



S I S U

(f ormerly Umbrella Lane)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2020

Scottish Charity No.: SC045915

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2020.

Administrative Information

Charity Name SISU

Charity Number SC045915

Address 5/7,
82 Mitchell Street
Glasgow G1 3NA

Current Trustees Dr. Anastacia Ryan

The remaining trustees have expressed their wish to have their names excluded from this Report. This has been approved by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 18th August 2015 under the name 'Umbrella Lane'. It has a single tier structure and as such the Trustees are the members of the charity. Following a review of strategy and vision, the registered name of the SCIO was changed to 'SISU' on 29th January 2020. The mission and principles of the Charity remained the same throughout the reporting period.

Appointment of Trustees

The management committee of SISU, which meets quarterly at a minimum, are the charity's Trustees. Membership of the management committee is by open recruitment, with candidates selected according to skills required for effective governance. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting which is held in August. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of nine trustees. Each project within SISU has an advisory group, open to interested members with lived experience of the issues pertinent to the project's mission and activities. Umbrella Lane is the only functioning project of SISU, with other projects, 'Accelerate, Create and Transform', postponed in launching due to COVID-19. Umbrella Lane Advisory Group is made up of lived experience community members, who support the strategy and activities of the Umbrella Lane, Sex Worker Wellbeing Project. Individuals are not elected to the Advisory Group, but rather are invited by current members or accepted to the Advisory Group following their declaration of interest to join.

Due to the consequences of COVID-19, the Board recruitment strategy, originally planned for March 2020, has been postponed until August 2020.

Objectives and Activities

Mission

To improve the health and well-being of all sex workers in Scotland, through a community-based, innovative and holistic approach that recognises our agency and choices in starting sex work, managing work and sometimes moving on from sex work.

Principles

- To respect the self-determination of sex workers.
- To respect and promote the human and health rights of sex workers.
- To be inclusive to all sex workers and work from principles of equality, respect and recognition.

Activities

During the reporting period, the name of the SCIO was formally changed to SISU. This allowed for the planning of pilot projects, to be launched in Summer 2020. The core approach of SISU is about harnessing resilience through adversity. It will underpin all of the programs that beneficiaries will be able to engage with, be that the envisioned creative components, or the business elements, or the advocacy for change component. SISU will support people to adopt a resilient approach to overcoming trauma and disadvantage by providing practical support and pathways to allow them to realise their full potential in relation to their future choices. Whatever these choices may be, SISU will work to ensure these are made from a rooted connection to self-worth, compassion and empowerment. The reporting period saw SISU activities related to visioning and working on strategy for communication, piloting projects and scaling current efforts of the Umbrella Lane project. Following successful recruitment to the 'A Million Realities' Social Entrepreneur Fellowship by The Packard Foundation, founder Anastacia Ryan has had the opportunity to work with a range of skilled specialists together with the Trustees, Staff and Advisory Group of Umbrella Lane in scaling the Umbrella Lane Sex Worker Well-Being Project, whilst preparing to launch the other SISU projects.

Activities related to SISU project preparation:-

Worked with Impact & Growth Advisors in designing a 'Theory of Change' and related strategy and action plan.

Worked with Purpose Union - Developed a launch strategy and associated communication strategy in executing the pilot project launch in Summer 2020. Worked with Independent Business Coach in focusing the work of Umbrella Lane in a three year strategic plan, that contextualised this work within the broader work planned by SISU.

Activities related to Umbrella Lane project:-

The majority of activities in the reporting period relate to SISU's first and currently main project Umbrella Lane, given the postponement of launching other SISU projects due to COVID-19.

The Umbrella Lane (UL) project within SISU provides a compassionate community space to people specifically who engage in selling sexual services, to reduce feelings and impact of social exclusion, felt greatly by this community. UL beneficiaries include direct and indirect sex workers, which covers a wide spectrum, from full-service sex workers, online sex workers and people who work in the adult entertainment industry. Many belong to black and minority ethnic groups, some identify as LGBTQI, and beneficiaries include people who have migrated to Scotland to work. Our service user group can also overlap with issues of poverty, housing and food insecurity, problematic substance use, mental health issues, insecure residency status and a range of other contributory factors leading to sex work. We do not judge or attempt to solve these issues directly; our role is to provide community, support, and advice where appropriate. Our mission is to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of all sex workers in Scotland, through a community-based and lived experience led approach, recognising the autonomy, choice and diverse reasons for starting sex work and to provide support without judgement. UL provides a platform and a vehicle to empower the often-ignored direct voices and lived experience of sex workers, creating a sense of community recognition that is important both for informing institutional policies, public understanding and reducing stigma and social exclusion.

Throughout the reporting period, Umbrella Lane has offered weekly peer support and advice drop-ins, as well as creative and practical skills workshops biweekly. A text messaging update service was also launched in November 2019 for Sex Workers across Scotland informing of services, and sharing inspiration and positivity for managing in what is often an isolated profession (made this way by the legal framework in Scotland, which doesn't allow two or more people to work together). Umbrella Lane have also been working with The Managed Care Network at NHS Grampian to design and carry out a needs-assessment with sex workers across the Grampian region. Umbrella Lane has also continued to provide safer-sex supplies, and have a number of referral pathways in place to assist Sex Workers in accessing priority sexual and reproductive healthcare, reporting crimes anonymously, and accessing mental health care services amongst others.

Goals for 2019/20

Umbrella Lane related goals for this period, following previous years, were to continue to offer regular peer-support drop-in services, as well as maintaining a permanent office space in which to have a community space for these services. We also aimed to widen our reach to the community through a redesign of our social media and offering a wider array of services. We aimed to extend our services to sex workers in Aberdeen and surrounding areas, alongside our work on a needs-assessment with NHS Grampian, whilst also strategising to increase community outreach to marginalised sex workers.

Achievements during 2019/20

Secured an office space for Umbrella Lane in the city centre of Glasgow

Negotiated a contract with Pret A Manger to provide food for weekly drop-in services Hosted a vigil and community healing event to mark December 17th, International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

Rebuilt Umbrella Lane website and began a monthly blog

Increased social media presence, both in quantity of posts and accounts on new platforms

Secured funding from a number of different sources

Continued provision of free safer sex supplies

Brought two paid staff on board in Community Outreach and Communications and Partnership Roles (February 2020)

Secured funding for a full time Coordinator who took up post in March 2020

Established a lived experience Advisory Group

Ran both practical and creative skills workshops led by sex workers and allies

Started a text update service for sex workers across Scotland

Secured a location for Umbrella Lane drop-in services in Aberdeen

Developed partnership referral pathways with services to increase acceptability and accessibility of services related to sexual health, housing support, mental health and well-being, and issues related to substance use.

Financial Review

The financial activities of the charity are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Our main source of funding has been grants from the following donors:-

- National Lottery Community Fund
- Foundation Scotland
- Robertson Trust
- Tudor Trust

In addition, we carried out an extensive fundraising initiative, in order to provide financial assistance to those sex-workers who found themselves in difficulty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the date of these accounts, the total raised by this initiative was **£22,355**.

Reserves Policy

The trustees' policy is to retain 3 months' worth of normal running costs in order to meet commitments and to cover any unexpected expenditure.

3 months' expenditure stands at **£12,073**.

Unrestricted funds stand at **£13,443**.

The level of Unrestricted Funds is therefore adequate to satisfy the trustees' policy.

Plans for future periods

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which left most of the Umbrella Lane beneficiaries unable to secure an income since March 2020, Umbrella Lane has had to rapidly respond to changing needs of the sex worker community in Scotland. Amidst the coronavirus pandemic Umbrella Lane has not faltered in its mission to provide holistic, needs-focused support to sex workers. The project has moved all charitable activities online, including an increase in offering group and individual support with mental health and wellbeing. Upon request from the sex worker community, UL volunteers organised and crowdfunded an emergency hardship fund, which has enabled sex workers who cannot access public funds the ability to receive a small monthly payment. The UL Hardship Fund is the only fund of its kind in Scotland, and has so far helped over 197 sex workers, who would otherwise be destitute or continuing to put their health at risk by working.

Given the rapidly changing needs of sex workers as a result of COVID-19, Umbrella Lane launched a peer-led needs assessment supported by a trusted academic with lived experience. The results will be launched in August 2020 and will be used to inform the future services Umbrella Lane provides in the recovery period and beyond. These results will also support Umbrella Lane's efforts to raise awareness of sex work issues in attending mainstream services, with the view to train for a more inclusive approach that enables greater accessibility and acceptability of services to sex workers throughout Scotland.

Newly planned SISU projects will be launched as pilot programmes beginning with 'Accelerate' in August 2020, or when is safe to do so, which will enable the vision of the scaling of the SCIO, in relation to beneficiaries and service offerings.

The Trustees' Annual Report on Pages 2 to 5 is approved by the Trustees, and signed on its behalf by

Trustee

Anastacia O'Leary

Date:- 25/06/2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2019
Receipts				
Donations	3,533	22,355	25,888	13,000
Grants	30,000	25,100	55,100	
Total receipts	33,533	47,455	80,988	13,000
Payments				
Fundraising Costs	265		265	
Cost of charitable activities	28,825	19,202	48,027	4,000
Total payments	29,090	19,202	48,292	4,000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,443	28,253	32,696	9,000

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2019
Opening cash at bank	9,000		9,000	
Surplus for the year	4,443	28,253	32,696	9,000
Closing cash at bank	13,443	28,253	41,696	9,000
<hr/>				
Bank balances	13,443	28,253	41,696	9,000

The Trustees' Annual Report on Pages 2 to 5 is approved by the Trustees, and signed on its behalf by

Trustee *Anastacia Elle Ryan*

Date:- 25/06/2020

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds may be used by the trustees to meet future capital or revenue expenditure. Restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed a restriction on the use of the fund.

3. Related party transactions

No Trustee was paid during this year, or the previous year, for their services as Trustee. Dr. A.Ryan received payment during the year for her role as Co-ordinator, in agreement with the Board.

4. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2019
Hardship fund	22,355	_____	22,355	_____
Other donations	3,533	_____	3,533	13,000
Closing cash at bank	3,533	22,355	25,888	13,000

The Trustees would like to acknowledge contributions to the Hardship Fund from VivaStreet, SCOT-PEP, National Ugly Mugs, Beyond the Gaze Research Project, ARIKA, and The Paul Hamlin Project. They express their thanks to all of those organisations, as well as those individuals, projects and businesses who have given their support and money.

5. Grants received

National Lottery Community Fund	_____	8,500	8,500	_____
Other donations	_____	2,600	2,600	_____
Robertson Trust	_____	14,000	14,000	_____
Tudor Trust	30,000	_____	30,000	_____
	30,000	25,100	55,100	0

6. Costs of charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	2019
Advertising/Promotional	1,048	1,098	2,146	
Charitable Contributions		10,350	10,350	
Co-ordinator	5,033	6,365	11,398	
Community and Partnership	1,600		1,600	
Community Outreach	1,600		1,600	
Computer Costs	1,432		1,432	
Groupwork Resources	861	381	1,241	
Office/General Administrative	1,460	508	1,968	
Telephone	437		437	
Printing, Postage & Stationery	117		117	
Rent or Lease of Buildings	12,187		12,187	4,000
Travel & Accommodation	1,045		1,045	
Volunteer Expenses	2,006	500	2,506	
	28,825	19,202	48,027	4,000

7. Restricted funds

	Hardship Fund	National Lottery CF	Foundation Scotland	Robertson Trust	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	22,355				22,355
Grants		8,500	2,600	14,000	25,100
	22,355	8,500	2,600	14,000	47,455

Costs of charitable activities

	Hardship Fund	National Lottery CF	Foundation Scotland	Robertson Trust	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
	10,350	6,502	—	2,350	19,202
Surplus	12,005	1,998	2,600	11,650	28,253
Carried Forward	12,005	1,998	2,600	11,650	28,253

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2020 which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

An examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

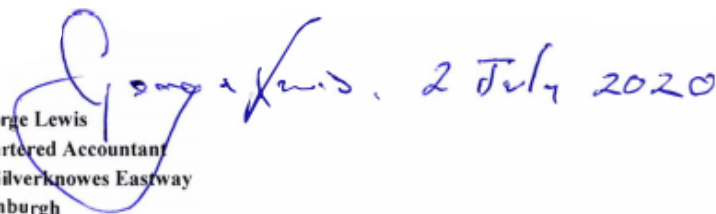
Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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

to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

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


George Lewis
Chartered Accountant
55 Silverknowes Eastway
Edinburgh
EH4 5NE



(formerly Umbrella Lane)

Thank you for reading

Visit www.sisu-group.org

to join our community and hear more about our work. You can also follow our updates at Facebook, Instagram & Twitter

Email:

welcome@sisu-group.org

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2020

Scottish Charity No.: SC045915