

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE - WORCESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1079216

Details

Other names THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2000-02-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Bridge Counselling Service
The Angel Centre
1 Angel Place
Worcester
WR1 3 QN

Phone 01905731850

Website www.bridge-counselling-worcester.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) THE RELIEF OF PEOPLE WITHIN THE CITY OF WORCESTER WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED, HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROVISION OF ADVICE AND COUNSELLING B) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE SAID CITY BY THE PROVISION OF COUNSELLING TRAINING.

Activities: The Bridge provides counselling for people with a wide range of emotional, relational and personal difficulties. It aims to give the widest possible access to the service through a 'pay-what-you-can' policy. The Bridge receives referrals from a range of sources, including GPs, statutory and non-statutory bodies, churches and self-referrals.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CITY OF WORCESTER
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£26,338	£26,526	-	-
2024-12-31	£31,482	£31,990	-	-
2023-12-31	£36,520	£30,556	-	-
2022-12-31	£26,917	£28,197	-	-
2021-12-31	£15,922	£17,564	-	-
2020-12-31	£23,283	£24,182	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DOCTOR LINDA WATSON	Chair	2011-07-12
Anthony Russell-Pattison		2022-01-01
Jacci Hunt		2026-01-21
Neil Andrew Carey		2019-11-30
Professor Sandra Nicholson		2026-05-07
SARAH STANSFIELD Mrs		2013-04-16
The Reverend Canon Dr Stuart William Currie		2019-06-26

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE - WORCESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1079216

Accounts

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE, WORCESTER

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Bridge Counselling Service – Worcester
Charity Number: 1079216
Address: The Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN

Trustees

Linda Watson (Chair)
Sarah Stansfield (Treasurer)
Stuart Currie
Neil Carey
Anthony Russell-Pattison
Rhiannon Lewis (resigned 1/12/25)
Kirstie Valentine (resigned 23/10/25)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Bridge is governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 1 October 1999 as amended by deed of amendment dated 20 December 1999. Under this document the Trustees have power to appoint new Trustees as required. A deed of rectification dated 24 May 2019 has corrected the original trust and deed of amendment to correct some anomalies which had been identified.

Financial Review

Total income for the year amounted to £26,338 and total expenditure was £26,525 giving rise to a small deficit of £187. There was some very generous funding from some local churches and the year was aided by receiving grants of £6,736 from Laslett's Charities towards the cost of the Clinical Lead. The largest expenses were payments to the Clinical Lead and Administrator, which in total amounted to £14,185. The rent for the office and counselling rooms was £4,971 this year, which remains a very competitive rent for these facilities in the city centre. This is lower than previous year as no rent was charged for one quarter as part of the process of change of ownership of The Angel Centre. Supervision costs were £2,205 of which £1,065 was refunded by trainee counsellors. It remains the trustees' view that supervision is an essential investment to enable The Bridge to provide a fully professional service and support the work of the counsellors. The income from client donations decreased by £1,643 to £5,560. Other Donations were £17,947 including grants of £6,736. The Gift Aid of £1,506 was for the 12 months to 31 December 2024. A further claim to 31 December 2025 which was submitted in March 2026 is shown in debtors.

The Trustees maintained the policy of holding approximately 3 months operating costs in reserve. Based on budgeted costs for 2026 this would require a reserve of £7,300. Reserves are currently higher than this, which is helpful as a deficit is currently budgeted for 2026 which would reduce reserves but there should still be in excess of 3 months expenditure remaining. It is also hoped some successful grant applications can be made again during 2026.

Objectives and Activities

The Charitable Objects are: *a] the relief of people within the city of Worcester who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress in particular by the provision of advice and counselling, and b] the advancement of education within the said city by the provision of counselling training.*

The trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During 2025 the Bridge continued to provide counselling sessions for people with a wide range of emotional, relational and personal difficulties. These included depression and anxiety, some of which is classified as social anxiety related to gender issues and/or arising as a result of the aftermath of the pandemic and lockdown that affected many young people negatively.

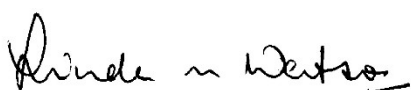
The service depends on the support of a committed team of professionally trained counsellors and trainee counsellors who give their time voluntarily to the Bridge and other volunteers who assist as receptionists and provide administrative support. All clients self-refer, usually following recommendation from a wide range of sources, including GPs, statutory and voluntary bodies in Worcestershire, and churches, but there are also many self-referrals as a result of advertising and word of mouth. The Bridge is particularly committed to making counselling available to people from lower socio-economic groups through its 'pay what you can' policy. All such payments are entirely voluntary.

The day-to-day running of the service is led by an Administrator, who is employed for 8 hours per week plus an additional 2 hours to assist with grant applications. A Clinical Lead, who is self-employed and works for up to 3 hours per week, oversees the clinical aspects of the work. During 2025 both the Clinical Lead and Administrator left, the Clinical Lead as she wished to retire and the Administrator to move onto a fulltime position. We were able to make two replacement appointments. One of our trustees was appointed as Clinical Lead and so resigned as a trustee and we recruited an Administrator.

Achievements and Performance

The number of counsellors working at the Bridge decreased during the year as some left but the increased number of student counsellors in their second year of training, introduced in 2023 served to assist our counselling capacity. During 2025, 945 counselling sessions were attended and 98 counselling assessments were provided. This was a decrease from 2024, but it was anticipated that the numbers would pick up again as some trainees would shortly be ready to take clients. There was also some uncertainty during 2025 about the future of the Bridge, at least in the current premises as the building was put up for sale. A purchaser was found but the sale process, which was still to be completed at the end of the year, was prolonged and the uncertainty caused some stress for everyone involved with the Bridge.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 08/06/2026 and signed on its behalf by



Linda M Watson
Chair of Trustees

The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester

Charity Number 1079216

Receipts and Payments Accounts For the year ending 31 December 2025

			2025	2024
Income:	General	Restricted	Total	
Voluntary Sources - Gifts and Donations				
Client Donations	5,560		5,560	7,103
Other Donations incl Grants	11,211	6,736	17,947	20,942
Voluntary Sources - Gift Aid Tax Refund	1,506		1,506	1,427
Fundraising	95		95	716
Other Income	1,065		1,065	1,090
Bank Interest	165		165	204
Total Income	19,602	6,736	26,338	31,482
Expenditure:				
Charitable Activity direct expenditure				
Clinical Lead	0	6,210	6,210	6,628
Administrator	7,975		7,975	9,126
Supervision	2,205		2,205	2,945
Training	24		24	2,090
Rent	4,971		4,971	6,553
Telephone, Postage, Stationery	1,057		1,057	996
Computer Equipment	0		0	0
Publicity	399		399	116
Electricity	1,186		1,186	1,538
Insurance	1,522		1,522	1,434
Books & Subscriptions	278		278	260
Legal Fees	0		0	0
Premises expenses	0		0	90
Miscellaneous	699		699	214
Total Expenditure	20,316	6,210	26,526	31,990
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for year	(714)	526	(188)	(508)
Cash Funds last year end	17,685	0	17,685	18,193
Cash Funds this year end	16,971	526	17,497	17,685

The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester

Charity Number 1079216

Statement of Assets and Liabilities For the year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	
		2025	2024
		£	£
<u>Cash funds</u>	Petty Cash	20	49
	Cash Account	9,655	9,962
	Gold Reserve Account	5,035	4,940
	Gold Account	2,787	2,734
		<u>17,497</u>	<u>17,685</u>
<u>Other monetary assets</u>	Gift Aid refund - 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025	1,140	
	Gift Aid refund - 1 Jan 2024 to 31 Dec 2024		1,505
		<u>1,140</u>	<u>1,505</u>
<u>Assets retained for the charity's own use</u>		0	0
<u>Liabilities</u>	Creditors - Supervision Fees	135	0
	Creditors - Clinical Lead Dec	540	0
	Rent for 3m as this is the notice period	1,657	1,657
		<u>2,332</u>	<u>1,657</u>

Restricted Fund

£526 of the restricted income in 2026 of £6,736 is carried forward to 2026 (In 2024 the income of £12,605 was fully expended in that year)

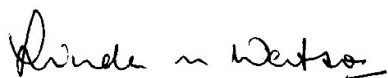
Notes

Accounting Policy. These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis and therefore the assets and liabilities above are not reflected in the accounts on page 3

Payments to Trustees.

During the year Rhiannon Lewis received £1,620 as Clinical Lead but ceased as trustee on 1/12/25
No trustees received any payments or expenses

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Date

08 June 2026

Linda Watson, Chair

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts
to the Trustees of
The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester
for the year ended 31 December 2025
set out on pages 1 to 4

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.

Douglas Dale FCA

Date 9th June 2026

D Dale
Thorneloe
14 Stephenson Road
Worcester
WR1 3JE

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE - WORCESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1079216

Accounts

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE, WORCESTER

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Bridge Counselling Service – Worcester
Charity Number: 1079216
Address: The Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN

Trustees

Linda Watson (Chair)
Sarah Stansfield (Treasurer)
Stuart Currie
Neil Carey
Anthony Russell-Pattison
Rhiannon Lewis
Kirstie Valentine

Structure, Governance and Management

The Bridge is governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 1 October 1999 as amended by deed of amendment dated 20 December 1999. Under this document the Trustees have power to appoint new Trustees as required. A deed of rectification dated 24 May 2019 has corrected the original trust and deed of amendment to correct some anomalies which had been identified.

Financial Review

Total income for the year amounted to £31,482 and total expenditure was £31,990 giving rise to a small deficit of £508. There was some very generous funding from some local churches and the year was aided by receiving grants of £6,000 from Laslett's Charities towards the cost of the Clinical Lead and £5,000 from Eveson Trust towards the cost of the Administrator. The largest expenses were payments to the Clinical Lead and Administrator, which in total amounted to £15,754. The rent for the office and counselling rooms was £6,553 this year, which remains a very competitive rent for these facilities in the city centre. This is higher than previous years a full year of the extra room to provide a larger office space and a downstairs counselling room to cater for those who cannot manage the stairs or feel more comfortable in a downstairs room. Supervision costs were £2,945 of which £1,090 was refunded by trainee counsellors. It remains the trustees' view that supervision is an essential investment to enable The Bridge to provide a fully professional service and support the work of the counsellors. The income from client donations decreased by just £126 to £7,103. Other Donations were £20,942 including grants of £11,000. The Gift Aid of £1,427 was for the 12 months to 31 December 2023. A further claim to 31 December 2024 which was submitted in April 2024 is shown in debtors.

The Trustees maintained the policy of holding approximately 3 months operating costs in reserve. Based on budgeted costs for 2025 this would require a reserve of £8,800. Reserves are currently higher than this, which is helpful as a deficit is currently budgeted for 2025 which could reduce reserves significantly. However, it is hoped some successful grant applications can be made again during 2025.

Objectives and Activities

The Charitable Objects are: *a] the relief of people within the city of Worcester who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress in particular by the provision of advice and counselling, and b] the advancement of education within the said city by the provision of counselling training.*

The trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During 2024 the Bridge continued to provide counselling sessions for people with a wide range of emotional, relational and personal difficulties. Following the successful introduction of telephone counselling and online counselling during the height of the pandemic, the decision was taken to move to a Blended Service for the future, offering counselling via telephone, online or in-person. To facilitate this, internet speed and connectivity were improved to allow online counselling from the counselling rooms at the Angel Centre.

The service depends on the support of a committed team of professionally trained counsellors and student counsellors who give their time voluntarily to the Bridge and other volunteers who assist as receptionists and provide administrative support. The day-to-day running of the service is led by an Administrator, who is employed for 9 hours per week. A Clinical Lead, who is self-employed and works for up to 3 hours per week, oversees the clinical aspects of the work. All clients self-refer, usually following recommendation from a wide range of sources, including GPs, statutory and voluntary bodies in Worcestershire, and churches, but there are also many self-referrals as a result of advertising and word of mouth. The Bridge is particularly committed to making counselling available to people from lower socio-economic groups through its 'pay what you can' policy. All such payments are entirely voluntary.

Achievements and Performance

The number of counsellors working at the Bridge decreased slightly during the year as some left to set up their own business or for personal reasons, but the increased number of student counsellors in their second year of training, introduced in 2023 serves to increase our counselling capacity. During 2024, 1196 counselling sessions were attended and counselling assessments were also provided. The fact that we decided to rent a larger room for our office and convert the previous office to a downstairs counselling room gives greater capacity for counselling.

To enable counsellors and volunteers to meet up and spend time together, we funded a social event which was very much enjoyed and enabled contacts between volunteers to be strengthened.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 23/06/2025 and signed on its behalf by



LINDA WATSON Chair of Trustees

The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester

Charity Number 1079216

Receipts and Payments Accounts For the year ending 31 December 2024

			2024	2023
	General	Restricted	Total	
Income:				
Voluntary Sources - Gifts and Donations				
Client Donations	7,103		7,103	7,229
Other Donations incl Grants	9,942	11,000	20,942	22,196
Voluntary Sources - Gift Aid Tax Refund	1,427		1,427	1,219
Fundraising	716		716	0
Other Income	1,090		1,090	5,720
Bank Interest	204		204	156
Total Income	20,482	11,000	31,482	36,520
Expenditure:				
Charitable Activity direct expenditure				
Clinical Lead	628	6,000	6,628	5,940
Administrator	4,126	5,000	9,126	8,555
Supervision	2,945		2,945	6,727
Training	2,090		2,090	13
Rent	6,553		6,553	5,165
Telephone, Postage, Stationery	996		996	1,022
Computer Equipment	0		0	0
Publicity	116		116	226
Electricity	1,538		1,538	750
Insurance	1,434		1,434	1,320
Books & Subscriptions	260		260	250
Legal Fees	0		0	0
Premises expenses	90		90	110
Miscellaneous	214		214	478
Total Expenditure	20,990	11,000	31,990	30,556
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for year	(508)	0	(508)	5,964
Cash Funds last year end	18,193	0	18,193	12,229
Cash Funds this year end	17,685	0	17,685	18,193

The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester

Charity Number 1079216

Statement of Assets and Liabilities For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	
		2024	2023
		£	£
<u>Cash funds</u>	Petty Cash	49	50
	Cash Account	9,962	10,657
	Gold Reserve Account	4,940	4,819
	Gold Account	2,734	2,667
		<u>17,685</u>	<u>18,193</u>
<u>Other monetary assets</u>	Gift Aid refund - 1 Jan 2024 to 31 Dec 2024	1,505	
	Gift Aid refund - 1 Jan 2023 to 31 Dec 2023		1,294
		<u>1,505</u>	<u>1,294</u>
<u>Assets retained for the charity's own use</u>		0	0
<u>Liabilities</u>	Creditors	0	940
	Rent for 3m as this is the notice period	1,657	1,579
		<u>1,657</u>	<u>2,519</u>

Restricted Fund

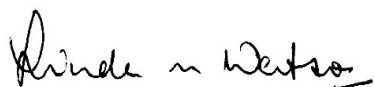
All restricted income in 2024 of £11,000 (£12,605 in 2023) was fully expended in that year

Notes

Accounting Policy. These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis and therefore the assets and liabilities above are not reflected in the accounts on page 3

Payments to Trustees. During the year Wendy Platt received Nil (2023 £4,060) for providing Supervision for Counsellors and no expenses.
No other trustee received any payments or expenses

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Date 23 June 2025

Linda Watson, Chair

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts
to the Trustees of
The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester
for the year ended 31 December 2024
set out on pages 1 to 4

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.

Douglas Dale

Date 24th June 2025

D Dale
Thorneloe
14 Stephenson Road
Worcester
WR1 3JE

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE - WORCESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1079216

Accounts

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE, WORCESTER

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Bridge Counselling Service – Worcester
Charity Number: 1079216
Address: The Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN

Trustees

Linda Watson (Chair)
Sarah Stansfield (Treasurer)
Wendy Platt (Resigned 31/12/23)
Stuart Currie
Neil Carey
Anthony Russell-Pattison
Rhiannon Lewis (Appointed 24/4/23)
Kirstie Valentine (Appointed 19/6/23)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Bridge is governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 1 October 1999 as amended by deed of amendment dated 20 December 1999. Under this document the Trustees have power to appoint new Trustees as required. A deed of rectification dated 24 May 2019 has corrected the original trust and deed of amendment to correct some anomalies which had been identified.

Financial Review

Total income for the year amounted to £36,520 and total expenditure was £30,556 giving rise to a surplus of £5,964. There was some very generous funding from some local churches and the year was aided by receiving grants of £5,000 from Laslett's Charities towards the cost of the Clinical Lead and £7,605 from Eveson Trust towards the cost of the Administrator. The largest expenses were payments to the Clinical Lead and Administrator, which in total amounted to £14,495. The rent for the office and counselling rooms was £5,165 this year, which remains a very competitive rent for these facilities in the city centre. This is higher than previous years due to taking on an extra room to provide a larger office space and a downstairs counselling room to cater for those who cannot manage the stairs or feel more comfortable in a downstairs room. Supervision costs were £6,727 of which £5,720 was refunded by trainee counsellors. It remains the trustees' view that supervision is an essential investment to enable The Bridge to provide a fully professional service and support the work of the counsellors. The income from client donations increased by £5,046 to £7,229, as more face-to-face counselling could take place and also clients are using the alternative methods of making a donation now offered by the Bridge. Other Donations were £22,196 including grants of £12,605. The Gift Aid of £1,219 was for the 12 months to 31 December 2022. A further claim to 31 December 2023 which was submitted in January 2023 is shown in debtors.

The Trustees maintained the policy of holding approximately 3 months operating costs in reserve. Based on budgeted costs for 2023 this would require a reserve of £8,800. Reserves are currently

higher than this, which is helpful as a deficit is currently budgeted for 2024 which could reduce reserves significantly. However, it is hoped some successful grant applications can be made again during 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The Charitable Objects are: *a] the relief of people within the city of Worcester who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress in particular by the provision of advice and counselling, and b] the advancement of education within the said city by the provision of counselling training.*

The trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During 2023 the Bridge continued to provide counselling sessions for people with a wide range of emotional, relational and personal difficulties. Following the successful introduction of telephone counselling and online counselling during the height of the pandemic, the decision was taken to move to a Blended Service for the future, offering counselling via telephone, online or in-person. To facilitate this, internet speed and connectivity were improved to allow online counselling from the counselling rooms at the Angel Centre.

The service depends on the support of a committed team of professionally-trained counsellors who give their time voluntarily to the Bridge and other volunteers who assist as receptionists and provide administrative support. The day-to-day running of the service is led by an Administrator, who is employed for 9 hours per week. A Clinical Lead, who is self-employed and works for up to 3 hours per week, oversees the clinical aspects of the work. All clients self-refer, usually following recommendation from a wide range of sources, including GPs, statutory and voluntary bodies in Worcestershire, and churches, but there are also many self-referrals as a result of advertising and word of mouth. The Bridge is particularly committed to making counselling available to people from lower socio-economic groups through its 'pay what you can' policy. All such payments are entirely voluntary.

Achievements and Performance

The number of counsellors working at the Bridge fluctuated slightly during the year, but replacement counsellors continue to volunteer. We decided to offer placements to an increased number of student counsellors in their second year of training, which not only supports the student counsellors but also serves to increase our counselling capacity. During 2023, 991 counselling sessions were attended and 146 counselling assessments were provided. The fact that we decided to rent a larger room for our office and convert the previous office to a downstairs counselling room gives greater capacity for counselling.

To mark the leaving of a long-standing trustee and enable trustees, counsellors and other volunteers to spend some time together, we funded a social evening with refreshments, held at a local church hall.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 29/02/2024 and signed on its behalf by



LINDA WATSON Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts
to the Trustees of
The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester
for the year ended 31 December 2023
set out on pages 1 to 4

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners

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

Douglas Dale

Date **29th February 2024**

D Dale
Thorneloe
14 Stephenson Road
Worcester
WR1 3JE

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE - WORCESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1079216

Accounts

THE BRIDGE COUNSELLING SERVICE, WORCESTER

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: The Bridge Counselling Service – Worcester
Charity Number: 1079216
Address: The Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester, WR1 3QN

Trustees

Linda Watson (Chair)
Sarah Stansfield (Treasurer)
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Structure, Governance and Management

The Bridge is governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 1 October 1999 as amended by deed of amendment dated 20 December 1999. Under this document the Trustees have power to appoint new Trustees as required. A deed of rectification dated 24 May 2019 has corrected the original trust and deed of amendment to correct some anomalies which had been identified.

Financial Review

Total income for the year amounted to £26,917 and total expenditure was £28,197 giving rise to a deficit of £1,280. There was some very generous funding from some local churches and the year was aided by receiving a grant of £5,520 from Lasletts towards the cost of the Clinical Lead and £4,250 from Worcester CC to assist in re-opening after Covid, purchase new computers and hold a 21st Celebration. The largest expenses were payments to the Clinical Lead and Administrator, which in total amounted to £12,781. The rent for the office and counselling rooms was £3,554 this year, which remains a very competitive rent for these facilities in the city centre. As the Centre re-opened following Covid the rent reductions have been withdrawn. Supervision costs were £5,660, and it remains the trustees' view that this is an essential investment to enable The Bridge to provide a fully professional service and support the work of the counsellors. The income from client donations increased by £3,834 to £5,046, as more face-to-face counselling could take place and also clients are starting to take up alternative methods of making a donation. Other Donations were £17,234 including grants of £9,770. The Gift Aid of £434 was for the 9 months to 31 December 2021. A further claim to 31 December 2022 which was submitted in January 2023 is shown in debtors.

The Trustees maintained the policy of holding approximately 3 months operating costs in reserve. Based on budgeted costs for 2023 this would require a reserve of £7,302. Reserves are currently higher than this, which is helpful as a deficit is currently budgeted for 2023 but our reserves will still exceed £7,302 if this deficit arises.

Objectives and Activities

The Charitable Objects are: *a] the relief of people within the city of Worcester who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress in particular by the provision of advice and counselling, and b] the advancement of education within the said city by the provision of counselling training.*

The trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During 2022 the Bridge continued to provide counselling sessions for people with a wide range of emotional, relational and personal difficulties. Following the successful introduction of telephone counselling and online counselling during the height of the pandemic, the decision was taken to move to a Blended Service for the future, offering counselling via telephone, online or in-person. To facilitate this, COVID safety measures were introduced in the counselling rooms and internet speed and connectivity were improved to allow online counselling from the counselling rooms at the Angel Centre.

The service depends on the support of a committed team of professionally-trained counsellors who give their time voluntarily to the Bridge and other volunteers who assist as receptionists and provide administrative support. The day-to-day running of the service is led by an Administrator, who is employed for 9 hours per week. A Clinical Lead, who is self-employed and works for up to 3 hours per week, oversees the clinical aspects of the work. All clients self-refer. usually following recommendation from a wide range of sources, including GPs, statutory and voluntary bodies in Worcestershire, and churches, but there are also many self-referrals as a result of advertising. The Bridge is particularly committed to making counselling available to people from lower socio-economic groups through its 'pay what you can' policy. All such payments are entirely voluntary.

Achievements and Performance

The number of counsellors working at the Bridge fluctuated slightly during the year, but replacement counsellors continue to volunteer. We decided to offer placements to an increased number of student counsellors in their second year of training, which not only supports the student counsellors but also serves to increase our counselling capacity. During 2022 1024 counselling sessions were offered and 165 counselling assessments. To celebrate the fact that the Bridge has been offering counselling since the start of 2000, we decided to hold a Celebratory Event in October to mark 21 years (delayed because of COVID).

In order to continue to encourage clients to make a donation if they could, and to make this as user-friendly as possible, in 2022 we introduced a card machine.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24/04/2023 and signed on its behalf by

LINDA WATSON Chair of Trustees

The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester

Charity Number 1079216

Receipts and Payments Accounts For the year ending 31 December 2022

			2022	2021
	General	Restricted	Total	
<u>Income:</u>				
Voluntary Sources - Gifts and Donations				
Client Donations	5,046		5,046	1,122
Other Donations incl Grants	9,464	7,770	17,234	13,579
Voluntary Sources - Gift Aid Tax Refund	434		434	322
Job Retention Scheme Grants	0		0	0
Fundraising	0		0	83
Other Income	4,170		4,170	815
Bank Interest	33		33	1
Total Income	19,147	7,770	26,917	15,922
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
Charitable Activity direct expenditure				
Clinical Lead	360	5,520	5,880	3,280
Co-ordinator	0		0	1,019
Administrator	6,901		6,901	5,948
Supervision	5,660		5,660	2,360
Training	105		105	0
Rent	3,554		3,554	1,872
Telephone, Postage, Stationery	1,199		1,199	772
Computer Equipment	347	2,000	2,347	0
Publicity	58	250	308	0
Electricity	464		464	99
Insurance	1,227		1,227	1,096
Books & Subscriptions	250		250	300
Legal Fees	0		0	0
Covid Measures	0		0	310
Miscellaneous	302		302	508
Total Expenditure	20,427	7,770	28,197	17,564
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for year	(1,280)	0	(1,280)	(1,642)
Cash Funds last year end	13,509	0	13,509	15,151
Cash Funds this year end	12,229	0	12,229	13,509

The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester

Charity Number 1079216

Statement of Assets and Liabilities For the year ended 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	
		2022	2021
		£	£
<u>Cash funds</u>	Petty Cash	38	43
	Cash Account	4,842	6,145
	Gold Account	4,731	4,713
	Gold Reserve Account	2,618	2,608
		<u>12,229</u>	<u>13,509</u>
<u>Other monetary assets</u>	Gift Aid refund - 6 April 2021 to 31 Dec 2021		434
	Gift Aid refund - 1 Jan 2022 to 31 Dec 2022	1,219	
		<u>1,219</u>	<u>434</u>
<u>Assets retained for the charity's own use</u>			
	Computer Equipment	2,347	0
<u>Liabilities</u>			
	Creditors	0	540
	Rent for 3m as this is the notice period	936	702
		<u>936</u>	<u>1,242</u>

Restricted Fund

All restricted income in 2022 of £7,770 (Nil in 2021) was fully expended in that year

Notes

Accounting Policy. These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis and therefore the assets and liabilities above are not reflected in the accounts on page 3

Payments to Trustees. During the year Wendy Platt received £3,480 (2021 £2,280) for providing Supervision for Counsellors and no expenses.

No other trustee received any payments or expenses

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Linda Watson

Date

24 April 2023

Linda Watson, Chair

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts
to the Trustees of
The Bridge Counselling Service - Worcester
for the year ended 31 December 2022
set out on pages 1 to 4

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.

Douglas Dale

Date 17th May 2023

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