



Abortion Support Network
Report and Financial Statements
Period ended: 31 December 2014
Charity Number: 1142120

Trustees' Annual Report for the 12 month accounting period ended 31
December 2014

Reference and administrative information

Abortion Support Network
Charity number: 1142120
Company number: 07017607

Registered address

The Apex 2 Sheriffs Orchard
Coventry
CV1 3PP

Website

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

Director

Mara Clarke

Trustees

Susie Corfield, Chair (*voted in May 2015*)
Katharine Stark, Treasurer (*voted in May 2015*)
Jennifer Reiter, Secretary
Anja Nyberg (*voted in May 2015*)
Caoileann Appleby
Caroline Kelly
Leni Morris (*voted in May 2015*)
Sarah Fisher (*resigned May 2015*)

Bankers

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

Directors' report by the trustees for the 12 month accounting period ended 31st December 2014

The trustees present the directors' report and financial statements of the charity for the 12 month accounting period ended 31st December 2014. 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. This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Structure, governance and management

Abortion Support Network (ASN) was established in October 2009 to provide financial assistance, accommodation and confidential, non-judgmental information and practical support to women who may be 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. ASN is an almost entirely volunteer-run organisation managed by our founder and Director, Mara Clarke, and our board of trustees. ASN's Director has been paid by the charity on a consultancy basis since April 2013 and this continued in 2014.

Over 2014, ASN's fifth operational year, the organisation has continued to experience growth in the number of women accessing our services (see detail in the 'achievements and performance' section). In this reporting period our board of trustees consisted of four active members taking on individual responsibilities. Additional Trustees were appointed in May 2015 after we identified the need for additional volunteer and Trustee support through a skills audit, to ensure sustainability in line with ASN's growth and 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, retiring by rotation 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, staffing and volunteer management, strategy, impact and risk management. New Trustees are advertised for, interviewed and appointed according to specific criteria matching their expertise to that required to maintain balance in the board in the aforementioned areas of activity. Trustees must be passionate about reproductive rights, committed to helping women and able to dedicate time and expertise to our organisation. Applicants need not work in or have experience in the fields of abortion or reproductive rights, as our goal is to create and maintain a board with diversity of expertise and roles, and with distinct, manageable tasks.

The day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Director, working with our team of volunteers, consisting of between 50-60 individuals who undertake various roles, including phone volunteers who respond to calls, texts and emails from people who contact us for information and financial assistance; hosts who provide women with accommodation, meals and transportation to and from clinics; and other volunteers working on fundraising, outreach, communications, social media and administration. A volunteer bookkeeper undertakes the day-to-day financial management activities associated with our donations, grant making and income and expenditures, overseen by the Treasurer who sits on the Board of Trustees. In the last year, we have also added to our pool of ASN hosts. All ASN volunteers are carefully interviewed, screened and trained. During the period, payments totalling £15,900 were made to ASN's Director Mara Clarke, relating to consultancy fees (see note 3 to the financial statements).

In 2013, the Board of Trustees had identified the need to pay an individual to manage the operations, volunteers and other key activities – such as undertaking outreach to organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland. ASN's founder and Director Ms Clarke continued to be paid as a part-time consultant in 2014. Part of the funds paid to her - £7,500 - were backed by a grant received from the Feminist Review Trust. The rest of her payments were sourced from long-term donors who agreed to their donations being used for these operational costs.

On 1 December 2014, ASN launched its first crowdfunding campaign, #TheNextLevel, in order to guarantee these payments could continue in 2015. Having an individual who is paid for her time will enable ASN to think more strategically, raise more money, reach out to more women who need us, contact more press and ultimately help more people in Ireland and Northern Ireland access safe abortions. The campaign was a success, with £10,800 raised from three generous (and anonymous) supporters in advance, and individual donations bringing the total raised to £27,732, of which £21,172 was raised in 2014 and the remainder in early 2015.

Objectives and activities

The objects of Abortion Support Network are to relieve the 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 provide accommodation in England to women from other countries if needed and we have a host available.

ASN carries out these objects by providing women with:

- Confidential, non-judgmental 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-judgmental information

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014, ASN was contacted by and gave confidential, non-judgmental information to 552 people, which is up from 466 people in 2013. ASN is contacted by phone or email, and in some cases by partners, friends and family.

ASN volunteers spent over 145 hours on the phone and responded to thousands of texts and emails from people, providing practical information and assessing financial need. Most of the women who contacted us received some combination of confidential, non-judgmental information, financial assistance, and/or accommodation.

The following is a table detailing the multiplicity of issues that many clients were dealing with when they contacted ASN in 2014:

Other Details	2014
Mental health issues	28
Drug abuse	6
Domestic violence	32
Foetal anomalies	6
Medical issues with previous pregnancy/ies	7
Pregnant by rape	13
Traveller	5
Migrant	8
Refugee	2
Needed visa to travel	7
Over the legal limit	3
Homeless	4
Already mothers	239
Tried to self abort	4
Suicidal	11

Provision of financial assistance

In the 12 months to 31 December 2014, ASN gave grants to 141 women totalling £31,706. Grants ranged from £20 to £1,271. For comparative purposes, in 2013, we gave grants to 118 women totalling £28,660. Grants were made to help pay for treatment, travel and accommodation and, less frequently, for plane tickets, and accommodation when ASN hosts were unavailable.

ASN's grant giving policy for the period ended 31st December 2014 remained as it was the previous year. The policy is that, finances permitting, ASN will 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

For women who need to stay overnight in England, ASN assigns one of our hosts. Hosts accommodate women and, occasionally, a friend, family member or partner as well as provide meals, take them to or from the clinic and pay local transport costs while they are with them. In 2014, ASN had hosts near clinics in Manchester, Liverpool, West London and South London.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2014 we hosted a total of 23 women for 27 nights of accommodation. This figure is not noticeably different from 2013 when we hosted 24 women for a total of 34 nights.

Public Benefit

The Trustees are required to illustrate how in practice the activities of ASN meet the public benefit requirement. In accordance with Section 4 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

For 2014, ASN set itself a number of goals. Please find below an update on our work this year towards these goals:

1. Continue to provide better services to women, including follow-up with past clients to obtain feedback. We aim to provide a compassionate, non-judgmental and effective service to everyone who contacts us.
 - The following are quotes from clients ASN contacted in 2014 who had been given information or been funded by ASN between 1 January 2013 - 30 September 2014. ASN was able to speak to 64 women as part of this project and all but three comments were positive.
 - ☐ *"This was a horrible time in my life and it was nice that there was someone who didn't know me that could help."*
 - ☐ *"I can't believe there are people like you who do this."*
 - ☐ *"Think the biggest thing was not feeling judged AT ALL. Because that was my biggest worry, that it would be really judgemental and that I would feel judged. Because of the way I was treated it lessened the blow."*
 - ☐ *"When I get back on my feet I will send you as much money as I can – what you do is amazing. You have saved my life."*
 - ☐ *"Bloody hell, what a relief. I can't put into words what a relief it was. There was no judgment so different to Ireland. Once I spoke to ASN, that was it. The stress was gone. I can't give enough thanks and praise."*
 - ☐ *"I already set up a monthly donation so I could help women like me."*
2. Proactively outreach to organisations that work with women in the most marginalised circumstances. We are aware that many of the women that need our services have never heard of ASN, and we are actively looking for more and different ways to spread the word.

- A project began in 2014 to map organisations that work with vulnerable women in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Our volunteer planned to email and follow up with a phone call all of these organisations with the goal to discuss what ASN does and how to signpost to us. However, due to volunteer capacity and the time and resources needed to establish relationships with small organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland, the project stalled and the Board decided further volunteer support was needed to fully conduct outreach. The Board realise that many of the most vulnerable women who may need ASN's support do not know about us. Expanding outreach to help us reach those people who may be in most need of our help, such as women in rural areas, migrants and those experiencing violence is noted in our 2015 goals.
3. Increase our fundraising activities, including a target of £2,000 per month in regular income and apply to more trusts and foundations. As an abortion fund, our ability to help is governed by the funds we have available. Increasing our income is critical as we strive to meet growing demand.
- ASN met its monthly target of £2,000 per month in regular income in 2014. Our average regular monthly donations for the period were £1,939, but we had exceeded £2,000 of regular monthly donations by the year end.

After our success in securing a grant from the Feminist Review Trust early in the year, we were not successful in obtaining any other grants in 2014. Due to the capacity needed to research and complete grant applications, and the complex nature of ASN's work, we have decided to focus our limited resources on securing income through other avenues for 2015, such as crowdfunding.

4. Implement better monitoring and tracking of our work. We want to ensure that our funding criteria, fundraising methods and data collection capabilities improve and grow along with us.
- In October, we launched a new database to track all people who contact ASN by phone or email. It contains some fields that have drop down menus to standardise certain data. This has helped greatly in compiling and analysing our client data which is crucial for our fundraising. We continue to research cloud applications to better manage our wider operational documents.
5. Support ASN's growth and long-term sustainability by securing funding for a staff member/consultant. Each year more and more people contact ASN for help. We will investigate all ways to ensure that we are ready to meet growing demand for our services for as long as we are needed.
- ASN was able to pay its Director on a consultancy basis in 2014 using the grant from the Feminist Review Trust supplemented by funds from selected long-term and regular donors who agreed for part of their donations to go towards operational costs. In October 2014, ASN launched its very first crowdfunding campaign, #TheNextLevel, with the target of raising money to pay consultancy costs for part time work in 2015.

Goals for 2015

Our goals for 2015 support ASN's overarching goal to raise more money to help more women but also focus on providing the best service to our clients and ensuring the charity is a sustainable, efficient and well-managed organisation.

1. **Keep raising funds:** we need to meet increasing client need as well as continue to invest in our operations, so we'll be working with our amazing supporters to both improve upon current fundraising and explore new sources of revenue.
2. **Expand our board:** to bring new skills, ideas and energy to complement our existing trustees.
3. **More outreach:** to help us reach those people who may be in most need of our help, such as women in rural areas, migrants, and those experiencing violence.
4. **Volunteer engagement:** continue to improve how we support, manage and consult with the awesome volunteers who are essential to what we do.
5. **Continued client follow-up:** to inform our client-centred approach.
6. **Development of a longer-term strategic plan:** to ensure ASN can continue to be here for as long as we're needed.

Financial review

Reserves policy

The policy of ASN is to hold approximately 3 months of operational costs in reserve, an amount of £3,500. All funds that are not required for operational costs are to be spent on furthering the charity's objectives in line with ASN's grant giving policy. The Trustees, with guidance by the Treasurer and in partnership with ASN's Bookkeeper, review this policy at least twice a 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. ASN's new and largest fundraising activity to date was the launch in October 2014 of its very first crowdfunding campaign, #TheNextLevel.

In 2014, ASN received 10 single donations, ranging from £2.00 to £2,500. These single donations totalled £17,970.

We also received £23,268 in regular monthly donations. These donations came from 224 people who enabled us to know how much financial support we can give to clients each month.

We raised £1,661 from fundraising events in 2014, thanks to volunteers and supporters who hosted and attended a variety of events for ASN including marathons, portrait drawing nights and gigs.

Gift Aid of £8,322 was accrued in 2014, relating to claims made after the year end on income received prior to 31 December 2014. The amount includes £2,410 of Gift Aid on 2013 donations which was not included in the prior year's accounts due to gift aid only being recognised on a "cash received" basis prior to 2014. Going forward we intend to recognise it in the same year as the income on which it is claimed, in accordance with standard accounting practice.

£9,900 came in from trusts and foundations in 2014. This year ASN continued to receive an unrestricted donation from one of the clinics we work with. In addition, the Feminist Review Trust granted ASN £7,500 towards the outreach activities of a part-time staff member. This helped ASN pursue additional revenue streams, reach out to additional clients and improve our monitoring systems

Finally, ASN launched its first crowdfunding campaign, #TheNextLevel, during the period, and raised £21,172 in 2014. It raised further funds in 2015 to bring the total to £27,732.

The increase in our funds can be credited to the grant from the Feminist Review Trust, our significant fundraising efforts including the launch of our first ever crowdfunding campaign, #TheNextLevel, and the publicity we received in light of several high profile Irish abortion-related cases. It puts us in a strong position for the next year, and means that we are in a position to help the majority of women who come to us for assistance.

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 which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year; 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 31 October 2015:



Katharine Stark (Treasurer)

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

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2014 which are set out on pages 1 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 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW).

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 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

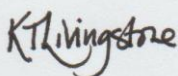
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures 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 requirement
 - 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.

Mrs K Livingstone
Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)
Address: 19 Deck Court, Tentelow Lane, Southall UB2 4FD, UK



Date: 31 October 2015

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 12 months to 31 December 2014	Total 15 months to 31 December 2013
<i>Incoming resources</i>					
Individual donations		41,238	-	41,238	36,867
Gift aid		8,322	-	8,322	1,566
Fundraising events and crowdfunding campaign		1,661	21,172	22,833	4,993
Grants	2	2,400	7,500	9,900	4,000
Travel subsidy and leaflet campaigns		-	-	-	1,621
Total incoming resources		53,621	28,672	82,293	49,047
<i>Resources expended</i>					
Fundraising costs		50	1,250	1,300	664
Grants to clients		31,706	-	31,706	32,969
Operational expenditure		4,333	-	4,333	6,267
Consultancy payments	3	8,400	7,500	15,900	3,825
Total resources expended		44,489	8,750	53,239	43,725
Net incoming resources		9,132	19,922	29,054	5,322
Fund balance brought forward 1 October 2012		6,882	-	6,882	1,560
Fund balance carried forward 31 December 2013		16,014	19,922	35,936	6,882

Accounts for the 12 months ended 31 December 2014

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014

		Balance as at 31 December 2014	Balance as at 31 December 2013
	Note	£	£
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		20,313	9,193
Unpaid income	4	22,294	-
		42,607	9,193
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors	5	(6,671)	(2,311)
		35,936	6,882
Total assets less current liabilities			
		35,936	6,882
<hr/>			
Net assets		35,936	6,882
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The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 31.10.15 and signed on their behalf by:

Susie Corfield (Chair)



Katharine Stark (Treasurer)



Notes to the Financial Statements

For the 12 month period ended 31 December 2014

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

	12 months to 31 Dec 2014 £	15 months to 31 Dec 2013 £
South Manchester Private Clinic	2,400	3,000
Feminist Review Trust	7,500	-
Other Trusts	-	1,000
	<hr/> 9,900	<hr/> 4,000

3 Staff costs and trustee remuneration

Our director, Mara Clarke, was employed to undertake projects for ASN on a consultancy basis, and received payments totalling £15,900 during the 12 month period to 31 December 2014.

Expense payments totalling £558 were paid to the Director and Trustees in the period, relating mainly to travel and subsistence for outreach, board and volunteer meetings. No other remuneration was received by Trustees. Many of these expenses are donated back to ASN, but the amounts are repaid independently of the expense payment, and not netted off, in order that gift aid can be claimed in relation to the income.

4 Unpaid income

	12 months to 31 Dec 2014 £	15 months to 31 Dec 2013 £
Crowdfunding income donated but not yet received	13,972	-
Gift aid due but not yet claimed	8,322	-
	<u>22,294</u>	<u>4,000</u>

Gift Aid relates to claims made after the year end on income received prior to 31 December 2014. The amount includes £2,410 of Gift Aid on 2013 donations which was not included in the prior year's accounts due to gift aid only being recognised on a "cash received" basis prior to 2014. Going forward we intend to recognise it in the same year as the income on which it is claimed, in accordance with standard accounting practise.

5 Creditors

	12 months to 31 Dec 2014 £	15 months to 31 Dec 2013 £
BPAS	3,179	485
South Manchester Private Clinic	291	87
Marie Stopes International	1,246	1,150
Creditors re operational costs	-	589
Crowdfunding expenses accrued	1,155	-
Auditors fee accrued	800	-
	<u>6,671</u>	<u>2,311</u>