

**FAMILY SERVICE UNIT SCOTLAND  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
KNOWN AS CIRCLE**

**ABSTRACT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Achievements and performance from April 2019 to March 2020**

The backdrop to the past year has continued to be one of challenge for Circle and the voluntary sector as a whole. This has meant that we have had to be even more committed and resourceful in maintaining, and in some instances growing, the services that help to support and develop some of the most marginalised families in Scotland.

Overall the year has been a positive one for Circle. Our team of front-line family outreach workers and project managers has continued to work in a committed and innovative way to ensure families access support that is respectful and that meets their needs and expectations. We have improved outcomes for families across a range of indicators helping them to be more active and healthy and feel more respected and included.

There have been successes in securing ongoing funding for some of our vital services, and we have added to other services that will support our capacity to innovate and develop our work as we go forward. As a result of our financial restructure we have transformed our financial performance, going from a substantial deficit in 18/19 to a positive surplus in the last year. This turnaround has come about as a result of increased fundraising activity and some necessary cost cutting.

In the latter part of the year our services were affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The following section contains reports on how we are managing the challenges and risks associated with this unprecedented situation.

During this financial year we have:

Secured new funding for our Haven Project in Edinburgh. This was done through a competitive grants process that obtained a sum of £119,000 for three years from The City of Edinburgh Council Children and Families Grant Programme. This will allow us to continue Early Years Group Work, Family Outreach and Fathers' Support at our base in Muirhouse until September 2023.

Established a Family Inclusive Practice Partnership with MELD in East Lothian. This is funded by The Challenge Fund - Getting Ready for System Change. The main aim of the project is to identify barriers to family inclusive practice alongside strengths and solutions, across three service systems.

Formed a new partnership with South Lanarkshire Council's Caledonian System Team, which works with families affected by domestic violence. Circle's role is to specifically support children affected by domestic violence. The service is funded by the Scottish Government, through South Lanarkshire Council, until March 2021 but is likely to be extended beyond this date.

Extended the scope of our Harbour project by securing additional £101,000 in funding from the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership. This will fund a group work post and a development work post, and will extend the funding for our Young Persons' drug and alcohol service.

Learned that the funding for our successful West Lothian Children Affected by Parental Substance Use service will be extended to 31 March 2022. This will ensure continuity of support for vulnerable families and children in West Lothian and provide an opportunity for Circle to further develop our services there.

In consultation with the board of trustees and the staff team we have produced a new three-year strategy for Circle. The new strategy lays out our ambitions to increase partnerships, build organisational resilience, develop our staff team, increase participation, innovate our practice and influence policy at a local and national level.

**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

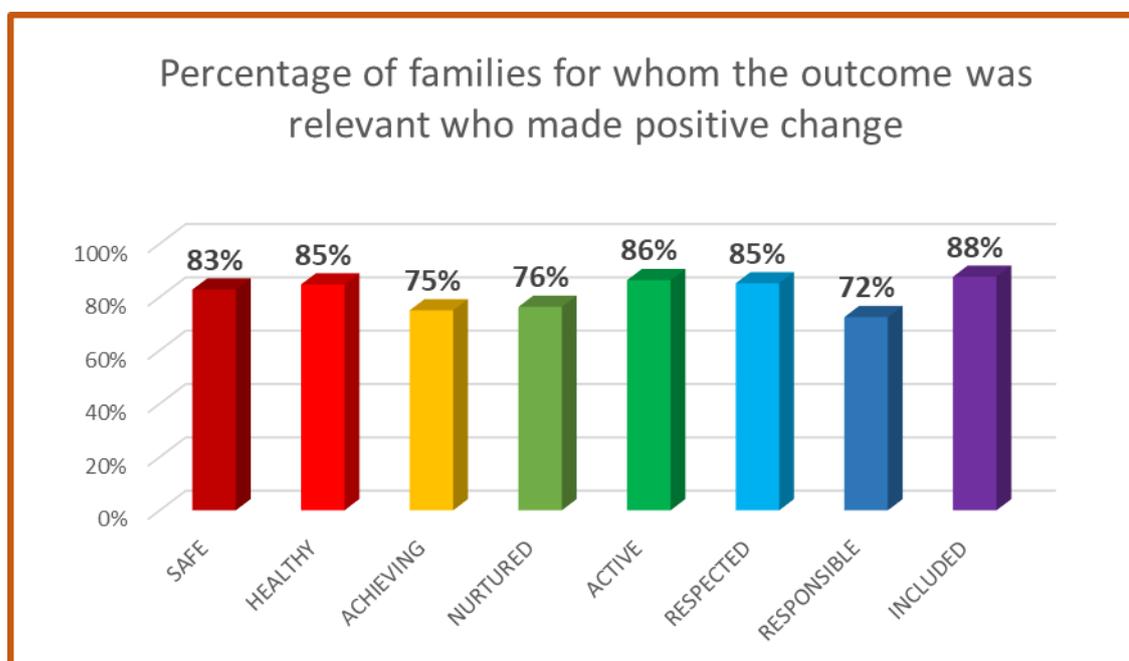
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

**Achievements and performance from April 2019 to March 2020 (continued)**

Between April 2019 and March 2020 Circle provided whole family support to **540** families including families who accessed group work support. Those families consisted of **825** children, **632** parents and **12** kinship carers. We also worked specifically with **21** Young People who accessed our Young Persons' Service.

Circle staff record the work that they do with families using the GIRFEC national framework consisting of eight overarching outcomes, using the recognised 'SHANARRI framework to evidence "journey travelled" for the families. Each outcome has a number of indicators and each project records against indicators relevant to that project and the families they are working with.

The following table represents the percentage of families, for whom service has ended in the year and for whom the outcome was relevant, who have made positive change against that outcome. Service ended for 471 families over 2019-20, of which 405 had outcomes recorded. This year's figures show an improvement in positive outcomes for families against six of the eight indicators when compared to 2019/2020 figures.



***Circle is committed to the personal development of the families we work with.***

Throughout the year we fundraise to pay for seasonal trips during the Easter, summer and October school breaks for the families we work with. This provides much needed fun days for families and helps make positive memories and experiences for the children. Some of those were:

- Beach trips
- Visit to Newhailes House
- Park Day and Scavenger Hunt at Holyrood Park
- Children's Festival Show
- Dynamic Earth
- Swimming Trips

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<sup>1</sup> The eight wellbeing indicators are commonly referred to by their initial letters – SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected, Included)

### **Achievements and performance from April 2019 to March 2020 (continued)**

Thirty-one children and young people attended the Scripture Union Holidays over the summer. This is a partnership between Circle and the Prison Fellowship and is organised and staffed by Scripture Union. This is an opportunity for children and young people to experience a residential trip with fun outdoor activities and experiences.

In December, with donations of toys and gifts from Cash4Kids, Inverleith Church, Pilrig St. Paul's Church and St. Mary's Church in Hamilton, we were able to ensure that all children and young people had gifts to open at Christmas. The Salvation Army again provided much needed food parcels.

Circle provides practice learning opportunities for social work students who are supervised by staff who are Practice Teachers. Between April 2019 and March 2020 Circle provided 11 placements of which three were observational opportunities. The social work students came from Edinburgh, Stirling and Napier and The Open University.

Between April 2019 and March 2020 Circle held three Staff Development Days for the whole staff team. External inputs included: Solution Focused Approach (Peter Doran, Ex trustee and CEO of Harmeny School), Maintaining Professional Boundaries (Avril McIvor, University of Glasgow) and Working with Personality Disorders (Dawn Harris, Psychologist). The Staff Development Days also provide an opportunity for our whole organisation to come together, learn from one another and build cohesion across our geographically dispersed teams.

In April 2019 Circle carried out an organisation wide training audit. The feedback gathered from the staff team was used to define the minimum level of training we expect staff to complete and to identify priority areas of development that we will encourage and support staff to participate in. The key finding of the audit was that staff felt that we needed a refresh of our Solution Focused Practice Approach as this is key to the ethos of the organisation. To facilitate this refresh, we arranged a training day where the key principles of the approach were revisited and re-embedded in our work. This was supported by an additional day of Solution Focused Supervision training for all managers and senior staff.

We also identified a need for training in working with families affected by domestic violence. This need was highlighted by the independent evaluation into our Women's Outreach Service, where 85% of the women interviewed were victims of domestic violence. To improve our practice in this area 12 members of staff, both managers and family outreach workers, have completed Safe and Together training in the past year. Safe and Together is a child centred approach that focuses on the safety and wellbeing of victims of domestic violence and their children.

Two further members of staff gained accreditation in PuP (Parents Under Pressure). The overarching aim of the PuP program is to help parents facing adversity develop positive and secure relationships with their children. Within this strength-based approach, the family environment becomes more nurturing and less conflictual and both parents and children learn to self-regulate their behaviour. We now have a total of 11 PuP Practitioners across the organisation's services.

Circle had a strong year in fundraising and income generation. We welcomed new funders including The Walter Scott Trust, KPE4, The Tampon Tax Fund, the Challenge Fund, Muirhouse Housing Association, Henry Smith Charity and East Lothian Council. We organised our largest ever fundraising event, The DARED Challenge, which had 154 participants who did a run every day in June in support of Circle.

In January 2020 the Management and Board held an Away Day. The themes for the day were: Getting the best from our Board, Being the best we can be (organisational structure and working practices) and Improving beneficiary participation in the management and governance of Circle. A theme that emerged on the day was the need to embed change in a way that is appropriate and positive for the whole organisation.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

**Achievements and performance from April 2019 to March 2020 (continued)**

Between April 2019 and March 2020 one Trustee, Ian Barcroft, resigned from the board. Ian had been a long-standing trustee and had brought a wealth of experience, knowledge and commitment to the organisation. He played a key role in the foundation and development of Circle and was also instrumental in the setting up of our Lanarkshire base.

**COVID-19 impact on services**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant challenges for Circle in continuing to deliver vital services to children and families that have been disproportionately affected. Families with younger children have been particularly impacted by the lockdown restrictions and the closure of services such as schools, nurseries and other supports. Despite the challenging circumstances Circle has continued to provide vital services to some of the most vulnerable families across central Scotland.

Since the start of the pandemic restrictions, all project staff and managers, and most of the core services team, have been working remotely. This will continue until it is safe for us to return to offices and other workspaces. The transition to remote working has, for the most part, been seamless and staff have adapted quickly. All project staff, and managers, already had laptop computers and remote access to all files and resources. Circle's in-house IT support has been invaluable during this transition.

Family outreach services have been keeping in constant contact with families helping them to manage their situation by ensuring they have all the basic necessities of life. There has also been a lot of innovative remote working with children and families including using videoconferencing platforms and social media. The following are examples of the support being offered remotely to families: family support & advice, reducing social isolation, arts, crafts and educational activities, emotional support, support for parenting, food parcel or shopping delivery, home energy support, financial assistance, digital support and pharmacy pick up.

As restrictions have eased we have commenced outdoor socially distanced meetings and activities with families and other beneficiaries of our services. We will continue to work diligently to support families while following government guidelines and minimising risk to our service users and staff.

Our group work services, both for families and fathers, have moved online with groups meeting via videoconferencing platforms. The focus with families involved in group work has been to support them in their own homes and this is a change in emphasis of the projects that is necessary at this time.

Circle will continue to follow government guidelines as we emerge from lockdown, innovating and modifying services to continue supporting families while taking account of risks to staff and families. Any return to normal working will have to be phased and we will need to put the necessary protections in place to protect staff and clients. To this end we are carrying out ongoing dynamic risk assessments of all premises and practices.

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**SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

	Un- Restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Un- Restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations	130,721	10,849	141,570	67,430	32,370	99,800
Charitable activities	20,000	1,311,960	1,331,960	-	1,416,101	1,416,101
Investments						
– bank interest	2,714	-	2,714	3,127	-	3,127
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<b>Total income</b>	153,435	1,322,809	1,476,244	70,557	1,448,471	1,519,028
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<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds	15,039	-	15,039	11,547	-	11,547
Charitable activities						
- costs	7,956	1,412,964	1,420,920	10,535	1,553,031	1,563,566
- pension scheme adjustment	(11,220)	-	(11,220)	5,000	-	5,000
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<b>Total expenditure</b>	11,775	1,412,964	1,424,739	27,082	1,553,031	1,580,113
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<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	141,660	(90,155)	51,505	43,475	(104,560)	(61,085)
Fund Transfers	(66,778)	66,778	-	(42,279)	42,279	-
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Net movement in funds for the year	74,882	(23,377)	51,505	1,196	(62,281)	(61,085)
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<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April	114,621	59,048	173,669	113,425	121,329	234,754
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Fund balances carried forward at 31 March	189,503	35,671	225,174	114,621	59,048	173,669
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

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**SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**As at 31 March 2020**

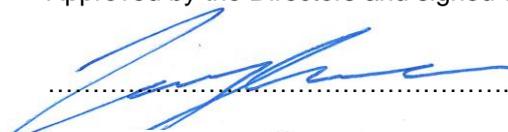
	£	2020 £	£	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		13,691		11,382
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	130,984		94,810	
Cash at bank and in hand	489,148		556,391	
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		620,132		651,201
<b>Liabilities: amounts due within one year</b>	179,904		223,714	
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Net current assets		440,228		427,487
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<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		453,919		438,869
<b>Liabilities: amounts due after more than one year</b>		228,745		265,200
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<b>Net assets</b>		225,174		173,669
		=====		=====
<b>Funds</b>				
Unrestricted funds		189,503		114,621
Restricted funds		35,671		59,048
		-----		-----
		225,174		173,669
		=====		=====

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The summarised financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements which were approved on 27 July 2020 and do not constitute the charity's statutory financial statements. The statutory financial statements have been audited and the auditors' opinion was unqualified. The statutory financial statements have also been submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The summarised financial statements include additional information extracted from the Director's Report, but not the full text of that report. For further information, the full annual financial statements, the auditors' report on these financial statements, and the Directors' Report should be consulted. Copies of the audited financial statements can be obtained by writing to Circle.

Approved by the Directors and signed on their behalf by:-

  
 ..... Garry Luke, Director

  
 ..... Grant Sugden, Director

31 August 2020

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE  
DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF FAMILY SERVICE UNIT SCOTLAND  
KNOWN AS CIRCLE**

We have examined the summarised financial statements of Family Service Unit Scotland (known as Circle) for the year ended 31 March 2020.

**Respective responsibilities of the Directors and auditors**

The Directors are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the Directors' Report, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

We also read the other information contained in the Abstract of the Financial Statements and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements. The other information comprised the Achievements and Performance report.

**Basis of opinion**

We conducted our work in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our report on the charitable company's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements and on the Directors' Report.

**Opinion**

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Directors' report of Family Service Unit Scotland (known as Circle) for the year ended 31 March 2020, and it complies with the applicable requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006, and the regulations made thereunder.

We have not considered the effects of any events between the date on which we sign our report on the full financial statements, 18 August 2020, and the date of this statement.



**CHIENE + TAIT LLP**  
**Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor**  
**61 Dublin Street**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH3 6NL**

1 September 2020

**DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

The auditor has issued unqualified reports on the full annual financial statements and on the consistency of the Directors' Report with those financial statements. Their report on the full annual financial statements contained no statement under sections 498(2)(a) of the Companies Act 2006.