



**Abortion Support Network  
Report and Financial Statements  
Year ended: 30 September 2011  
Charity Number: 1142120**

**Report of the trustees  
for the year ended 30 September 2011**

## **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<sup>1</sup>**

Anne Quesney, Chair  
Kelly Rust, Company Secretary  
Susie Corfield, Treasurer  
Carolyn Phillips

### **Bankers**

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

## **Report of the trustees for the year ended 30th September 2011**

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<sup>1</sup> All trustees served throughout the year, acting as members of the ASN board of management before ASN was granted charitable status in May 2011 and the board of management became the board of trustees.

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2011. 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011, ASN's second 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 four active members taking on individual responsibilities, who prior to ASN's registration as a charity made up our board of directors alongside our Director. Since then, an additional trustee has been recruited. 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 25 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, communications 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 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 aim to raise funds for a part-time, paid staff member to manage the day to day operations. 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.

## **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, as well as the Isle of Man (where there is no provision of abortion), our information services are open to women living in any country where abortion is highly restricted, including women in the Channel Islands. 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 Trust 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 **203 women** who have contact us by phone or email, and in some cases their partners, friends and family. This is triple the number of women who contacted us in ASN's first year (66).

Of the 203 women who contacted ASN this year, 103 contacted us from Ireland, 86 from Northern Ireland, six were in other countries, including England, Wales, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and for eight the country was unknown.

### **Provision of financial assistance**

This year we have given grants to **87 women, totalling £17,649.00** to help reduce the combined cost of travelling and paying privately for an abortion. This is over double the number and total amount of grants last year (34 grants totalling £6653.56).<sup>2</sup> The grants ranged from £20 to £537, with an average of £100 - £200, which we arranged to be paid directly to the clinic, reducing the medical costs to be paid by the women.

ASN's grant giving policy for the year ending 30th September 2011 was that, finances permitting, we would provide a grant to any woman contacting us from Ireland, Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man who would be unable to access an abortion without our financial assistance. ASN phone volunteers assess the situation according to the information women provide us about their financial situation and travel plans. Towards the end of the ASN financial year, in order to maximise the number of women we are able to help in the face of increased demand for our support, we introduced new 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

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<sup>2</sup> These figures for the total expenditure for 2010-11 and 2009-10 differ a little to those reported in ASN's second year report for the same time period published on our website prior to the production of this report and our annual financial statements. The difference relates to factors that came to light after the end of the financial year (when the other annual report had gone to press), including changes to the size of grants given to particular women after their circumstances changed, or clinics having billed us incorrectly.

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.

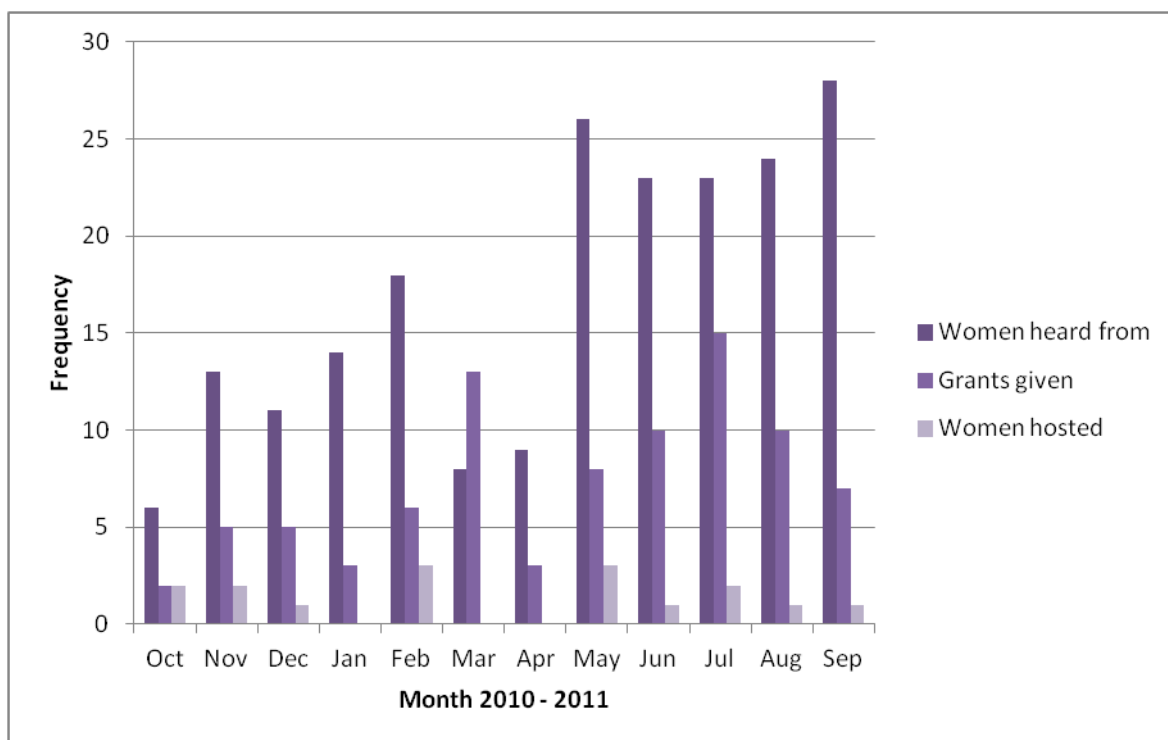
During the year ending 30 September 2011, we were fortunate enough to be in a position where we did not have to turn down a woman who could not access an abortion without our financial assistance. However, with demand increasing for our services we realise that in the future this situation is likely to change. Our regular income, including donations by standing order, comes in monthly and throughout this year on a number of occasions we have come close to running out of funding for grants by the end of the month. Given this year's trend of demand for our services increasing more rapidly than our funding, it is likely that in the future we will have to turn down women who are in need, and we are prepared to review our grant making policy and procedure as necessary.

### Accommodation and hosting

This year we have hosted a total of **16 women and five companions for a total of 25 nights** – another significant increase since last year (9 women and 3 companions, for 14 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 this year we have extended our host network to Birmingham and Manchester, and hope to include Liverpool and Bristol in the near future.

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:

- Become a registered charity
  - **ASN was granted charitable status in May 2011.**
- Raise more funds, building a more sustainable funding base and diversifying our income streams through grants as well as individual donors
  - **We have achieved this and will continue to focus on raising more funds from a greater variety of sources.**
- Continue outreach and work with the media to achieve greater visibility across England, Ireland and Northern Ireland
  - **ASN has been covered by press around the world.**
- Expand our volunteer host network outside of London to other cities in England that women travel to for abortions
  - **We now have hosts in Birmingham and Manchester, and are recruiting in Liverpool and Bristol.**
- Extend our services to women in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, where there is limited-to-no provision of abortion
  - **ASN will help women living in the Isle of Man, and women in the Channel Islands can access accommodation and information through ASN.**
- Broaden our support base of donors, volunteers and fundraisers
  - **Another success and on-going priority – especially as our call volume increases.**
- Launch a major fundraising campaign with the goal of raising at least £1,000 per month in regular income
  - **We are over three quarters of the way to achieving our target and expect to reach our goal next year.**

## Goals for next year

After such a successful second year, it is time to look ahead and set new goals for 2011-2012:

- **Maintain our rate of growth so we can keep up with increasing demand** and support as many women as possible to access safe and legal abortions.
- **Raise at least £1,000 per month in regular income.**
- **Diversify our funding streams**, including more grants from charitable trusts and foundations.

- **Maximise our income through Gift Aid** to make donations from UK tax payers go further.
- **Hold our first Annual General Meeting.**

## 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.

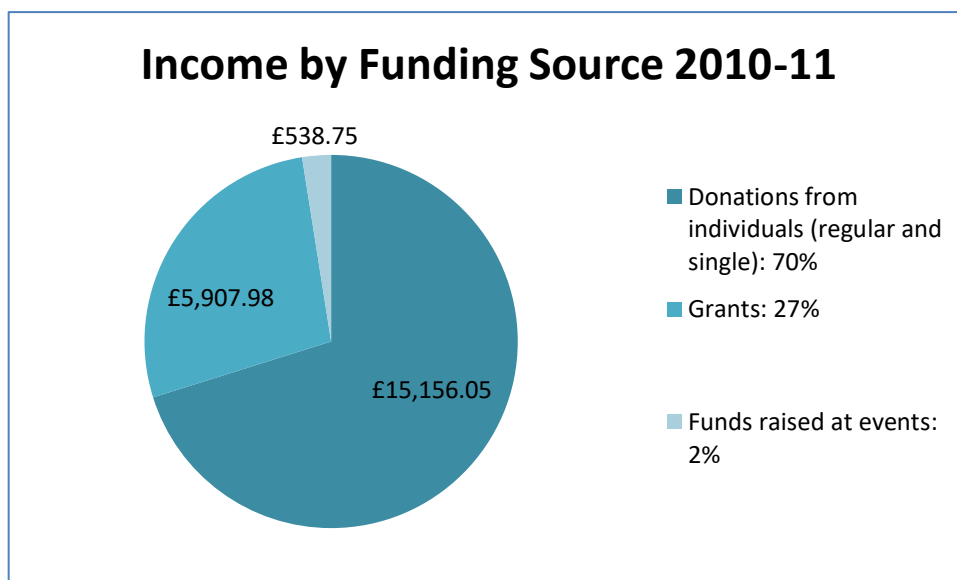
### Fundraising

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

We have one regular monthly grant which covers all running costs (largely our phone bill and web domain registration). This year we received our first grant from a trust; £2,500 from the Feminist Review Trust, the majority of which also went towards grant giving.

Our total income for this year was £21,602.78 – over twice that of our first year (£8,991.13).<sup>3</sup>

This fundraising breaks down as follows:<sup>4</sup>



<sup>3</sup> The figures in this section relating to income and source differ a little to those reported in ASN's two year report for the same time period published on our website prior to the production of this report and our annual financial statements. The difference relates to factors that came to light after the end of the financial year.

<sup>4</sup> Percentages don't add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.

## 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 16.6.12:

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



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

For the year ended 30 September 2011. I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2011 which are set out on pages 12 to 14.

## 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

..... Date: .....

## Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2011

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Capital funds	Total 2010-11	Total 2009-10
<i>Incoming resources</i>						
from generated funds						
Individual donations		15,156.05			15,156.05	6,391.13
Fundraising income		538.75			538.75	400
Grants	2	5,907.98			5,907.98	2,200
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Total incoming resources		21,602.78	0	0	21,602.78	8,991.13
 <i>Resources expended</i>						
Cost of generating funds		58	0		58	
Grants to clients	3	17,649.32			17,649.32	6,653.56
Operational expenditure	3	2,881.82	0		2,881.82	976.24
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Total resources expended		20,589.14	0		20,589.14	7,629.80
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Net incoming resources		1,013.64	0	0	1,013.64	1,361.33
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Fund balance brought forward 01 October 2010		1,361.33		0	1,361.33	0
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Fund balance carried forward 30 September 2011		2,374.97	0	0	2,374.97	0
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# Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2011<sup>5</sup>

## Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2011

	Total 2010-2011	Total 2009-2010
	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	3,900.47	2,307.33
	<b>3,900.47</b>	<b>2,307.33</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade creditors	5 -1,525.50	-179.00
Accruals and deferred income		-767.00
	-1,525.50	-946.00
<b>Net current assets</b>	2,374.97	1,361.33
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	2,374.97	1,361.33
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>		
	_____	
<b>Net assets</b>	2,374.97	1,361.33
	=====	
	=====	

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 16.6.12 and signed on their behalf by:

..... **Anne Quesney (Chair)**

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

<sup>5</sup> The figures in this section relating to income and expenditure on grants differ a little to those reported in ASN's two year report for the same time period published on our website prior to the production of this report and our annual financial statements, as outlined in notes 2 and 3 on previous pages of this report.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 September 2011

### 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

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2011</b>	<b>Total Funds 2010</b>
	£	£	£	£
Calthorpe Clinic	-	-	-	2,000
South Manchester Private Clinic	2,400	-	2,400	200
Feminist Review Trust	2,500	-	2,500	-
NNAF	1,008	-	1,008	-
	<b>5,908</b>		<b>5,908</b>	<b>2,200</b>

## 3 Resources expended

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	£	£
Grants to clients	17,649	6,654
Running costs	2,282	976
Fundraising costs	58	-
	<b>19,989</b>	<b>7,630</b>

## 4 Staff costs and trustee remuneration

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

## 5 Creditors

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Calthorpe Clinic	638	179
Marie Stopes International	708	-
BPAS	150	-
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	<b>1,496</b>	<b>179</b>