



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

Period end date

From

01 January 2020

To

31 December 2020

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Sussex Search and Rescue

Other names charity is known by

SusSAR (abbreviation of Sussex Search and Rescue)

Registered charity number (if any)

1097190

Charity's principal address

C/o Haywards Heath Police Station

Bolnore Road

Haywards Heath

Postcode

RH16 4BA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Daniel Wood	Chairman		
2	Jackie Deacon	Treasurer		
3	Andrew Nixon	Secretary		
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitutions
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Association of members
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Trustees are elected by members annually at the Annual General meeting held in January

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity works in partnership with Sussex Police.

The charity is managed by the Honorary Officers, namely the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer, together with the support of an elected executive committee.

The charity is a full member of the wider national network of the Association Lowland Search and Rescue.

All members are police vetted before being accepted as operational within the team, this vetting is renewable every three years.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

-To relieve the suffering and distress among persons endangered by accident or natural hazard by the provision of a trained search and rescue unit to assist Sussex Police and other agencies.

-To preserve and protect good health by the provision of education and training in outdoor safety and skills with a view to promoting the safe enjoyment of outdoor recreation.

-To promote research into the science of search and rescue and to disseminate the useful knowledge gained, for the benefit of the public.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The trustees have continued with their duty having due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lock down during 2020, the team attended 51 search call outs for vulnerable missing people, primarily in Sussex but also including assists with other neighbouring counties as requested. This is an 11% increase on 2019 and amounted to over 2,900 hours in searching for vulnerable missing people.

The team continued to be available throughout the pandemic, however this did cause challenges in the management and deployment of the team with regard to the safety of the members, external contacts and the missing persons.

The committee developed a continuously evolving pandemic protocol to mitigate these risks and ensured appropriate levels of PPE were available and distributed to all active members.

With the challenges of the pandemic, it was important for the team to remain in contact and stay competent to provide the service above, much of our training had to go digital and train online. Several core skills were covered, including: theory of search techniques, navigation, first aid and water safety.

The team also trained in some specialised areas including:

- Suicide Prevention Training
- Search Planning

The Chief constable of Sussex accepted our request to become our Patron and offered her help to develop the Teams capabilities and secure funding for our work.

In 2020 we were included on the Sussex resilience forum, which held regular meetings throughout the pandemic to best serve the local community.

As a member of the Association of Lowland Rescue we annually provide to them and to the police, statistics on all incidents attended, these are built up nationally with the intention of improving search planning for future incidents.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The member volunteers committed to a total of 6,347 hours in 2020 proving their commitment and dedication continues to be the greatest asset of the organisation.

During 2020, through our presence on the Sussex resilience forum, the team were also called upon to assist with the distribution of PPE throughout Sussex to care homes and care providers.
A total of 28 members donated 537 hrs and drove 9,979 miles to deliver 1,727,315 items of PPE and 550 laptops to local schools.

It was recognised that although 2020 was an unprecedented time the members continued to go above and beyond with their commitment and dedication, the trustees are hugely appreciative of this and recognised that this commitment is not possible for our members without the ongoing support of their families.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2020 and despite the pandemic, several of our 51 call outs were multiple days in length and we also experienced instances of same day call outs.

Several of the search incidents involved working with multi emergency agencies with positive feedback from paramedics following a casualty carry out and 13 incidents were out of county assists.

Added to this the team engaged with the local pandemic support delivering PPE to care providers and laptops to schools.

Membership

The team finished the year with a membership number of 71 which included

- 51 operational members
- 9 non-operational members
- 10 new members under training
- 1 support member

Maintaining our aim of sustaining a membership of 70 personnel.

Training

Training during 2020 was a challenge due to the coronavirus pandemic, however the team managed to spend 1,177 hours training.

The team also trained

- Ten new Search Technicians
- Two Search Planners

Equipment

A new control vehicle was donated to the team, increasing our vehicle fleet to 3 vehicles.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity finished the year in a healthy financial position with £48k of unrestricted reserves which are held in order to fulfil future charitable aims and objectives, build a fund towards future replacement of the vehicles and to be sufficient to cover a minimum of 12 months operational expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not Applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Fundraising in 2020 was difficult due to the pandemic, with the majority of events being cancelled or postponed. Although, some talks did go digital.

Regardless of this, the fundraising team secured three main grants in 2020.

£8.9k unrestricted from the National Lottery Awards, £5k restricted from Brighton and Hove Council and £2k from the Sussex Crisis Fund.

The Brighton and Hove Council grant was allocated out to members as a contribution towards their mileage when delivering PPE throughout Sussex, this is a cost usually born by the members themselves.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Date

29.10.2021

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sussex Search and Rescue
(registered number 1097190)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sussex Search and Rescue for the period ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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.

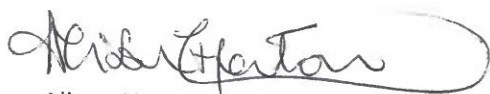
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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:



Alison Henton, FCA

18 Lucastes Lane
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1LD

Date: 16 September 2021



Bringing the missing home

SUSSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Receipts				
Donations	26,096	2,700	28,796	34,779
Interest Received	14	-	14	20
VAT Refund	2,655	177	2,831	2,567
Asset and investment sales				
Sale of assets	-	-	-	800
Total receipts	28,764	2,877	31,641	38,167
Total Income	28,764	2,877	31,641	38,167
Payments				
Operational equipment	7,632	611	8,242	8,718
Vehicle repairs, maintenance and fuel	2,107	1,602	3,709	4,301
Member training	217	-	217	2,463
Fundraising equipment & Marketing	576	-	576	553
Insurance	3,214	-	3,214	3,273
Other expenditure	5,915	-	5,915	4,760
	19,661	2,213	21,874	24,067
Asset and investment sales				
Purchases of assets	5,782	-	5,782	2,058
Total payments	25,444	2,213	27,656	26,125
Net of receipts (payments) for the year	3,320	664	3,984	12,042
Reconciliation of funds in the year				
Cash funds at previous year end	44,393	1,713	46,105	34,063
Net income (expenditure) for the year	3,320	664	3,984	12,042
Cash funds at year end	47,713	2,377	50,089	46,105


Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2020

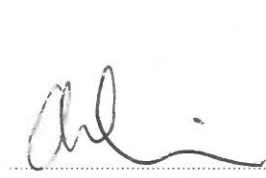
	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Cash funds				
Operations account	3,832	-	3,832	5,812
Paypal Account	13	-	13	63
Vehicle replacement account	43,867	2,377	46,244	40,230
	47,713	2,377	50,089	46,105
Net assets and liabilities	47,713	2,377	50,089	46,105

Assets retained for the Charitie's own use.	Fund to which Asset Belongs	Cost 2020 £	Cost 2019 £
Vehicles	Unrestricted	56,651	56,651
Computer Equipment	Unrestricted	5,172	4,208
Radio Equipment	Unrestricted	2,448	2,448
Radio Equipment	Restricted	25,736	25,736
Medical Equipment	Unrestricted	3,643	1,371
SAR Equipment	Unrestricted	4,580	4,580
Water Equipment	Unrestricted	6,557	4,640
Water Equipment	Restricted	1,680	1,680
Other Equipment	Unrestricted	1,244	1,244
		107,711	102,558

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Date:


Daniel Wood
Chairman


Andrew Nixon
Secretary


Jackie Deacon
Treasurer