



**Abortion Support Network
Report and Financial Statements
Year ended: 30 September 2012
Charity Number: 1142120**

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 30 September 2012**

Reference and administrative information

Abortion Support Network

Charity number: 1142120

Company number: 07017607

Registered address

The Meridian 4 Copthall House
Station Square
Coventry
West Midlands
CV1 3FL

Website

<http://www.abortionsupport.org.uk/>

Director

Mara Clarke

Trustees

Anne Quesney, Chair
Kelly Rust, Company Secretary
Susie Corfield, Treasurer
Carolyn Phillips
Sarah Fisher (from 16 June 2012)

Bankers

HSBC, PO Box 68, 130 New Street, Birmingham B2 4JU

Report of the trustees for the year ended 30th September 2012

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2012. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2006, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities published in 2005 and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, governance and management

Abortion Support Network (ASN) was established in October 2009 to provide financial assistance, accommodation, and confidential, non-judgemental information and practical support to women forced to travel from Ireland and Northern Ireland in order to have a safe and legal abortion. In its first two years ASN operated as a non-profit company registered with Companies House. We became a registered charity, number 1142120, in May 2011; having updated the ASN Memorandum and Articles of Association on file with Companies House with Memorandum and Articles of Association for a Charitable Company in March 2011. We are an entirely volunteer-run organisation managed by our founder and Director, Mara Clarke, and our board of trustees.

Over the year ending 30th September 2012, ASN's third operational year, the organisation has experienced tremendous growth in the number of women accessing our services (see detail in the 'achievements and performance' section). In this period our board of trustees consisted of five active members taking on individual responsibilities. Moving forward, new trustees will be appointed by the existing trustees after identifying any skills gaps to ensure there is adequate succession planning.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association allows for a minimum of three trustees, one-third of which are required to retire from office at each annual general meeting beginning with our second annual general meeting, retiring by rotation if necessary according to those who have been longest in office since their last appointment. At the quarterly trustees' meetings the trustees agree the board strategy and areas of activity for the organisation, including consideration of finances and fundraising, strategy, performance and risk management.

The day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Director, working with our team of volunteers, consisting of at least 30 individuals who undertake various roles, including phone volunteers who take calls from women, hosts who provide women with accommodation, meals and transportation to and from clinics, and other volunteers working on fundraising, outreach, PR, social media and administration. The treasurer undertakes the day-to-day financial management activities associated with our grant making to women requiring financial assistance. Previously the Director was responsible for all contact with our beneficiaries, but over the last year we have developed a cohesive team of six 'phoners' who provide a prompt and appropriate response to the increasing number of women calling and emailing to access our services. In the last year, we have also increased the number of ASN hosts and extended our host network to more cities in England. All ASN volunteers are carefully interviewed, screened and trained. All trustees and volunteers give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid this year.

In 2012 we aimed to raise funds for a part-time, paid staff member to manage the day to day operations, however we were unsuccessful. As the operations side of the charity has grown, it has become too challenging for the Director to be able to manage the workload on a voluntary basis without additional support. We will continue to source the funds for a paid staff member in 2013.

Objectives and activities

The objects of Abortion Support Network are to relieve financial hardship of women facing an unwanted pregnancy who are forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

We exist primarily to help the thousands of women who travel to England each year from Ireland and Northern Ireland, and these women make up the majority of our beneficiaries. While our financial assistance is restricted to women living in Ireland and Northern Ireland our information services are open to women living in any country where abortion is highly restricted, including women in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. We will also endeavour to provide accommodation to women from other countries if the situation arises and we have a host available.

ASN carries out these objects by providing women with:

- **Confidential, non-judgemental information**
- **Financial assistance**
- **Accommodation and hosting**

The trustees are pleased that the achievements and performance of the charity in relation to these activities, as set out below, demonstrate considerable progress and we are proud of all that we have achieved over the last financial year for our beneficiaries.

Achievements and performance

Provision of confidential, non-judgemental information

This year we have heard from and given confidential, non-judgemental information to **354 women** who have contacted us by phone or email, and in some cases their partners, friends and family. This is a 74% increase from the previous year (203) and more than five times the number of women we heard from in our first year (66). Most of these women have received some combination of confidential, non-judgemental information, financial assistance, and/or accommodation. Unfortunately, due to the significant increase in demand for ASN's services, over the course of this year there were a few women who reached out to ASN that we were not able to contact.

Of the 354 women who reached out to ASN this year, 196 contacted us from Ireland, 130 from Northern Ireland, eight were from other countries, including England, Scotland, Brazil, Egypt and the US, and 20 were unknown.

Provision of financial assistance

Given grants to 100 women, totalling £16,099 to help reduce the combined cost of travelling and paying privately for an abortion, compared with 87 grants totalling £17,649 in the previous year. The grants have ranged from £20 to £430, with an average of £100 to £200. With the rapid increase in calls that we have experienced this year and reduced funding overall we've had to do more with less and have made our funds go further using stricter criteria.

ASN's grant giving policy for the year ending 30th September 2012 remains as it was the previous year. This is that, finances permitting, we would provide a grant to any woman contacting us from Ireland or Northern Ireland who would be unable to access an abortion without our financial assistance. ASN phone volunteers assess the situation according to the information women provide about their financial situation and travel plans. In addition, in order to maximise the number of women we are able to help in the face of increased demand for our support, we have criteria aimed solely at reducing the costs of women's travel in order to allow our limited finances to go further.

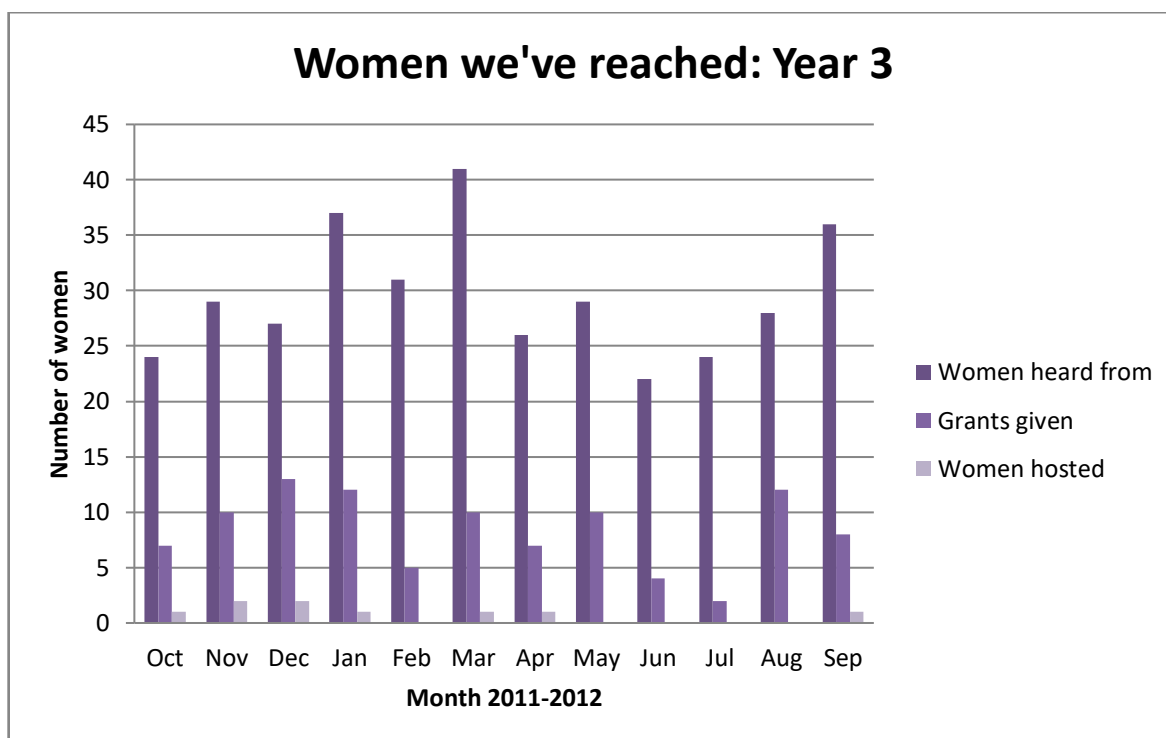
These criteria are flexible, with phone volunteers implementing them according to women's individual circumstances. We do not have any other criteria. It is our policy that we do not prioritise one woman's need over another, and therefore if a woman needs our financial assistance and we have the funding available, we give her a grant.

Accommodation and hosting

This year we have hosted a total of **9 women for a total of 11 nights**, a slight decrease from last year (16 women and 5 companions, for 25 nights).

For women who need to stay overnight, ASN assigns one of our hosts. Hosts accommodate women and a friend, family member or partner if they choose to bring one, as well as providing meals, taking them to or from the clinic and paying local transport costs while they are with them. ASN began by offering hosting in London only, but we have extended our host network to Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Bristol.

As illustrated in the graph overleaf, we have experienced a dramatic increase in demand for our support throughout this year.



Public Benefit

The Trustees are required to illustrate how in practice the activities of ASN meet the public benefit requirement. In accordance with s4 of the Charities Act 2006, we have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

Furthering our goals

At the end of last year, ASN set itself a number of goals. Please find below an update on our work this year towards these goals:

- **Maintain our rate of growth so we can keep up with demand and support as many women as possible to access safe and legal abortions.**
Despite the rapid increase in the number of women contacting ASN and our fundraising feeling the strain, we've worked hard to make our limited income go even further and have been able to support more women with less money this year.
- **Raise at least £1,000 per month in regular income.**
Achieved! Now on to £1,500.
- **Diversify our funding streams, including more grants from charitable trusts and foundations.**
Despite applying to a number of charitable trusts and foundations, we did not receive any new grants this year. This makes the continued support of our individual donors all the more crucial. We will continue to seek new funding sources, as well as work to increase our regular monthly income.
- **Maximise our income through Gift Aid so that donations from UK tax payers go 25% further.**
Done! We are now encouraging all donors who have given funds since May 2011 to fill out a gift aid form on the ASN website to increase donations by 25%.
- **Hold our first Annual General Meeting.**
We were proud to hold our first AGM in June 2012 and our second one in March 2013.

Goals for next year

Our goals for the year ahead remain focused on ensuring that we can help as many women as possible:

- **Sustain our work so that we can continue to help women.**
- **Raise £1,500 per month in regular income.**
- **Diversify our funding streams.**

And of course our ultimate long-term goal remains the same – that Ireland and Northern Ireland will liberalise their abortion laws so that ASN's work is no longer needed.

Financial review

Reserves policy

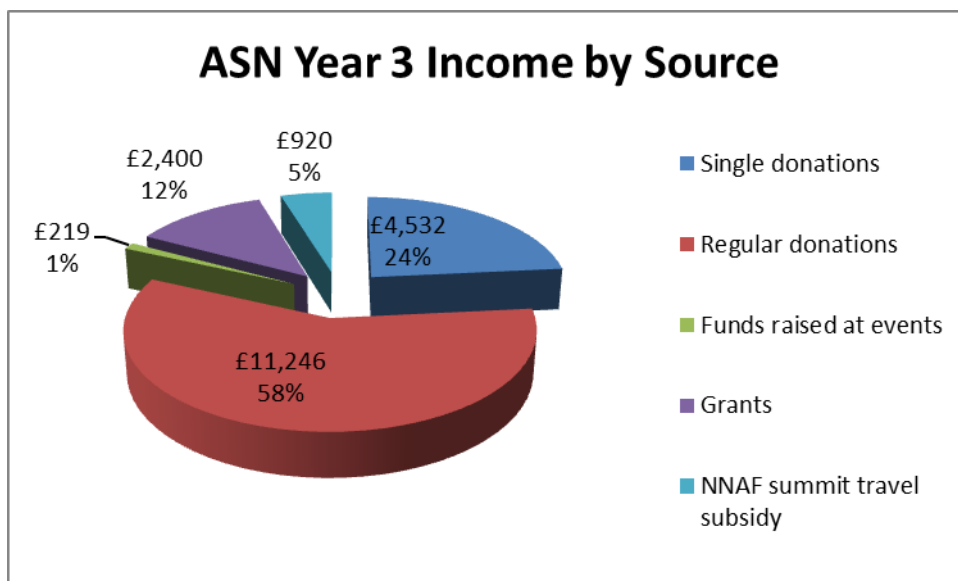
The policy of ASN is not to hold any funds in reserve. All funds that are not allocated to operational costs are to be spent on furthering the charity's objectives in line with ASN's grant giving policy, i.e. financial assistance to women seeking an abortion in England. The trustees will not hold any funds in reserve that can be used for this purpose. The trustees aim to review this policy in the next financial year.

Fundraising

ASN relies on a combination of grants, regular donations and single donations from our individual supporters, and a small amount of funds generated at events.

We have one regular monthly grant which covers all running costs (largely our phone bill, web domain registration, printing and postage). Donations to ASN from individuals have increased to £15,779 in the last year, compared with £15,156 in 2010-11. Yet because ASN wasn't able to secure any grants this year our overall income is down 10.6% (£19,317 versus £21,603 in 2010-11).

This fundraising breaks down as follows:



Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements, make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, and 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 charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the Board, signed 7.3.13:

..... **Susie Corfield (Treasurer)**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Abortion Support Network

For the year ended 30 September 2012. I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2012 which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, as amended); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

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

Julie Byrne
52 New River Crescent
London
N13 5RF

Signed:

Date:

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2012

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2011-12	Total 2010-11
<i>Incoming resources</i>					
from generated funds					
Individual donations		15,778.74		15,778.74	15,156.05
Fundraising income		218.53		218.83	538.75
Grants	2	2,400.00		2,400.00	5,907.98
Travel subsidy	2	0	919.54	919.54	0
Total incoming resources		18,397.27	919.54	19,316.81	21,602.78
<i>Resources expended</i>					
Cost of generating funds		36.30	0	36.30	58.00
Grants to clients	3	16,098.61		16,098.61	17,649.32
Operational expenditure	3	3,077.41	919.54	3,996.95	2,881.82
Total resources expended		19,212.32	919.54	20,131.86	20,589.14
Net incoming resources		-815.05	0	-815.05	1,013.64
Fund balance brought forward 01 October 2011		2,374.97	0	2,374.97	1,361.33
Fund balance carried forward 30 September 2012		1,559.92	0	1,559.92	2,374.97

Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2012

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2012

	Total 2011-2012	Total 2010-2011
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	2,524.92	3,900.47
	2,524.92	3,900.47
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	5	-1,525.50
Accruals and deferred income		
	-965	-1,525.50
Net current assets	1,559.92	2,374.97
Total assets less current liabilities	1,559.92	2,374.97
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Net assets	1,559.92	2,374.97
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The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 7.3.13 and signed on their behalf by:

..... Anne Quesney (Chair)

..... Susie Corfield (Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 September 2012

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(b) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which may be used in accordance with the Company's objects at the discretion of the Trustees.
- Restricted funds – these are funds which may be used only for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

(c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity has entitlement and certainty of receipt for them.

(d) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

2 Grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
	£	£	£	£
South Manchester Private Clinic	2,400	-	2,400	2,400
Feminist Review Trust	-	-	-	2,500
NNAF	-	919.54	919.54	1,008
	2,400	919.54	3,319.54	5,908

3 Resources expended

	2012	2011
	£	£
Grants to clients	16,098.61	17,649
Running costs	3,077.41	2,282
NNAF travel	919.54	1,008
Fundraising costs	36.30	58
	20,131.86	19,989

4 Staff costs and trustee remuneration

There were no staff costs in the year and no trustee received remuneration during the year.

5 Creditors

	2012	2011
	£	£
Calthorpe Clinic	-	638
Marie Stopes International	-	708
BPAS	400	150
South Manchester Private Clinic	565	-
	965	1,496