

SIMEON CENTRE COUNSELLING SERVICE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Registered Charity Number: 1098428

SMITH & GOULDING LIMITED

Chartered Accountants

& Registered Auditors

2-4 Southport Road

CHORLEY

SIMEON CENTRE COUNSELLING SERVICE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number 1098428

Principal Address

Victoria Hall
Knowsley Street
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 2AS

Trustees

Mr R Bradley
Mr P Green
Ms C Greer (resigned on 18/06/2024)
Ms J Orrell
Ms E Lewis
Mr N Mallanaphy (appointed on 06/12/2024)
Mr R Hurst (appointed on 06/12/2024)
Mr K Illingworth (appointed on 01/01/2026)

Independent Examiner

Smith & Goulding Limited
Chartered Accountants
2-4 Southport Road
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1LD

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Simeon Centre Counselling Service is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust dated 27 March 2003 (revised in 2008 and 2016) and constitutes an unincorporated charity. It is a non-profit making organisation and its trustees are volunteers. The Charity was registered on 8 July 2003.

Recruitment and Training of Trustees

The trustees are appointed by the members of the organisation at the Annual General Meeting and the trustees have the power under the governing documents to co-opt individuals who support the objects of the organisation to fill vacancies on the Board of Management. As part of their induction, new trustees are provided with information about the charity, the management structure, its history and working practices. In addition, they are also provided with extracts of the Memorandum and Articles of Association plus information from the Charity Commission regarding the duties and responsibilities of trustees.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives and activities of the Charity are to offer confidential counselling in a safe accepting environment to all members of the community irrespective of race, religion or gender. We offer a generic counselling service that is free at point of need. The charity aims to provide a one to one counselling service in a peaceful, safe and accepting environment where people can take time out to talk freely without fear of being judged.

Public Benefit

We have referred to and have complied with the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future events. In particular the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set, both through the use of unrestricted and restricted funds where appropriate.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The past financial year has seen many changes to our charity, centred around our move from the Greater Manchester Mental Health and NHS England contracts, which we have held since 2014.

As these public bodies committed to ceasing contracts with voluntary services across England and Wales for the provision of counselling services from January 2025, in line with their new NHS Talking Therapies Manual, Simeon Centre Counselling Service and its partners have seen the loss of their core source of funding leaving an uncertain future for our joint community benefit society.

As we look to new sources of income for the next financial year, we have the benefit of twelve months running costs, thanks to the financial prudence and forward-thinking of our management teams, including the current and former heads of service, and our outstanding board of trustees.

While our source of clients came to an end via Greater Manchester Mental Health and NHS England, our new partnerships with Bolton at Home (via their Manbassadors and UCAN Centre programmes), Bolton GP Federation, Emmaus, Funding Futures, and other community benefit services across our town have meant that we have still been able to support 500 clients this year.

As we look towards another year, filled with exciting challenges and change, we look back with deep gratitude to the over fifty volunteer counsellors who have supported the charity across this transition. Their caring and empathic nature, and generosity of spirit has meant the people we serve has not experienced any drop in the exceptional service they graciously deliver to them all.

Volunteers

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025, we have had 69 volunteer counsellors in total:

- Qualified = 53 (76.8%) **14 more than the previous year
- Placement = 16 (23.2%) **14 less than the previous year

Volunteer Attrition

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025, we lost 31 volunteer counsellors:

- Qualified = 21 (67.7%) **15 more than the previous year
- Placement = 10 (32.3%) **1 less than the previous year

A breakdown of the reasons volunteer counsellors stopped seeing clients for us is as follows:

- Bereavement = 1 (3.2%)
- Employment = 13 (41.9%)
- Health Issues = 4 (12.9%)
- Length of Service = 4 (12.9%)
- Moved Out of Bolton = 3 (9.7%)
- Placement Completed = 4 (12.9%)
- Other = 2 (6.5%)

Client Supported

Due to system changes, we do not have a breakdown of the total sessions offered between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. However, we are proud to report that we have supported 500 clients during this time with one-to-one counselling each being offered a minimum of ten appointments.

Future Contracts and Relationships

The past financial year has seen many changes to our charity, centred around our move from the Greater Manchester Mental Health and NHS England contracts, which we have held since 2014.

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Tribute to Long-Term Volunteers

The very core of Simeon Centre Counselling Service is the team of volunteers who make our work to support the local community possible. We would like to pay a special tribute to the following:

- Alena, who has volunteered for us since March 2010
- Joan, who has volunteered for us since March 2010
- Fozia, who has volunteered for us since February 2014
- Wendy, who has volunteered for us since April 2016
- Ana, who has volunteered for us since June 2018
- Christine, who has volunteered for us since October 2018

In addition to our long-standing team of volunteer counsellors, we would also like to pay a special tribute to the trustees on our board who have stood by and supported our charity for many years:

- Bob, who has been a trustee since August 2008
- Jill, who has been a trustee since August 2008
- Peter, who has been a trustee since August 2008
- Emma, who has been a trustee since November 2016

Post Balance Sheet Events

28th January 2026:

We have continued to support the people of Bolton over the current financial year with access to high-intensity, one-to-one counselling, thanks in significant part to our new partners and referral routes. We have been proud to have also extended our offer to those living in neighbouring areas.

Thanks to the help of Beacon Counselling, Bolton CVS, Provincial Walsh Trust, and our funding consultant from CHIS, we have explored all funding options on how we can continue to effectively run this much needed mental health service that has been supporting the town we love since 1999. Unfortunately as things stand our path forwards sadly remains an uncertain one.

As our financial reserves concluded at the end of December 2025, our Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to cease operations (once our current clients completed their sessions), effectively putting the charity into stasis while we continue to work hard to find new outcomes.

We would like to pay a special tribute to Lisa Howarth (Service Coordinator) and Robert Hurst (Board of Trustees) who have done outstanding work leading our grass roots fundraising and media campaigns, and to Daniel Livesey (Bolton at Home – Manbassadors) who has done a substantial amount to raise awareness of our predicament on social media platforms.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Summary of the Year

The financial results for the year and the position at the year-end are set out in the following Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Risk

The trustees recognise that the most significant risk of the charity is that of loss of external funding. Contracts between 1point and the NHS are reviewed on a regular basis, usually covering a three-year period. Each renegotiation period represents a risk for 1point and hence for the Simeon Centre. Due to the nature of our work, a sudden cessation of service is likely to have detrimental impact on our clients. Furthermore, should current funding cease, the most likely source of alternative income would be via a grant. Application procedures for grants tend to be lengthy and drawn out, further impacting on the ability of the charity to continue providing services.

Reserves Policy

To effectively manage the risk described above, the trustees have reviewed the reserves policy this year and decided that reserves equal to one year's running costs should be set aside. The amount will be reviewed regularly.

Investment Policy

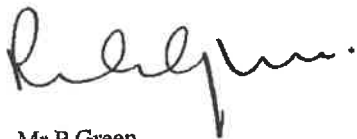
Investment decisions are made by the management committee. Currently, surplus funds are held in a high interest savings account. Surplus funds are held for the purposes of maintaining reserves as described above.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:



Full Name: Mr P Green
Position: Chair

Date: 30 January '26

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS TO THE TRUSTEES
OF SIMEON CENTRE COUNSELLING SERVICE**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Simeon Centre Counselling Service for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on the following pages.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustees' accounts carried out under s.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 2011 Act.

Independent examiners' statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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

I have completed the 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 s. 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records;

Attention is drawn to the disclosures relating to post balance sheet events in the Trustees' Report in respect of the Charity ceasing operations until such a time as new sources of funding become available.

I confirm that I 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.



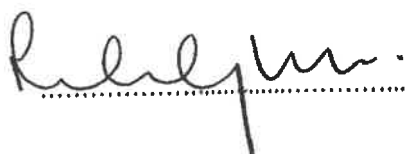
Andrew Simm BSc FCA
Chartered Accountant
SMITH & GOULDING LIMITED
2-4 Southport Road
CHORLEY
Lancashire PR7 1LD

Dated: 30/1/2026

SIMEON CENTRE COUNSELLING SERVICE
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	2024
Monetary assets				
Cash at bank - current account	27,827	-	27,827	21,025
Cash at bank - deposit account	52,125	-	52,125	78,761
Cash in hand	314	-	314	463
	<u>80,266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,266</u>	<u>100,249</u>
Non-monetary assets				
Fixed assets				
The Charity's fixed assets which are stated at cost are maintained on a regular basis and are all in good condition.				
Fixtures, fittings and equipment (acquired from 2013 to 2025)	7,618	-	7,618	7,238
Other assets				
Debtors - 1 point	-	-	-	21,450
Liabilities				
Rent	2,333	-	2,333	1,167
PAYE	-	-	-	1,942
Pension	-	-	-	247
Telephone	250	-	250	240
Expenses claims	-	-	-	-
Accountancy fees	3,075	-	3,075	1,500

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 Jan 26 and were signed on their behalf by:

 Mr P Green, Chair

SIMEON CENTRE COUNSELLING SERVICE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	2024
Receipts				
Donations	2,069	-	2,069	1,582
Gift Aid claims	-	-	-	-
Provision of counselling services	71,550	-	71,550	79,560
Deposit interest	3,364	-	3,364	3,187
Total receipts	76,983	-	76,983	84,329
Direct charitable expenditure				
Supervision and training	23,512	-	23,512	16,732
Travel	0	-	0	3,522
Professional subscriptions	120	-	120	1,848
Other	37	-	37	714
Other support costs				
Wages and pension	51,445	-	51,445	45,686
Rent, rates and water	14,000	-	14,000	12,940
Insurance	807	-	807	776
Telephone	2,049	-	2,049	2,019
Postage and stationery	847	-	847	723
Sundries	747	-	747	716
Meeting expenses	128	-	128	94
Accountancy	1,575	-	1,575	1,032
Professional fees	551	-	551	512
Consultancy services	-	-	-	-
Equipment purchases	189	-	189	998
Repairs and maintenance	959	-	959	928
Total payments	96,966	-	96,966	89,240
Net receipts for the year	(19,983)	-	(19,983)	(4,911)
Bank and Cash Balances at 31 March 2024	100,249	-	100,249	105,160
Bank and Cash Balances at 31 March 2025	80,266	-	80,266	100,249

NOTE: These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments Basis and comply with the appropriate legal requirements for this basis to apply.

