

SoLO Life Opportunities ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

"Embracing Disability, Empowering Lives"



38 Walnut Close
Chelmsley Wood
Birmingham
B37 7PU

Charity No 1102997 Company Limited by Guarantee number 05025939

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The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020. The Trustees have adopted the Services of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

SoLO's Charitable Objectives

"To help empower children, young people and adults with learning disabilities to achieve their full potential, to encourage their integration in society and improve their conditions of life in particular by the Service, or assistance in the Service, of facilities for them, their families and carers"

Within SoLO we see people with learning disabilities spending time in an environment that is comfortable, safe and secure enabling them to be stretched, challenged and take risks. We are happy with what we see, but we want more. In the future, we want to ensure that our members are not excluded from society in institutional settings but are provided with an environment that equips them for the future. We want to give them the skills and experience they need to be able to make choices and take control of their lives. We want to see the lives of our children with a learning disability enhanced as they become adults. For adults with a learning disability, we want to provide them the chance to experience all that life has to offer, have fun and be happy.

Our Vision

Enable our members to realise their full potential with the support and encouragement of a skilled and dedicated team, through the development of high-quality opportunities.

Chairperson's Report

Each year I have debated how to vary my report as repeatedly I've been highlighting the growth of SoLO. 2019/2020 has been hugely different as SoLO reached its 20th year, a year where celebrations were planned.... until a Pandemic arrived.

Strategically it was time to both consolidate and reshape SoLO. The budget for the year included investment into supporting SoLO facilities with improved IT, phone system and other essential elements to catch up with the service growth. SoLO's new CEO, Karon Swinburn, appointed in February 2019 took the opportunity to review the operational side of SoLO and initiated updates to systems to prepare SoLO for a further period of development.

Swift action was required as the year ended to ensure sustainability of SoLO as many services had to be paused whilst we all went into lockdown. A large proportion of staff had to be furloughed and a small team was left managing the services that could be safely delivered. I would like to thank those who have worked so hard during the last few months and those who have been on furlough and isolated from their daily roles.

SoLO's creative skills have been essential to bring some services back and the Board has strategically been very proactive in protecting the future of SoLO. Our treasurer Jon Prior has focused on "cash is king" and without the support of the furlough income, SoLO's finances, which have taken a big hit through loss of income and fundraising, would have been even more depleted.

The Board, together with Karon (CEO) and her team will continue to manage challenge and change because what remains constant is the need to support SoLO's members who are at the heart of charity, SoLO Life Opportunities.

Jan Prior, Chair
24 February 2021

Chief Executive Officer's Report

2019/20 was a year of review and consolidation to ensure a robust organisation for the next stage of SoLO's journey:

- Standardisation of processes across all services was begun
- Investments were made in new systems for IT/phones and database to improve efficiency and reduce paper systems
- Learning and Development was reviewed to ensure ongoing appropriate training
- The growing Supported Living service was audited and inspected by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, with a third house providing more opportunities for people with learning disabilities to live independently
- Plans were developed for extending Walnut Close facilities to offer more overnight provision for members when funding becomes available

Children's services were successfully delivered throughout the year, until the COVID 19 pandemic hit everyone hard – and SoLO was no different! We worked hard to keep services running, very mindful of the needs of our members and their carers. Regrettably, we had to suspend our adult services for a short time, but the Adults team worked hard to bring services back, ensuring that everyone, staff and members, were COVID safe.

Like many charities, the impact on funding has not been insignificant and we hope that potential funding opportunities, such as HS2, will re-emerge to support some of the plans for further growth. Despite the COVID challenges, we look forward to continuing the SoLO story and providing services and activities to enhance the lives of those we work with and expanding our services and reach to others.

Karon Swinburn, CEO
24 February 2021

Our Values

SoLO has always based its operations on a strong set of values. These are regularly reviewed with all of SoLO's stakeholders to ensure that they remain relevant. During the year, we have worked to embed these values into everything we do to ensure that we always deliver to STAR Quality. These values are used as a tool to assess both staff and volunteer performance and as a gauge to measure the services that SoLO provides.

Safe



- services are fully risk assessed, using appropriate equipment and resources
- staff act with professionalism and are always vigilant
- venues and environments are fit for purpose

Trusted



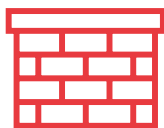
- positive relationships are evidenced
- delivers on promises
- reliable, prompt and responsive staff who are honest in all their dealings

Adaptable



- fun activities, fully inclusive and person-centred
- staff who listen and respond to the needs of every individual
- appropriate and creative resources are used

Resilient



- responds to change, maintaining focus on aims and objectives
- learns from mistakes
- keeps the needs of its members at the heart of all it does

QUALITY



- services offer good value for money
- staff who go the extra mile to consistently ensure high standards
- SoLO members achieve positive outcomes

Children's Services

Holiday Activities (6-12 years old)

This project provides specialist age-appropriate leisure, sports and social activities focusing on children's social and emotional needs, self-esteem and friendship groups. We have very close links with special needs schools and arc units. Parents are afforded respite, and for many choose this time to have 1.1 time with their other children.

Hatchford Brook Youth Club continues as the venue for in-house sessions, with trips out to Alton towers, the Cotswolds and Think Tank. The Thursday Service is run from the Adventure playground in Meriden – with swimming afterwards. An annual residential is also offered.

Playscheme

Our Play Scheme is a specialist holiday provision supporting our members who require complex care and who can present behaviour that challenges. We arrange a variety of sessions which include trips and in-house days. All our sessions are child centred and differentiated dependent on the particular members that attend. These sessions are whole-day sessions, giving the children quality peer time and the families some well needed respite. We are an over-subscribed project and through feedback from parents it is obvious that the need is there for more support than we currently can give.

Play Scheme members love our trips out.

One of our well-loved trips is to a specialist adventure playground called SNAP. All our members enjoy this trip out as it provides a specialist stimulating environment for the children. Due to the security in place the children can be more independent than at some venues allowing them to assess risks with the full support and guidance of SoLO staff.

Two other trips we have enjoyed before are Plantasia in the October half term and Kingsbury Water park during the summer. Both these venues are great due to the range of activities they can participate in all whilst being outside in the fresh air. We always receive positive comments from parents who know the children have had a lovely but busy time as they all go back home happy but tired.

We tried two new venues this year, one was Bosworth Water Park and the other was a longer day where we attended Lego Land Windsor. The children had a great time at both venues, however due to the crowds at times the children needed time away from the main activities to rest and recuperate.

For in-house sessions the animal man is a big favourite for Play scheme members and we have him come back each year to their delight.

Finally, we held our annual Play Scheme Christmas Party. This is always a big hit with the children as we get a visit from Santa. Parents have said how they love that their child gets a visit as sometimes they struggle to attend Santa's Grottos due to crowded shopping centres. We provide a light buffet, music, games and presents at the end which always goes down very well. This year we added in a photo of the children with Santa which we gave to the families in an individual card.

Term Time Activities (Primary ages)

This specialist service accommodates 85 children attending across a variety of 5 projects, with **4212** hours of specialist service accessed.

Forest Oak After-school Club

Forest Oak offers a safe and friendly environment where the young children participate in activities such as arts and crafts, baking and ICT, as well as free choice. It runs on a Wednesday evening for school years 3-8.

Adventure Playground

This is a free service offered on Thursday evenings for school years 2-8, with 14 children attending weekly based at the Meriden Adventure Playground where children are encouraged to take positive risks and develop independence skills through individual play and group activities such as pizza making and outdoor pursuits.

Saturday Super Friends

This is a fortnightly service running at Hatchford Brook Youth Club. It is a two-hour project with 18 children attending 21 sessions a year, for school years 4-8.

It is a safe and fun environment for young people to have fun with their peers. Many of the children who attend go to Hazel Oak School, so this gives them the opportunity to have fun with their friends outside of school with activities such as arts and crafts, gaming and sports – as well as trips out.

Access All Areas

This is a term time Service with children attending a variety of mainstream group activity i.e. Cubs, Scouts, Beavers etc. SoLO staff work very closely with the Scout Leaders – and they in turn have fundraised for SoLO.

Fun Factory

We deliver an exciting, stimulating, safe scheme for children with high support needs every Saturday morning in term time. The children are supported by specialist staff who have had extensive training to meet the needs of the members they support who often have very high support needs, challenging behaviour and medical conditions. The scheme offers an opportunity for the children to make and develop friendships and for the parents to have some respite from their caring role where they can either enjoy some alone time with their other children that do not have a disability or some time to spend on themselves.

Fun Factory is a 3-hour project that runs every Saturday with members accessing it for 2 hours. We run the sessions alongside various themes for the year.

As we are a small group in two great locations, we have the ability to enable the children to access a lot of free play where they get to experience positive choice making and peer co-operation.

Free play is incredibly important for children's confidence, social skills and teamwork. We put a loose structure into the sessions usually around the particular time of year and then we let the children explore and express themselves during the session.

Term Time Activities (Secondary ages)

YIF (Youth Investment Fund)

YIF is a specialist term time project which works in collaboration with three other organisations- Gro Organic, Urban Heard and MAPA.

The project runs from Meriden Adventure Playground (APG) in Chelmsley Wood encompassing a risk benefit strategy meaning that the children are encouraged to assess their own risks and what benefits might come out of the risk. This is all done with the full support of our staff members and the MAPA staff members.

APG is an open access free service which means it is also one of very few services in the local area that promotes inclusion allowing children who attend mainstream provisions to build friendships with children who have a learning need. This raises awareness and promotes a positive attitude towards people with a learning difficulty in the wider community.

We run this project on a Monday and Thursday evening and alternate Saturday mornings, APG supporting children from the age of 10 and up, with both moderate and severe learning difficulties.

This year our collaboration held a National Play Day at the Meriden Adventure Playground, where we all got involved creating activities that were diverse so all children could access them. As the day ran on a Play Scheme holiday activity, we were able to take some of our members to the event. Afterwards it became clear that a number of the members were enjoying the playground and the independence that came with it, making new friends, so after discussions with the parents we moved two of our children over to the more moderate groups so they could continue their growth and build more friendship groups.

Teen Open Door

Teen Open Door is a specialist after school club for teenagers with severe, profound learning disabilities. 14 young people are in the group, attending 36 sessions a year (term time only).

They take part in different activities each week ranging from art and crafts to swimming, and also have their dinner together. They plan the activities and menu together as a group each half term. They are also encouraged to help where possible and safe at mealtimes, laying the table, washing up, cooking etc. supporting independence and life skills.

Teen Scheme

Teen Scheme is a holiday activity for young people with severe, profound learning disabilities. It offers a mixed activity programme including specialised in-house activities and trips out. Trips out included LEGOLAND Windsor, Cinema and Pub lunch, Butterfly Farm and Kingsbury Water Park. In-house activities included, drama, sports, messy art, laughing yoga, animal themes, a seaside themed day and musical mayhem.

This year we ran a Teen Scheme activity residential at the Pioneer Centre. The group took part in climbing, abseiling, zip wire, archery and the big bounce – all of these activities were accessible meaning that the two young people in the group who use a wheelchair were able to take part in everything. The group had an amazing time and parents were so grateful that their children were able to take part.

Other Secondary Holiday and Term Time Activities

13+ Holiday Activities:

26 Sessions of 5.5hours each supporting 18 members = **2574 hours** of specialist provision

Access Areas Groups: (term time):

Swimming North, Swimming South, Tennis, Football – Ice Skating: 36 sessions of 2 hours supporting 70 members = **5040 hours** of specialist service

Musical Youth (term time):

22 session of 2.5 hours supporting 13 members = **715 hours** of specialist provision

Totally Arts (term time):

23 sessions of 2.5 hours supporting 17 members = **978 hours** of specialist provision

Youth Club:

36 sessions of 3 hours supporting 19 members = **2052 hours** of specialist service

Safe Time Out:

36 sessions of 2 hours supporting 16 members = **1152 hours** of specialist service.

Total Secondary Age Moderate Learning Disability Project hours delivered: 13,051 hours

Total Secondary Age Moderate Learning Disability Project respite hours delivered to parents: 13,051 hours

Term Time total number of members support weekly: 120

Secondary Age experiences delivered: 4320

Overnight Breaks Service

Overnight Breaks is a bespoke service that offers our members of all ages and disabilities the chance to have an overnight stay away from home, learn independence skills, make new friends and enjoy chosen activities.

Throughout April 2019 – March 2020 we provided the following breaks:

24 hour breaks

- May – Higher needs sleepover (sensory experience)
- September – Higher needs sleepover (Beach party)
- Girls night away
- Boys night away
- Bonfire and firework weekend
- SoLOFest
- Independent living programme
- January 2020 break
- Feb 2020 break

2 night breaks

- Easter weekend
- Christmas weekend
- Summer party
- Halloween
- Pioneer centre activity weekend

5 day holiday

- Blackpool trip

With thanks to the funding we were able to offer additional breaks and provide more respite and support to our members and families across the year, ensuring we had a break every month and more. We were also able to provide more intense sensory sessions and offer a variety of chosen activities to create the most perfect overnight break for our members and restful weekend for the parents. We have been able to choose different locations and travel further afar, also being able to offer higher needs 1:1 the chance to attend the larger group overnight breaks with their member of staff, offering across the board inclusion and making a safe environment for members with moderate to profound disabilities to be able to attend a break together.

A Member's Experience

SW has never stayed away from his mum and before coming to SoLO he had behaviours that extremely challenged all members of staff who worked with him as well as his family life. Mum was at breaking point. With the work that SoLO PA staff have put in, SW now has no behaviours and attends Daylight every day, he also has built up his confidence to stay away from mum for the night.

SW is awarded 42 respite nights a year and this is incorporated into individual stays and group sessions, both of which he thoroughly enjoys.

SW told the Project Manager: "I like coming to Walnut Close to make the food I like; do the activities I like with the staff. I enjoy staying away from mum sometimes, but I am working on this. I have stayed away from up to 2 nights and maybe next year I will be ready for a week holiday. I love my overnight break and enjoy everything about it."

8856 Experiences this year.

Drop-In Services

Our community-based drop in projects: Night Owl, Waterloo, Thursday Crew and Funky Fridays all enable our members to live independent lives. The projects encourage members to interact with their friends, have a drink and enjoy mainstream activities in a social club setting. These allow links and relationships to form with local businesses and communities. We have great links with Kingshurst Labour Club, The Crown in Acocks Green and the Ivy Leaf Social Club in Sheldon – all venues accommodating our groups and allowing SoLO to use the rooms for a discounted price or for free.

Without the staff and volunteers, the projects would not be the same and from the Project Leader to Volunteer DJ, the whole team is fully involved and enthusiastic supporting the members to have the night they all deserve.

Get Active

This is a project that runs on a fortnightly basis on a Saturday afternoon. It has no base. The members, staff and volunteers use different venues each session to meet and enjoy and activities together. These include Sheldon Country Park, Edgbaston and Shustoke reservoirs, Cannon Hill Park, Four Ashes driving range and going along to watch the Solihull Barons Ice Hockey games. All activities aim to encourage healthy eating, exercise and staying active. The members enjoy coming along to practise their skills, socialise with their friends and enjoy the fresh air. Get Active enables members and staff to experience being out and about in the community and interact with the general public. As a group they also support SoLO at community events such as Fun Runs and Fun in the Park and organise activities to raise money for SoLO, such as sponsored walks and swims.

15 Individuals supported
222 Experiences provided
800 hours support delivered

Socialite

Socialite changed its name from Time Out last year. It is a fortnightly project that runs from SoLO's venues on a Saturday afternoon, based on a 1:2 staffing ratio. Socialite staff and members enjoy putting together their own planners, ensuring they have a visit out to access swimming, cinema and park. The base activities provide social interaction, independent skills and enjoying down time with a planned activity.

106 Experiences provided

SoLO Choir

This is a much-enjoyed weekly opportunity for signing and singing. We are particularly grateful as this is a totally volunteer-led activity, possible only with the support of its dedicated leader and team who give of their time on a Friday evening to make this happen.

Adult Services

Daylight Service

The Daylight projects run Monday to Friday from our venues in Chelmsley Wood and Central Solihull. "Daylight" and "Daylight Plus" are for adults with mild to moderate learning disability.

Daylight started 10 years ago with the aim to provide individuals with a suitable alternative to the traditional "Day Centre" and an opportunity to access meaningful activities in a safe environment on a 1:4 staffing ratio.

Daylight PLUS started 4 years ago to offer more places at each venue, and also to accommodate members who needed a smaller group environment due to sensory or behavioural needs, and with more places for people who need 1:1 support.

We work with our members, those who know them well and other relevant people and professionals involved in their life. This involves regular communication with parents and carers to ensure continuity of care and support, attending and facilitating meetings with Social Workers, Speech Therapists, Psychologists etc. when appropriate.

Our aim is to provide a positive and meaningful experience, where people enjoy and look forward to coming to project. The activity programme is formulated from the ideas of the activities that members want to do, voted for democratically by the group and incorporated into a structured and varied timetable. All activities incorporate a core theme of developing and maintaining skills and experiences. Most of all it's about having FUN!

We organise and facilitate a variety of internal and external activities. We regularly celebrate birthdays and have disco, pub and night club theme activities. We regularly access the cinema and go out to pub lunches. Theme Parks and Zoos are popular member choices - as are the Sea Life centre, Cadbury World and Drayton Manor Park. We aim to have one big day trip each year, last year to Severn Valley Railway and Twin Lakes theme park.

Plans for 2020/21 will look very different due to COVID-19 restrictions but we are confident that our members will get just as much enjoyment and stimulation from the 'new look' planned activities and socialising with their peers, albeit at a distance.

These are the core themes and examples of how we incorporate them into activities

- Social skills - developing positive relationships
- Community access - being part of the community
- Choice & risk taking – making our own informed choices.
- Independence
- Personal care
- Communication
- Health & wellbeing
- Cultural

Over 12,000 half day sessions

Supporting over 60 members in Daylight & Daylight Plus

Parents and carers use Daylight projects as part of their respite programme, therefore Daylight enables some to continue to work at the same time.

Evolve Service

The Evolve service runs Monday to Friday from our venues at Walnut Close and Solihull Fire Station. Evolve is for adults with PMLD and Complex Care Needs. All members are supported on a 1:1 staffing ratio.

Evolve is a tailor-made, member-led programme providing specialised meaningful activities that breaks away from traditional day centre experiences.

We have a close working relationship with families, care providers and other external professionals involved in their life. This involves regular communication with parents and carers to ensure continuity of care and support, attending and facilitating meeting with social workers, speech therapists, psychologists and education providers.

Evolve promotes independence and encourages positive relationships. We use a variety of the latest hi tech media to enable our members to make positive choices for their activities including Eye Gaze, Interactive white board, Makaton, symbols and photographs. All activities have an element of learning through experience, developing new skills and are full of excitement!

Our internal activities always take on a multi-sensory approach. Some of our most popular days are crazy-science, sensory communication and 'Around the World' cultural days. We also have visitors such as Miniature Shetland Ponies and The Ukulele Band. Our external visits include trips to Stratford and Leamington, theatre experiences and meals out. We have positive links with Speech and Language Therapists where we have developed a social story programme that promotes multi-sensory communication skills.

Covid19 lockdown has meant that our most vulnerable members are shielding for their own safety however we continue to support those without any health conditions and this has enabled their parents and carers, some of whom are key workers, to continue to go to work and to have the respite they need.

The way we do things has been adapted to observe government guidelines and to keep everyone healthy, safe and happy.

Core themes and examples of how we incorporate them into activities:

- Social Skills - developing positive relationships
- Community access - being part of the community
- Choice & Risk taking – making our own informed choices
- Independence
- Personal care
- Communication
- Health & wellbeing
- Cultural

Over 2,500 half day sessions, supporting 10 members per week

Personal Assistant Services

The Personal Assistant Service is regulated by the Care Quality Commission to provide personal care in the homes of members and is available 365 days a year, supporting children and adults with learning difficulties.

The service supports individuals to access a range of social and leisure activities in the home and in the community in a safe, meaningful, and engaging manner.

The Activities our Members Enjoy

There are a wide range of activities our members enjoy ranging from work placement opportunities to fun days out. The PA helps enable individuals with additional needs to access social and leisure activities, personal and health care appointments, and work placements.

Positive Outcomes

The outcomes of the PA are set by the individual goals of the particular user, which can be something simple like trying a new activity or learning a new skill, or more complex goals that may be linked to their care and support care plan.

SoLO aims to enrich the lives of the individuals we support. Service objectives are to help support the individual to meet and exceed their own personal milestones.

- Social skills
- Inclusive activities
- Promoting independence
- Health and well being
- Personal care

We employ in excess of 90 Personal Assistants delivering support to over 80 service users on a flexible contract basis.

Average hours per month of support provided: **2166 hours = 26,000 p.a**

Supported Living Service

Supported Living continues to develop as a service with two houses in North and South Solihull and a third about to open. We are currently supporting 5 members and are hoping to expand this service to support more individuals in the near future.

Our properties are still proving to be happy, fun-filled homes, where members are given ample opportunity to develop independence skills and achieve greater quality of life in a safe and caring, person-centred environment.

We have worked closely with everyone involved in the tenants' lives to ensure that the support we provide is of the highest quality. We have also embarked on a programme of standardisation to ensure that all of our tools and systems for supporting individuals are relevant, up to date and consistent across the service.

Comments from the Team

"I would like to say how well B has progressed in the last six months with accepting changes to his routine and staff, especially during the pandemic when he has not been attending day centre and his routine has completely changed."

"J has progressed well in the last 12 months with his independence, learning to do things for himself, eating better and personal care of himself. Although the isolation of the pandemic has affected him recently with increased behaviours he has progressed really well since moving to supported living."

Plan 4 U Service

The Plan4U Team has supported many people with disabilities to plan how they would like to live their lives, including where they want to spend time and how they would like to be supported. The team has worked with people helping them to plan their future and their support, always ensuring that the person is at the centre of the process. Plan4U has supported families who are facing the many challenges as their young person becomes an independent young adult. The team has facilitated Transitional Reviews at the special schools and worked with the families to develop Support Plans that have outcomes for developing the independence of the young adult. The Housing and Support Plans produced by the team have enabled people to achieve their aspirations for a supported independent life away from the family home. The Plan4U Team has specialised over the past year in supporting those with more complex needs to have an active voice in the planning of their lives and work closely with social services, health and education to support this process.

Case studies

Plan4U were contacted to produce a support plan for a young man with complex health, learning and communication difficulties with a placement at specialist residential provider because his placement and funding for the longer term had not been confirmed. The facilitators had discussions with the family regarding suitable residential accommodation to meet his needs, the support required with the continued provision of activities and to support his communication and social skills.

This young man requires easy access to outside space that is a safe space to walk in and is quiet, this enables him to remain calm and be able to engage positively with his peers and the adults who support him.

Plan4U facilitated a school review for a young man with complex learning, physical and behaviour difficulties. The young man and his family had very little support and his mother was his main carer. Mum at this time spent most of the night awake, often changing his soiled bed and then staying with the young man to keep him safe once he was awake. Mum would sleep during the day when the young man was at school. The young man had been refusing to allow his dad to support him with personal care etc. so mum was having to do everything.

The team worked with the family looking at all the aspects of the support required for the young man to enable him to become more independent once he left school. This included supporting his physical and social development, as well as his communication so he could be supported by other people. We also looked at possible respite options with the family and support around his behaviour at home. The plans produced were used in conjunction with reports from health and education to secure a residential college placement for the young man.

Comments from Supported Individuals

"If we want the best for W, we ask for Plan4U support – it alleviates so much pressure"

"The Plan4U team were approachable, polite, professional, understanding and empathetic. They fought for my rights and a package that was right for my son."

"Prior to Plan4U involvement I felt that my life was over, now I am in a much happier place because J is happy, and I know I have made the right decision. Now other providers have a detailed plan that is all about J. I now spend my free time sitting on various boards and supporting other parents at coffee mornings"

"I don't have to worry about remembering everything now because it is all there in a detailed plan that I can share"

"It is the best report that I have ever had, it is perfect and that it captures every little detail about R. It is excellent – I am over the moon"

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED: 67

NUMBER OF STAFF: 3

NUMBER OF PLANS DELIVERED: 67

Trustee Board

Activities

The organisation is constituted under its Memorandum and Articles of Association, amended in 2014.

SoLO's Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for the governance and strategic direction of the charity and to ensure that the provision offered by SoLO benefits the public, with Learning and other associated disabilities, who receive those services. It aims to ensure that SoLO adheres to its objectives and values and is compliant as required by statutory regulatory bodies. To achieve this the Board receives and reviews the Financial Accounts, Risk Register and Performance Reports quarterly and has sight of the Management Accounts monthly. At its monthly Board meeting It is updated on all areas of SoLO's operation through report mechanism and the CEO is responsible for sharing areas of concern with the Board from incidents or complaints, highlighting areas of good practice through compliments. The Board is not risk averse in its approach to considering new opportunities to support its members. It considers the risks carefully and requires risks taken to be managed appropriately. SoLO's trustees are all volunteers.

Trustees

SoLO's Memorandum and Articles allow for up to 12 trustees and the aim is to ensure a diversity of skills, experience and people using an audit tool to achieve this balance. New trustees are elected on to the Board by existing Trustees. The current board skills include finance, health, care, carer experience, strategic management, risk management and IT. The Trustee Board uses its networks to bring in pro-bono support. The Voice Ambassador attends the Trustee Board to represent the voice of SoLO members and the perspective of a person with Learning Disabilities. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for operational delivery of the Board's strategic objectives. The CEO meets with the Chair monthly or more as required. Staff attend Board meetings as required, to contribute and report specifically on their areas of work. An annual Board workplan ensures all aspects of the Board's work is covered throughout the year and this includes a robust approach to policy reviews. SoLO trustees also have a programme of internal control reviews in addition to the annual audit. Trustees meet regularly independent of the monthly Board meeting for review and development.

Induction of Trustees

Trustees take part in the SoLO induction process and their specific responsibilities are covered as well. They are equipped with information about their role – expectations and requirements. They are encouraged to visit projects through the year to meet with staff and members and see first-hand the product of SoLO's operational delivery and join appropriate SoLO training.

Remuneration

The board is responsible for reviewing remuneration for staff on an annual basis They use a review matrix to scan the environment, benchmark salaries against the market and the financial position of the organisation.

Public benefit

In developing and undertaking the charity's activities, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Funding and Fundraising

Fundraising is a golden thread vital to the fabric of SoLO. With no professional fundraisers involved, SoLO is guided by the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and CC20 Charity Fundraising: a guide to trustee duties. No complaints have been received in this reporting period and no direct marketing takes place. A fundraising log is kept, and fundraising bids are managed and monitored for spend so that reports can be made to funders.

The volunteer fundraising group has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of SoLO in the community. From bag packs to curry nights, teas, walks, fun runs and raffles, this effort ensures that SoLO remains visible in the community it serves and provides opportunities for the business community wishing to fulfil its corporate social responsibility. We in turn are delighted when we receive offers to host or run events on our behalf, such as Love of the Glove who organised a Boxing Event, and a grateful grandparent who organised a charity disco event which we hope will be repeated next year.

Partnership working is key and, successfully managed, is a win-win for all parties involved both monetarily as well as raising the profile of SoLO in the community as a worthwhile partner to work with. The volunteering opportunities and meaningful involvement offered for individuals and businesses ensures that SoLO's provision is further enhanced by new opportunities and new skills. Perhaps the highlight of the fundraising year has been the yearlong partnership with Knowle & Dorridge Lions, with the opportunity of being a charity partner in 3 high-profile community events, culminating in a cheque presentation for £11,880 in September 2019.

These links have been brought about by a mix of personal contact via parents/carers and/or staff and volunteers, and by direct approach to SoLO from businesses because of its locality and community benefit. Businesses and organisations see first-hand how SoLO benefits the community it serves as well as reaching out beyond its boundaries. These relationships are nurtured by the Fundraising Co-ordinator, with the result that many are receptive at a future date after a break, or who continue to work with us, giving of their time and skills to benefit our members.

This year we have been pleased to continue our ongoing relationships with Coventry Building Society, Smart Homes, Solihull Moors and Knowle & Dorridge Lions. New partners on board this year are Primis, Solihull Community Housing, National Grid, Holmes Noble, Morgan Parkes and Love of the Glove.

Our People

We have a small group of dedicated fundraisers who meet every six weeks to plan and run events to support the work of SoLO. They are passionate about the organisation, give of their time freely and SoLO has benefited hugely from their contribution. We are indebted to them for their tireless efforts and thank them warmly. We also have staff who, in addition to their day jobs, go the extra mile and volunteer their time to support fundraising efforts. This is much appreciated as SoLO continues on its journey of provision for the members and families it serves.

Our Funding Journey

We are constantly looking at how we can package what we have in order to maximise our fundraising activities to secure the support of future funders so that we can continue to do what we do best for our members.

SoLO receives funding and donations from a variety of sources as well as income from its increasing breadth of sold services. Although the individual donor base "Friends of SoLO" has remained static this year, it nevertheless provides a reliable income. SoLO has also benefitted from individual legacies during this period.

A total of £60,993 was raised overall: £38,385 in individual donations, donation in kind income of £2,636, trust fund income of £7,000 and £12,972 event income.

Strategy and Future Plans

Our Vision

Over the next 5 years, SoLO will strive to ensure it is fit for the future and can continue to provide essential, person-centred support to children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their families. To ensure a stable and sustainable organisation, we will undertake the following:

- Develop our service offer for children and young people
- Implement a comprehensive fundraising strategy
- Invest in our people financially and pastorally
- Set up SoLO trading CIC
- Remodel our adult services
- Redevelop PA and Overnight Breaks offer
- Increase Supported Living provision
- Ensure a robust governance structure

Interim Objectives

- To complete organisational restructure
- To reduce staff team in order to reduce organisational costs in current financial year
- To institute a staff team to sustain the organisation and its current commitments and duties

Year One

Objective: Ensure Key Building Blocks

Year Two

Objective: Rebuilding and Recovery

Year Three

Objective: Review and Move Forward

Financial Review

Going Concern

Due to the Global pandemic of the novel Coronavirus disease, called COVID-19, the British Government imposed a nationwide lockdown from 23 March 2020 to help slow the spread of the virus. As a result, economic uncertainties have arisen throughout the British economy and beyond. Having reviewed the financial forecast through to March 2022, the Board are satisfied that the charity can continue to provide its services during this uncertain period.

Net Income

With the planned expenditure of investment into SoLO's IT infrastructure and in improving HR and CRM systems, has resulted in an operational deficit of £65,614.

Incoming resources

Donations include sums receivable in cash or kind in respect of both capital and revenue costs of our building extension.

Income from *Fundraising* events has fallen by 52% from the previous year's income.

Incoming resources from charitable activities include income from local authority grants and service level agreements. The income also includes payments made by our members in respect of certain services, these payments being funded from the members' individual personal budgets.

Resources expended

The cost of generating funds decreased by 75% which is reflective of the decrease in fundraising event income.

Charitable activities cost of £2,409,512 relate principally to the cost of running our 34 activities and increased in Supported Living for the benefit of our members. They also included the depreciation, rent and other costs associated with our buildings.

Assets

The net book value of fixed assets has increased by £24,385 due to investment of new IT and telephone equipment.

Funds and reserves

Restricted funds consist of income received which can be used only for the purposes stated by the donor. At year-end SoLO had balances on restricted funds amounting to £66,033 all of which relate to expenditure on fixed assets and equals the net book value of these assets.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which the Trustees have set aside for particular purposes. At the year-end SoLO had balances on these funds of £28,527 which relates to expenditure on fixed assets financed by our reserves. The balance equals the net book value of these assets.

General funds or reserves amount to £484,833. The Trustees reviewed the reserves policy during the year and hold reserves to fund:

- Shortfalls in income when income does not reach expected levels
- Unexpected expenditure
- Working capital

The Trustee policy is to aim to hold liquid reserves equivalent to between 4 and 6 months of future costs, excluding depreciation. This would be in the region of between £400k - £600k. Currently the actual figure is £338,733 and work is continuing to build the reserves. As part of the strategic development of the charity, the reserves policy will be revisited in the next financial year.

Investment policy

The prime objective of the Trustees to safeguard the value of the charity's assets and a secondary objective is to earn best interest on cash deposits.

All material funds of the charity, except for reserves, are expendable within twelve months of receipt. The policy for investment is to retain funds as cash and place them on deposit, with a number of financial institutions, on notice terms of up to 120 days.

Risks

The Trustees have identified, through the risk management process, the following key risks and have identified mitigating actions to address:

Risk	Mitigating actions
We may not be able to increase our reserves in the financial year which will impact on the future development of the organisation.	This remains a static risk as withdrawal of social care funding whilst not in budget will have an overall negative on general reserves position. Mitigating actions will include seeking new funding sources to increase sustainability. However, auditor advice is that reserves level can be lower due to assets held.
Supported Living and Overnight Breaks may not bring in income predicted. ASC querying costs and set up of Overnight Breaks	Supported Living Service is now bringing in additional income. Overnight Breaks still adversely affected by COVID but parent confidence growing.
Traditional Ofsted-registered venue has doubled rental charge, making it uneconomical to use	Alternative venues sourced and Ofsted registration being updated.
Minimum wage increase will impact on project costs and recruitment for 2020/21	Budgets prepare with all viable options for staffing costs as well as increasing subscription costs to counter this increase.
Corona virus implications will disrupt services, staff absences, fundraising activities and opportunities and affect income	Reduced staffing structure, COVID risk assessment and protocols in place. Service gradually being returned in keeping with COVID restrictions and guidelines.

These and other risks are reviewed on a quarterly basis at the Trustee Board and mitigating actions are considered to determine their proportionality and effectiveness. Risks are monitored regularly, and new risks are added when they arise, through the Senior Leadership Team process. The corporate risk register is the vehicle used to ensure risks are managed and trustees are assured.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, as Directors of SoLO, are responsible for preparing the 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 company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the company for that period. In preparing those 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 2015 (FRS 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable 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 assume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

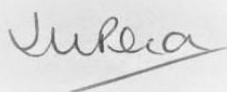
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the Charity's auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

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.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Jan Prior (Chair)
Date 24 February 2021

Independent Auditors Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SOLO Life Opportunities (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Policies).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the trustees' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies exemptions in preparing the trustees' report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our Report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Helen Blundell

Helen Blundell LLB, FCA, FCIE, DChA

For and on behalf of MHA MacIntyre Hudson

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Rutland House, 148 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2FD

2 March 2021

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31.03.20

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	60,993	-	60,993	110,172
Charitable Activities	3	1,944,917	292,636	2,237,553	1,769,317
Other Trading Activities	4	50,825	-	50,825	49,550
Investment		1,220	-	1,220	2,592
Total Income		2,057,955	292,636	2,350,591	1,931,631
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	5	6,693	-	6,693	27,311
Charitable Activities	6	2,106,093	303,419	2,409,512	1,875,005
Total Expenditure		2,112,786	303,419	2,416,205	1,902,316
Net Income / (expenditure) and net movement of funds		(54,831)	(10,783)	(65,614)	29,315
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total funds Brought Forward - at 1st April 2019		568,191	76,816	645,007	615,692
Total Funds Carried Forward - at 31st March 2020		513,360	66,033	579,393	645,007

All Income and expenditure derives from continuing activities

Balance Sheet as at 31.03.20

Registered Number 5025939					
	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	11		322,965		298,580
Current assets					
Debtors	12	240,506		207,012	
Cash at bank and on hand	13	237,358		293,640	
Total Current Assets		477,864		500,652	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	14	(221,436)		(154,225)	
Net current assets			256,428		346,427
Net assets			579,393		645,007
Funds					
	16				
Restricted funds			66,033		76,816
Unrestricted funds - Designated funds			28,527		42,778
Unrestricted funds - General funds			484,833		525,413
Total funds			579,393		645,007

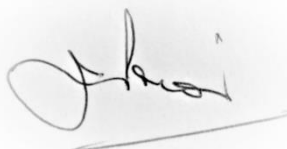
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Jan Prior,
Chair

24 February 2021



Jon Prior,
Treasurer

24 February 2021

Statement of Cash Flow as at 31.03.20

<i>Statement of Cash Flows</i>	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	8,167	52,047
Net cash flow from operating activities	8,167	52,047
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(49,419)	(6,651)
Interest Received	1,220	2,592
Net Cash flow from investing activities	(48,199)	(4,059)
Cash flow from financing activities		
Repayment of concessionary loans	(16,250)	(11,250)
Net Cash flow from financing activities	(16,250)	(11,250)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents	(56,282)	36,738
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st April 2019	293,640	256,902
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st March 2020	237,358	293,640
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	171,560	196,116
Short term deposits	65,798	97,524
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st March 2020	237,358	293,640

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements and general information

SoLO Life Opportunities is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated and is also a registered charity in England and Wales. The registered office is 38 Walnut Close, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, B37 7PU. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office and details of the charity's operations are included in the trustees' report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard application in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice. The functional currency of the charity is sterling and the figures have been rounded to the nearest pound sign.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds which the Trustees have designated for a particular project or purpose. The policy for determining each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or funds which have been raised by the charity for specific purposes. The purpose and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and that amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received. The following policies are applied to specific categories of income.

(a) Voluntary income received by way of donations is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable

(b) Interest is included when receivable

(c) Incoming resources from grants and contracts which are related to performance and specific deliverables are included in the Statement of Financial Activities as the charity earns the right to the income by its performance. Grant income received during the year that relates to a subsequent financial period is carried forward as a creditor in the balance sheet and shown as deferred grant income

(d) Donated services or equipment are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at their fair value where the economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably, and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for such services or equipment. The equivalent amount is recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities or is capitalised as a fixed asset

(e) The value of services provided by volunteers, including trustees, has not been included in line with the SORP (FRS102)

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual's basis. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Charitable expenditure comprises these costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs which can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature required to support them. Support costs include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. Support costs have been allocated to activities in the ratio of direct salaries.

1.5 Pension Contributions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension's scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independent administered fund. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

1.6 Fixed assets and depreciation

Asset additions costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are held at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated:

IT equipment over the period of 3 years
Freehold Purchase over the period of 50 years
Leasehold improvements over the period of the lease
Fixtures and fittings over periods between 3 and 5 years
Motor vehicles over 7 years

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans include receivables / payable to a third party which are interest free or below the market interest rates and are made to advance charitable purposes. The loan is measured at a cost less impairment.

1.9 Operating leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

1.10 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

This consideration has taken into accounts the expected impact of Covid-19 on the Charity, as far as it can be determined, and the Trustees remain satisfied that the going concern principle remains appropriate.

1.11 Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The following judgements have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Donations in kind – a judgement has been made as to the fair value of donations in kind, based on an understanding of the local market for these items/s.

Depreciation rates – a judgement has been made as to the estimated useful life of assets and, therefore, the rate of depreciation. The estimate is made based on best practice and knowledge of the usage of such assets in the charity.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustments to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the new financial year.

1.12 Financial Instruments

The Charity holds only basic Financial Instruments. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Charity are as follows:

Debtors – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in Note 12. Prepaid expenses are not financial instruments.

Liabilities – concessionary loans, trade creditors, accruals and other creditors will be classified as financial instruments and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in Note 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments' disclosure. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as in the cash settlement has already taken place and there is simply an obligation to deliver charitable s rather than cash or another financial instrument.

2 Donations and Legacies

	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants and Donations for Extension/Refurbishments of Properties	-	62,200
Other Donations and Legacies	60,993	47,972
	60,993	110,172

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Grants and service level agreements				
Solihull MBC Children's Services	259,316	-	259,316	252,991
Solihull MBC Other	-	-	-	52,000
Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group	15,000	47,000	62,000	60,000
Children In Need	-	33,386	33,386	15,386
1:1 Support	7,953	-	7,953	8,966
Eveson Trust	-	7,000	7,000	-
ESF Funding	-	-	-	901
YIF/YAS Funding	-	205,250	205,250	216,620
Total grants and service level agreements	282,269	292,636	574,905	606,864
Service User Income	1,662,648	-	1,662,648	1,162,453
Total Income from Charitable Activities	1,944,917	292,636	2,237,553	1,769,317

4 Other Trading Activities

During the year The Charity received funds from Fundraising Events £12,972 (2019: £27,074), Gift Aid £ NIL (2019: £4,733) as well as funds generated from Letting of Premises £37,853 (2019: £17,743)

5 Cost of raising funds - Unrestricted

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salary Costs	4,585	17,567
Other Direct Costs	1,008	4,754
Support Costs (note 7)	1,100	4,990
	6,693	27,311

6 Cost of charitable activities

	Adult's Services	Children's Services	Independent Living	Total	Total
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	217,648	175,290	88,620	481,558	423,329
Sessional Staff	561,209	119,263	451,980	1,132,452	736,032
Premises	10,702	10,618	59,622	80,942	61,504
Member Activities	88,956	189,742	7,239	285,937	270,011
Transport of Members	2,789	7,653	3,086	13,528	39,561
Staff and Volunteer Training	-	16	-	16	40
Volunteer Expenses	518	1,579	26	2,123	1,727
Bad Debt	5,472	608	-	6,080	5,750
Depreciation	9,516	3,172	-	12,688	7,761
Support Costs (note 7)	192,043	71,295	130,850	394,188	329,290
	1,088,853	579,236	741,423	2,409,512	1,875,005

Cost of restricted charitable activities £303,419 (2019: £332,934) and cost of unrestricted charitable activities £2,112,785 (2019: £1,542,071).

7 Support Costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries	208,689	199,980
Legal Fees	2,817	-
Premises Costs	21,487	18,692
Insurance	5,932	5,534
Staff Costs	29,213	18,606
Communication Costs	10,083	10,428
Computer Costs	25,236	24,700
Publicity Costs	6,553	5,267
Depreciation	12,346	7,645
Training Costs	8,299	9,726
Auditor's remuneration - Governance Cost	7,835	5,300
Trustee Meetings - Governance Cost	22	88
Other Office Costs	55,676	23,324
Cost of generating funds	1,100	4,990
	395,288	334,280

Support costs have been allocated to activities in the ratio of direct salaries as follows

	2020	2019
Cost of generating funds (note 5)	1,100	4,990
Cost of charitable activities - Adults (note 6)	192,043	192,790
- Children's (note 6)	71,295	76,888
- Independent Living (note 6)	130,850	59,612
	395,288	334,280

8 Net expenditure

This is stated after charging

	2020	2019
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets (note 11)	25,034	16,324
Auditor's remuneration	7,835	5,300
Operating Lease Cost	23,955	23,955
	56,824	45,579

9 Staff Costs

Staff costs were

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries	1,720,550	1,301,492
Social security costs	108,569	75,417
Pension	23,817	11,414
	1,852,936	1,388,323

The charity employed on average 254 staff (2019: 272) of whom 98 (2019: 119) were employed on a sessional basis usually working for less than 5 hours per week.

The charity operates the auto enrolment pension scheme and makes the minimum contribution of 3% (2019: 1%) to this scheme, there are 116 employees (2019: 110) within the scheme.

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The pensions costs charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £ 23,817 (2019: £11,414) Contributions totalling £11,543 (2019: £3,162) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

10 Trustee and Key Management personnel remuneration and expense

No trustee received any remuneration during either year.

During the year 1 trustee (2019: 1) was reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in respect of travel and subsistence. The sum reimbursed amounted to £22 (2019: £88).

Related Trustee Party Transactions include: 1 trustee son received support through the PA service and Evolve which was charged at the standard rate.

The charity purchased trustee indemnity insurance at a cost of £921 (2019: £883) included in governance costs.

The total amount of employee benefits paid to Key management personnel were £159,094 (2019: £175,022) for the year.

Related Employee Party Transactions include - P Burnham, Senior Manager, Partner Gross Salary £278 for working as a Personal Assistant (2019: £1,769), J Down, former CEO and Director of Andyman £Nil (2019: £295) regarding Supplier Accounts Andyman for minor repairs around Walnut Close and Fire Station premises after obtained other quotes.

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment	Freehold Property	Leasehold Improvements	Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicle	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1st April 2019	19,535	335,604	98,137	89,856	42,000	585,132
Capital expenditure for the year	48,471	-	948	-	-	49,419
At 31st March 2020	68,006	335,604	99,085	89,856	42,000	634,551
Depreciation						
At 1st April 2019	12,942	54,516	98,101	78,993	42,000	286,552
Charge for the year	14,251	6,147	826	3,810	-	25,034
At 31st March 2020	27,193	60,663	98,927	82,803	42,000	311,586
Net Book Value						
At 31st March 2020	40,813	274,941	158	7,053	-	322,965
At 31st March 2019	6,593	281,088	36	10,863	-	298,580

12 Debtors	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade Debtors	195,170	169,900
Prepaid expenses	23,567	14,950
Other Debtors	21,769	22,162
	240,506	207,012
13 Cash at bank and on hand	2020	2019
	£	£
Bank deposit accounts	166,840	193,619
Bank current accounts	65,798	97,524
Cash	4,720	2,497
	237,358	293,640
14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Concessionary Loan	-	16,250
Trade creditors	26,104	21,980
Taxation and social security	32,348	26,053
Deferred income	48,504	42,729
Other creditors (charge card/pension)	13,827	5,134
Accruals	100,653	42,079
Total current liabilities	221,436	154,225

In the prior year, a loan was made to the charity on an interest free basis. There was no formal repayment term and the loan was therefore treated as falling due within one year.

Deferred Income	2020	2019
	£	£
Deferred Income as 1st April 2019	42,729	17,385
Amount released from previous year	(35,567)	(17,385)
Incoming resources deferred in the year	41,342	42,729
Deferred Income as 31st March 2020 - which relates to grants which are for 20/21	48,504	42,729

15 Statement of fund movements	At 1st April 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31st March 2020
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	525,413	2,057,955	2,098,535	484,833
Designated Funds				
Restructuring	-	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	42,778	-	14,251	28,527
Total Unrestricted Funds	568,191	2,057,955	2,112,786	513,360
Restricted Funds				
Fixed Assets *	69,122	-	10,783	58,339
Eveson Trust	-	7,000	7,000	-
Children In Need	-	33,386	33,386	-
Solihull CCG - Project B	-	47,000	47,000	-
YIF/YAS Funding	7,694	205,250	205,250	7,694
Total Restricted Funds	76,816	292,636	303,419	66,033
Total Funds	645,007	2,350,591	2,416,205	579,393

* The fixed asset fund represents the Net Book Value of assets purchased with restricted funds.

15a Prior Year Statement of fund movements- 2018/19	At 1st April 2018	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31st March 2019
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	529,084	1,560,108	1,563,779	525,413
Designated Funds				
Restructuring	-	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	6,765	41,616	5,603	42,778
Total Unrestricted Funds	535,849	1,601,724	1,569,382	568,191
Restricted Funds				
Fixed Assets *	79,843	-	10,721	69,122
SMBC Support Planning 1st April 2018 - 31st March 2019	-	52,000	52,000	-
Children In Need	-	15,386	15,386	-
Solihull CCG - Project B	-	45,000	45,000	-
ESF Funding	-	901	901	-
YIF/YAS Funding	-	216,620	208,926	7,694
Total Restricted Funds	79,843	329,907	332,934	76,816
Total Funds	615,692	1,931,631	1,902,316	645,007

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	256,932	66,033	322,965	298,580
Net current assets	256,428	-	256,428	346,427
Net Assets	513,360	66,033	579,393	645,007

**16a Prior Year Analysis of net assets
between funds 2018/19**

	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	229,458	69,122	298,580	308,253
Net current assets	338,733	7,694	346,427	307,439
Net Assets	568,191	76,816	645,007	615,692

17 Commitments

Operating Lease Commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	Office Equipment		Land and Buildings	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
In less than 1 year	955	955	23,000	23,000
Between 1 and 5 years	956	1,911	46,000	69,000
Over 5 Years	-	-	-	-
Total annual operating lease commitments	1,911	2,866	69,000	92,000

In addition to the leases disclosed above, the charity has two leases for property, which expire in 2028 and one property lease which expires in 2029, which provide supported living accommodation for service users. The service user occupants pay a rental to the charity. The terms of the lease provide that the monthly rent payable by the charity to the landlord is the rental received from the occupants less any sums payable for utilities, council tax and upkeep of the property or, in the event that this net income is negative, then £nil.

Capital Commitments

At the year end there were capital commitments contracted for of £0 (2019: £NIL).

18 Reconciliation of net (expenditure) / income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net (expenditure) / income for 2019-20	(65,614)	29,315
Interest Receivable	(1,220)	(2,592)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	25,034	16,324
Increase in debtors	(33,494)	(46,505)
Increase in creditors	83,461	55,505
Net cash flow from operating activities	8,167	52,047

Company Information

Trustees

Jan Prior, Chair

Susan Stocks, Vice Chair/Company Secretary

Resigned 31.12.20

Jonathan Prior, Treasurer

Paul Beech

Andrew Gilyead

Henry Griffiths

Company Secretary:

Susan Stocks resigned 31.12.20

Lesley Beer appointed 01.01.21

Chief Executive Officer:

Karon Swinburn

Registered Office and

38 Walnut Close

Operational Address:

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Birmingham B37 7PU

Telephone:

0121 779 3865

Email:

info@sololifeopportunities.org

Website:

www.sociallifeopportunities.org

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Solihull B91 3AN

United Trust Bank Ltd London, SW1 4TE

Shawbrook Bank Essex CM13 3BE

Virgin Money Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL

Nationwide PO Box 3 5-11 St. George's Street, Douglas,
Isle of Man

Auditor:

MHA MacIntyre Hudson Rutland House

148 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2FD

SoLO Life Opportunities (SoLO) is a Company Limited by Guarantee number 05025939
and a Registered Charity Number 1102297
The governing documents of the organisation are the
Memorandum and Articles of Association which are available on www.sociallifeopportunities.org