



croydon
mediation

Annual Report

for the year to
31st March 2024



Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2024

Company Information

TRUSTEES

Neil Selby - Chair
Avril Ashley - Treasurer
Barbara Ottaway - Company Secretary
Darren Pullman
Dave Simmons
Jacqui Daukes
Shubhaa Srinivasan

BANKERS

Caf Bank Limited
POBox 289
West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

The Cooperative Bank plc
POBox 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester, M60 4EP

Independent Examiners

DSK Partners LLP
306 High Street
Croydon, Surrey, CR0 1NG

ADDRESS

c/o DSK Partners LLP
306 High Street
Croydon
CR0 1NG
020 8686 6084

office@croydonmediation.org.uk
www.croydonmediation.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1088222
Company Registration Number 3973287

Chair's Report

Neil Selby
CM Chair

Welcome to our 2024 Annual report.

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report. 2024 has been an incredibly challenging year for our service and I want to start by thanking both my fellow trustees and all our volunteer mediators for their great support, enthusiasm and resilience this past year. I also want to give a particular shout out to Fiona our case manager who has shown remarkable flexibility as the trustees have grappled with the challenges we faced.

This year has seen us grow the number of people we have been able to help due to the 10 new mediators that joined our service and building on the better links we have developed with the council tenancy officers. This has been a great encouragement to us as we continued to rebuild the service post pandemic. Unfortunately along side this progress we struggled to find ongoing funding and were unsuccessful in a number of grant applications. This resulted in us having to suspend the service at the end of our financial year whilst we sought fresh funding. This was a very difficult decision for us to take but was essential to ensure we did not leave any of the people we were currently supporting without our help.

However, the great news is that very recently the council have made available some funding which, when we receive it, will enable us to restart the service in the next month or so. I want to express our thanks to The Mayor.

Neil Selby
Chair

Treasurer's Report

Avril Ashley
CM Treasurer

It has been another challenging year for Croydon Mediation. Our caseload has increased throughout the year and we have been able to introduce new mediators to the service.

We made a bid to the National Lottery for a 5-year funding plan, unfortunately, this was unsuccessful, and have been putting together more material and with the help of Char to make more funding bids.

We received a promise from Croydon Council to fund us in the sum of £5,000 but this appeared conditional and the money would arrive to late. A strong appeal to the Council and the Mayor and they are now prepared to fund this sum in advance of future services being provided.

With this money we hope to still offer free mediation to residents of Croydon while we have enough funds to do so. But this may have to change.

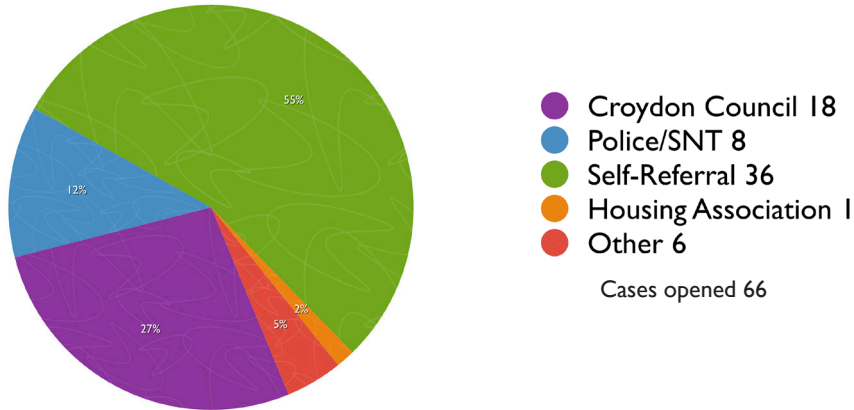
Our expenditure for the year was just over £18,000 so an increase in the previous year but this did include the training of eight new meditators. In the coming year, we wish to invest in more training of mediators and conflict coaching.

We have worked hard to obtain funding but every Charity is fighting for survival. We now have a promise from Croydon Council of emergency funding and we have recently submitted a bid to The Drapers Fund.

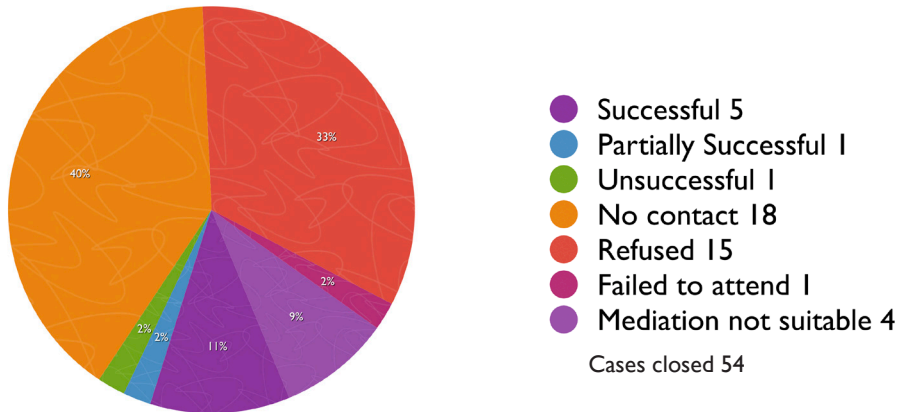
Avril Ashley
Treasurer

Service Delivery Statistics 2023-2024

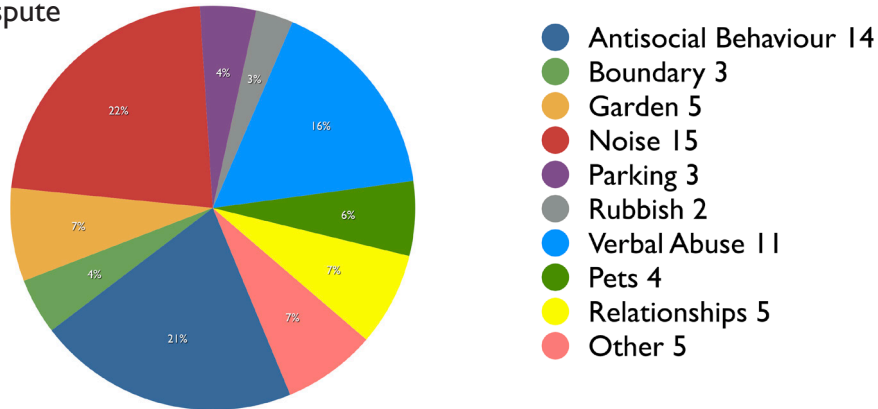
Cases Received



Outcomes



Types of Dispute



Some cases had more than one issue

We received 54 cases last year.

As in all previous years noise continues to be the main reason for referral to mediation (15) Most cases have more than one issue and some other problems brought to the service were Anti-Social behaviour (14) and Verbal Abuse (11).

Croydon Community Mediation

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Principle Activity

The objectives of Croydon Community Mediation are:

To promote for the public benefit, in the London Borough of Croydon and surrounding areas, with a view to the preservation of public order, the provision of services directed towards mediation, conciliation, reconciliation and reparation, between individuals, organisations, or groups involved or likely to be involved in disputes or interpersonal conflict;

To advance the education of the public, in the London Borough of Croydon and surrounding areas, in the methods of mediation, conciliation, reconciliation, reparation, in the needs of victims and offenders for such services, and in the means of managing such services.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the guidance on public benefit produced by the Charities Commission and are confident that the work of the charity meets all the criteria for public benefit.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Croydon Community Mediation

Trustees' Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees: Ms B J Ottaway
Dr J Daukes
S Srinivasan
Ms A Ashley
N Selby (Chair)
D Pullman
D Simmons

Secretary Ms B J Ottaway

Registered Office D S House
306 High Street
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 1NG

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.

Company Registration Number 03973287

Charity Registration Number 1088222

Independent Examiner Romit Basu FCA
DSK Partners LLP
D S House
306 High Street
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 1NG

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Ms A Ashley
Trustee

Croydon Community Mediation

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Croydon Community Mediation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Croydon Community Mediation (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of Croydon Community Mediation are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Croydon Community Mediation as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Romit Basu FCA
DSK Partners LLP
D S House
306 High Street
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 1NG

Date:.....

Croydon Community Mediation

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		-	-	230
Investment income	2	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>
Total income		<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>255</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>(14,627)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>(14,627)</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(17,145)</u>	<u>(17,145)</u>	<u>(14,372)</u>
Net movement in funds		(17,145)	(17,145)	(14,372)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>22,745</u>	<u>22,745</u>	<u>37,117</u>
Total funds carried forward	7	<u><u>5,600</u></u>	<u><u>5,600</u></u>	<u><u>22,745</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Croydon Community Mediation

(Registration number: 03973287)

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	337	450
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		6,582	23,615
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(1,319)</u>	<u>(1,320)</u>
Net current assets		<u>5,263</u>	<u>22,295</u>
Net assets		<u>5,600</u>	<u>22,745</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>5,600</u>	<u>22,745</u>
Total funds	7	<u>5,600</u>	<u>22,745</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These 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 on pages 4 to 9 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Ms A Ashley
Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Croydon Community Mediation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Croydon Community Mediation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Currency

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is also the functional currency of the company and rounded to the nearest pound.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Croydon Community Mediation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets held for the charity's own use are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Fixtures & fittings - 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment - 25% reducing balance

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated in the same way as owned assets.

At each statement of financial position date, the charity reviews the carrying amount of its tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the charity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds can only be used 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.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2 Investment income

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>

Croydon Community Mediation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>113</u>	<u>150</u>

4 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	<u>2,531</u>	<u>2,531</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,531</u>	<u>2,531</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	2,081	2,081
Charge for the year	<u>113</u>	<u>113</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,194</u>	<u>2,194</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	<u>337</u>	<u>337</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>450</u>	<u>450</u>

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	<u>1,320</u>	<u>1,320</u>

Croydon Community Mediation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

7 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>22,745</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>5,600</u>
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>37,117</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>(14,627)</u>	<u>22,745</u>

8 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Croydon Community Mediation

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	-	230
Investment income (analysed below)	27	25
	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>
Total income	<u>27</u>	<u>255</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	(17,172)	(14,627)
	<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>(14,627)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>(14,627)</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(17,145)</u>	<u>(14,372)</u>
Net movement in funds	(17,145)	(14,372)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	22,745	37,117
	<u>22,745</u>	<u>37,117</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>5,600</u>	<u>22,745</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Croydon Community Mediation

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<i>Donations and legacies</i>		
Appeals and donations	-	230
	<u>-</u>	<u>230</u>
<i>Investment income</i>		
Bank interest receivable	27	25
	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Rent	(20)	-
Insurance	(967)	(737)
Telephone and internet	(1,439)	(1,435)
Mediators expenses	(12,064)	(10,323)
Travel & subsistence	(449)	(282)
Computer software and maintenance costs	(329)	(80)
Printing, postage and stationery	(363)	-
Legal and professional fees	(35)	(35)
Sundry expenses	(13)	(13)
Depreciation of office equipment	(113)	(150)
IE Fee	(1,320)	(1,500)
Bank charges	(60)	(72)
	<u>(17,172)</u>	<u>(14,627)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.