



Trustees Annual Report

(Accompanying Receipts & Payments Accounts)

Section 1

Legal & Administrative Information

Charity Name

Essex Search & Rescue (ESSEX SAR)

**Charity Commission
Registered Number:**

1096661

**For the Financial
Year beginning on:**

01/10/2020

**For the Financial
Year Ending on:**

30/09/2021

**Charity's Principal
Address:**

PO Box 10576, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 9NY

**Description of the
Charity's Trusts:**

Governing Document:

Constitution dated 12th February 2020

Objects of the Charity:

The Charity's objects ("the objects") are to assist in the relief of suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accident or natural hazards in lowland areas primarily in the County of Essex, but not restricted to this area. In particular by providing adequate arrangements for the secure and efficient search for and rescue of any person or persons so endangered, by trained personnel.

Specific Investment Powers

None.

Section 2

Trustees and Governance:

Name of Trustee	Dates during which the named trustee acted if not for the whole period of this report	Names of Directors of any corporate charity trustee at the date of this report	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint any charity trustee
Steve Crouchman			Members
Colin Booth			Members
Martyn Tillet			Members
Steve Jarret			Members

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed by the membership as honorary officers and committee members.

Names of the Charity's
Custodian Trustees: No appointment has yet been made

Section 3

Activities & Achievements

The charity has again had a busy year, albeit not at the levels of the previous year 2019/2020 and continues to perform well operationally, despite the influence of COVID.

Essex Search and Rescue remain operationally one of the busiest Lowland Rescue teams in the UK. The team was called out 50 times during the year, which included members and the whole team being deployed to assist our fellow teams in the neighboring county of Herefordshire and London. Several of the callouts continued for 2 days or more. In total, 4550 hours were spent on operational search.

As of 31st August 2021, the charity's volunteers currently stood at 46 operational and non-operational members, a decrease on the previous year of 2019/2020.

As with the whole of the country COVID had a dramatic effect on the team and its members, especially with regards to training. The Trustees continually reviewed the dynamic changes that came into operation for COVID and planned accordingly. Member's welfare, operational response, public safety and income and expenditure were all reviewed. As a result, we were able to offer an operational response over the whole period of lock down, with training being taken online (including video conferencing). With income severely reduced and mainly limited to funds from clothing recycling, the trustees took the decision to halt all expenditure, except that which would affect our operational response and the health and safety of our members, to preserve reserves. An operational COVID response plan was drawn up by health care professionals in the team and continually reviewed for the safety of members and the communities we assist.

Our K9 unit continue to be used more on searches, with several new dogs in training. dogs and support are requested on a regular basis by Essex Police. On many occasions they are being deployed ahead of foot teams (and in some cases, without the need for foot teams to be deployed). They have managed to continue their very high level of training, with considerable personal commitment from the handlers and their families to put in regular practice. Enhanced training for K9 support was able to continue, which gives the team member the ability to carry out several functions under pressure pending the arrival of additional assistance.

Some skill areas have been affected in the year due to face-to-face training being limit, the mountain bike team membership has decreased. However, we are looking to increase the number of trained riders as soon with the lifting of all COVID restrictions. In addition, our canoe team training took an enforced break but is back on course and due to go fully operational early 2022. We were able to qualify almost every member of the team in Bank Search for those team members able to swim between lock downs. Several of the team completed National operational management courses.

The project to have drones for operational search deployment came a step nearer in the later part of the year with a large donation from a local community group and the donation of a drone kit from a construction company. We hope to have these operational early 2022.

Finance & Fund-Raising

Total draft figures for the year ending 30th September 2021 as follows.

Total Income	£28,776
Total Expenditure (inclusive of VAT)	£19,531
Total cash in hand at the end of the year	£56,921

Contribution of Volunteers

All our members are volunteers and have maintained the high level of training required to maintain an operational response during lockdown. In addition, several members have assisted in the national COVID response

The volunteers fundraising activities this year have been greatly reduced. However, they have become more creative, taking the opportunity to explore new avenues of raising funds and deliver awareness of Essex Search and Rescue in the local communities which we support and social media.

Essex Search and Rescue would not exist without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, who not only raise funds and awareness, but also make themselves available to search for vulnerable missing people and support the community 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Our volunteers also bring skills and experience they have gained in their life outside of the team to pass and readily pass these on to others with a large amount of good humor and team work.

Relationships to other parties

We continue to have an excellent relationship with Essex Police and continue to develop relationships with other blue light and emergency response organisations, Essex Fire Service, HM Coastguard, and the RNLI. We continually seek joint training and opportunities to aid and support each other. The team is also represented on the Essex Volunteers Network and local Resilience Forum.

We have had good support from several local councils in Essex, and also dementia charities, and we have had mutual training activities with them. We hope to continue these relationships.

Section 4

Policies

Reserves

It remains the Trustees' intention to hold reserve funds equivalent to the total annual running costs of Essex Search & Rescue, as well as to build further reserve funds to replace equipment as required in the future. Expenditure in 2020/2021 is anticipated to decrease from the levels in previous years and will relate in the main to ongoing operational costs, maintenance of existing equipment and replacement of limited life items.

Risks

We continue to look carefully at our financial obligations. Outgoings are regularly monitored and no expenditure is authorized unless sufficient funds are available.

Insurance

Team members are insured against personal injury whilst on callout or training via the Essex Police volunteer policy. A further policy is in place with Hiscock to cover public liability risks up to £10m, property loss or damage up to £20,000, medical malpractice, and trustee indemnity.

Health & Safety

We continue to utilize a generic Health & Safety policy, which is based upon good practice and Lowland Rescue guidance. However, we intend to develop and implement a more specific and relevant policy next year.

Prior to each search and training, an individual Health & Safety Risk Assessment is prepared, which takes in account local conditions, time of search, number of searchers available, and weather conditions. Health and Safety issues and documentation are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Other policies

The charity has adopted policies covering:

Health & Safety
Risk Management
Casualty Care
Infection Control
Diversity & Equal Opportunities
Safeguarding
Confidentiality
Volunteer membership
Bullying & Harassment
Data Protection
Continual Professional Development
Code of conduct
Use of search dogs
Search operations
TRiM.
GDPR

All new team members have signed an acknowledgement form to confirm that they have read and accepted the above policies.

Section 5

Signature and Declaration

Declaration:

I declare in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

**The trustees have approved the report above; and
Have authorized me to sign it on their behalf**

Signature:

Full Name:

Colin Booth

Position:

Trustee

Date:

16th February 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Section A

Unrestricted Funds

Name of Charity

Essex Search & Rescue (ESSEXSAR)

Charity Commission registered number

1096661

30/09/2021

Note

Breakdown using either

Or:

A0 Functional Analysis

Your own analysis x

☐

Last year's amounts to the nearest £ This year's amounts to the nearest £

A1a Donations, legacies and similar receipts

Receipts

Donations
Bag It Up
Fund Raising Events

18,822	5,613
1,508	21,975
0	0

A1b Operating activities to further charity's objects

Sale of uniform to members
Membership fees
Training fees
Interest
Petrol Refund

669	433
555	755
13	1

A1b Operating activities to generate funds

A1c Investment income receipts

Sub-total (A1a+A1b+A1c)

21,567	28,776
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A1d Other receipts (not counting as "Gross Income")

Sale of vehicle & equipment
Transfer from Restricted Fund

0	0
685	200

Total Receipts

A1

22,252	28,976
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Payments

A2a Payments for generating funds

Fund raising costs
Cost of uniform
Training costs

0	0
402	87
933	490

A2b Charitable Payments

(i) Grants paid

(ii) Charitable Activities

Travelling Expenses
VAT (to be reclaimed)
Admin cost for operations

107	0
	2,018
8,288	6,785

(iii) support costs

(iv) Management & Administration

Independent Examiner Fee & Trustee Admin

Sub total (A2a+A2b)

9,730	9,380
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A2c Other payments (not counting as "Expenditure")

Control Vehicle
Operational Equipment
Transfer to restricted fund

1,534	1,850
854	8,300
879	0

Total Payments

(A2a+A2b+A2c)

A2

12,997	19,531
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Net of receipts/(Payments)

A1-A2

Cash funds last year end

9,255	9,445
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Cash funds this year end

38,221	47,476
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A1-A2+A3

47,476	56,921
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Essex Search and Rescue

On accounts for the year
ended

30th September 2021

Charity no
(if any) 1096661

Set out on pages

1-4

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/09/2021.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signed:

Date:

17/03/2022

Name:

Charlotte Firkins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FPFS

Address:

2 Plume Avenue

Maldon

CM9 6LD