

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Charity number 1103903

A Company limited by guarantee number 05089663

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Hope Centre - St Helens

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees		Position	Dates
	Mr J Ryan	Chair	
	Rev J P Fell		
	Mr J Cooper		
	Mr T Kelly		
	Rev C Lawrenson		
	Mrs J Webster		
Project Director	Mrs A Metcalfe		
Company Secretary	Mrs B Barton		
Charity Number	1103903		
Company Number	05089663		
Principal address	The Hope Centre St Helens Christian Life Centre Atherton Street St Helens Merseyside WA10 2DT		
Bankers	Yorkshire Bank 6 Bridge Street St Helens WA10 1NF		
Independent Examiner	Jane Williams MAAT Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action Beacon Building College Street St Helens WA10 1TF		

The Hope Centre - St Helens

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The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

THE TRUSTEES:

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Rev J P Fell
Mr J Ryan
Mr J Cooper
Mr T Kelly
Rev Craig Lawrenson
Mrs J Webster

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

The Hope Centre is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. As such its activities are overseen by a board of trustees who are also directors of the company. However the day to day running of the charity is overseen by the Hope Centre Director and the Chair of Trustees.

The date of incorporation of the charity was 31 March 2004 and the date of appointment of the first Trustee was 4 April 2004. Currently the Board is made up of six members. The Hope Centre continues to rent its office and training accommodation from St Helens Christian Life Centre. In addition Hope House, the homeless day centre is leased from St Helens Borough Council.

Trustees on appointment are provided with the Charity Commission documentation for trustees, outlining roles and responsibilities. In addition briefing papers are provided from the management to all new trustees.

Trustees are normally appointed for a period of 3 years after which they must be re-elected at the next annual meeting. The Trustees Board has met on four occasions during this year for full Board meetings with a further 3 meetings for Business Planning strategy meetings.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:

A Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for determining the Hope Centre's strategic direction, approving capital and revenue expenditure and monitoring performance and is comprised of a Chair, and six other Trustee Board Members.

The trustees of the Charity are drawn from a range of backgrounds with some being members of the founding church whilst others are not. Trustees members are drawn from within the third sector, the financial and business sectors. All the Trustees give their time voluntarily.

An Executive Management Team is comprised of the Chair of Trustees and the Project Director who assume overall responsibility, with support from staff team leaders, for executing the strategic and financial plan.

Finance and Administration is managed by the Hope Centre Director with the support of two volunteers and finance issues are reported to the Management Team and Trustees.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

Finance and Administration staff manage the day to day financial position of the Charity as well as producing end of year accounts, liaising with banks and auditors. All monitoring of service users/learners achievement of project targets and completion of monitoring reports are carried out by this team. Major reports for funders are collated and produced. The significant volunteer data base is also managed within the team as are new applications for funding under the direction of the Hope Centre Director.

Operational Management is delegated by the trustees to the Project Director and 3 team leaders responsible for Hope House homeless services, the Training department, the Foodbank and Engage Community projects. The Project Director has overall responsibility for the operational and performance management and quality framework and responsibility for priorities through specific project development, service delivery, tailored interventions and training, service improvements, joint networking practices and general administration.

Four Operational Teams of staff and volunteers support the Project Director. Training, Advice, Advocacy and Support Services, Hope House - Homeless Provision; Engage Community Projects; St Helens Foodbank. Finance and administrative staff who report directly to the Hope Centre Director. Regular operational meetings take place with the Project Director & Team Leaders who then report to the Executive Management Team (E.M.T). General staff meetings take place monthly and staff training away days bi-annually.

RELATED PARTIES:

The Hope Centre was established by the St Helens Christian Life Centre (Elim Pentecostal Church) from which the Charity rents its accommodation and to whom a contribution is made for facilities, such as copiers, and utilities. In addition the Church makes donations to support the work of the Charity.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Management Team and Trustees continually consider the impact of our financial position and stability at their regular Trustee meetings. Attention continues to be focused on reviewing the current strategies and planning effectively for the future. New services and training opportunities continue to be a focus as is promoting the work in order to attract longer term funding. The Trustees, in conjunction with the Director, identify and review major risks which may affect the stability and successful operation of the Charity. Action is then planned and implemented, as far as possible, to minimise or remove the identified risk. The Trustees, together with the Director continue to review the long-term future viability of the Charity, particularly with a view to reducing dependence on a single stream of funding and report to trustees. Long term sustainability continues to be a challenge as longer term funding opportunities and increased donation income are sought. Financial viability is continually monitored and addressed throughout the year in management team meetings and at trustee's meetings.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and anti-fraud policies. Measures are also in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, service users, learners and visitors.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

OBJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE:

Public Benefit Statement

The principal aim of the Hope Centre – St Helens is to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the borough of St Helens.

The Trustees believe that the services provided by the Hope Centre - St Helens are compliant with the Charities Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and the public benefit is further exemplified in the following statements of Activity and Performance, and Future Development Plans.

Objects of The Hope Centre - St Helens

The Charity's objects (revised December 2011) contained within the governing document are:

1. to advance the christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the statement of belief appearing in the schedule hereto in St. Helens and in such other parts of the United Kingdom as the Trustees may from time to time think fit and in so doing to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the Trust
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.
 - a) For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; homelessness or poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards).
3. to prevent or relieve poverty in St. Helens by providing: education, training and support services to individuals in need

Hope Centre Strategic Objectives

The Hope Centre, in partnership where appropriate, will work with vulnerable and/or disadvantaged people to:

1. empower them for positive behaviour change and improved life choices
2. improve their social, economic, physical, psychological and spiritual well-being
3. prepare them for and help sustain their independent living
4. encourage their responsible participation in society

The Hope Centre employs an inclusive approach and provides relevant social care services and training for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and adults, and does not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion, belief or age.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

HOPE CENTRE COVID RESPONSE 2020-21

Introduction

As the pandemic unfolded in the UK, the lockdown which impacted provision of service happened as the financial year drew to a close. The following therefore is a brief insight into the final few weeks of planning for the Hope Centre response to the unfolding crisis.

We envisaged that all our services would be impacted in one way or another, and this proved to be the case. However, the Hope Centre was designated by the local authority as an essential service for two main areas of our work: Foodbank and homeless services.

The Church, St Helens Christian Life Centre, from whom the Charity rents space for its administrative offices and some projects: Training, Engage, Foodbank, Breathe, closed for all church services and related activities at the commencement of national lockdown. As a result of this and the designation of the Charity as an essential service, the building was solely used by the Charity, which collaborated with the Church to ensure all COVID guidance was followed.

In final weeks of March 2019 the Project Director and Team leaders developed a series of action plans and risk assessments for the emerging situation. Inevitably the work on these continued into the new financial year. Therefore a more detailed report on these will be given in the next annual report.

Impact on the people we support.

It was envisaged that those who we work with would be affected by changes to services however, the following services continued into and throughout the pandemic:

- Foodbank
- Homeless services (Hope House)

Other services and projects ceased during the national lockdown.

Impact of Virus Control Measures

All clients and service users were impacted by the changes to services:

Foodbank clients:

1. affected by social distancing requirements, and use of PPE
2. Impacted by a reduction of some distribution hubs in some parts of the borough (not at the Hope Centre base however because of our sole use)
3. Impacted slightly by a temporary reduction in volunteers, though this was resolved

Impact on Staff

As an essential service, all staff were encouraged to work from home as much as possible, apart from the requirement to be in the buildings to carry out essential work.

The Government furlough scheme was explored as it was envisaged this scheme might be needed in due time. Staff were informed of this possibility

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

Impact on Volunteers

The Hope Centre has a heavy reliance on volunteers for many of its services. Many of these are amongst the older population and it was anticipated that we would lose some of these through the shielding and lockdown requirements.

As an essential service we had close collaboration with the St Helens Council COVID response team and the local Voluntary Community Action organisation (former CVS) which developed a COVID volunteer response. This later mitigated the loss of volunteers.

Impact on Charity's operations and activities

Plans for some activities to cease were developed, as they were not essential at that time and the volunteers were not available: e.g. Engage, Breathe.

Homeless services were in process of redesign as the financial year closed to fit the prevailing need and COVID restrictions.

Impact on fundraising

As most of the Charity's income is from grant funding rather than donations, no serious impact was envisaged in the short term. Funders however were contacted to discuss the impact and ensure compliance with terms and conditions.

Financial Security

Our primary intent in the early days was primarily to focus our attention on redeveloping services, the Charity believed that our financial security would not be at significant risk, dependent on the timescale of the crisis. This was kept under constant review.

Summary

The Project Director led a team effort to ensure those services which needed to continue remained fit for purpose in the new crisis situation. In addition, consideration for the large number of volunteers meant the team contacted volunteers and assured them of our continued support and provision of PPE etc for them if they wished to continue. Inevitably those who felt the need to step back for health purposes etc, did so with the Charity's full support.

As an essential service in our locality, there was a rapid response to redesign services to meet the new situation. This was done very successfully by a concerted team approach, with full support from Trustees. The Charity entered the crisis well prepared and flexible in its responses, proving its worth as an essential service and adding value to the effectiveness of the community, voluntary, private and statutory COVID partnership.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

ACTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021

Volunteers

Our volunteers are a major part of enabling support and delivery of all our projects. They represent a wide range of local churches, other organisations and individuals from our community who have heard of our projects and want to give back. Specifically they volunteer in Foodbank, Hope House, Baby-Basics, Make Lunch and in supporting the administration of the Hope Centre. COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions have affected many of our team volunteers. Some had to self-isolate and projects had to adapt. This has meant a reduction in the number of volunteers involved in our projects this year but we have endeavored to keep in touch and support many of our volunteers throughout the pandemic.

Total Volunteers 109 (27 of them volunteer at the Christmas homeless provision)

Total Volunteer Hours 9451

Value to Hope Centre £82,412

HOPE CENTRE TRAINING

Coronavirus Impact on courses & delivery: April 2020-March 2021

When the government imposed a countrywide lockdown on 23rd March 2020, delivery of all courses stopped with immediate effect. To support vulnerable beneficiaries we established a Hope Line to maintain regular contact with Breathe learners, those attending Digital Skills & Computer Club, English & Maths and was quickly extended to support others whom was felt would benefit from regular contact during unprecedented times.

For some this was the only outside contact they received and the weekly call was a great boost for some of the participants.

Breathe Mental Health – Breathe Employability

We transitioned the course to on-line delivery, via Zoom, with limited success. The overall feeling is the course content is best suited to face-to-face delivery. All aspects of delivery has been liaised with the funder.

Digital Skills: Delivered to a maximum of 10 learners

UK Online Basics - This course is offered to adults 18+ who have had very little or no experience of using a computer. This is a student-led, tutor-supported course allowing the learners to gain basic computer skills at their own pace. Once this course is completed, the learner is encouraged to progress onto *Beyond Basics*

Beyond Basics - This course is offered to learners wanting to refresh their computer skills and (re)introduces the learner to Microsoft packages, social media etc allowing them to explore the internet and give them confidence in work searches. Again, this is student-led tutor-supported allowing the learner to progress at their own pace.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

Computer Club – an opportunity for learners who have completed the above courses and who want to access the internet and continue to use the Hope Centre facility. This has been set up to free spaces for those on the waiting list.

The above sessions have been paused and re-established when social distancing guidelines means delivery can be carried out safely for everyone concerned.

English & Maths: Basics Skills – delivered at the Hope Centre by St Helens College tutor.

Due to the impact of lockdown and social distancing measures St Helens College stopped delivery of its sessions at the Hope Centre – this will be revisited 2021-2022 when social distancing measures are eased.

Pop-Up Project: Recognising an opportunity to support local school-children struggling to home study, because of lack of equipment, a pop-up project was set up January 2021 in partnership with Bringing Youth Technology & Education [B.Y.T.E.] and St Helens Council. The Hope Centre acted as a delivery point for pre-loved laptops & devices – these were regularly collected by B.Y.T.E. who wiped them of any sensitive data, uploaded relevant MS Office programs and delivered to schools. The feedback from this support was extremely positive, showing that not all projects have to be costly or long-lived to make a positive impact.

HOPE HOUSE - ADVICE, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT CENTRE

Hope House has continued to support those who are experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of homelessness throughout the year. The service was adapted during the pandemic to ensure that it was COVID-19 safe for our staff, volunteers and service users. We have supported 483 individuals, through the service this year, with service users engaging in 14523 interventions. Our volunteers have continued to be invaluable to the work of the Centre. Even at reduced numbers, they have donated 1213 hours of their time during the pandemic.

BASIC NEEDS

During COVID-19 it was recognized that the practical support provided was going to be essential for service users to be able to manage the changes. Social distancing guidelines led to the adaptation of the service. A breakfast pack and hot lunch were provided at the door each day, for those who were struggling, resulting in 9002 meals provided over the year. For those in their own tenancy, a weekly non-perishable food hamper was provided to ensure they were able to access food but did not have to attend the service each day. In total, 1948 hampers were given to service users who identified as at risk of homelessness.

In addition, the team worked in partnership with the Local Authority and other charity partners to provide a packed lunch, a hot meal and drinks to those rough sleepers who were temporarily accommodated by the Local Authority, through the Everyone In scheme. 3364 hot meals and 3369 cold packed lunches were provided under this scheme.

The personal care service availability had to be reduced but was still offered to those with no alternative. The shower facilities were used on 110 occasions, with the laundry facilities accessed on 92 occasions. Toiletries and items of clothing provision with 1444 items given to service users.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

ADVICE AND SUPPORT

The support service had to be adapted due to the need to reduce the numbers of people in the building at any one time. 1533 support interventions were provided to service users during this year.

Outputs

- 82 signposting and advice interventions provided
- 662 pieces of mail received for service users without a stable address
- 528 phone calls to housing, health and benefit organisations
- 220 internet café sessions

Outcomes

1. 74 accessed emergency accommodation support
2. 46 were referred into temporary accommodation
3. 59 accessed emergency benefit support
4. 13 maintained contact with drug and alcohol treatment
5. 48 occasions of support to access other organisations' support including, the Domestic Violence team, Citizen's Advice Bureau and Probation

DEVELOPMENTS

The need for social distancing led to a pilot scheme to extend the opening hours of the Centre to include evenings and weekends. This pilot highlighted the need for social support with 80 service users visiting the Centre on 497 occasions during the extended hours.

ST HELENS FOODBANK

St. Helens Foodbank continues to be very active with 2514 vouchers fulfilled and having fed a total of 6,023 people; 3,825 Adults; 2,198 Children over the past year. This is a decrease of 2,436 people attending foodbank from the previous year.

We believe this was partly due to small community foodbanks opening during the lockdown in March around St Helens.

At the beginning of the Covid 19 outbreak, quite a few of our regular volunteers had to self-isolate but we were able to liaise with the VCA and recruit temporary volunteers. We were therefore able to keep all our Foodbank Hubs open where people could come to redeem their 3 day emergency food hampers. We opened a new Hub in December and now have 5 hubs which run over 5 days Monday to Friday.

As many of our Referral Agencies staff now had to work from home and not able to issue the red vouchers, we responded by inviting our agencies to become E-Referral Agencies enabling them to offer their clients foodbank vouchers by E Code which could be emailed or code texted to their clients. This procedure has worked really well with many agencies accepting this offer.

From 23rd March 2020 our wrap around service had to change due to Covid 19 restrictions and to help keep our volunteers and clients safe.

Social distancing was implemented and volunteers were issued with PPE and hand sanitiser in line with government guidelines. Limited access of foodbank by clients and food hampers given at the door to restrict contact in some instances

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

For foodbank families who had to self-isolate or shield, home delivery of food hampers was implemented.

We currently have over 50 regular volunteers who have worked selflessly over the past year in the Hubs, warehouse, delivery and administration. They are the mainstay of the foodbank and without them could not function. Their commitment, hard work and compassion are to be commended.

We have also been able to employ a Volunteer Coordinator from November 2020 which has been a huge help and support during this difficult time.

Our food stocks are very good as donations continued to flow in all through the pandemic. We also now include fresh bread, butter, fruit and veg in our food hampers.

Our greatest challenge is still the storage of food as it is spread out over various locations around the town, which can cause logistical problems. It would be ideal to have all our stocks in one storage warehouse.

ENGAGE PROJECT 2020-21

Hope Centre objectives state we will respond when we can to prevent or support families in poverty and to encourage social inclusion. The way our projects deliver has been adapted during the past year to provide their beneficiaries with the services they need, whilst complying with social distancing rules.

The Hope Centre Baby-Basics project is a response to the growing need for practical help for new mothers and families unable to afford the basic essential and equipment necessary to look after new born babies. This project is delivered in partnership with many local churches and partner agencies within the town.

88 Baskets have been given out during this year.

Make Lunch

Make Lunch is an event to help families who are on low income/or in receipt of free school meals. It takes place during school holidays. This is delivered with the support of St. Helens Local Authority.

During the pandemic this support has taken the form of delivery of hampers and holiday activity packs to support families in their own homes, rather than through the provision of holiday activity clubs. Over the 6 school holidays 477 family meals were provided including 1527 portions. On average 29 families accessed the provision each holiday with 35 adults and 69 children receiving food support.

HOPE CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS DURING 2019-2020

The major challenge for the Charity continues to be the raising of funds. The Management Team and Trustees considered the impact of this at their regular meetings. Hope Centre aims to be stronger, more agile, more innovative and adaptable to the new funding environment and to continue to develop new opportunities, investigate new potential partnerships and programmes, which can attract new funding.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

Partnerships this year:-

Health & Wellbeing Partnerships
Crisis – Skylight Team
Citizens Advice St Helens
St Helens Job Centre
St Helens Third Sector Consortium
Salvation Army Lifehouse [St Helens]
Housing Options
St Helens Social Inclusion & Disability Network
Asda & Tesco's
Green Pastures
TLG
Baby Basics

CHANGING COMMUNITIES – CIC (The CIC was officially formed on 30th March 2017).

The vision statement is “We will positively help change communities and improve people’s lives”, with the tag line “Changing Communities – one life at time”.

The mission statement is “We shall positively support people and communities to help them develop their sense of belonging, increase local involvement and help them have the confidence to make new life choices”.

The CIC Directors and Management Team have focused delivery on ‘the Restore – St Helens Project’.

The Restore Project Key Information – To provide opportunities for volunteering, to learn and to train, To redirect items of furniture destined for landfill, restore or upcycle household good.

1. 10 tonnes of Disposal Diversion through furniture, repair, reuse, upcycling and refurbishment activities.
2. 34 volunteers
3. 6570 volunteer hours
4. Partnership working with Hope Centre, Social Services, Housing Associations (for example)

As part of the Hope Centre development process, a volunteer skills audit is being undertaken. It is hoped this may provide volunteers with customer service, furniture restorations skills and communications skills to staff the project.

The Christian ethos of the project with the God of restoration and hope at the centre of the project, is restoring the lives (practically and spiritually) of those involved.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Report of the Board of Trustees

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

The Charity's principal source of funding continues to be grant funding. The Trustees and Management team aim to maintain financial stability and considerable attention has therefore been given to identifying new income sources as well as encouraging one-off donations. In addition to grants from the local Council, local and national funders are approached to invest in our projects. Major funders in 2019-2020 include:

St Helens LA
Henry Smith
St Helens Charitable Trust
Coalfields
WEA – Training Grant
Garfield Weston
L.C.V.S

Like most charities, the Hope Centre's major challenge is to secure grant funding. This obviously affects the services it can provide. The Board has been aiming to achieve a balanced budget and to increase our current level of unrestricted reserves. This will provide a safety net that will allow us to maintain basic services.

INVESTMENT POLICIES:

The charity currently has no investments, or investment income

RESERVES:

The Hope Centre needs reserves to protect its core work and ensure this continues. In addition, reserves provide a level of funding that enables us to plan for future developments, and to provide a safety net to protect against risks such as unforeseen expenditure or a significant loss of income.

To achieve these objectives, trustees plan to hold at least three months expenditure in "Unrestricted Funds". The Hope Centre is meeting this objective currently and trustees aim to maintain this level in future years. However, they recognise circumstances may change and will monitor and review this policy and the level of reserves held annually.

In addition to Unrestricted Funds, we hold Restricted Funds from funding income for projects to achieve specific results. There is also a designated fund (Hope House 2) which is money set aside with the aim of developing and purchasing the new Hope House building in the next few years.

At year end our Unrestricted Funds were £64,801 and the Hope House 2 Fund had a balance of £67,000.

There have been no serious incidents to report in this financial year. Our auditors have worked closely with us to minimize risk and strengthen financial processes and procedures.

RESULTS:

The results for the year and the charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

A resolution was passed by Trustees at the last Annual Meeting on 1st December 2020 to seek new auditors. The opportunity would be put out to tender in the ensuing months with a view to appoint new Independent Examiners in time for the end of financial year 2020-21. The Charity appointed Jane Williams of Greater Merseyside Accountancy Service as its examiner for this year, subject to annual review.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31st March 2021

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Hope Centre - St Helens for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provision relating to small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 26th January 2022

Mr John Ryan
Chair

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Independent Examiner's Report to the members of
The Hope Centre - St Helens
for the year ended 31 March 2021

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Hope Centre - St Helens for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of The Hope Centre - St Helens (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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'; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action
Beacon Building
College Street
St Helens
WA10 1TF

26th January 2022

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	(2)	53,148	135,362	188,510	74,829
Charitable activities	(3)	-	201,585	201,585	112,818
Other income		1,111	-	1,111	920
Investment income	(4)	24	-	24	12
Total		54,283	336,947	391,230	188,579
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	-(5)	(33,506)	(205,197)	(238,703)	(220,203)
Net (expenditure) / income		20,777	131,750	152,527	(31,624)
Transfers between funds	(15)	(62,150)	62,150	-	-
Net movement in funds		(41,373)	193,900	152,527	(31,624)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		106,174	47,005	153,179	184,803
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		64,801	240,905	305,706	153,179

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	(2)	41,805	115,842	157,647
Charitable activities	(3)	-	30,000	30,000
Investments	(4)	12	-	12
Other Income		920	-	920
Total		<u>42,737</u>	<u>145,842</u>	<u>188,579</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	(5)	(13,972)	(206,231)	(220,203)
Net (expenditure) / income		<u>28,765</u>	<u>(60,389)</u>	<u>(31,624)</u>
Transfers between funds	(15a)	(7,938)	7,938	-
Net movement in funds		<u>20,827</u>	<u>(52,451)</u>	<u>(31,624)</u>
Fund balances at 1 April 2019		85,347	99,456	184,803
Fund balances at 31 March 2020		<u>106,174</u>	<u>47,005</u>	<u>153,179</u>

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	(10)	335	10,187
Total fixed assets		<u>335</u>	<u>10,187</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments	(12)	20,632	34,587
Cash at bank and in hand		318,340	141,174
Total current assets		<u>338,971</u>	<u>175,761</u>
Current liabilities:			
amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	(13)	33,600	32,769
Total current liabilities		<u>33,600</u>	<u>32,769</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)		<u>305,371</u>	<u>142,992</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>305,706</u>	<u>153,179</u>
Funds			
Restricted Funds	(15)	173,905	47,005
Designated Funds		67,000	-
Unrestricted funds		64,801	106,174
		<u>305,706</u>	<u>153,179</u>

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2021

the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and

the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, the the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The notes on pages 12 to 23 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the trustees on 26th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

John Ryan (Chair)
Trustee

Company registration number 05089663

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA	152,527	(31,624)
Depreciation	9,852	19,056
Investment Income	(24)	(12)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	13,955	(8,448)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	832	9,553
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	-	(802)
	<u>177,142</u>	<u>(12,277)</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment income	<u>24</u>	<u>12</u>
 Net increase/(decrease) in cash:	177,166	(12,265)
Total cash as at 1 April 2020	<u>141,174</u>	<u>153,439</u>
Total cash as at 31 March 2021	<u>318,340</u>	<u>141,174</u>

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Hope Centre, St Helens Christian Life Centre, Atherton Street, St Helens, WA10 2DT.

1.1 Accounting convention

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities"; Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006 as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The accounts are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

1.3 Charitable funds

- (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

1.4 Incoming resources

- (a) Income is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income; receipt is probable; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (b) Where income has related expenditure (e.g. Foodbank), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Income, which is subject to conditions that the charity has yet to fulfil, or which is specifically for use in a future accounting period, is treated as deferred income.

1.5 Resources expended

- (a) Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- (b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.
- (c) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

- (a) Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at their value on receipt.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the costs less estimated residual value or its expected useful life, as follows:

Long Leased property	15 years straight line basis
Fixtures & fittings	15 years straight line basis
Office Equipment	3 years straight line basis

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

1.7 Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021

2 Donations and legacies	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Donations	120,510	-	120,510	53,420
Donations from CLC	2,950	-	2,950	2,400
Donation from Local Authority	65,000	-	65,000	15,000
Donations from Trussell Trust	50	-	50	4,009
	<u>188,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,510</u>	<u>74,829</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2020	<u>22,940</u>	<u>51,889</u>	<u>74,829</u>	
Grants receivable for core activities				
St Helens Borough Council	-	-	-	15,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

3a Charitable activities	CORE Activities	Foodbank	Training & Outreach	Homeless Shelter	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Performance related grants & Contracts						
Henry Smith	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
St Helens Council rent grant	-	-	-	-	-	2,865
Training grants	-	-	-	-	-	7,853
Medicash	-	-	-	-	7,500	7,500
Sundry Grants	-	-	-	-	-	20,850
St Helens Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	-	3,750
Social, housing and employment support	-	-	-	-	-	30,000
The Steve Morgan Foundation	40,740	-	-	-	40,740	-
Homeless Link	-	-	-	16,707	16,707	-
Rathbone	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
LCVS	-	-	-	-	1,500	-
Halton & St Helens VCA	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
Imperial Harold Percival Group	-	-	-	-	2,700	-
Community Foundation	-	-	-	-	4,993	-
Pilkington Charity	-	-	-	-	4,000	-
Torus Foundation	-	-	-	-	11,500	-
Coalfields	-	-	-	5,810	5,810	-
LFC Foundation	-	-	-	-	14,000	-
Other small grants	-	-	-	8,286	11,730	-
Other Income	1,544	1,544	-	762	19,145	-
Services Provided	1,570	1,570	-	9,550	15,260	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>43,854</u>	<u>3,114</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,115</u>	<u>201,585</u>	<u>112,818</u>
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Income	<u>1,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,111</u>	<u>920</u>
	<u>1,111</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,111</u>	<u>920</u>

The Hope Centre - St Helens

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

5a Expenditure on Charitable activities	Support Costs	CORE Activities	Foodbank	Training & outreach	Homeless Shelter	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	25,418	19,498	31,621	-	87,434	163,971	138,324
Rent	- 1,167	5,999	2,050	-	6,068	12,950	9,360
Light and heat	-	-	-	-	2,997	2,997	3,730
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	1,563	1,563	7,820
Insurance	661	60	757	-	1,105	2,583	2,054
Other establishment	-	300	-	-	-	300	2,493
Other motor/travel costs	-	6	3,063	-	150	3,219	3,412
Legal and professional fees	-	604	-	17	1,303	1,924	8,863
Telephone	2,693	1,871	2,358	-	2,671	9,593	4,036
Other office costs	4,977	5	281	35	60	5,358	1,885
Depreciation	9,852	-	-	-	-	9,852	19,057
Consumables	914	8,857	7,037	-	-	16,808	3,426
Materials, equipment and resources	183	2,896	977	-	1,861	5,917	-
Promotional activities	74	-	-	300	-	374	788
Volunteer expenses	-	415	450	-	70	935	1,413
Training & outreach - tutor costs	-	-	-	360	-	360	3,960
Training & outreach - Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,582
6 Governance Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended	43,604	40,511	48,594	712	105,282	238,703	220,203

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021

6 Governance costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent Examination	-	2,610
Administration	-	-
Trustee expenses	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,610</u>

7 Trustee remuneration and expenses	2021	2020
	£	£
Total amount paid	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

During the year no trustees received any remuneration or expenses (2020: 0)

8 Employees	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	152,254	138,324
Employer's NI	8,306	-
Pension	3,411	-
	<u>163,971</u>	<u>138,324</u>

Number of employees	2021	2020
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	Number	Number
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

	2021	2020
Key management of the charity received employee benefits (including pension contributions) totalling	<u>21,217</u>	<u>18,784</u>

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021

9 Tangible assets

	Land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Equipment	Total
<u>Cost</u>	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2020	170,000	900	47,478	218,378
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>170,000</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>47,478</u>	<u>218,378</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 1 April 2020	161,216	505	46,470	208,191
Charge for year	8,784	60	1,008	9,852
At 31 March 2021	<u>170,000</u>	<u>565</u>	<u>47,478</u>	<u>218,043</u>
<u>Net book value</u>				
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>335</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>8,784</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>10,187</u>

10 Financial Instruments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at cost	<u>338,710</u>	<u>174,328</u>
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at cost	<u>33,600</u>	<u>32,769</u>

11 Debtors and prepayments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	10,000
Prepayments and accrued income	262	1,377
Other debtors	<u>20,370</u>	<u>23,210</u>
	<u>20,632</u>	<u>34,587</u>

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank Current Account	293,944	117,232
Yorkshire Savings	23,910	23,886
Hope Centre Special Projects	73	-
Cash in hand	<u>413</u>	<u>56</u>
	<u>318,340</u>	<u>141,174</u>

12 Creditors and accruals

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	33,600	29,640
Accruals and deferred income	-	3,129
	<u>33,600</u>	<u>32,769</u>

The Hope Centre - St Helens
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021

13 Retirement benefit schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

14 Restricted funds

The Income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes: The charity supports the shortfall of funding on these programmes from reserves to ensure continuity of service.

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
Food Bank	28,257	117,140	(48,690)	-	96,707
Baby Basics	-	11,257	(7,735)	-	3,522
Changing Communities	-	-	-	-	-
Building for the future	8,783	-	(8,783)	-	-
Hope House Homeless Centre	5,099	157,502	(98,844)	-	63,757
Hope House 2	-	-	-	67,000	67,000
Public Health	3,144	-	-	(3,144)	-
Local Sustainability Fund	1,591	-	-	(1,591)	-
COVID 19	-	25,308	(21,012)	-	4,296
The Steve Morgan Fdtn	-	25,740	(19,438)	-	6,302
Training Fund	16	-	(695)	-	(679)
Faith to Talk	115	-	-	(115)	-
	<u>47,005</u>	<u>336,947</u>	<u>(205,197)</u>	<u>62,150</u>	<u>240,905</u>

14a Comparative Movement in funds

	Balance at 1 April 2019	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2020
Food Bank	16,615	39,684	(28,042)	-	28,257
Baby Basics	6,059	5,738	(12,623)	826	-
Changing Communities	9,304	-	(9,304)	-	-
Building for the future	26,350	-	(17,567)	-	8,783
Hope House Homeless Centre	29,584	92,567	(117,052)	-	5,099
Public Health	3,144	-	-	-	3,144
Local Sustainability Fund	1,591	-	-	-	1,591
Training Fund	6,694	7,853	(21,643)	7,112	16
Faith to Talk	115	-	-	-	115
	<u>99,456</u>	<u>145,842</u>	<u>(206,231)</u>	<u>7,938</u>	<u>47,005</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	335	-	335
Current assets / (liabilities)	64,466	240,905	305,371
	<u>64,801</u>	<u>240,905</u>	<u>305,706</u>
Comparative at 31 March 2020			
Current assets / (liabilities)	<u>106,174</u>	<u>47,005</u>	<u>153,179</u>

16 Transactions with trustees and related parties

As three of the trustees of The Hope Centre - St Helens are also elders of St Helens Christian Life Centre and the church, The Christian Life Centre is considered to be a related party of the charity.

Related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2021 were:

Payments from The Hope Centre - St Helens to St Helens Christian Life Centre: £8,208

Receipts from St Helens Christian Life Centre: £3,175

Changing Communities C.I.C is a company that was set up by The Hope Centre to deliver certain community projects. As the majority of its board are either trustees or employees of The Hope Centre - St Helens it is considered to be a related party.

The Hope Centre - St Helens also administered payroll processing and settled amounts due totalling £15,900 (2020 -£13,155) on behalf of Changing Communities C.I.C

18 Company limited by guarantee

The Hope Centre - St Helens is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act. The liability of the members is limited to £1.