a community project to life.
- In partnership with the Ethical Property Foundation, we offered a free property webinar - How to Write a Property Plan - in May 21 run by experts, helping organisations write a simple, well thought out property plan.
- We worked in cross sector partnership with a variety of agencies to deliver capacity building support to the VCS, including Big Alliance, Cripplegate Foundation, Funders Network, LBI Young Islington, Russell-Cooke, and the National Lottery Community Fund.

#### **STRATEGIC AIM 2: Empower Communities**

##### **During this year, our main activities included:**

- Our CEO served on the Inequality Task Force set up by Islington Council to help shape the borough's longer term strategic priorities, together with Executive Members, Councillors, Schools, GPs, NHS, London Metropolitan University, TUC and The New Economics Foundation, with facilitation provided by New Local.
- We engaged VCFS partners in Let's Talk Islington, an initiative spearheaded by the Islington Council to help engage local residents in building a more equal future for the borough by identifying their most pressing priorities. Our CEO described the purpose of the campaign in the Islington Life magazine.
- Local Wellbeing Networks (LWNS) were a major priority. We developed an exciting new partnership with Octopus Community Network and through which we secured funding from the council for the development of the LWN, creating a new route/mechanism for promoting community voice, connecting VCFS, public sector and residents and using this partnership to co-deliver services.
- Monthly Local Wellbeing Network meetings aimed to connect all local services, groups, and organisations, collaborate and co-deliver initiatives to tackle local health inequalities and to capture community voice, including two stakeholder meetings held on 23 and 24 February 2022.
- Recruitment began for the training of 45 Islington community members to become Community Organisers as part of the Local Wellbeing Network strategy to empower resident voice and engage localised communities.
- We are delighted to report that from an initial investment of £30,000 to facilitate the creation of the Local Wellbeing Networks in the three Locality Areas in Islington, the collaboration between VAI and Octopus Community Network has in the first year secured a financial contribution of £141,132 to realise the potential of the project, forging new relationships with the Peabody Trust, and with Public Health Islington.

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- A successful funding application to North Central London Commissioning Group led by VAI and supported by Public Health Islington enabled us to adopt a more localised and community approach in the roll out of the vaccination programme in wards with the lowest take up of the vaccination. Aligning the Hyperlocal Vaccination Programme to the development and delivery of these new networks has ensured targeted, joined up working and in some cases first time collaborations
- With a view to ensuring inclusivity and widening participation around the theme of health and the LWN, in February 2022 we created the borough-wide Health and Wellbeing Network, as a direct response to the pandemic, but also around the growing need for clear communications around health, both physical and mental throughout Islington.

### **STRATEGIC AIM 3: Enable Volunteering**

#### **During this year, our main activities included:**

- VAI processed 1,200 registrations of interest from volunteers to support the COVID-19 vaccination programme at the mass vaccination sites at the Arsenal stadium and the Business Design Centre and supported the recruitment and co-ordination of volunteers at the local clinics situated at Bingfield and Hanley Clinics.
- VAI carried out a volunteering survey where we received 56 responses from our member organisations, to help us to gather insight into the needs of the VCFS.
- Provided volunteering brokerage opportunities – with most registrations of interest by volunteers for the Covid Vaccination programme; befriending; food banks and administrative roles.
- VAI hosted 3 online volunteering fairs (June & October 2021 and February 2022) in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden, to support the recruitment of volunteers.

#### **Our reach**

- 1,232 new volunteers registered with the Volunteer Centre, bringing a total of 3,855 registered volunteers.
- 36 new VCFS groups/organisations registered with our Volunteer Centre, bringing the total of organisations registered to 299.
- 203 volunteer roles were promoted.
- 1,200 volunteers registered as marshals and stewards for the Covid 19 Vaccination Programme.

#### **Development of new partnerships to promote volunteering**

- We developed a partnership and received funding from Coram Beanstalk to undertake a piece of research, looking at what were the barriers preventing local people in Islington in engaging with the Coram Beanstalk volunteering opportunities to support Islington primary school aged children with their reading.
- We worked in partnership with Peabody Trust to create new volunteering opportunities among Peabody Trust residents in South Islington over a two-year period.
- We continue to be active members of the Network facilitated by London Plus, to share best practice and information.

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- In June 2021, we organised an online event during Volunteers' Week to celebrate and recognise the efforts of our volunteers who delivered vital work as part of the COVID-19 Vaccination programme roll-out and those who usually volunteer but were not able to due to the pandemic.

The Volunteer of the Year Awards were presented to the successful volunteers (see below).

#### **STRATEGIC AIM 4: Stronger Voice**

##### **During this year, our main activities included:**

We hosted an online 'Wellbeing for All' event on the 12 May 2021

We took an active part in the Community Conversations, helping to set the agenda and co-chairing the series with Cllr Sue Lukes, Executive Member for Communities. We hosted 5 conversations during the year.

Our CEO represented the VCFS at the following workshops as well as supporting the engagement of the wider VCFS in the development of council strategies:

- Progressive Procurement – July 2021
- LBI Violence Reduction Strategy – September 2021
- LBI Good Work – What's the system change we need to see happen? What part do we all play? – September 2021
- Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Wider Fairer Together partnership: Bright Islington Partnership Board; Challenging Inequality Coalition; Challenging Inequality Partnership Working Group, All Age Mental Health Partnerships Inequalities Work Stream; and the Strategic Executive Group (SEG)

#### **STRATEGIC AIM 5: Strengthen Partnerships**

Much of our work to strengthen the voice of the VCFS under our fourth strategic aim also reinforces this aim.

##### **During this year, our main activities included:**

- We supported the development of Islington Council's Young Islington Networks bringing together VCFS providers of children and young people's services. The aims of the Networks are to provide an opportunity to access information, funding, and capacity building opportunities; Free training, space for meetings and activities; conferences and workshops on a wide range of topical issues for young people and providers; opportunity to access a wide range of statutory partners for information and support opportunities for young people through a well promoted collective offer
- To support the development of the Young Islington Networks, we secured one-year funding from Islington Council to support the engagement and participation of Islington's diverse VCFS in the 3 Networks and the Universal Youth Work Offer. Our particular focus is to encourage and support the participation of small groups and grassroots organisations especially those working with Bangladeshi, Somali and Turkish young people and supporting VCFS groups representing these communities in developing their youth work practice and their strategic engagement with the Networks.

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#### **CORE ACTIVITIES**

Our core activities, undertaken in our capacity as a Council for Voluntary Services are detailed below:

- We organise an annual conference for the local voluntary and community sector on a theme of particular relevance for the sector, and we invite high profile speakers. This is an opportunity for our members to provide feedback and to inform future priorities.
- We provide an electronic newsletter to our members on a bi-monthly basis and continue to provide an email news service through which we bring to the attention of members relevant policy and funding initiatives. Members use this service to promote their local activities.
- We have negotiated an arrangement with NCVO, providing our members with access to NCVO membership and services at a discounted rate.
- Our website is an important source of information for news relevant to the sector including local volunteering opportunities, funding and resources for organisations. We continued to add to and update our online directory of local organisations.
- We provide charities with desk spaces, affordable meeting and conference rooms and shared facilities through our Resource Centre. There are special rates on room hire for members.
- We promote community organisations and volunteering to the wider public and we achieve local press coverage for the Volunteer of the Year Awards, which is held together with our Annual General Meeting.
- We continue to run advice sessions and also run monthly “surgeries” where people can get initial advice about starting or developing a local community organisation.
- We are proud to run the only nationally accredited Volunteer Centre for Islington - matching people interested in volunteering with local opportunities in the VCFS. We have a small team of volunteers involved in this work which provides a drop-in twice a week and promotes volunteering at local community events.
- We provide a volunteering database that enables organisations to post their own volunteer opportunities, while at the same time allowing potential volunteers to create their profiles and search for suitable placements.

#### **OUR VOLUNTEERS & STUDENT PLACEMENTS**

Many of our volunteers work with us to gain experience that will assist them to find employment. In addition to our trustees, during the past year, VAI had a small team of volunteers assisting us in delivering some of our activities. The volunteers supported the customer service of VAI Resource Centre and assisted with our Volunteer Centre brokerage service. They arranged face to face meetings with potential volunteers, supported the online Volunteer Fairs and promoting volunteering opportunities across Islington. By volunteering for VAI, the volunteers gained valuable work experience which resulted in two of them accessing paid employment.

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## **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The trustees review, on a quarterly basis, progress made in delivering services that we are implementing to achieve outcomes in our strategic plan. This review is undertaken at the same time as our quarterly financial review. In addition, regular reports are produced for each of our funders and evaluations are undertaken as projects come to an end.

The main beneficiaries of our services are VCFS organisations providing services and activities in the London Borough of Islington and individuals interested in volunteering in the borough.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Membership Services**

During the year, we grew our membership to 531 local VCS organisations. Going forward we will be reviewing our membership offer and will work on improving our services to our membership.

VAI and its Volunteer Centre have 6,310 followers on Twitter. We have also increased our Instagram followers by 20% to 629 from the previous year.

### **Newsgroup**

The VAI Newsgroup increased from the previous year to 675 local groups/organisations. This is a platform where the VCS shared local news about their services in Islington. Upon request, we also disseminated news and information from our council and public health colleagues. In 2021-22, 532 news emails were shared using this platform.

### **Newsletter**

Our newsletter went out on 16 occasions throughout the year to the VAI Newsgroup and our members. In the newsletter we focused on 7 topics – VAI News, Funding, Volunteering in Islington, Health and Wellbeing, Inequality, Local Information and Online Training and Events.

### **Website**

Our website had over 37,000 visits from VCS groups/organisations accessing a range of capacity building and organisational development information/resources and events to support the VCS in the delivery of their services.

## **VAI RESOURCE CENTRE**

VAI manages a Resource Centre which acts as a community space for training and events and provides permanent and hot desking space to 24 VCFS groups and organisations.

We provided over 35 permanent desks and hot desking facility to 24 charities, especially small groups/organisations. Our hosted organisations include local, regional, national and international equalities organisations:

During the year, we have supported 36 charities, including small groups/organisations on 235 occasions, providing them with training, conference, and meeting room facilities.



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#### **CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERS**

We continue to celebrate and promote volunteering. We have a section on our website with examples of the difference that volunteers are making to life in Islington. In June 2021, we organised an online event during Volunteers' Week to celebrate and recognise the efforts of our volunteers who delivered vital work in the COVID-19 Vaccination programme and those who usually volunteer but were not able to due to the pandemic.

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards in December 2021 were again sponsored by Doubletree by Hilton Islington, who provided the prizes, and we had local media coverage, raising the profile of volunteering locally. The awards were announced by Islington's Mayor Cllr Troy Gallagher at an online celebration in December. The winners were:

- Older Volunteer of the Year 60+: Anita Maiagmiot, nominated by Islington Chinese Association
- Volunteering Team of the Year: The Arc Foodbank Volunteer Team, The Arc Centre
- Volunteer of the Year 26-60: Ian Spencer, nominated by Octopus Community Network
- Pat Haynes Memorial Trustee of the Year: Adrian Brown, nominated by The Elfrida Society
- Young Volunteer of the Year 16-25: Aleksandra Tihomirova, nominated by Soapbox Youth Centre

#### **VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON RESOURCE CENTRE**

Our Resource Centre on Pentonville Road continues to generate funds to support the development of the local VCFS and provides a model of co-location and efficient use of resources. During the year, we continued with the adjustments due to the Covid restrictions.

#### **DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING CROSS SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS**

We continued to develop new and existing cross-sector partnerships – please see strategic aims 4 & 5 above.

#### **KEY PROJECTS AND HOW THESE WERE FUNDED**

Our main sources of income are grants and donations from public authorities and charitable trusts and foundations, together with earned space rental income from our Resource Centre.

- Islington Council core grant to continue our work in building capacity among local VCFS organisations and operating our Volunteer Centre brokerage service - £75,000
- Islington Council - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – Additional Restrictions Grant supporting Islington businesses through Covid 19 - £4,282
- Islington Council - Local Wellbeing Networks - £30,000
- Peabody - Local Wellbeing Networks - £11,192
- Public Health Islington - hyperlocal vaccination and volunteering support - £59,281
- Peabody - South Islington volunteering opportunities - £15,000
- Greater London Authority (via Hackney Council for Voluntary Service) – Young Londoners Fund Network - £4,939
- NAVCA Emergency Partnership - £1,500
- Coram Beanstalk - £3,652

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#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Statement of Financial Activities shows annual net income, before gains on investments, of £36,277 (2021: net expenditure of £51,260). That surplus comprised a surplus of £64,750 (2021: £1,235 surplus) on restricted funds and a £28,473 loss (2021: £52,495) on unrestricted funds. The loss on unrestricted funds was the effective operating loss for the year.

Investments increased in value by £16,035 (2021: £24,933). Net income (the annual surplus) increases to £52,312 (£2021: £26,327 loss).

Income increased from the previous year's £315,568 to £407,946 for the current year.

At the year end all funds totalled £320,745 (2021: £268,433) of which £213,036 (2021: £219,909) were unrestricted. General funds, which are considered to be the free reserves of the charity, totalled £162,527 (2021: £166,828).

Further to the decision made by trustees in September 2015, Voluntary Action Services, the subsidiary trading company established by Voluntary Action Islington in 2013 remains a dormant company.

#### **Reserves**

On 31 March 2022 Voluntary Action Islington held unrestricted funds totalling £213,036 (2021: £219,909).

The free reserves (those unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific purposes) totalled £162,527 (2021: £166,828). The reserves policy requires a balance of free reserves equivalent to no less than 3 months (25%) of annual expenditure. The current balance of £162,527 is equivalent to 36% (2021: 45%) of annual budgeted expenditure and is therefore compliant with the policy.

Funds have been designated from reserves for specific purposes where costs are not incurred on an annual basis. At year end those funds totalled £50,509 (2021: £53,081), designations having been made to invest in VAI's IT infrastructure and to support potential relocation from the Resource Centre in 2024 including managing the cost of dilapidations.

In addition to its unrestricted funds the charity held £107,709 of restricted funds (2021: £48,524), the use of which is restricted by funders to specific activities to support VAI's members and develop the voluntary sector in Islington.

#### **Investment policy and performance**

This year Voluntary Action Islington continued to implement the investment policy last agreed in 2014. The objectives of the policy are:

- To use free reserves to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.
- When there are opportunities to do so to invest a proportion of our reserves in the development of new products and services where we assess that it is realistic that these will generate funds to sustain themselves or when, by investing in products and services

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delivered by our subsidiary trading company, we assess that this investment could produce a long-term income stream for Voluntary Action Islington.

- When there are opportunities to do so we will seek investment opportunities that further our charitable objectives, whilst at the same time producing a financial return.

VAI's listed investments continued to generate valuable income throughout the year in line with the investment policy. Some recovery was made from the Covid-19 impacted low values of the previous year and annual unrealised gains of £16,035 (2021: £24,933 gains) was generated in the current year.

#### **Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about Voluntary Action Islington Limited's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

During the year the trustees carried out a review of the risks faced by the charity in relation to personnel, finance, property, reputation, new business, health and safety, governance and management, and performance. Plans to mitigate these risks were developed and reviewed. A risk register is maintained as part of the Business Plan and the trustees keep this under review.

The main factor likely to affect the financial performance of the Charity is a reduction in demand for our desk and room hire provision to voluntary organisations, as a result of Covid-19. We mitigate this risk by improving the facilities at the resource centre, including making it Covid compliant, continuing to promote our facilities to a wide cross-section of relevant VCS organisations seeking desk and/or room hire facilities in central London, and adapting our offer to the developing needs of the sector.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

We are committed to continuing as an independent organisation bringing together civil society in Islington and representing the interests of local VCFS organisations to the main statutory agencies. We will continue to participate in partnership boards that influence how Islington Council including Islington's Integrated Care Board (ICB), the North Central London Integrated Care System and Public Health make decisions that impact on communities, particularly at a local level. This includes multi-agency initiatives such as Fairer Together, where we represent our membership.

We will continue to work with VCFS organisations to help diversify funding and other support, including by engaging with private business. We will encourage collaboration and joint funding bids, which include smaller local organisations in service delivery. As part of this approach, we will continue to work with VCFS by providing networking and partnership opportunities. We will continue to work with other local organisations that provide capacity building and organisational support to their membership and explore how our collective efforts can be made more strategic.

We plan to continue to support the effective management of volunteers and to support organisations through a mix of one-to-one support and training workshops.

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We will continue to make applications for grants and to submit tenders for contracts, which are related to our core functions.

The Voluntary Action Islington Resource Centre on Pentonville Road is an important community asset for local VCFS organisations and will continue to be an important source of income supporting our core offer to local organisations. We reinvest all the income generated into the community through our services. We will continue to take account of our environmental impact in our management of this facility.

Our website and social media are well used resources, and we are committed to continuing to develop the use of these facilities over the coming period.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association. This was last amended in November 2013. The provisions of the governing document have been complied with during the year under review.

The trustees serve on a Board of Trustees. They consist of at least three and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be authorised representatives of organisations or an individual member. Each Trustee shall retire from office at the end of three years commencing from the date of his or her appointment. A retiring Trustee may be reappointed but a Trustee who has served for nine years in total must take a break from office and may not be reappointed until the anniversary of the commencement of his or her break from office.

At the end of the year, there were 10 trustees with plans to recruit a further 2 trustees. The trustees keep under review gaps in experience and expertise represented on the board, and during the past year a skills audit of current trustees was carried out. Induction meetings are organised for trustees to brief them about the work of the charity and trustees attend occasional conferences and courses to keep up to date about relevant developments.

The charity is organised through the Board of Trustees to whom the Chief Executive is answerable, through the Chair. The Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are appointed from amongst the trustees at the first meeting after the AGM. These officers serve for a period of one year.

The Chief Executive is responsible for the management of staff in 3 core functions: Volunteer Centre, Resource Centre and capacity building. The CEO and staff have responsibility for specific areas of work and reporting to funders. The Chief Executive is not legally a director for the purposes of company or charitable law. The Charity is a member of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA), NCVO, and Children England. These memberships provide information and resources that help us to assist voluntary and community organisations serving the community in Islington.

The Charity has a subsidiary trading company, Voluntary Action Services Limited (VAS). This is a private company limited by share capital and wholly owned by Voluntary Action Islington. To date VAS has only traded in online learning courses. At its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the trustees decided that this company should cease trading on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and should be retained as a dormant company, for potential future trading. Hussain Ahmed remains a Director of both companies. As VAS is currently dormant, there are no plans as yet to appoint new Directors.

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Several of the trustees of Voluntary Action Islington are employed by or trustees of local voluntary organisations that are members of Voluntary Action Islington. These voluntary organisations benefit from the services of Voluntary Action Islington. A register of trustee interests is maintained and was updated during the year. Any potential conflict of interest is declared at the beginning of each trustees meeting.

The charity's staff, including management personnel, are paid on the national NJC pay scale. All job descriptions are independently evaluated, and staff receive the rate of pay applicable to the scale at which the post is evaluated. The pay of the Chief Executive is set by the trustees, who take account of the performance of the Chief Executive; the complexity, scale of responsibilities and expected level of external influence of the Chief Executive role; an assessment of current Chief Executive pay levels within the charity sector; comparisons with the pay levels of other CVS Chief Executives in London; the salary range of an equivalent officer within the local authority; and the overall financial position of the organisation.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Voluntary Action Islington Ltd 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 charitable company 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. The trustees 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.

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Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was 531. The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

#### **STATEMENT AS TO THE DISCLOSURE TO OUR AUDITORS**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

#### **AUDITORS**

Goldwins Ltd were re-appointed as the auditors of the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

**Voluntary Action Islington Limited**

**Trustees' Annual Report**

**For the year ended 31 March 2022**

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The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 25 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Navinder Kaur  
Company Secretary

Registered office:  
200a Pentonville Road  
London N1 9JP