

Halton Cancer Support Group

England & Wales · Charity number 1145810

Details

Other names	Halton Cancer Support Centre, WIDNES & RUNCORN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2012-02-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Halton Cancer Support Group 21-23 Alforde Street Widnes WA8 7TR
Phone	01514235730
Email	info@haltoncancersupport.org.uk
Website	www.haltoncancersupport.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE SICKNESS AND TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH OF THE PATIENTS OF THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING WITH CANCER, THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS WITHIN HALTON, BY PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF A COMMUNITY BASED WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT WHERE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF HALTON BY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND ADVICE ABOUT CANCER.?

Activities: To provide a community based welcoming environment where emotional and psychological support is available for people from Halton touched by cancer.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Halton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£122,544	£151,275	-	-
2024-03-31	£136,856	£133,024	-	-
2023-03-31	£181,890	£147,157	-	-
2022-03-31	£103,342	£134,926	-	-
2021-03-31	£122,266	£134,318	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
GORDON BROOKES ELLIS	Chair	2012-02-29
Allison Roberts		2016-11-09
CLAIR PICTON		2011-12-20
David Merrill		2025-02-24
Kenneth Hill		2016-11-09
Kirsty Waite		2024-10-14
MARY GREGSON		2014-01-22
Paul Ian Connolly		2021-12-02
SUSAN MARY PYBUS		2011-12-20

Accounts

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948



Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Web Site: www.haltoncancersupport.org.uk

Registered Charity no.1145810

Company no. 07830948



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Greater Merseyside Community
Accountancy Service

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report

Thanks and acknowledgements

The Board of Trustees would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, groups, and organisations who have supported Halton Cancer Support Group throughout the year. Your generosity, time, and commitment have made a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

We are especially grateful to the Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) for their continued financial support through a renewed grant agreement, enabling us to sustain our services for another year.

Our sincere thanks also go to Halton Borough Council (HBC) for their Voluntary Sector Core Grant and additional funding from the Public Health Team. Despite budgetary constraints, their support remains vital and deeply appreciated.

Thank you to the National Lottery Community Fund for providing funding for our work with Children & Young People. Their players and team at the national Lottery make this possible.

We were honoured to receive a generous donation of £4,166 from Halton Crematorium, kindly nominated by Councillor Mark Dennett—a gesture that means so much to us.

We are also pleased to acknowledge Corporate Sponsorship from Coffee Time – Widnes and Empire Property Solutions, whose contributions helped us provide branded t-shirts for our annual 5K fundraising event.

In addition to grants and sponsorships, we are incredibly fortunate to receive ongoing support—both financial and in-kind—from a wide range of community members. We would like to extend special thanks to:

Masonic Goodwill Lodge, Al Lighting, LBC Fire, Mac Fire, Gaffney Sprinklers, Barrow Elect Ltd, Byrne Frodsham, Halton Housing, DWP, Kilshaw Knits, The Grange Academy, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Halton Swimming Club, St Nicholas School, Hutch Engineering Ltd, Tesco, Widnes Martial Arts, Asda, Widnes Rotary, Cutting Edge Salon (Rachel Lyons), Hale Ladies, The Lockdown Yukes, Farnworth Church, and Phoenix Fitness.

We are also deeply grateful to the many individuals who made generous donations, including:

J Carter, A Jones, L Millington, S Houghton, T Nolan, J McCann, D Graal, E Hill, L Cross, D Donoghue, D Cash, T Martindale, L Stanley, G Ellis, H Ettrick, J Jones, R Carter, D Hill, B Wheat, S Connolly, J Hill, J Pennington, and B Keller.

To our regular online donors—Mr & Mrs Carr, Mr & Mrs Wilson, Mr & Mrs Hill, and Great British Dome—thank you for your consistent and valued contributions. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the many anonymous donors who support us through our online giving platform. Your kindness does not go unnoticed.

A special mention goes to Lyn Farrow, a long-standing volunteer, supporter, and fundraiser, who has raised over £19,000 through our in-house lottery. Her dedication and meticulous organisation are truly inspiring. Thank you, Lyn and to your husband, Ken for your unwavering support.

We are grateful to The Wonky Garden for the beautiful flowers that brighten our Centre, and to Riverside College for providing manicure equipment. Our thanks also go to Widnes Tesco and Asda for their generous contributions to various events throughout the year.

Widnes Martial Arts has been a valued partner, supporting our 5K event, holding their 'Marvelous Moustachathon 2024' and proudly incorporating our Centre logo into their school clothing—thank you for your continued involvement.

We are often humbled to receive donations in memory of loved ones who found comfort in our services. Organising such tributes during times of grief is an extraordinary act of generosity. We are deeply thankful to the families and friends of D Woodward, L Ball, K Duckett, D Hill, N Leather, and K Yates for choosing to support us in this way.

Our services would not be possible without the incredible gift of time and expertise from our volunteer counsellors, therapists, and beauty students from Riverside College. Your contributions bring healing and comfort to so many.

To all our volunteers—your dedication, compassion, and hard work are the backbone of our organisation. You make a real and lasting impact in the lives of others, and we are endlessly grateful.

This year has been a testament to the power of community, compassion, and generosity. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done to support Halton Cancer Support Group and the people we serve.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Chairman's report 2024 – 2025

As we reflect on the past year, I would like to begin by expressing sincere thanks to Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board, Halton Borough Council, and Public Health for their continued support. Their funding agreements remain the cornerstone of our operations, allowing us to plan and deliver services with confidence and consistency.

We are also grateful to Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action (VCA) for their ongoing collaboration and sector leadership. Their ability to connect organisations and foster grassroots development continues to be a vital asset to our borough.

While our Annual Report includes a full list of acknowledgements, I would like to personally recognise the tireless fundraising efforts of our team and the generosity of our supporters. Your contributions, whether financial, practical, or emotional are the lifeblood of our charity.

This year has brought both progress and challenge. We have seen a significant increase in demand for professional counselling, prompting us to expand our capacity. However, this growth has coincided with the loss of long-standing funding streams, including the HBC Voluntary Sector Core Fund and partial funding for our Children & Young People program, previously funded by Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services. These changes have placed considerable pressure on our staff and resources, yet our team has responded with resilience and determination.

Despite these financial constraints, our service has remained strong. Our annual '5K The Centre Way' fundraiser in June was our most successful yet, with over 320 participants. The event continues to grow in scale and impact, thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the unwavering support of our Patron, Karl from Widnes Martial Arts, whose team played a key role in the day's success.

We are pleased that the Halton Bereavement Café, developed in partnership with Halton Libraries and Halton & St Helens VCA, has continued and become a core part of our offer. This informal and supportive space has proven to be a valuable resource for those navigating and learning to live with grief.

We also trialled meditation sessions and expanded our sleep awareness workshops, both of which received positive feedback and will continue as part of our regular offerings.

Our work with Children & Young People remains a priority. While we have secured short-term funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, we are committed to establishing a long-term agreement to ensure the sustainability of this vital work.

Counselling remains our most requested service, and we are actively exploring ways to expand our capacity to meet growing demand. The sudden closure of a major local counselling provider earlier in the year further highlighted the importance of our role in the community.

Our Respite Caravan in Talacre has once again provided a much-needed sanctuary for clients recovering from treatment, caring for loved ones, or coping with loss. The effort required to maintain this facility is considerable, but the benefits it brings are immeasurable.

In September, we welcomed two new trustees to our Board: a professional counsellor and a service user representative. Due to some personal health concerns, the need to strengthen our Board has felt more pressing this year, and we are grateful to have welcomed individuals who bring both lived experience and professional expertise to our governance.

The staff team continue to support each other practically and emotionally, especially during times of absence and holidays. As a small team, their flexibility and willingness to adapt has been invaluable, ensuring that our service remains consistent and compassionate throughout the year.

To Nicola, Karen, Sam, Maureen, and Becci, and to all our volunteers, trustees, and supporters, thank you. Your dedication makes Halton Cancer Support the safe, welcoming, and impactful place it is. I am proud to serve as Chairman and look forward to another year of growth, connection, and care.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Treasurers Report

We are indebted once again to Jane Williams for the independent submission of our 2024-25 annual accounts and for the preparation of a balance sheet for submission to Companies House.

This is the thirteenth full accounting year since our incorporation as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

We are fortunate and grateful to have been in receipt of another yearly grant from NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board, grant support from Halton Borough Council via the Public Health Department and Voluntary Sector Core Grants. We are also grateful for funds received from Halton Crematorium, The National Lottery Community Fund, Digital Arts Box, Groundwork Tesco and Widnes Rotary.

Forthcoming items of note for the accounts:

Reserves and designated funds policy

- We have designated funds of £13,400 to cover redundancy and expenses in the event of closure.
- We have designated funds for our work related to respite activity.

Mr Ken Hill
Treasurer

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Operations Manager Report

As I reflect on my ninth year as Operations Manager, I am once again filled with immense pride and gratitude. This year has been rich with connection, growth, and resilience. Our Centre continues to be a place of warmth, healing, and empowerment, and I remain deeply honoured to walk alongside our team and community through all that this journey brings.

Quarter 1: April – June

We began the year with a wonderful gesture of support from Halton Housing, who not only made a generous donation but also created a short video showcasing our work. Their invitation to visit their premises gave us a deeper insight into their community-focused ethos. It was heartening to see such alignment in values and purpose.

Our annual '5K The Centre Way' event was once again a resounding success. Chairman Gordon's words of praise echoed the appreciation we all feel for the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers. Their dedication made the day not only possible but truly memorable. The energy, the smiles, the stories shared. It was a celebration of community and compassion.

Quarter 2: July – September

Summer brought with it the vibrant Runcorn Masonic Beer Festival, which raised both funds and awareness for our work. It was a joyful event, full of laughter and generosity, and we are grateful to those who chose to support us in such a spirited way.

Recognising the emotional demands of our roles, we sourced training in stress awareness for our team. We also trialed staff therapies, offering our team a chance to experience the same care and support they so selflessly provide to others. This was a meaningful step in nurturing the wellbeing of those who give so much.

Quarter 3: October – December

I had the privilege of presenting to the Halton Borough Council, Health and Wellbeing Board, sharing our mission and the impact of our work. It was a proud moment to represent our Centre and advocate for the importance of compassionate, community-based support.

We were honoured to be chosen by Hall & Kay Fire Engineering Ltd, who held a staff fundraising afternoon across their sites. Their enthusiasm and generosity were deeply appreciated.

A particularly touching moment came when the family and friends of a much-loved client organised a 'Disco Bingo' in her memory. It was a beautiful tribute to her spirit, full of love, laughter, and friendship. Her legacy lives on in the joy she inspired.

The closure of Mind Halton was a sobering reminder of the fragility of vital services. It weighed heavily on our sector and added pressure to neighbouring counselling providers. We remain committed to supporting our community through these challenges, with compassion and resolve.

Quarter 4: January – March

We were proud to be a key partner in the Cervical Screening Living Well Bus Pilot with NHS Cheshire & Merseyside, bringing essential services directly to the community. The pilot significantly increased screening uptake, and it was a privilege to be welcomed into this initiative.

On a personal note, I undertook additional management and leadership training which was tailored to our sector. This was the first of its kind locally. I also completed Counselling Level 3 online and became a qualified Sleep Practitioner, enabling us to deliver in-house workshops. These learning experiences have enriched my ability to lead and support our team and clients.

We welcomed a Duke of Edinburgh student, Alfie, for work experience. A bright young man with a promising future. His curiosity and kindness were a joy to witness, and we hope his time with us has inspired him as much as he inspired us.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

I must end the years reflections with celebrating our wonderful collaboration with our Patron, Karl Martindale and his team at Widnes Martial Arts. This has not only strengthened our reach but also brought together diverse groups, fostering unity, resilience, and hope. The energy and commitment of the team have become a cherished part of our work, and we look forward to continuing this powerful relationship in the years ahead.

As we move forward, we do so with a deepened commitment to our purpose. The challenges remain, but so does our resolve. We will continue to nurture our team, adapt to evolving needs, and advocate for the vital role we play in the broader health and wellbeing landscape.

Our mission, aims, and purpose are closely aligned with local priorities, the needs of our community, and the principles of population health. We deliver our services with warmth, compassion, and professionalism, always staying connected to our community and our colleagues across the health and care sectors.

We will continue to build meaningful relationships with local businesses, employers, and all those invested in the health and wellbeing of our community. These partnerships are key to measuring, sustaining and expanding our impact.

To everyone who walks through our doors, supports our mission, or carries our message into the community, thank you. You are the heart of our Centre. Together, we continue to make a difference.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Impact Assessment – Halton Cancer Support

1. Strategic Context

Halton Cancer Support operates within the framework of:

One Halton Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022–2027), which prioritizes:

- Reducing health inequalities
- Supporting mental wellbeing
- Enabling people to live independently and age well.

Halton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which highlights:

- High cancer mortality rates
- Significant health inequalities, with life expectancy gaps of up to 11.7 years between most and least deprived areas
- An ageing population, increasing demand for long-term and palliative care.

(The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is the process through which local authorities assess the current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of the local population. Assessing the needs of the population involves: characterising the health and wellbeing status of the local population, identifying inequalities.)

2. Services Delivered by Halton Cancer Support

- Emotional and psychological support (counselling, peer groups)
- Holistic therapies (reflexology, reiki, relaxation, meditation, sleep hygiene)
- Carer support
- Bereavement support
- Children and young people's therapeutic services
- Community outreach.

These services directly address the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment's identified needs for:

- Community-based mental health support
- Carer support
- Reducing pressure on primary and acute care services.

3. Outcomes and Benefits

Specific quantitative data from Halton Cancer Support is available. The outcomes based on service type and strategic alignment include:

- Improved mental wellbeing for patients, carers, and those who have been bereaved
- Reduced GP and hospital visits through early intervention and emotional support
- Enhanced quality of life for people living with or affected by cancer
- Support for children and families, reducing long-term emotional impact.

4. System-Level Impact

- Supports the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) goals of integrated, place-based care
- Contributes to Halton's *Marmot Community approach to reducing health inequalities
- Aligns with NHS Halton's focus on community resilience and voluntary sector partnerships .

* What is a Marmot approach?

A Marmot Place recognises that health and health inequalities are mostly shaped by the social determinants of health (SDH): the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and takes action to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Our Services

Core Support

Listening support and information services remain a cornerstone of our offer. This year, listening support delivered both face-to-face and by telephone was accessed 846 times, while information requests were responded to 1,428 times. We continue to pride ourselves on responding with both efficiency and compassion, ensuring that every person feels heard and supported.

Psychological Support

Professional counselling remains a high priority, with demand continuing to grow. This year, we handled 1,088 counselling-related calls and assessments, leading to 1,137 scheduled counselling hours.

Our student placement programme continues to thrive, with many qualified counsellors choosing to stay on beyond their required hours. This enriches our counselling team and enhances the depth of support we can offer.

Gentlemen Only Group

Our Gentlemen Only Group has grown steadily, attracting around 10 participants weekly. The camaraderie and mutual respect among the group is inspiring, with members supporting each other both within and beyond the Centre. New members have been warmly welcomed and have quickly become active participants, openly sharing and seeking advice during difficult times.

Mixed Peer Support Groups

These groups have seen steady attendance and often require more intensive support than our gents group. Several participants this year have faced deeply traumatic experiences, and the group has become a vital space for comfort, connection, and healing—perhaps more so than before.

Wellbeing

Our Holistic Therapies, including Reiki and Reflexology, continue to be deeply appreciated, offering relaxation and emotional relief. The kindness and compassion of our therapists shine through in the feedback we receive.

We also continue our long-standing partnership with Riverside College, where beauty students provide manicures and pedicures during term time. This mutually beneficial arrangement brings pampering and joy to our clients.

Outreach & Engagement

Our outreach efforts help maintain visibility in the community and encourage referrals. This year, we delivered presentations, talks, and information stands at:

- Goodwill Lodge Charity Coffee Morning (Runcorn Masonic)
- St. Helens Hospital & Whiston Hospital (leaflet drops and service updates)
- Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group (Action Mesothelioma Wellbeing Event)
- Widnes Women's Institute
- Halton Haven – Tea at 3 (Dying Matters initiative)
- Coffee Time (local café)
- Upton Community Centre (Sure Start event)
- Green Oaks Shopping Centre (Halton Mental Health Hub)
- Murdishaw Health Centre (outreach stand)
- Space, Runcorn (Mental Health drop-in)

We also actively participate in regular network meetings, including:

- Monthly Bereavement Café
- Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance – Patient Engagement Network
- Whiston/St. Helens Hospitals – Patient Engagement Group
- Leadership Networks

We are proud to contribute to several leadership and strategic forums:

- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Health Care Partnership
- Halton Cancer Improvement Group
- VCFSE Network Forum
- Halton Compassionate Communities Network
- Halton Dying Matters Group

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Social Media & Connectivity

We continue to use social media to share updates and promote our services. Our website remains a key access point for new clients, offering online registration followed by a personal welcome call and appointment.

Email Correspondence

We use MailChimp to send branded, GDPR-compliant newsletters. Currently, 615 people are subscribed. New clients are added with consent, and anyone can sign up via our website or Facebook page.

Facebook

Our public Facebook page has grown by 10%, increasing from 1,600 to 1,762 followers over the past year. It remains a vital tool for engagement and awareness.

Private Facebook Group

Our private group, launched during lockdown, continues with over 150 members. Daily posts include greetings, puzzles, uplifting messages, and peer support. The group fosters a strong sense of community and connection.

Children & Young People

Over the past year, we received 23 new referrals for children and young people aged 5 to 17. These referrals came from parents, schools we've built strong relationships with, Halton Haven, and a breast care nurse specialist from Warrington and Halton NHS Trust.

We delivered 125 hours of therapy across seven Halton schools: Pewithall, St Michael's, Wade Deacon, The Heath, OBA, OCA, and Sandymoor. We also supported staff and a pupil at St Vincent's School in Penketh. For Halton children attending schools outside the borough, we used space in Brookvale and Kingsway Family Hubs to ensure sessions could still take place.

Referrals were made for young people who had a loved one undergoing cancer treatment or who had experienced a bereavement. 13 young people had an immediate family member (parent, sibling, or grandparent) with cancer, most often their mum. 10 young people had experienced a bereavement.

Depending on the young person's needs, the demand for our service, and our involvement with their school, some referrals were shared with Child Bereavement UK.

In July, we attended the Child Bereavement UK Open Day. It was a valuable opportunity to reconnect with their Widnes team and refresh our understanding of the services they offer.

In April, we were privileged to work with a group of 15–16-year-olds from Moorfield Tigers Rugby Club, who had recently lost a teammate to cancer. Experienced counsellors from our adult service joined us to support these sessions.

Before the session, we met with managers and parents to understand what would be most helpful and to address any concerns. This also gave us the chance to support them directly and offer reassurance.

The players' support session was incredibly moving. The young people engaged fully in activities focused on:

- Expressing emotions
- Sharing special memories
- Understanding the stages of grief

It was important for them to come together as a team, remember their friend, and support one another through their grief.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

We also provided parents with take-home information, including:

- Guidance on how teenagers may experience grief
- Tips on how to support them
- A list of local and national support services and helplines for the players

The need for this work is evident and we intend to continue to grow our capacity to enable us to support more young people.

What our clients say...

"I had someone who listened, and I could talk to, treated with respect, felt safe"

"Moving forward. I can now see a future. I know I will have bad days but with the tools I have found, I can cope"

"They have changed my life, I feel like I have hope for my future when all I could feel was dread"

"Thank you for setting me on the path to recovery and a better way to deal with my mental health"

"It was nice to talk about my illness to someone who was not involved, and it made me feel that I was coping well"

"it's really helped to have somewhere you can go outside of the home/family where you can offload"

"The staff are very helpful. There is a calm & welcoming vibe when you walk into the building. Excellent service for people needing this support in the Halton community"

"Introduced me to Tai Chi which I am taking up on a regular basis"

"it helped me to go through my dad's illness and supported me after I lost my dad"

"Counselling has been a step I would never have taken on my own initiative but has been a very, very, healing journey"

Case Studies

"I was referred to the Centre by my Breast Care Nurse.

I have accessed holistic therapies which have improved my sleep and relaxation. They have given me time and space out during treatment.

I would recommend the service to others who may benefit. If it wasn't for the Centre, I most likely would not have engaged with therapies at that stage of my treatment.

The Centre staff are welcoming and put you at ease immediately. The Centre provides a respite from treatment" Ms L – Patient.

"I come to the centre because my husband has cancer.

I access listening support & reflexology.

It has been really helpful to talk about our situation with someone outside of the family. The offer of therapy's is really good for my wellbeing and will help my husband when he has his therapy. I do not know of anywhere else within the area that offers this kind of service. I would not know where else to go, I was recommended the service by someone, and I would absolutely recommend the service.

It has been really helpful, all the staff are very friendly and approachable".

Mrs H - Carer.

"I came to the Centre for counselling sessions started after my husband passed away. I found them a good place to release my feelings of grief and work through how I was coping or not!

By summarising clearly what I poured out to the counsellor, it helped me to understand and focus on what I could actually do rather than getting bogged down on things I had no control over. I then found it easier on my bad days to pick myself up and carry on. I am so grateful for all the support throughout my sessions". Mrs B - Bereaved

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Respite breaks



Our beautiful caravan continues to be a source of peace, comfort, and joy for those we support. Nestled in tranquil surroundings, it offers a much-needed escape from the intensity of cancer treatment and the emotional toll it brings. We have been privileged to offer respite breaks to clients during their treatment providing a space to rest, reflect, and reconnect. For some, the caravan is a haven during a treatment break, a gentle pause in their path to recovery. For others, it becomes a place of healing after treatment has ended, where they can begin to rebuild and restore. And for a few, it is their final getaway, a deeply meaningful experience as they approach the end of life. We hold these moments with great reverence, knowing how precious they are to the individuals and families involved. The caravan is more than just a place to stay, it is a symbol of our care, our compassion, and our commitment to walking alongside people through every stage of their journey.

Respite breaks feedback



Client Feedback

"Prior to this break I was feeling tired and worn out, I didn't have a lot of interest in anything. I was worrying about how I was going to cope with the new chemotherapy medication and would I have any side effects from taking it. The break has given me the chance to relax, unwind and re-evaluate my situation away from normal family life in a lovely peaceful setting. Following the break, I feel so refreshed and am busy planning things for the future. Thank you"

Mr P.

"It has given me time to collect my thoughts, feelings and emotions. I start new treatment soon, so it was booked as I had become very apprehensive and nervous. We had long slow walks due to being fatigued a lot, the surroundings were lovely and made me feel very relaxed and less nervous. I quickly began to feel able to put things into perspective and gained more control over different issues" **Mrs. E**

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Trustees' report continued

Service Utilisation

Listening/support, 1-2-1 sessions	570
Listening support via telephone	270
Professional counselling sessions	1088
Counselling related assessments and calls	1206
Professional counselling sessions, via telephone	49
Support sessions for Children & Young People, telephone enquiries/planning	197
Support sessions for Children & Young People, within schools	125
Holistic therapies	244
Beauty therapies	67
Workshops and ad hoc activities	119
Gentlemen's Peer Support group	406
Mixed Peer Support group	363
Online Peer Support group members	154
Online Peer Support group engagements	6031
Information provided via telephone	1360
Ad hoc information at Centre	68
Respite breaks	
Number of nights	147
Newly Registered people (additional to existing current service users)	181
Patients	78
Carers	45
Bereaved	35
Children & Young People	23

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Public Benefit:

In identifying and reviewing these priorities, aims and objectives, plus the supporting actions and activities for the year, we have been fully mindful of the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. We have aimed to ensure that all these planned actions and activities, agreed or noted by the Trustees/Directors at our regular Committee Meetings, are for public benefit and in-line with the charities purpose.

Financial Review

The deficit of the charity for the year amounted to (£28,731) (Surplus £3,832 ~ 2024)

Reserves Policy

Details of the charity's reserves are shown in note 7a and show a figure of £83,835. This level of reserves is equivalent to 4 months of the centre's running costs. This is above the centre's aim of holding £64,000 the equivalent of 6 months running costs and this figure includes the costs of closure. However, the charity also have a designated funds policy which separates funds for the purpose of working with children and young people and also a fund for respite purposes. This amounts to £75,000. These funds are not part of the charities reserve funds.

Risk Management

The trustees actively review the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and acknowledge that the key risks relate to reduction in core funding and utilisation of the service.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

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

prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board on September 2025 and signed on behalf of the directors by:

Gordon Ellis
Chairperson

Reference and Administrative Details

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

PATRONS OF HALTON CANCER SUPPORT GROUP LIMITED

Jackie Ashley

Jim Mills

Derek Twigg MP

Dee Graal

Karl Martindale

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024 - 2025

Honourable President

Dr Mary Gibbons, Retired G.P.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairperson	Gordon Ellis
Vice Chairperson	Clair Picton
Treasurer	Ken Hill

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Mr Gordon Ellis	Retired local Business Director
Mrs Clair Picton	Halton Resident (Voluntary Sector representative)
Dr Mary Gibbons	Retired G.P.
Mr Kenneth Hill	Retired local authority worker
Mrs Susan Pybus	Ex-bank worker (of the Widnes Cancer Support Fund Association)
Allison Roberts	Reflexology Therapist
Mr Ian Connolly	Retired Salesman
Kirsty Waite	Professional Counsellor

appointed 14 October 2024

Company Secretary

Nicola Donoghue

Principal Staff

Nicola Donoghue	Operations Manager
Karen Millington	Centre Co-ordinator P/T
Becci Keller	Centre Co-ordinator P/T
Sam Gwynne	Counselling & CYP Project Co-ordinator
Maureen Isherwood	Outreach & Engagement Worker

Method of appointment

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Members of the Board are the Directors for the purposes of company law and the Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Registered address

21-23 Alford Street
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7TR

Previous Company Names

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group 01 Nov 2011 - 17 July 2023

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Albert Square
23-24 Albert Road
Widnes, WA8 6JW

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 set out on pages 16 to 25.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- ☐ state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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

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

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
St Maries
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income from:					
Income from donations	(4)	22,176	70,760	92,936	108,321
Income from charitable activities	(5)	22,937	-	22,937	21,187
Other incoming resources	(6)	6,155	-	6,155	6,879
Bank interest		516	-	516	469
Total incoming resources		51,784	70,760	122,544	136,856
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	(7)	79,915	71,360	151,275	133,024
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		(28,131)	(600)	(28,731)	3,832
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(28,131)	(600)	(28,731)	3,832
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds as at 01 April 2024		75,466	37,100	112,566	108,734
Total funds as at 31 March 2025	(9)	47,335	36,500	83,835	112,566

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.
All activities are regarded as continuing.
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 13.
The Notes on pages 20 to 25 form an integral part of these accounts.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

		2025	2025	2025	2024
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	(8)	-	10,795	10,795	14,395
Total current assets		-	10,795	10,795	14,395
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(11)	-	-	-	11,440
Cash at bank and in hand	(12)	48,932	25,705	74,637	87,162
Total current assets		48,932	25,705	74,637	98,602
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors (due within one year)	(13)	1,597	-	1,597	431
Total current liabilities		1,597	-	1,597	431
Net Assets		47,335	36,500	83,835	112,566
Funds of the charity					
Restricted Funds		-	36,500	36,500	37,100
Unrestricted funds		47,335	-	47,335	75,466
Total Funds		47,335	36,500	83,835	112,566

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2025

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 complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The notes on pages 20 to 25 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 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Hill
Director / Trustee

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

		2025	2024
		Total	Total
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA		(28,731)	3,832
Capital purchase		-	-
Depreciation		3,600	3,600
Investment income		516	469
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5)	11,440	(11,440)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		1,166	(1,150)
		<u>(12,009)</u>	<u>(4,689)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	(6)	<u>(516)</u>	<u>(469)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash:		(12,525)	(5,158)
Total cash as at 01 April 2024		<u>87,162</u>	<u>92,320</u>
Total cash as at 31 March 2025		<u>74,637</u>	<u>87,162</u>

The notes on pages 20 to 25 form an integral part of these accounts.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Basis of preparation

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

- 1.1** with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities Act 2011
- (b) The Companies Act 2006
- (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102

(d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2019)

- 1.3** The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102

- 1.4** The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Fund accounting

- (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.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 7a.

2.2 Income

- (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. caravan), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) 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.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

- (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.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

2.4 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.

Rates of depreciation

Caravan: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

2.5 Debtors

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

2.6 Cash

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.7 Creditors

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

2.8 Taxation

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

3 Transactions with trustees and related parties

No trustees received any expenses or remuneration during the period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Income from donations	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Halton Borough Council: Vol Sec Funding	-	-	-	11,500
Halton Borough Council: Public Health	-	13,000	13,000	13,000
NHS Halton ICB	-	45,760	45,760	45,760
Halton Borough Council: One Halton	-	-	-	3,000
Halton Borough Council:	4,166	-	4,166	750
Groundwork	-	-	-	750
Mayors Fund	-	-	-	11,624
Digital Arts Box	425	-	425	650
Halton Crematorium	-	-	-	7,000
TNL Community Fund	-	12,000	12,000	-
HMRC: Gift Aid	1,067	-	1,067	2,656
The Rotary Club	500	-	500	-
Donations	16,018	-	16,018	11,631
	<u>22,176</u>	<u>70,760</u>	<u>92,936</u>	<u>108,321</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Fundraising	22,937	-	22,937	21,187
	<u>22,937</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,937</u>	<u>21,187</u>
6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Contributions	5,975	-	5,975	6,879
Other Incoming Resources	180	-	180	-
	<u>6,155</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,155</u>	<u>6,879</u>

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Expenditure of charitable activities

	2025 Unrestricted funds	2025 Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
<u>Direct Costs</u>				
Salaries and NICs	7a 37,415	67,760	105,175	90,963
Payroll costs	1,075	-	1,075	879
Printing & Stationery	529	-	529	399
Telephone, IT & Postage	4,361	-	4,361	3,929
Equipment	1,025	-	1,025	1,293
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-
Fees & licenses	77	-	77	75
<u>Premises</u>				
Rent	9,153	-	9,153	9,215
Utilities	3,354	-	3,354	2,428
Insurance	1,421	-	1,421	1,198
Cleaning	1,316	-	1,316	1,654
Repairs & Maintenance	2,911	-	2,911	585
<u>Other</u>				
Bank Charges	306	-	306	303
Training	741	-	741	300
Travel	665	-	665	500
Event	1,341	-	1,341	-
Group Activities	1,662	-	1,662	5,113
Caravan Expenses	8,238	-	8,238	7,126
Counselling & Supervision	1,640	-	1,640	1,239
Marketing & Fundraising	1,991	-	1,991	1,044
Depreciation	-	3,600	3,600	3,600
Governance costs	(10) 694	-	694	1,182
Total resources expended	79,915	71,360	151,275	133,024

7a Staff costs and numbers

	£	£
Gross salaries	100,630	88,471
Employer's NI	2,488	839
Employer's Pension	2,056	1,653
	105,175	90,963

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more in the current accounting period
The average number of employees during the year was 3.4 (2024:3.4)

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Tangible assets

Cost

At 1 April 2024

Additions

At 31 March 2025

Caravan	Total
£	£
35,995	35,995
-	-
<u>35,995</u>	<u>35,995</u>

Depreciation

At 1 April 2024

Charge for year

At 31 March 2025

21,600	21,600
3,600	3,600
<u>25,200</u>	<u>25,200</u>

Net book value

At 31 March 2025

<u>10,795</u>	<u>10,795</u>
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At 31 March 2024

<u>14,395</u>	<u>14,395</u>
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Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

9 Movements in funds

	As at 01/04/2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	As at 31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	75,466	51,784	79,915	-	47,335
Restricted funds					
Caravan	37,100	-	3,600	-	33,500
TNL: Community Fund	-	12,000	9,000	-	3,000
HBC: Public Health	-	13,000	13,000	-	-
NHS Halton ICB	-	45,760	45,760	-	-
	<u>37,100</u>	<u>70,760</u>	<u>71,360</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,500</u>
Total funds	<u>112,566</u>	<u>122,544</u>	<u>151,275</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,835</u>

Purpose of restricted funds

We are grateful to all our funders who provided support to our centre running costs and salaries.

10 Governance Costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent Examiners' fee	450	300
Accountancy	100	310
Professional fees	-	414
DBS Checks	110	134
Administration	34	23
	<u>694</u>	<u>1,182</u>

11 Debtors and prepayments

	£	£
Debtors	-	11,440
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,440</u>

12 Cash at bank and in hand

	£	£
Current Accounts	32,627	40,478
Deposit Accounts	41,843	46,487
Fundraising Account	-	-
Cash in hand	166	197
	<u>74,637</u>	<u>87,162</u>

13 Creditors and accruals

	£	£
Creditors	1,597	431
Deferred Income	-	-
	<u>1,597</u>	<u>431</u>

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

13 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Income from donations	22,176	38,061	70,760	70,260
Income from charitable activities	22,937	21,187	-	-
Other incoming resources	6,155	6,879	-	-
Bank interest	516	469	-	-
Total incoming resources	51,784	66,596	70,760	70,260
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	79,915	59,164	71,360	73,860
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(28,131)	7,432	(600)	(3,600)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(28,131)	7,432	(600)	(3,600)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds as at 01 April 2024	75,466	68,034	37,100	40,700
Total funds as at 31 March 2025	(9) 47,335	75,466	36,500	37,100

Accounts

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948



Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Web Site: www.haltoncancersupport.org.uk

Registered Charity no.1145810

Company no. 07830948



Sponsored by:

gmcas

Greater Merseyside Community
Accountancy Service

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Statement of Cash flows	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20 to 25

Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report

Thanks and acknowledgements

The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals, groups and organisations who have supported Halton Cancer Support Group throughout the year.

Thank you once again to Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), whose grant agreement has provided a further year of financial support.

Halton Borough Council (HBC) have again provided the Voluntary Sector Core Grant and a grant from the Public Health Team, for which we are very grateful.

We were delighted to be chosen as one of the charities for the Mayor of Halton 2022-2023 - Councillor Mark Dennett and wife Andrea. We greatly appreciate the work they did to support our charity, raising an amazing £11,624 for our work, received during this financial year.

We later received a donation from Halton Crematorium, for which we were nominated by Councillor Mark Dennett, receiving a further £7,000.

Alongside grants and funds, we were very fortunate to receive financial and other varying types of support from organisations, groups and individuals within our community. We would like to note special thanks to:

Tesco – blue token appeal, Jaguar Landrover, Knights Choir, Widnes Martial Arts, Home Financial, Toby Carvery - Dominoes team, HBC Transport Co-ordination, Asda Foundation, Pewithall School, Widnes Rotary, Cutting Edge Salon (Rachel Lyons), Woolton Carpets, Widnes Football Forum, Halton Credit Union, Comformatic, Widnes Wonders, Highfield Hospital, Bargain Booze, Phoenix Fitness and Grosvenor Ladies.

We would also like to thank many individuals for their very generous donations: S Warr, D Graal, S Connolly, A Lloyd, L Farrow, L Millington, H Nott, M Russell, P Byrne, H Richardson, S Dunwoodie, J Pennington, L Hawkins, M Hardman, A Hughes, J Carter, M Naughton, L Cross, S Barry, S Bailey, E Ettrick, M Carr, K Millington, V Melling, B Wilson, J Morris, B McCarron, H Birch, D Green, D Renshall.

We received regular monthly support via our on-line giving platform. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Carr, Mr & Mrs Wilson and Mr & Mrs Hill for their regular contributions.

Many of our on-line donors are anonymous. Please accept our sincere thanks if you have donated on-line. We will continue to utilise all donations in the best possible way.

L Farrow is a long-term volunteer, supporter and fundraiser who facilitates the inhouse lottery. Lyn has raised over £17,500 since starting this which she takes great care and organisation in running. Thank you, Lyn and husband, Ken, for your support and thanks to all who join in.

We are very thankful for the support from local small business owners, and some large corporate businesses who have promoted our charity and provided help and support in a variety of ways. Much thanks to:

Nando's who repainted our therapy rooms, installed new lighting and updated one of our toilets.

Jak, from Empire Property Solutions who repaired a leak, updated one of our bathrooms and very kindly provided a full bespoke adapted bathroom for a young family we were supporting – All free of charge.

The Wonky Garden for providing beautiful flowers for our clients and Centre decoration, Riverside College for providing manicure equipment and Widnes Tesco and Asda for providing items for various events.

Widnes Martial Arts for their involvement in various ways including their great support with our annual 5K fundraising event, and branding the school clothing with our Centre logo.

We are sometimes in receipt of donations following the passing of someone who has found support in our service. It is difficult to imagine the strength it takes to organise collections and donations in memoriam, and we are very grateful to the family and friends who choose to do this for our charity. Thank you to the family and friends of: F Carter, J Jones, and M Hassey.

Our service is very blessed with the gift of time and skills from many people. We could not offer counselling, therapies and beauty treatments without our wonderful volunteer counsellors, therapists and beauty students from Riverside College. Your work means so much to so many.

To our many volunteers, your efforts, commitment and contributions make a real difference in people's lives. We applaud you.

A final recognition to the team at Widnes Market who provide space in their wonderful market for us to hold a monthly fundraising stall.

As you can see, it has been a year filled with compassion and kindness. We can never thank you all enough for all you have done and the help and support this has provided for many people in our community.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Chairman's report 2023 – 2024

I would like to begin by noting thanks to Halton Borough Council, Public Health, and Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board for their continued support. Their contractual and grant agreements are the foundation on which we plan and operate.

Thank you also to Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action (VCA) who continue to connect and support our sector, bringing together the key ingredients required to nurture our borough at the grass roots level.

Thanks and acknowledgements are noted in our Annual Report, yet I would like to personally recognise the continuous fundraising efforts of our team and the kindness and generosity of our supporters and donors.

Each year we reflect on the success and challenges our service has faced in ensuring a high standard of quality and care in the services provided. I am proud and privileged to remain chairman of such a thriving organisation and can hand on heart, credit this to the dedicated people involved.

We continue to flourish and develop, responding to our community, and aligning with the requirements of our remit, whilst always remaining true to our purpose, to support local people who are affected by cancer. We may modify our offer, tweak our services, and alter our processes, yet we never deviate from what we are here to do, and this year has been no different.

After much discussion, our board made the decision to update our charity and company name to better reflect the area we serve. This seemed befitting with our funding agreements, with our local authority area, and now as part of The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. We also work in connection with our colleagues across the area such as Halton Carers Centre, Halton Citizens Advice Bureau, Halton Healthwatch, and many more. After much paperwork and behind the scenes alterations, our exterior sign, marketing materials, and official name is now recognised as 'Halton Cancer Support.'

Towards the end of the previous financial year, and from the start of this year, our board had growing concerns for the resource of our service and the wellbeing of our staff. This was due to long-term sickness within the team. Ill-health is of course expected and planned for as part of a human workforce, yet the potential strain on our staff team over time was something our board discussed at length. We cannot emphasize enough just how resourceful, creative, and resilient our staff team has been in maintaining service levels, upholding quality standards, and pulling together to provide continuity and consistency. Despite being understaffed for the majority of the year, our service continued to succeed, and we are proud and thankful for their dedication and commitment, a true testament to their work ethic and care for our service.

The summer saw the success of our annual fundraiser '5K Your Way' in Victoria Park. This has grown year on year and is no mean feat to plan and execute. Thanks to our staff and volunteers who made the event a tremendous success in every way. Special thanks also to Karl, our Patron and owner of Widnes Martial Arts who brought his team in force to support and help at the event, no doubt considerably boosting the funds raised.

As the September rain came, an internal leak and the need for some significant building work came to light. In no time at all, alternative room-hire was arranged to enable counselling sessions to continue. Building work was quickly and meticulously conducted by Empire Property Solutions and we were back to normal at our Centre.

October saw the retirement of long-term employee, Corrinne, and a little later in the year Val also left employment with us. Corrinne and Val supported and brought comfort and warmth to many people over their years here, initially as service users, then volunteers, and more recently as members of staff. We wish Corrinne and Val all the best for the future.

The Halton Bereavement Café, a joint venture with our charity, Halton & St Helens VCA, and Halton Libraries, began as a pilot in August. This was in response to an increased need for bereavement support, highlighted by ours and other neighboring groups and organisations. The café model is an informal arrangement where appropriate time, space, and opportunity for people to connect with others is provided, and in this case has been very successful. We hope to see this continue to flourish.

Our work with Children & Young People is something our board is very passionate about and extremely proud of. Despite some short bursts of funding, this has not yet had a long-term agreement, which we intend to secure in the future.

Professional counselling continues to be the most requested and most utilised of our offers. Despite the usual pattern of reduced attendance in the summer months, it is clear to see the need to grow our capacity in this area, planning for our future and responding to the needs of our clients.

We are delighted to see how well utilised our Respite Caravan in Talacre has been this year. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into maintaining and managing the facility, yet the rewards and benefits for those who can enjoy a break from cancer treatments, or some recuperation by the sea, make it a very worthwhile and cherished sanctum.

I look forward to Halton Cancer Support continuing to grow and flourish in the coming years, remaining an important part of our rich community.

I would like to end by reiterating heartfelt thanks to my fellow board members and our team who relentlessly strive to deliver the best quality therapeutic support.

Nicola, Karen, Sam, Maureen and Becci, the board and I thank you for all your hard work. We know your roles here are demanding and require a certain kind of person. You are those incredibly special people, and we appreciate all you do to make our Centre the special place it is.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Treasurers Report

We are indebted once again to Jane Williams for the independent submission of our 2023-24 annual accounts and for the preparation of a balance sheet for submission to Companies House.

This is the twelfth full accounting year since our incorporation as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

We are fortunate and grateful to have been in receipt of another yearly grant from NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board, grant support from Halton Borough Council via the Public Health Department and Voluntary Sector Core Grants. We are also grateful for funds received from the Mayors Fund, Halton Crematorium, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance, supported by Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action, Tesco Groundwork, Digital Arts Box, and small project grants from One Halton.

Forthcoming items of note for the accounts:

Reserves and designated funds policy

- We have designated funds of £10,300 to cover redundancy and expenses in the event of closure.
- We have designated funds for our work related to respite activity.

Mr Ken Hill
Treasurer

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Operations Manager Report

My eighth year as Operations Manager has been an enjoyable and eventful one, teaching me lots of valuable lessons, and testing my ability to adapt and lead our team through some challenging times.

Our service continues to develop in line with local needs. As cancer rates increase, so does the demand for our services and support. The option of being able to offer our services to people for many consecutive years has needed to develop further. Our offer, while being available for as long as people feel they need it, has evolved to a more structured provision. We are now seeing people utilising our support for 12-18 months on average, offering support when they feel they need it most and facilitating empowerment, growth, and the development of coping skills. Progression beyond our service must be a key part of our strategy. We are flexible in our approach and recognise each person as an individual with a unique experience.

This change in culture and design over the past few years has been no easy task. Compassion and empathy have, and always will be at the core of all we do, and we recognise change can be hard, especially for those who have known our charity for many years.

We utilise our finite resources as efficiently and effectively as we possibly can, targeting and providing the most beneficial activities and maximizing our strengths. Our strengths lie in active listening and communication, professional counselling, holistic therapy provision, support group facilitation and our entire ethos is that we care. We care about the people; we care about what they are going through, and we care about providing the best possible service.

In quarter 1, we enjoyed our final few weeks as one of the Mayors chosen charities which saw us at the local stadium for a races day. This was enjoyed by some of our staff team, board members, volunteers, our patron Karl, and many local people. It was very clear that Councillor Mark Dennett and his wife Andrea had a great warmth for our service, and we are truly fortunate to have been in receipt of their keen support.

Our beautiful respite caravan in North Wales is an absolute jewel in the crown of our Centre. We treasure it and protect it. We ensure it is taken good care of so that when our guests arrive, they are met with well-maintained, beautiful surroundings in which to relax and recuperate. You can imagine our horror when we arrived to prepare it for the year ahead, to find it had not been drawn down properly by the site maintenance team on-site at the end of the season. The pipes had burst over the winter months, leaving various damage and problems. I have no hesitation in sharing the tears I shed on discovering this, quickly followed by the plan of action to rectify the situation. I am pleased to say after some lengthy conversations and repairs, order was restored, and our wonderful facility was back in operation. You can learn more about our caravan later in the report.

In April, our team began working on a project with Digital Arts Box, supported by Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance, with an ambitious plan to create animations and podcasts, and to work with our service users to help them to learn digital skills while sharing their experiences of cancer. Please search for our podcasts to see some of the fabulous results from this joint work.

In May we had the pleasure of witnessing two ladies, Sarah, and Amy (from the Kuk Sool Won community – linked to Widnes Martial Arts) complete a skydive to raise awareness and funds for our work. It was good to see them safely back on land! It is fantastic to see people choosing to try something new to highlight the support we offer and to reach a different audience.

In June, we were very saddened by the passing of one of our long-standing volunteers, Janice, who had been a part of the Centre for many years, supporting various activities, events, and groups, always willing to support anything and everything to help the Centre. Janice is certainly missed.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Quarter 2, saw the run up to our '5K Your Way' annual fundraiser. We were delighted to have 180 people gather for the event, which was a huge success. Our staff and volunteers did an excellent job of organizing and raised over £11,000, as well as lots of local people hearing about and seeing our work.

We began Therapeutic Art sessions in August, supported by Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance and Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action. These were facilitated by a professional counsellor in small groups. The sessions received wonderful feedback, nurturing growth, and emotional development for our clients.

In September we were undeterred by the need for building work, finding suitable alternatives and working through the disruption. This helped us to see that counselling off-site is possible for the future, with the appropriate planning, environment and governance in place.

In Quarter 3, from October to February, I attended college on Thursday evenings to complete a counselling skills refresher course. This has helped to improve and enhance my existing knowledge of counselling practices to better support our counselling provision and student placement offer.

We were awarded a 'One Halton' grant to carry out workshops to improve sleep. Sean Bailey of Sean Bailey Wellness had provided many free of charge sessions, sharing his expertise, and supporting our service users to understand the importance of sleep and how this can greatly impact health. Once we had seen the effect this was having, we joined forces with Sean to jointly apply for a grant to deliver a more in-depth programme. The feedback and results were fantastic, and we hope to work more with Sean in the future.

From October, we were delighted to begin the Bereavement Café pilot at St Marie's, alongside Halton Libraries and Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action. This was the start of a more specific provision to support those who have been bereaved, while our support groups based at the Centre could focus on patient and carer needs. This was a necessary development in response to the change we were seeing in new client referrals. This has developed and continues to grow and adapt as we welcome more people.

The lead up to the festive season was a busy one as although our services traditionally go a little quieter for appointments, we began the process of recruiting 1, possibly 2 new team members. We had great interest in the roles with trustee board member, Ken, assisting me with selection and interviews in late November and early December.

In quarter 4, mid-January, we welcomed new Centre Coordinator, Becci. Becci began to settle in, and it became apparent in no time at all, that she would fit right in!

March was a month of new things. We joined with many fellow organizations to form the 'Compassionate Communities Network.' This network, in collaboration with NHS Cheshire & Merseyside brings the voluntary, community, and faith sector together to provide, coordinate, and promote meaningful conversations, activities, and services around dying, death, and bereavement. Please see the information created as part of this network.

We had a staff workshop day, welcoming Becci and sharing experiences and knowledge of working at the Centre. I led exercises on understanding personality types, how they can be key to working well together and on the difference between sympathy and empathy. We also did some active listening exercises. A great benefit to this session was the team spending time together, reflecting on their roles and understanding the positive impact they have on so many people.

The next new thing was the especially important wedding day for Sam, our Counselling & CYP Project Coordinator. It is not very often a wedding happens in such a small team, so it was very much a landmark and celebration in our Centre!

Last year I stated: *"The demand for our services, ask from our funders and responsibility for alignment with fellow health-related services, means we must continue to strive for meaningful, effective methods of therapeutic support, directing the need for social contact beyond this, to those best placed in the community to provide it".*

"Our specialism is and must continue more than ever, to be focused, tailored offers which promote acceptance, growth, progression, and empowerment to cope with all that a cancer diagnosis can bring."

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

I believe that despite how difficult it has been to keep those boundaries in place, we are achieving this and providing the best, most effective methods of support, which is reflected in the feedback and comments from those accessing our services.

The level of care and compassion in our 1-2-1 listening and support sessions, professionalism in our counselling provision, empathy and understanding in our peer support groups, heart and soul in our respite caravan, and skill and attentiveness within our staff, holistic therapists, and volunteer team, make our Centre what it is. These ingredients make up who and what we are, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved. All of this, of course has been governed by our fantastic chairman and board, who provide strategic direction with a level of input which is supportive and directive, whilst trusting in the competence and abilities of our team. I greatly appreciate them and their approach to their roles.

I am keen to develop the way in which we support and safeguard the wellbeing of our staff and volunteer team. You will often read and hear me speak about the truly giving, diligent, compassionate people who carry out our mission and purpose. They do this in such a selfless, altruistic manner, yet their roles are emotionally demanding, and we must continue and evolve the way in which we protect their best interests in a holistic, effective way, caring for our people as they do for our clients.

For the coming year, we anticipate greater financial pressures as grants and funds are unlikely to increase proportionately with demand and costs, and could well be reduced or at risk. Our reputation and history as a key provider within the borough of Halton will serve us well, yet we know the times ahead will be challenging.

My intention and the strategy of our board is to resolutely maintain and nurture our standards of high quality, professional, progressive and compassionate support, while keeping well-informed and connected to Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action, who influence, inform and champion change in the wider system, to recognise, include and value the importance of our sector, and the role we play in the health and wellbeing of our community.

The longer-term intention is to stabilise finances for 2024/25 and beyond, incorporate any changes or recommendations following the restructure of Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board, and to grow and increase capacity to ensure we meet the needs of local people affected by cancer.

Our Services

Core Support

Listening support and information services are a very important and well utilised part of what we offer. Listening support, either face to face or via telephone has been accessed 847 times this year, while information requests were accessed 1107 times. We pride ourselves on responding efficiently and compassionately.

Psychological Support

Professional counselling sessions have continued to be a high priority and have become even more of a focus due to high demand. 657 counselling related calls and assessments took place, which led to 337 hours of scheduled counselling. Over 500 sessions were scheduled, yet on average 25% of sessions were cancelled due to holidays, medical appointments and general illness.

We pride ourselves on our very professional student placement offer and many fully qualified counsellors stay on with us well beyond their qualifying hours, enhancing the skills and abilities within our counselling team.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Children and Young People's Support

Over the year we have received 33 referrals for children and young people aged between 5 to 16 years. These referrals have been made directly to us from parents or have come through schools that we have worked in previously. We have provided 101 hours of therapy across 12 different schools and colleges in Halton including: Pewithall, St Basils, Lunts Heath, St Bedes, Gorsewood, Our Ladys, Castlevue, Wade Deacon, The Heath, OBA, The Grange, and Riverside College.

The reasons for referral have been either that the young person has someone in their life who is a cancer patient either going through treatment or post treatment, or the young person has experienced a bereavement. This year most of our young people have had a cancer patient in their immediate family (mum, dad, sibling, grandparent) and the majority of these patients have been mum. Depending on the demand for our service, the needs of the young person and our involvement with the school, some of these referrals are then shared with Child Bereavement UK.

Along with providing 121 sessions we were also approached by Pewithall Primary School and Wade Deacon to provide support for the wider school following the deaths of a parent and a student. These very sad losses affected whole year groups including teaching staff and other parents. We had meetings with staff to see how we could help and set up some drop-in sessions at each school for parents and teachers to attend. We wanted to provide a safe space for parents and teachers to share how they felt, ask questions and learn about how to talk to young people about cancer, death and dying. We prepared some information for parents and staff to take away which included some helpful tips about the language to use and how to support children during uncertain times. The sessions were well attended and gave the opportunity for some great discussions.

With help from Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance we were able to offer some workshops in January and February highlighting the signs and symptoms of cancer and the importance of screening. We were excited to be able to offer this and to work with a brilliant group of students at OCA. The workshops were fun and engaging and sparked some meaningful discussions. We discussed the signs and symptoms of lung, breast and bowel cancer, risk factors, screening programmes and the importance of attending screening. The aim of the workshop was to produce some artwork to display in their school that would highlight the signs and symptoms of lung, breast and bowel cancer. The group was split into 3 pairs and each pair had a different cancer to look at. By the end of the workshops the group had more knowledge, felt more confident talking about cancer and had created some amazing artwork packed with information to display in their school.

Gentlemen Only Group

Our Gentlemen Only Group has grown this year and attracts around 10 participants each week. Many of the gents continue to support each other inside and outside our Centre and have great respect and kindness for one another. We have welcomed new gentlemen who have settled in well and are very open in asking each other for advice while going through tough times.

We have experienced some sadness this year, losing who the group saw as their leader in March. This was sudden and very upsetting for the gents, who have spent lots of time sharing experiences and support together. The gents continued and supported one another, and there remains a strong core of attendees, along with a warm welcome for new group members.

Mixed Peer Support

This group has been steady in numbers and, although not always full it has worked and progressed well. We have noticed that with smaller numbers, people are able to sit and share their thoughts in more detail, explaining and sharing the good and bad days. Some weeks the conversations can be very deep, showing the clients feel that they are in a safe place to be able to share. They open up and can explain they are feeling down or feeling unwell, and also share their news and positive thoughts, such as something they have managed to do differently, their test results, and that they are still able to live life, albeit differently following their diagnoses.

Simple chats can be shared such as meal recipes, healthy food ideas, handy tips if feeling sickly. Many of them struggle with low energy and need to rest and sleep more. Relating to each other is very powerful to witness and facilitate.

We have welcomed some couples this year which has meant friendships have formed, creating connections beyond our services. These groups are offered in 12-week blocks yet can be repeated if requested. It has been common for those receiving palliative care to want to attend more than one 12-week block which we are happy to accommodate.

The progression from the mixed group is the monthly 'Next Steps' group. We decided part way through the year to make this twice monthly, following feedback from our clients. The size and demand for this group has flowed naturally from the weekly groups as we had hoped, and is utilised a little further down the line from diagnosis than the weekly groups. Again, this leads to bonds and friendships created which progress outside of our services.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Wellbeing

Our Holistic Therapies are much loved and appreciated. Reiki and Reflexology provide wonderful relaxation and wellbeing, receiving very positive feedback. Our therapists have such kindness and compassion for our clients. Sadly, this year we had to cease offering 'Touch Therapy' as our therapist was in very high demand in various settings.

Beauty students from Riverside College continue to provide manicures and pedicures during term time which is a very pleasant and mutually beneficial arrangement we have had for many years, providing a little pamper and relaxation.

Therapeutic Art

Therapeutic Art is a form of therapy that uses art media as its main mode of expression and communication. The classes are about expression and exploration through media such as colour, shapes and use of words or images. This can help with relaxation, stress, self-worth, and anxiety to name a few and is facilitated by an experienced professional counsellor.

The activity is supported by Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance and Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community action. The focus is to share experiences and encourage uptake of screening opportunities and to increase early detection. We have been delighted to share this experience this year, again receiving wonderful feedback and comments.

Outreach & Engagement

Outreach work helps to keep us known to our community and builds connections, with the intention of increasing referrals into our service. This year, Outreach has been impacted by the need for staff cover at our Centre, yet connections have been maintained and continued to grow again in quarter 4. Presentations, talks and information stands have been provided at:

- Mothers Union
- Halton Women's Centre
- Direct Link
- Widnes Highfield Health – Cancer screening day
- Whiston Health & Wellbeing event
- Age Concern

We are also part of regular network meetings:

- Monthly Bereavement Cafe (from Oct 2023)
- Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance - Patient Engagement Network
- Whiston/St. Helens Hospitals Patient Engagement Group

Leadership Networks we are part of:

- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Health Care Partnership
- Halton Cancer Improvement Group
- VCFSE – Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise - network forum meetings
- Halton Compassionate Communities
- Halton Dying Matters Group

Market Stall

Widnes Market very kindly provide space for us to provide a monthly stall on the first Monday of each month. This helps with our fundraising and also raises awareness of who we are and what we offer. We take along our Centre sign and leaflets and spread the word. Many people have stopped us and asked for more information about our services and have gone on to register with us. The stall is overseen by our fundraising volunteers who pride themselves on service with a smile!

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Social Media and Connectivity

We continue to utilise social media to share messages and promote our services.

Our website contains key messages and is a way for new people to find us and to register online. We follow up those registrations with a call, inviting each person for a welcome appointment with one of our team.

Email Correspondence

We continue to use MailChimp which is an email system that allows us to create branded and personalised emails, meeting our data protection requirements. Anyone can sign up for email newsletters by completing the form on our website or Facebook page and people who are new to our service are automatically added if they have provided an email address and consent. We currently have 558 people subscribed to our newsletters.

Facebook

The Centre's Facebook page is a great tool for sharing information and has increased its 'likers' by 17.4% from 1,363 to 1,600.

Private Facebook Group

The group, which began during lockdown has continued and has over 130 members. Each day there is a good-morning post, a puzzle/interactive post and an uplifting image or phrase. These are interacted with every day and often include messages of support between the members.

What our clients say...

"I am so grateful for everyone there who has helped me through this very difficult time and it's so nice to know I can always pick up the phone and arrange to pop into the Centre if I feel I need to"

"Very helpful, friendly, welcoming staff and volunteers who are happy to chat things through. The advice and support they offer is fantastic with both practical and emotional issues".

"Excellent service really helpful and helped my husband meeting different men going through different cancer and how they manage their treatment"

"Centre is a bit of a safety blanket when you feel you have been abandoned at the end of treatment"

"The support I received has helped me come to terms with my cancer. The holistic therapies helped me with side effects of my treatment"

"I've had support after support from the Centre, nothing is too much trouble, and I'm always made to feel so welcome"

"I have found I can be myself, cry, talk about nothing and just sit and not be judged"

"The staff at the Centre have pointed us in the direction of all sorts of information, support and advice making life easier for us at this hard time"

Case Studies

"I have been diagnosed with cancer. I come to the Centre for Counselling, the gents group, and 1-2-1 support.

The counselling has helped me talk about things that I can't I talk to my family about as I would get upset. I feel very relaxed after talking.

I have also been going to the gents support group. This has really benefited me as I can speak and interact with others who can understand and have a good laugh with them. It helps me leave my problems at the door and stops me thinking about troubling things.

I would highly recommend this service as it has helped me to focus on something other than my cancer and I have met great people who are supporting me and my family. I look forward to every week knowing I'll be going to meet other people who make you laugh the minute you walk through the door. I don't think anything should change, everything is prefect, and I really look forward to going.

I think you are all amazing and supportive and are always there if I need to talk. I really hope you continue the work that you are going".

(Mr M. Patient)

"My husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer and we saw the Centre advertised at the Lilac Centre. We came down to see what was on offer so that he could get out of the house and feel more 'normal'.

We have got what we came for and more!! There's so much on offer, not just for my husband but also for me. It did get him out of the house, and he enjoyed the variety of sessions on offer. So much support and friendship has been offered since my husband died too.

Groups are a great space to chat about anything - Cancer related or just putting the world to rights! It may be good to have more groups on offer on different days of the week but there is nothing missing from the service. Everything offered and everyone involved are amazing".

(Mrs. D. Carer)

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Respite breaks

Our beautiful caravan brings so much peace and joy. We have been able to offer respite breaks for clients during their cancer treatments. Others prefer to visit during a treatment break, after treatment has ended, and for some it can be their last break away as they are approaching end of life.



The feedback has been fantastic, clearly showing how beneficial the breaks are and how much they mean

"Beautiful caravan. Had a lovely weekend with family. Enjoyed by all. Thank you"

"Thanks to you for letting us use the beautiful caravan. We had a lovely break and rest away from appointments. We had a nice relaxing time and we both chilled out over the few days. Thank you"

"What a beautiful caravan. We've had a great break- very relaxing! Fantastic weather for the first half of the week meant that we could explore the path from the site to Talacre, Prestatyn, Rhyll and Llandudno. The weather at the end of the week forced us to stay in the cosy van, relax and do nothing- just what we needed! Thank you so much to everyone at the Halton Cancer Support Centre"

"Thanks to the Centre for allowing us to use their caravan. We had a lovely weekend. Weather not good but the fire kept us cosy in the evenings. Went to the pub and swimming baths on the site. Overall the relaxing break which we needed"

"This is the most lovely gesture from Halton Cancer Support Group. We have had a lovely few days, just what we needed. Thanks again"

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Trustees' report continued

Service Utilisation

Psychological support	2022-23	2023-24
Listening/support, 1-2-1 sessions	256	366
Listening support via telephone	564	481
Professional counselling sessions	279	337
Counselling related assessments and calls	525	657
Professional counselling sessions, via telephone	26	34
Support sessions for Children & Young People, telephone enquiries/planning	208	143
Support sessions for Children & Young People, within schools	104	101
Therapeutic sessions		
Holistic therapies	135	196
Beauty therapies	54	79
Therapeutic Art sessions	18	54
Self-Help / Peer Support Groups attendances		
Gentlemen's Peer Support group	394	440
Mixed Peer Support group	489	458
Online Peer Support group members	101	136
Online Peer Support group engagements	20766	10454
Contact		
Information provided via telephone	1012	1026
Online contact/information via email and messages	135	243
Ad hoc activities/one off events	31	75
Ad hoc information at Centre	45	81
Respite breaks		
Number of nights	126	149
New people registered		
Newly Registered people (additional to existing current service users)	185	180
Patients	71	67
Carers	50	38
Bereaved	34	42
Children & Young People	30	33

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Trustees' report continued

Public Benefit:

In identifying and reviewing these priorities, aims and objectives, plus the supporting actions and activities for the year, we have been fully mindful of the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. We have aimed to ensure that all these planned actions and activities, agreed or noted by the Trustees/Directors at our regular Committee Meetings, are for public benefit and in-line with the charities purpose.

Financial Review

The surplus of the charity for the year amounted to £3,832 (£34,732 ~ 2023)

Reserves Policy

Details of the charity's reserves are shown in note 7a and show a figure of £66,361. This level of reserves is equivalent to 4 months of the centre's running costs. This is above the centre's aim of holding £64,000 the equivalent of 6 months running costs and this figure includes the costs of closure. However, the charity also have a designated funds policy which separates funds for the purpose of working with children and young people and also a fund for respite purposes. This amounts to £75,000. These funds are not part of the charities reserve funds.

Risk Management

The trustees actively review the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and acknowledge that the key risks relate to reduction in core funding and utilisation of the service.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

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

- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board on 2nd September 2024 and signed on behalf of the directors by:

Gordon Ellis
Chairperson

Reference and Administrative Details
Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Charity number 1145810
A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

PATRONS OF HALTON CANCER SUPPORT GROUP LIMITED

Jackie Ashley

Jim Mills

Derek Twigg MP

Dee Graal

Karl Martindale

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023 - 2024

Honourable President Dr Mary Gibbons, Retired G.P.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairperson	Gordon Ellis
Vice Chairperson	Clair Picton
Treasurer	Ken Hill

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Mr Gordon Ellis	Retired local Business Director
Mrs Clair Picton	Halton Resident (Voluntary Sector representative)
Dr Mary Gibbons	Retired G.P.
Sheila Warr	Retired Nurse Resigned 31st August 2023
Mr Kenneth Hill	Retired local authority worker
Mrs Susan Pybus	Ex-bank worker (of the Widnes Cancer Support Fund Association)
Allison Roberts	Reflexology Therapist
Mr Ian Connolly	Retired Salesman

Company Secretary

Nicola Donoghue

Principal Staff

Nicola Donoghue	Operations Manager
Karen Millington	Centre Co-Ordinator P/T
Becci Keller	Centre Co-Ordinator P/T (from 14th January 2024)
Sam Bourque	Children & Young People's Co-ordinator
Maureen Isherwood	Outreach & Engagement Worker
Val Melling	Bookkeeper/Administrator (until November 2023)

Method of appointment

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Members of the Board are the Directors for the purposes of company law and the Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Registered address

21-23 Alford Street
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7TR

Previous Company Names

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group 01 Nov 2011 - 17 July 2023

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Albert Square
23-24 Albert Road
Widnes, WA8 6JW

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 set out on pages 16 to 25.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- ☐ state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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

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

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
St Maries
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

2nd September 2024

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income from:					
Income from donations	(4)	38,061	70,260	108,321	160,910
Income from charitable activities	(5)	21,187	-	21,187	15,606
Other incoming resources	(6)	6,879	-	6,879	5,244
Bank interest		469	-	469	130
Total incoming resources		66,596	70,260	136,856	181,890
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	(7)	59,164	73,860	133,024	147,158
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		7,432	(3,600)	3,832	34,732
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		7,432	(3,600)	3,832	34,732
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds as at 01 April 2023		68,034	40,700	108,734	74,002
Total funds as at 31 March 2024	(9)	75,466	37,100	112,566	108,734

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.
All activities are regarded as continuing.
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 13.
The Notes on pages 20 to 25 form an integral part of these accounts.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2024

		2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	(8)	-	14,395	14,395	17,995
Total current assets		-	14,395	14,395	17,995
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(11)	11,440	-	11,440	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(12)	64,457	22,705	87,162	92,320
Total current assets		75,897	22,705	98,602	92,320
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors (due within one year)	(13)	431	-	431	1,581
Total current liabilities		431	-	431	1,581
Net Assets		75,466	37,100	112,566	108,734
Funds of the charity					
Restricted Funds		-	37,100	37,100	40,700
Unrestricted funds		75,466	-	75,466	68,034
Total Funds		75,466	37,100	112,566	108,734

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2024

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 complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The notes on pages 20 to 25 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 2nd September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Hill
Director / Trustee

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

		2024	2023
		Total	Total
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA		3,832	34,732
Capital purchase		-	-
Depreciation		3,600	3,600
Investment income		469	130
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5)	(11,440)	11,050
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(1,150)	(1,767)
		<u>(4,689)</u>	<u>47,745</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	(6)	<u>(469)</u>	<u>- 130</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash:		(5,158)	47,615
Total cash as at 01 April 2023		<u>92,320</u>	<u>44,705</u>
Total cash as at 31 March 2024		<u>87,162</u>	<u>92,320</u>

The notes on pages 20 to 25 form an integral part of these accounts.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Basis of preparation

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

- 1.1** with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities Act 2011
- (b) The Companies Act 2006
- (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102
- (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2019)

- 1.3** The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102

- 1.4** The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Fund accounting

- (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.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 7a.

2.2 Income

- (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. caravan), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) 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.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

- (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.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2.4 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.

Rates of depreciation

Caravan: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

2.5 Debtors

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

2.6 Cash

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.7 Creditors

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

2.8 Taxation

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

3 Transactions with trustees and related parties

No trustees received any expenses or remuneration during the period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

4 Income from donations	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Halton Borough Council: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,500	11,500	11,500
Halton Borough Council: Public Health	-	13,000	13,000	6,500
NHS Halton CCG	-	45,760	45,760	49,952
Halton Borough Council: One Halton	3,000	-	3,000	-
Halton Borough Council:	750	-	750	-
Groundwork	750	-	750	-
Mayors Fund	11,624	-	11,624	-
Digital Arts Box	650	-	650	-
Halton Crematorium	7,000	-	7,000	-
Halton & St Helens VCA	-	-	-	5,175
HMRC: Gift Aid	2,656	-	2,656	2,703
Abbeyfield Widnes Society Ltd	-	-	-	75,000
Donations	11,631	-	11,631	10,080
	<u>38,061</u>	<u>70,260</u>	<u>108,321</u>	<u>160,910</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	21,187	-	21,187	15,606
	<u>21,187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,187</u>	<u>15,606</u>
6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Contributions	6,879	-	6,879	5,244
Other Incoming Resources	-	-	-	-
	<u>6,879</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,879</u>	<u>5,244</u>

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

7 Expenditure of charitable activities

		2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
<u>Direct Costs</u>					
Salaries and NICs	7a	38,205	52,758	90,963	108,258
Payroll costs		-	879	879	1,141
Printing & Stationery		146	253	399	879
Telephone, IT & Postage		1,807	2,122	3,929	3,568
Equipment		595	698	1,293	327
Other Expenses		-	-	-	39
Fees & licenses		34	41	75	235
<u>Premises</u>					
Rent		4,239	4,976	9,215	8,934
Utilities		1,117	1,311	2,428	2,541
Insurance		551	647	1,198	1,104
Cleaning		761	893	1,654	1,125
Repairs & Maintenance		269	316	585	742
<u>Other</u>					
Bank Charges		139	164	303	263
Training		-	300	300	-
Travel		230	270	500	652
Event		-	-	-	430
Group Activities		2,352	2,761	5,113	2,045
Caravan Expenses		7,126	-	7,126	6,134
Counselling & Supervision		570	669	1,239	1,773
Marketing & Fundraising		480	564	1,044	1,452
Depreciation		-	3,600	3,600	3,600
Governance costs	(10)	544	638	1,182	1,916
Total resources expended		59,164	73,860	133,024	147,158

7a Staff costs and numbers

	£	£
Gross salaries	88,471	105,211
Employer's NI	839	1,249
Employer's Pension	1,653	1,798
	90,963	108,258

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more in the current accounting period
The average number of employees during the year was 3.4 (2023:3.4)

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

8 Tangible assets

	Caravan £	Total £
<u>Cost</u>		
At 1 April 2023	35,995	35,995
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>35,995</u>	<u>35,995</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2023	18,000	18,000
Charge for year	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,600</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>21,600</u>	<u>21,600</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2024	<u>14,395</u>	<u>14,395</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>17,995</u>	<u>17,995</u>

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

9 Movements in funds

	As at 01/04/2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	As at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General funds	68,034	66,596	59,164	-	75,466
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Caravan	40,700	-	3,600	-	37,100
HBC: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,500	11,500	-	-
HBC: Public Health	-	13,000	13,000	-	-
NHS Halton CCG	-	45,760	45,760	-	-
	<u>40,700</u>	<u>70,260</u>	<u>73,860</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,100</u>
<u>Total funds</u>	<u>108,734</u>	<u>136,856</u>	<u>133,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,566</u>

Purpose of restricted funds

We are grateful to all our funders who provided support to our centre running costs and salaries.

10 Governance Costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiners' fee	300	300
Accountancy	310	95
Professional fees	414	1,350
DBS Checks	134	158
Administration	23	13
	<u>1,182</u>	<u>1,916</u>
11 Debtors and prepayments		
	£	£
Debtors	11,440	-
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>11,440</u>	<u>-</u>
12 Cash at bank and in hand		
	£	£
Current Accounts	40,478	41,495
Deposit Accounts	46,487	50,182
Fundraising Account	-	-
Cash in hand	197	644
	<u>87,162</u>	<u>92,320</u>
13 Creditors and accruals		
	£	£
Creditors	431	1,581
Deferred Income	-	-
	<u>431</u>	<u>1,581</u>

Halton Cancer Support Group Limited
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

13 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Income from donations	38,061	92,958	70,260	67,952
Income from charitable activities	21,187	15,606	-	-
Other incoming resources	6,879	5,244	-	-
Bank interest	469	130	-	-
Total incoming resources	66,596	113,938	70,260	67,952
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	59,164	75,605	73,860	71,552
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	7,432	38,333	(3,600)	(3,600)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	7,432	38,333	(3,600)	(3,600)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds as at 01 April 2023	106,239	67,906	37,100	40,700
Total funds as at 31 March 2024	(9) 113,671	106,239	33,500	37,100

Accounts

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948



The Centre

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

Web Site: www.widnesandruncorcancersupport.org.uk

Registered Charity no.1145810

Company no. 07830948



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Greater Merseyside Community
Accountancy Service

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report

Thanks and acknowledgements

The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals, groups and organisations who have supported Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group throughout the year.

Thank you once again to NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), now Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), whose grant agreement has provided a further year of financial support.

Halton Borough Council (HBC) have again provided the Voluntary Sector Core Grant and a grant from the Public Health Team for which we are very grateful.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have once again provided a grant to support our Children and Young People's service.

Alongside grants and funds, we are very fortunate to receive financial and other varying types of support from organisations, groups and individuals within our community. We would like to note a special thanks to:

Knights Choir, Weston Point CP school, Toby Carvery - Dominoes team, Comformatic, Co-operative (Upton Rocks), Lloyds bank - match funding, Widnes Cricket Club, Halton Housing, JGC plc, Widnes Tesco, Johnson Service group, HBC Transport Co-ordination, The Derek Roylance Challenge Cup Team, Gary Cambridge & UK Electric Vehicle Owners Club and Cool Cat Records.

Throughout the year, the team from Widnes Martial Arts have supported our charity again in a variety of ways including their very own 'Marvelous Moustachathon', 'Bake Off', various raffles and awareness raising. We are delighted to have their support.

B Wilson and family (our youngest supporter!) has raised numerous funds again this year. Thank you, young Master Wilson, we appreciate and applaud you.

Widnes Rotary continue to offer their support and made another generous donation this year following their Christmas Float Appeal.

We would also like to thank many individuals for their very generous donations:

J Mills, D Graal, S Connolly, K & L Hill, C Molyneux, D Rylance, L Bevan, K McGinty, S Houghton, C McCormick, M McVeigh, J Robson, L Powell, N Leather, H Richardson, J Wright, J Hunt, L Farrow, JM Pennington, A Rae, J Carter, F Carter, G Simpson, C Stevens, M Thomas, K & B Flanagan, A Pointon, H Ettrick, J Shephard, J Beesley, L Cartledge, JR Copeman, A Duckett, K Hughes, L Plumpton, D Donoghue, P Donoghue, J Byrne, P Loughlin, S Byrne, B McCarron, K Berry, A Roberts, A Entwistle, J Appleton, D Bennett, R Langman, J Lyons, N Durbin, L Ackerley, M Owen, .

We receive regular monthly support via our on-line giving platform. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Carr, Mrs Brady, Mr & Mrs Wilson and Mr & Mrs Hill.

Many of our on-line donors are anonymous. Please accept our sincere thanks if you have donated on-line. We will continue to utilise all donations in the best possible way.

L Farrow is a long-term volunteer, supporter and fundraiser who facilitates the inhouse lottery. Lyn has raised over £17,000 since starting this which she takes great care and organisation in running. Thank you, Lyn and Ken for your support and thanks to all who join in.

We are sometimes in receipt of donations following the passing of someone who has found support in our service. It is difficult to imagine the strength it takes to organise collections and donations in memoriam, and we are very grateful to the family and friends who choose to do this for our charity. To the family and friends of: M Seddon, B Houghton, M McCormick, J Walton, N Killen, P Leather, L Hawkin, the Marsh family, the Hill family, P Lightfoot, B Jacobs, E Brandreth, V Povey, please accept our condolences and sincere thanks.

Our service is very blessed with the gift of time and skills from many people. We could not offer counselling, therapies and beauty treatments without our wonderful volunteer counsellors, therapists and beauty students from Riverside College. Your work means so much to so many.

To our many volunteers, your efforts, commitment and humbling contributions make a real difference in people's lives. We applaud you.

A final recognition to the team at Widnes Market who provide space in their wonderful market for us to hold a monthly fundraising stall.

As you can see, it has been a year filled with compassion, kindness, utilisation of skills and generosity. We can never thank you all enough for all you have done and the help and support this has provided for many people in our community.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Chairman's report 2022 – 2023

The year April 2022 to March 2023 has been a productive year involving further recovery following the impact of the pandemic. Our board and staff team anticipated a time of healing and resurgence, knowing the previous turmoil had left its mark in many ways. I am delighted to be preparing this year's report, having seen through a progressive year.

I know my fellow board members will join me in recognising the efforts of the staff and volunteers as they have honourably navigated this period, regaining, and rebuilding the services, ensuring its professionalism and compassion.

I feel our board have worked extremely well together, perhaps even stronger for having undergone such challenges and I thank them for their commitment and determination in delivering our responsibilities.

I would like to thank Halton Borough Council, Public Health, Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (Now Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board) and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for their commitment to supporting our work and continuation of funds. A special thanks also to Abbeyfields, Widnes, for their injection of funds which has made a great deal of difference.

Halton & St Helens Voluntary, Community Action (VCA) have again been the thread throughout our community. We are ever thankful for their continued support and excellent provision.

Thanks and acknowledgements are noted, yet I would like to personally recognise the continuous fundraising efforts of our team and the kindness and generosity of our supporters and donors.

What can I say about our year as one of the Mayor of Halton's chosen charities! To say it has been an honour does not feel enough to acknowledge the year we have had. Councillor Mark Dennett and his wife Andrea have made this year spectacular in so many ways; one of my favourites being their involvement in our '5K Your Way' event. Our Mayor and Mayoress addressed the crowd, enthusiastically joined in the warm-up and made sure they completed every inch of the route before adding their medals on top of the Mayoral chains. They really did make the day for us. Every event has been made incredibly special by their infectious warmth and eagerness to make everyone in the room be part of their events.

Something which was cemented this year was the decision to operate our service by appointment only. This felt a bold and necessary step for many reasons, on which Operation Manager, Nicola, will elaborate on in her report. I and my fellow trustees felt strongly that we needed to effect change in this way. We trusted our team would implement this in a sensitive yet clear way, developing our offer with a more targeted, specific approach. I am very pleased to say this has now become our expected and accepted way of operating. While a small number may wish they could call in for a coffee when out shopping or come in to say hello to friends, we must continue to be explicit about what our service is here for, and we have a duty to deliver this. As the subsequent months and years follow, we anticipate an increased need for our services.

The many signs and symptoms of cancers which were not presented or have and will be presented at later stages due to the pandemic will have consequences for many individuals and for our health services for untold years. We must be in a position to deliver high quality support as effectively as possible. A culture of ad hoc social visits for an undefined length of time does not allow for the structure and planning of our resources and will not withstand the demands of the years to come. This is why we are now in a much better place to respond to our community.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

I am especially proud of the progress our counselling service has made. Offering professional counselling comes with a plethora of governance, guidance and responsibilities, as it should. Led by our employee Sam, and supported by fellow employee Karen, our counselling services has developed and strengthened year on year and is a fine example of how a counselling service operates well. Sam came to us with new experience and knowledge and the kind of exemplary work ethic that manifests success. Karen, sharing the same ethos has developed her skills and knowledge and alongside their colleagues, provide an excellent professional counselling service.

Last year when we welcomed new patron, Karl Martindale, we did so in recognition of his position within our community as we had learned of the influence and impact Karl has with regards to improving health and wellbeing.

The ask and hope for this connection and the involvement of his team at Widnes Martial Arts, was to increase awareness of our services and build a strong link. Widnes Martial Arts is such an excellent establishment, who promote admirable attributes and drive increased wellbeing within our community. What we did not expect were the amazing efforts from this impressive group, in raising not only awareness but substantial funds to support our work. Thank you to Karl and his remarkable team, students, and their families for all they have done and are doing for our charity.

Finally, I would like to end by reiterating my heartfelt thanks to our team who relentlessly strive to deliver the best quality of therapeutic support. Nicola, Corrinne, Karen, Sam, Maureen and Val, we thank you. Every year brings new challenges and successes and I want you to truly appreciate the value you add to people's lives.

Treasurers Report

We are indebted once again to Jane Williams for the independent submission of our 2022-23 annual accounts and for the preparation of a balance sheet for submission to Companies House.

This is the eleventh full accounting year since our incorporation as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

We are fortunate and grateful also to have been in receipt of another yearly grant from NHS Halton CCG (now NHS ICB), Children & Young People's funding from Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services and to have been the recipients of further grant support from Halton Borough Council via the Public Health Department and Voluntary Sector Core Grants. We are also grateful for funds received from NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance. We are very thankful for funds received from Abbeyfields Widnes.

Forthcoming items of note for the accounts:

Reserves and designated funds policy

- We have designated funds of £10,000 to cover redundancy and expenses in the event of closure.
- We have designated funds for our work relate to respite activity and for our work with Children & Young People.

Mr Ken Hill
Treasurer

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Operations Manager Report

My seventh year as Operations Manager has been one of development, challenge and growth, both for our service and personally as the manager of our charity.

Once again, our Board of Trustees have provided their skills, experience, time, and support; consistently delivering commitment, and expertise in their strategic guidance and application of our charitable aims. Our organisation is privileged to have such dedicated individuals who operate with unwavering professionalism and compassion.

In Quarter one, April, May and June of 2022 we began a fun-filled and busy relationship with the wonderful Mayor and Mayoress of Halton, Councillor Mark Dennett and his wife Andrea Dennett. There are many amazing charities in Halton, yet we were fortunate enough to be one of the chosen charities, alongside our good friends at Halton Carers Centre. Regular meetings, plans and events were enthusiastically discussed and organised and it was clear from the start that this was going to be a very special year! More to follow later in the report.

At the start of the year, we scheduled regular meetings with our colleagues at the Macmillan Delamere Centre. They too were undergoing change and it was very important to ensure a positive relationship of collaboration for the benefit of those accessing our services across Halton. The aim of meeting was for our services to complement each other and avoid duplication. This has led to a better understanding across both services and has nurtured a great relationship.

June was very much a month of celebration where we held a cream tea event for the Platinum Jubilee. We held a thank you afternoon for our wonderful volunteers and Maureen our Outreach Worker attended the Halton Chamber of Commerce awards evening where the Heath Business Park won the Commitment to Community award. Maureen has represented our service at the 'Eat @ the Heath' meetings to raise awareness of our services and to welcome new service users.

Quarter two, saw the popularity of our '5K Your Way' – sponsored walk/jog/run, grow to almost one hundred participants. We filled the bandstand area of Victoria Park with lots of supporters, many wearing orange and blue to represent our logo. Those involved joined in for various reasons; some to support someone they know who is dealing with cancer, some to show support for our charity and some in memory of a loved one. Many raised funds and in total £4065.67 was raised along with our charity profile, and the spirits of all involved. Special thanks to Sean Bailey of Sean Bailey Wellness for providing a fantastic warm-up session to get everyone moving, to Widnes Martial Arts who brought along many of their team who led the start of the course, and to our fabulous Mayor and Mayoress who joined in literally every step of the way, all undeterred by the inclement weather. Our volunteers did a grand job of marshalling, fundraising, organising, ensuring the event was safe and generally making the whole event a success.

Other great events included Cronton Gala which has become a regular annual event for us, the Joe Cox 'More in Common' event and Halton Haven's 'Tea at Three' – butterfly release.

In August, we welcomed new Charity Patron, Karl Martindale, which was announced at our Annual General Meeting in October. Karl is very well known in our community and runs the hugely successful Widnes Martial Arts School which teaches a Korean form of martial arts named Kuk Sool Won. Karl is very eager to promote health related issues and is an excellent ambassador of our work.

We trialed our very first 'Therapeutic Art' session in September with support from Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance and Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action. This was led by a qualified, experienced counsellor. Therapeutic Art is a form of therapy that uses art media as its main mode of expression and communication as a form of therapy. The project has been a great success and will continue into the next year.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

From Quarter three, our board began to review our services in a different way. Much had changed following the pandemic and despite additional financial support, the aftermath of the pandemic, and the projections for the future meant our board had to carefully consider our entire expenditure and conduct a full-service review. Later in the year, some difficult yet necessary decisions were to follow.

November was a somewhat hairy month! The gents from Widnes Martial Arts decided to conduct their own version of 'Movember', which was named the 'Magnificent Moustachathon'. It is pertinent to note that those associated with Widnes Martial Arts do not do things by halves. The gents set to with gusto, nurturing what truly were magnificent moustaches. What was even more magnificent was the fact they raised £4,250.02 and lots of awareness of our work in the process. When shave day came, some found it very difficult to let go of their facial works of art.

December as always had a festive feel with a 'Mince Pie & Mingle' afternoon for service users, a mindfulness advent calendar and a memory tree at the Centre. We supported Widnes Rotary in the float collections on a number of evenings and joined the Mayor of Halton and guests for his Christmas party night.

Quarter four, is often a little slow to start, with many feeling the effects of a busy festive period and this one was no different. On the same token, many resolve to seek support and face challenges at this time of year so we are always ready to respond and provide the support needed.

In January, we were very saddened by the passing of one of our long-standing volunteers, Lilian Taylor. Lilian had supported our gentleman's group for many years, sadly unable to return following the pandemic. Lilian is and always will be a very well-remembered, and important part of our history.

The Mayor and Mayoress hit the New Year full on with an ambitious calendar of events, aiming to reach as many people in the community as possible and raising as much for their charities as they could along the way. We had an amazing Burns night, quickly followed by the Civic Ball, Paddies night, an evening meal at La Cantina and a family bingo! It was quite the social calendar and certainly helped to raise funds and awareness for both charities.

I would like to echo our chairman's comments regarding our counselling service. I have no hesitation in having great confidence in the quality and reputation this has amongst fellow services and educational settings who recommend our placement program to their students.

Amongst the highlights and the continuation of the many services we provide, the trustee board were continuing to work on what can reasonably be referred to as the daunting task of significantly reducing expenditure. Financial scrutiny is not unfamiliar to our board who carefully monitor and manage the finances meticulously, yet this was a bigger challenge, resulting in potential reduction in resources, therefore directly impacting our staff team. Needless to say, our diligent board undertook the necessary task, engaging appropriate external expertise in conducting a thorough and fair review. The outcome of the review was the first time our charity has had to take such action and the way in which all staff members conducted themselves under such strained and anxious circumstances is to be commended.

Overall, the year has been a success in many ways and certainly in terms of the survival and continuation of our service. The highs of our wonderful Mayoral year, welcome to our fantastic new patron and return of a thriving service has been very much opposing to some of the challenges we have faced. Every year as I write my report, I reflect on the whole picture and tell the story of the year, reliving the various emotions and passions this stirs. I am without a doubt immensely proud of what we do and how we do it. I cannot stress enough how this service is powered by the kindness, decency, dedication and good old fashioned hard work of the team and I am truly thankful and in awe of them.

The year prior, I made a commitment to lead our services in promoting a culture of empowerment, rather than dependency, offering empathy rather than sympathy. Holding the boundary of pre-bookable appointments in place, has not only improved privacy and confidentiality standards, it has refocused our resource and energies in providing high quality, therapeutic activity and outcomes.

The demand for our services, ask from our funders and responsibility for alignment with fellow health-related services, mean we must continue to strive for meaningful, effective methods of therapeutic support, directing the need for social contact beyond this, to those best placed in the community to provide it.

Our specialism is and must continue more than ever, to be focused, tailored offers which promote acceptance, growth, progression, and empowerment to cope with all that a cancer diagnosis can bring.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Our services

Our Services

Core Support

Listening support and information services are a very important and well utilised part of what we offer. Listening support either face to face or via telephone has been accessed 820 times this year while information requests were accessed 1576 times. We pride ourselves on responding as efficiently and compassionately as possible.

Psychological Support

Professional counselling sessions have continued to be a high priority and have become even more of a focus due to high demand. 525 counselling related calls and assessments took place which led to 466 hours of scheduled counselling. 161 of those sessions were cancelled due to illness and often concerns of Covid-19 symptoms. This decreased as the year progressed. We anticipate the demand for professional counselling will increase with around 60% of all new referrals requesting sessions.

Children and Young people's support

Over the year we have received 30 referrals for children and young people aged between 6 to 16 years. This is made up of 18 males and 12 females. These referrals have been made directly to us from parents and the Delamere Centre in Runcorn or have come through schools that we have worked in previously. We have provided 104 hours of therapy across 10 different schools and colleges in Halton including: Pewithall, St Basils, Fairfield, Lunts Heath, St Bedes, Wade Deacon, The Heath, OBA, The Grange, and Riverside College.

The reasons for referral have been either that the young person has someone in their life who is a cancer patient either going through treatment or post treatment, or the young person has experienced a bereavement. This year 24 of our young people have had a cancer patient in their immediate family (mum, dad, sibling, grandparent) and half of these patients have been mum. Sadly 8 of these 24 young people have become bereaved after referral. The remaining 8 referrals have been for young people who have lost a grandparent. Depending on the demand for our service, the needs of the young person and our involvement with the school, some of these referrals are then shared with Child Bereavement UK.

Along with providing sessions we have also been attending events and workshops across the year. We attended the 'Team Around the Family' (TAF) Service Information Event where we spoke with lots of organisations and local schools about the service we offer. We participated in an 'Alternate Futures Workshop' held by Wellbeing Enterprises CIC which looked at improving outcomes for children and young people with behavioural challenges. We had a great time holding a tombola and information stand at OCAs Christmas fayre and Sam has attended a Kooth webinar and Lego Based Therapy webinar to keep up to date with the service Kooth offers and to learn some new techniques that may be useful in sessions.

Gentlemen Only Group

Our Gentlemen Only Group attracts around 8 to 10 participants each week. Many of the gents continue to support each other inside and outside our Centre and have great respect and kindness for one another. We have welcomed new gentlemen who have settled in well and are very open in asking each other for advice while going through tough times. It is very apparent they feel safe and comfortable in the Centre having these tricky conversations and we feel very privileged to have the opportunity embraced in such a positive way. Ages range from late 30's to late 70's and all mix together very well.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Mixed Peer Support

This group has grown over the year with previous members returning and new people joining. This group has always previously attracted mostly women so it has been nice to see some gents accessing the group, feeling more comfortable to be open and welcoming some couples. By October our numbers increased and early into the new year we started to think about how we could make positive changes to continue supporting people that had registered a while ago whilst having availability for those newly registered. Plans began for changes from April 2023.

Wellbeing

Our Holistic Therapies are growing from strength to strength. In February 2023 we welcomed Kerry to provide 'Touch Massage' for patients. This is a gentle massage and can be tailored to individual needs, particularly for those who have had a cancer diagnosis. Reflexology and Reiki are as popular as always and we operate a waiting list. The fair usage policy we introduced in previous years has made this much more manageable, meaning we can accommodate the demand more efficiently.

Beauty students from Riverside college continue to provide manicures and pedicures during term time which is a very pleasant and mutually beneficial arrangement we have had for many years, providing a little pamper and relaxation.

Therapeutic Art

Therapeutic Art is a form of therapy that uses art media as its main mode of expression and communication. The classes are about expression and exploration through media such as colour, shapes and use of words or images. This can help with relaxation, stress, self-worth, and anxiety to name a few and is facilitated by an experienced professional counsellor.

The activity is supported by Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance and Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community action. The focus is to share experiences and encourage uptake of screening opportunities and to increase early detection.

Respite breaks

As always the caravan brings so much peace and joy to our service users. We follow a process of getting to know those who express an interest through having a face-to-face chat and while they are attending other activities at the Centre. We have been able to offer respite breaks for some during cancer treatments, to those later in their cancer journey for some who sadly, knew it may be their last break away approaching end of life. The feedback has been fantastic, clearly showing how beneficial the breaks are and how much they mean.

Outreach & Engagement

Outreach work has been firmly re-established throughout the year, following and utilising community activities to rebuild connections. Maureen has represented our services and worked closely with:

Halton Healthwatch Advisory board (board member)

Halton PPG Plus (Patient Participation Group)

One Halton

UK Age Concern expert panel

Child Bereavement Network group (Cheshire & Merseyside)

Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance

Partners In Prevention quarterly network group (networking opportunity for partners from Health, Social Care and the Voluntary sector).

The Health Business park – 'Eat @ the Heath' weekly community afternoons.

Outreach work ensures we are in touch with our community and that other service providers sign-post people to our services when they need them.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Market Stall

Widnes Market very kindly provide space for us to provide a monthly stall on the first Monday of each month. This helps with our fundraising and also raises awareness of who we are and what we offer. We take along our Centre sign and leaflets and spread the word. Many people have stopped us and asked for more information about our services and have gone on to register with us. The stall is supported by many of our volunteers who enjoy the conversations and knowing they are part of our fundraising.

Social media and connectivity

We continue to utilise social media to share messages and promote our services.

Our website continues to be searched and has been visited 42,449 in total! Now that we have the option to register online, many people self-refer this way which we follow up with a welcome call.

Email correspondence

We continued to use MailChimp which is an email system which allows us to create branded and personalised emails, meeting our data protection requirements. Anyone can sign up for email newsletters by completing the form on our website or Facebook page and people who are new to our service are automatically added if they have provided an email address and consent. We currently have 549 people subscribed to our news letters.

Facebook

The Centre's Facebook page is a great tool for sharing information and has increased its 'likers' by 12.7% from 1,209 to 1,363.

Private Facebook groups

The group which began during lockdown has continued and has over 100 members. Each day there is a good-morning post, a puzzle/interactive post and an uplifting image or phrase. These are interacted with every day and often include messages of support between the members.

What our service users say...

"The team at the Centre have been fantastic in supporting me through my cancer journey and recovery".

Mrs C Patient

"It has helped me greatly over the time. I think I would have been on all types of tablets from the doctors if it wasn't for the Centre. Knowing there was help and support out there".

Mrs F Patient.

"I know it is a safe place where I can talk to people who understand"

Mrs E, Carer.

"Knowing that there are people out there that understand and listen"

Mrs R Patient

"I have found a place to chat, share worries and also help support others. It has helped improve my health and wellbeing. I know I have a place to chat each week".

Mrs C Patient.

"It has benefited me a lot because I needed to talk to people with my head not being in the right place".

Mr C Patient.

"I have benefitted so much, everyone is so helpful and lovely. I would be lost without the centre".

Mrs B Patient

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Service Utilisation from April 2022 - March 2023	
Psychological support	
Listening/support, 1-2-1 sessions	256
Listening support via telephone	564
Professional counselling sessions	279
Counselling related assessments and calls	525
Professional counselling sessions, via telephone	26
Support sessions for Children & Young People, telephone enquiries/planning	208
Support sessions for Children & Young People, within schools	104
Therapeutic sessions	
Holistic therapies (Reiki, Reflexology, Touch Therapy)	135
Beauty therapies (Manicures & pedicures)	54
Therapeutic Art sessions	18
Self-Help / Peer Support Groups attendances	
Gentlemen's Peer Support group	394
Mixed Peer Support group	489
Online Peer Support group members	101
Online Peer Support group engagements	20766
Monthly Eat @ The Heath engagements	218
Contact	
Information provided via telephone	1012
Online contact/information via email and messages	135
Ad hoc activities/one off events	31
Ad hoc information at Centre	45
Respite breaks	
Number of nights	126
New people registered	
Newly Registered people (additional to existing current service users) of which:	185
Patients	71
Carers	50
Bereaved	34
Children & Young People	30

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Public Benefit:

In identifying and reviewing these priorities, aims and objectives, plus the supporting actions and activities for the year, we have been fully mindful of the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. We have aimed to ensure that all these planned actions and activities, agreed or noted by the Trustees/Directors at our regular Committee Meetings, are for public benefit and in-line with the charities purpose.

Financial Review

The surplus of the charity for the year amounted to £34,732 (deficit (£31,584) – 2022)

Reserves Policy

Details of the charity's reserves are shown in note 7a and show a figure of £105,586. This level of reserves is equivalent to 4 months of the centre's running costs. This is above the centre's aim of holding £64,000 the equivalent of 6 months running costs and this figure includes the costs of closure. However, the charity also have a designated funds policy which separates funds for the purpose of working with children and young people and also a fund for respite purposes. This amounts to £75,000. These funds are not part of the charities reserve funds.

Risk Management

The trustees actively review the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and acknowledge that the key risks relate to reduction in core funding and utilisation of the service.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

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

- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board on 17th August 2023 and signed on behalf of the directors by:

Gordon Ellis
Chairperson

Reference and Administrative Details

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

PATRONS OF WIDNES AND RUNCORN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Jackie Ashley

Jim Mills

Derek Twigg MP

Dee Graal

Karl Martindale

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022 - 2023

Honourable President

Dr Mary Gibbons, Retired G.P.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairperson	Gordon Ellis
Vice Chairperson	Clair Picton
Treasurer	Ken Hill

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Mr Gordon Ellis	Retired local Business Director
Mrs Clair Picton	Halton Resident (Voluntary Sector representative)
Dr Mary Gibbons	Retired G.P.
Sheila Warr	Retired Macmillan Breast Care Specialist Nurse
Mr Kenneth Hill	Retired local authority worker
Mrs Susan Pybus	Ex-bank worker (of the Widnes Cancer Support Fund Association)
Allison Roberts	Reflexology Therapist
Mr Ian Connolly	Retired Salesman

Company Secretary

Nicola Donaghue

Principal Staff

Nicola Donoghue	Operations Manager
Karen Millington	Centre Co-Ordinator P/T
Corrinne Stevens	Centre Co-Ordinator P/T
Nicola Brady	Administrative Support Worker (until 17/02/23)
Val Melling	Bookkeeper / Administrator
Maureen Isherwood	Outreach & Engagement Worker
Sam Bourque	Children & Young People's Co-ordinator / Counselling Co-ordinator

Method of appointment

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Members of the Board are the Directors for the purposes of company law and the Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Registered address

21-23 Alford Street
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7TR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Albert Square
23-24 Albert Road
Widnes, WA8 6JW

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023 set out on pages 14 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- ☐ state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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

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

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
St Maries
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

17th August 2023

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income from:					
Income from donations	(4)	92,958	67,952	160,910	94,319
Income from charitable activities	(5)	15,606	-	15,606	4,821
Other incoming resources	(6)	5,244	-	5,244	4,200
Bank interest		130	-	130	2
Total incoming resources		113,938	67,952	181,890	103,342
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	(7)	75,605	71,552	147,157	134,926
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		38,332	(3,600)	34,732	(31,584)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		38,332	(3,600)	34,732	(31,584)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds as at 01 April 2022		33,302	40,700	74,002	105,586
Total funds as at 31 March 2023	(9)	71,634	37,100	108,734	74,002

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.
All activities are regarded as continuing.
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 13.
The Notes on pages 16 to 23 form an integral part of these accounts.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2023

		2023	2023	2023	2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	(8)	-	17,995	17,995	21,595
Total current assets		-	17,995	17,995	21,595
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(11)	-	-	-	11,050
Cash at bank and in hand	(12)	73,215	19,105	92,320	44,704
Total current assets		73,215	19,105	92,320	55,754
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors (due within one year)	(13)	1,581	-	1,581	3,348
Total current liabilities		1,581	-	1,581	3,348
Net Assets		71,634	37,100	108,734	74,001
Funds of the charity					
Restricted Funds		-	37,100	37,100	40,700
Unrestricted funds		71,634	-	71,634	33,302
Total Funds		71,634	37,100	108,734	74,002

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2023

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 complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The notes on pages 16 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 17th August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Hill
Director / Trustee

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2023

		2023	2022
		Total	Total
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA		34,732	(31,584)
Capital purchase		-	-
Depreciation		3,600	3,600
Investment income		130	2
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5)	11,050	(11,050)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(1,767)	1,596
		<u>47,745</u>	<u>(37,436)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	(6)	<u>(130)</u>	<u>- 2</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash:		47,615	(37,438)
Total cash as at 01 April 2022		<u>44,705</u>	<u>82,143</u>
Total cash as at 31 March 2023		<u>92,320</u>	<u>44,705</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form an integral part of these accounts.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Basis of preparation

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

- 1.1** with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:
 - (a) The Charities Act 2011
 - (b) The Companies Act 2006
 - (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102
 - (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2015)
- 1.3** The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102
- 1.4** The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Fund accounting

- (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.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 7a.

2.2 Income

- (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. caravan), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) 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.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

- (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.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

2.4 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.

Rates of depreciation

Caravan: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

2.5 Debtors

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

2.6 Cash

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.7 Creditors

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

2.8 Taxation

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

3 Transactions with trustees and related parties

No trustees received any expenses or remuneration during the period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

4 Income from donations	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Halton Borough Council: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,500	11,500	11,500
Halton Borough Council: Public Health	-	6,500	6,500	6,500
NHS Halton CCG	-	49,952	49,952	54,200
Halton Borough Council: Recovery Fund	-	-	-	5,762
Halton & St Helens VCA	5,175	-	5,175	-
HMRC: Gift Aid	2,703	-	2,703	-
Abbeyfield Widnes Society Ltd	75,000	-	75,000	-
Donations	10,080	-	10,080	16,357
	<u>92,958</u>	<u>67,952</u>	<u>160,910</u>	<u>94,319</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Fundraising	15,606	-	15,606	4,821
	<u>15,606</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,606</u>	<u>4,821</u>
6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Contributions	5,244	-	5,244	1,875
Other Incoming Resources	-	-	-	2,325
	<u>5,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,244</u>	<u>4,200</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

7 Expenditure of charitable activities

		2023 Unrestricted funds	2023 Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<u>Direct Costs</u>					
Salaries and NICs	7a	40,306	67,952	108,258	94,799
Payroll costs		1,141	-	1,141	1,164
Printing & Stationery		879	-	879	614
Telephone & Postage		3,568	-	3,568	3,265
Equipment		327	-	327	8,144
Other Expenses		39	-	39	43
Fees & licenses		235	-	235	35
<u>Premises</u>					
Rent		8,934	-	8,934	8,866
Utilities		2,541	-	2,541	2,209
Insurance		1,104	-	1,104	1,069
Cleaning		1,125	-	1,125	47
Repairs & Maintenance		742	-	742	1,564
<u>Other</u>					
Bank Charges		263	-	263	197
Training		-	-	-	344
Travel		652	-	652	111
Event		430	-	430	343
Group Activities		2,045	-	2,045	11
Caravan Expenses		6,134	-	6,134	5,871
Counselling & Supervision		1,773	-	1,773	1,046
Marketing & Fundraising		1,452	-	1,452	129
Depreciation		-	3,600	3,600	3,600
Governance costs	(10)	1,916	-	1,916	1,455
Total resources expended		75,605	71,552	147,157	134,926

7a Staff costs and numbers

	£	£
Gross salaries	105,211	97,676
Employer's NI	1,249	- 4,650
Employer's Pension	1,798	1,773
	108,258	94,799

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more in the current accounting period

The average number of employees during the year was 3.4 (2022:3.4)

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

8 Tangible assets

	Caravan £	Total £
<u>Cost</u>		
At 1 April 2022	35,995	35,995
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>35,995</u>	<u>35,995</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2022	14,400	14,400
Charge for year	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,600</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,000</u>	<u>18,000</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2023	<u>17,995</u>	<u>17,995</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>21,595</u>	<u>21,595</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

9 Movements in funds

	As at 01/04/2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	As at 31/03/2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General funds	33,302	113,938	75,605	-	71,634
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Caravan	40,700	-	3,600	-	37,100
HBC: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,500	11,500	-	-
HBC: Public Health	-	6,500	6,500	-	-
NHS Halton CCG	-	49,952	49,952	-	-
	<u>40,700</u>	<u>67,952</u>	<u>71,552</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,100</u>
<u>Total funds</u>	<u>74,002</u>	<u>181,890</u>	<u>147,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,734</u>

Purpose of restricted funds

We are grateful to all our funders who provided support to our centre running costs and salaries.

10 Governance Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiners' fee	300	525
Accountancy	95	95
Professional fees	1,350	702
DBS Checks	158	120
Administration	13	13
	<u>1,916</u>	<u>1,455</u>

11 Debtors and prepayments

	£	£
Debtors	-	11,050
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,050</u>

12 Cash at bank and in hand

	£	£
Current Accounts	41,495	28,368
Deposit Accounts	50,182	11,934
Fundraising Account	-	3,928
Cash in hand	644	474
	<u>92,320</u>	<u>44,704</u>

13 Creditors and accruals

	£	£
Creditors	1,581	1,723
Deferred Income	-	1,625
	<u>1,581</u>	<u>3,348</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

13 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Income from donations	92,958	22,119	67,952	72,200
Income from charitable activities	15,606	4,821	-	-
Other incoming resources	5,244	4,200	-	-
Bank interest	130	2	-	-
Total incoming resources	113,938	31,142	67,952	72,200
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	75,605	59,126	71,552	75,800
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	38,332	(27,984)	(3,600)	(3,600)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	38,332	(27,984)	(3,600)	(3,600)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds as at 01 April 2022	33,302	61,286	40,700	44,300
Total funds as at 31 March 2023	(9) 71,634	33,302	37,100	40,700

Accounts

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948



The Centre

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

Web Site: www.widnesandruncorcancersupport.org.uk

Registered Charity no.1145810

Company no. 07830948



Sponsored by:

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Greater Merseyside Community
Accountancy Service

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

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Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report

Thanks and acknowledgements

The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals, groups and organisations who have supported Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group throughout the year.

Thank you once again to NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) whose grant agreement has provided a further year of financial support.

Halton Borough Council (HBC) have again provided the Voluntary Sector Core Grant and a grant from the Public Health Team for which we are very grateful.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have once again provided a grant to support our Children and Young People's service.

Alongside grants and funds, we are very fortunate to receive financial and other varying types of support from organisations, groups and individuals within our community. We would like to note a special thanks to:

The Andy Parker Football Tournament is an annual event which was changed to a charity bike ride this year. Well done to the many who took part, cycling 30.21 miles and raising over £2,000! Thank you so much for all the hard work and fundraising from RJ Parker, Cheshire Plumbing, R Lyons, HB AFC, family & friends and the many businesses and individuals who plan and support this event.

We would also like to thank K Hill and the Ball 'O' Ditton bowling team for their generous donation.

Throughout the year, the team from Widnes Martial Arts have supported our charity again in a variety of ways including their very own 'Bake Off' and various raffles and awareness raising. We are delighted to have their support.

Thank you again to St Berteline's & St Christopher's C of E Church who sent another very kind donation.

B Wilson and family (our youngest supporter!) has raised numerous funds again this year and continues to be creative in his fundraising ideas. Thank you, young Master Wilson, we appreciate you.

Toby Carvery Dominoes team made a very kind donation this year. Thank you and we hope you enjoyed your many games.

Thank you to A Winn and Widnes Scout Group for their kind donations to support our stall at the annual Cronton Gala.

Widnes Rotary continue to offer their support and made another generous donation this year.

Participants of our Gentlemen Only Group (GOG's) made a donation following a social activity. Thank you for choosing to donate this to our charity.

We would also like to thank many individuals for their very generous donations:

A Hart, B Flanagan, B Hatton, B Kenny, B Fortune, C Rice, D Donoghue, D Bennett, D Graal, D Millington, E Brandreth, F Carter, G Farrah-Hall, H Ettrick, H Roache, I Hare, J Bissenden, J Brady, J Doyle, J Fox, J Marshall, J Shephard, J Stretch, J York, J Beesley, S Parker, JP Board, JR Copeman, K Millington, L Antley, L Cartledge, L Cross, L Farrow, L Hawkins, L Plumpton, M A Wynne, M McVeigh, N Leather, P Donoghue, P Byrne, P Loughlin, P Whitfield, P Carlisle, S Byrne, S Connolly, SR Spruce and SV Woods.

We receive regular monthly support via our on-line giving platform. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Carr, Mrs Brady and Mr & Mrs Hill.

Many of our on-line donors are anonymous. Please accept our sincere thanks if you have donated on-line. We will continue to utilise all donations in the best possible way.

L Farrow is a long-term volunteer, supporter and fundraiser who facilitates the inhouse lottery. Lyn has raised over £12,000 since starting this which she takes great care and organisation in running. Thank you, Lyn and Ken for your support and thanks to all who join in.

We are sometimes in receipt of donations following the passing of someone who has found support in our service. It is difficult to imagine the strength it takes to organise collections and donations in memoriam, and we are very grateful to the family and friends who choose to do this for our charity. To the family and friends of M Seddon, N Killen, P Leather, P Lightfoot, B Jacobs, E Brandreth, please accept our condolences and sincere thanks.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Our service is very blessed with the gift of time and skills from many people. We could not offer counselling, therapies and beauty treatments without our wonderful volunteer counsellors, therapists and beauty students from Riverside College. Your work means so much to so many.

To our many volunteers, your efforts, commitment and humbling contributions make a real difference in people's lives. We applaud you.

A final recognition to the team at Widnes Market who provide space in their wonderful market for us to hold a monthly fundraising stall.

As you can see, it has been a year filled with compassion, kindness, utilisation of skills and generosity. We can never thank you all enough for all you have done and the help and support this has provided for many people in our community

Treasurers Report

We are indebted once again to Jane Williams for the independent submission of our 2021-22 annual accounts and for the preparation of a balance sheet for submission to Companies House.

This is the tenth full accounting year since our incorporation as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

We are fortunate and grateful also to have been in receipt of another yearly grant from NHS Halton CCG, Children & Young People's funding from Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services and to have been the recipients of further grant support from Halton Borough Council via the Public Health Department and Voluntary Sector Core Grants.

Forthcoming items of note for the accounts:

Reserves and designated funds policy

We ended the year with £33,301

Six months reserves is approximately £58,655 based on this year's expenditure, although subject to change following the pandemic.

Our remaining Designated Funds Policy for respite was £2,000 (after £5,000 moved to main funds to support core costs).

We have designated funds of £10,000 to cover redundancy and expenses in the event of closure.

Mr Ken Hill
Treasurer

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Chairman's report 2021 – 2022

The year April 2021 to March 2022 is again another one for the history books! Who could have known the full impact of the pandemic on our day to day lives and of course on our charity.

We are very fortunate to have made it through the year as we have sadly seen so many services come to an end under the immense pressure and financial difficulties our sector has faced. Our continuation and recovery have been aided by a combination of carefully considered decisions, foresight of our funders, kindness of our supporters and donors, and sheer determination of our Trustee Board, staff team and volunteers.

I would like to thank Halton Borough Council, Public Health, Halton Clinical Commissioning Group and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for their commitment to supporting our work and continuation of funds.

Thanks and acknowledgements are shown in this report, yet I would like to recognise the continuous fundraising efforts of our team and the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Every raffle ticket, donation of loose change, purchase on our market stall and donation of gifts for fundraising all adds up and contributes to our running costs. We know things are getting more difficult for most financially and your kindness and generosity means more than ever.

This year has been a huge test for us all and our board and staff team have had to tread very carefully in delivering services as safely as possible. The extra level of consideration and precaution has weighed heavily at times with our staff being under great pressure to balance the needs of our service users with the safety of all. This has of course meant our service running with limited numbers of support staff, ensuring safety measures were adhered to and often justifying some of our decisions. I wholeheartedly stand by the many decisions we have made, and the board and I have great gratitude and respect for our staff team who have implemented these and been the gatekeepers of our service.

The situation we have faced has led to much review and reflection and has provided an opportunity to redress some areas of our service which had become perhaps a little undefined in their purpose. Being a drop-in Centre for many years has been the best way to operate and has served our community well. With the increased cancer occurrences, delayed treatments and many more people presenting with later stage cancers, we have had to examine our provision to truly appreciate what we provide and how that serves our community. Working on an appointment only basis has refocused, redefined, and realigned our resource and we must continue to capitalise on this learning in order to provide the best possible quality of service our community needs and deserves. Making change is not always comfortable yet has been necessary and I appreciate the efforts our team have made in making this transition. We will continue to grow and develop in the best interest of the current and future of our service and the many people we will support.

I would like to pay particular attention to our counselling service. Throughout this document you will see lots of reference made to counselling being one of the most requested services we offer. We can only offer this service as we have such highly trained dedicated people delivering this essential work.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Counsellors undergo such intense training which takes many years and is by no means an easy path. We are fortunate to have a mix of fully qualified and student counsellors at our Centre. Throughout and beyond the pandemic, they have been adaptable, reliable, and resourceful in their approach, undergoing additional training in order to deliver remote counselling, followed by face-to-face counselling with many additional measures in place. I am immensely proud of the counselling provision we have and the ethical way in which our counselling practice is operated. This is a credit to our professional team.

Halton & St Helens Voluntary, Community Action (VCA) have again been the beating heart of our sector. They are the thread throughout our community, and we are thankful for their continued support and excellent provision.

Finally, I would like to say a further thank you to our fantastic team. Our staff, volunteers and my fellow directors have strived to sustain and support all we do and have led our charity admirably through another challenging year.

Operations Manager Report

My sixth year as Operations Manager has been a mixture of reviewing, reflecting, and restabilising our charity with a few unexpected twists and turns.

Once again, our Board of Trustees have provided additional time, consideration and support in unprecedented times and have been the backbone of our operation. Our organisation is blessed to have such resolute individuals who operate with professionalism, compassion and always with our charitable aims at heart.

We began April 2021 with optimism following such uncertainty and looked forward to our doors being fully open once again. Our staff team were offered their second dose of Coronavirus vaccine and our Centre, with various measures in place was able to be partially open offering limited services with controlled numbers of people on the premises.

We were delighted to be able to offer face-to-face counselling sessions once again. Sessions were quite different as we needed a more open space than our usual counselling room, face coverings had to be worn, and counsellors had to be at a distance from their clients. We rearranged our main room and prepared a new area for sessions to take place. Counselling was the first service to return as we could adapt the area, and it was the service, we had learned, that people were most in need of. Telephone and Zoom counselling continued remotely throughout this time, as we gradually increased face-to-face sessions.

In June we were able to begin to invite individuals in for discussions, again with various safety measures in place. We met with some of our volunteers and could begin to interview new student counsellors. The intention at this time was to slowly rebuild elements of the service steadily, bringing back the things which would provide the most support. Times were uncertain with restrictions being updated and amended, so we acted carefully with safety at the forefront of all decisions.

In July we were able to have our financial audit and thanks to additional funding from Halton Borough Council, and after much research into the best option, we invested in an air-purifying unit; followed by two more later in the year. As the units were tried and tested for eliminating Coronavirus particles from the air and certified as hospital grade equipment, these gave additional reassurance. We were then able to offer small Peer Support Groups and additional listening appointments.

As community activity began to increase, the very supportive team from Widnes Martial Arts held their very own 'Bake off' to raise awareness and funds for our work. Our team were involved in the very popular Cronton Gala, and we were invited to Ormiston Chadwick Academy (OCA) to give a talk to over a hundred students. They also did some fantastic fundraising activities for us.

In October we held an online event to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month and November saw the Riverside College Beauty Students returning to provide manicures and pedicures.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

In November we revamped our counselling room, utilising a donation from a young man who has raised funds for our charity many times, Master Ben Wilson. We continued to increase access to counselling and our Peer Support Groups could begin to increase to ten participants.

In December some of our staff and volunteers supported the Christmas float with Widnes Rotary, spreading some much-needed cheer in the community.

In the New Year, our staff team renewed their First Aid training and OCA asked for our support in conducting mock interviews with their oldest students who were preparing for the world of higher education and work.

February saw the installation of a new opening-window at the front of our Centre at long last, and an extractor fan in our counselling room. Every step was moving us closer to working at full capacity.

From March 2022, we began to plan more community activities, and the realisation that we could branch out more was beginning to help things to take shape.

Without a doubt, the pandemic and all that it brought has irreversibly changed things for our charity and for our service. Some lessons learned have shown us that things had to change in order for us to keep progressing.

Looking back and reflecting on the way our service operated in 2018/2019, it is clear that some of the developments have resulted in a clearer more specific service, more defined in its outputs and purpose. The change from being a drop-in service to offering appointment times, while difficult to accept for some, has redefined and refocused our offer.

If a person in need comes to us and is shielded, protected, and showered with sympathy for an undefined length of time, they will naturally seek that shelter and protection to feel better and become dependent on that type of support, feeling better only when in that state. If a person is offered empathy, professional therapeutic interventions, and specialised services, created with the intention to empower and enable them to manage their situation, they will develop the tools and skills they need to navigate and cope well, potentially finding positivity, hope and peace in even the most difficult of situations. This is why our service will continue to promote a culture of empowerment, rather than dependency and why our service will continue to develop its identity as a therapeutic support mechanism with a clear purpose.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Our services

Core Support

Listening and information services – The way in which we recorded service utilisation had to change during the pandemic and therefore set the standard for the year. We had to operate with a simplified version of recording data due to many service changes, so all telephone contact covered listening, support and information. 1760, calls were handled over the year, gradually lowering as more face-to-face activity took place.

Psychological Support

Professional counselling sessions have continued to be high priority with a mix of remote and face-to-face sessions catering to the fluctuating pandemic restrictions and needs of the clients. Over 500 counselling related calls and assessments took place which led to 316 hours of counselling. Many more sessions were arranged but cancelled due to illness or suspected Coronavirus symptoms. On average, over 10 sessions per month were cancelled for this reason.

Children and Young people's support

For much off the year our Children and Young People's Support Worker, Sam, was on maternity leave. As schools had been cautious with regards to external visitors, much of Sam's maternity leave happened at a time when Sam would not have been able to go into schools to provide sessions. Sam had adapted her workbooks and resources so any enquiries received during this time were offered resources to use until sessions could resume. Sam returned to work in mid-January 2022 and sessions resumed in mid-February. The number of referrals received during this period were much lower as anticipated, with 45 hours of therapy provided, supporting 8 young people.

Peer Support

Bosom Buddies – This support group reached 20 years of service in 2019. The participation and attendance had reduced over time, largely in response to other local breast cancer support offers. Pink Parties had been an annual event for many years and an on-line alternative was again provided in October 2021. Although not known at the time, this was to be the last of our Pink Parties as we must focus our resources where they are most needed. The return of the Bosom Buddies support group is not currently in our future plans.

GOG'S - Our Gentlemen Only Group recommenced in July and gradually increased in numbers as restrictions changed throughout the rest of the year. The group has welcomed new participants and is very well attended. The support and connections made through the offer of this group withstood the testing times and the need for this to continue was very apparent. The mix of returning participants, still experiencing long term cancer related issues or with new cancer concerns, and newly registered gents, results in meaningful, purposeful meetings.

Mixed Peer Support Group (previously named Hugs)- Many of the participants of this group kept in touch with each other and did not return when face-to-face meetings resumed for various reasons. Our service welcomes evolution and intends for the groups to be progressive and therapeutic rather than habit forming which is why we feel this is right for those who have moved on.

We knew from new service users that the appetite for a peer support group was apparent so in July, we launched our Mixed Peer Support group which welcomes all varieties of support needs.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Wellbeing

Holistic and Beauty therapies

We had scheduled therapies a number of times, only to have to reschedule them until things felt safer. This sadly meant that aside from a small few, we could not provide therapies for the whole year, yet it was the right thing to do.

Respite

With some additional measures in place, we were able to let our Respite caravan in Talacre. We were delighted that there were ways to increase safety measures so from late July 2021 onwards, we were able to fulfil 19 separate bookings, many were those who had missed out on the breaks in the previous year.

Outreach & Engagement

Networking has always been an important part of the Outreach & Engagement role. As well as ensuring that the services we offer are continually promoted to the residents of Halton, it provides valuable opportunities to raise our profile, whilst keeping up to date with the wide variety of services available from other organisations throughout the borough.

Similar to last year, due to Covid restrictions the majority of Outreach & Engagement activities continued to be conducted online. We continued to strive to maintain contact with the following groups by taking part in regular online meetings. This has enabled us to keep in contact with other organisations and to continually promote the services we have offered throughout a very difficult period:

Halton Healthwatch Advisory board (board member)

Patient Engagement Group (Whiston Hospital)

Halton PPG Plus (Patient Participation Group)

Halton CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) E&I group (Engagement & Involvement)

UK Age Concern expert panel

Child Bereavement Network group (Cheshire & Merseyside)

Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance TYA CQG (Teenage & Young Adults).

Partners In Prevention quarterly network group (networking opportunity for partners from Health, Social Care and the Voluntary sector).

Whilst most meetings continued to take place online, the new year saw a cautious return to some face-to-face outreach activity. Posters promoting the Centre services were updated (to include tear-off contact details for the Centre) and distributed to various locations throughout the borough.

February saw the commencement of a new weekly outreach venture in partnership with the 'Eat @ The Heath' community hub, based at The Heath Business Park, Runcorn. This group meet every Wednesday between 11.30am & 1.30pm. Our Outreach & Engagement worker regularly attended the weekly events which enabled her to connect face-to-face with both new and existing service users, some of whom struggled to travel to Widnes.

Social media and connectivity

We continued to develop our social media offer alongside adding more face-to-face services, so people had a choice of how to access our services.

Website

Over the year we had 3110 visits to our website, which is a 4.3% decrease from 2020/21. This was understandable as more face-to-face services resumed. Of those, 2791, were first time visits and 409 were returning visits.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Email correspondence

We continued to use MailChimp which is an email system which allows us to create branded and personalised emails, meeting our data protection requirements. Anyone can sign up for email newsletters by completing the form on our website or Facebook page and people who are new to our service are automatically added if they have provided an email address and consent. During this period, we sent 22 mass emails to 431 recipients with an average open rate of 52.5%. This is way above the industry average for non-profit organisations which is just 21%.

Facebook

The Centre's Facebook page increased its 'likers' by 17.03% from 1,003 to 1,209 and those who actively follow our page (interact with us on a regular basis by liking, sharing or commenting on our posts) increased by 19.5% from 942 to 1126. Our average monthly reach (the number of people who see our posts) was 3748.

Private Facebook groups

We continued to facilitate our private group on Facebook which is only available to those registered with us. At the beginning of April, we combined our 2 groups to give 1 'Activity & Support Group' which contains puzzles, riddles, and games, alongside inspirational and self-care posts. We had 87 members with lots of interaction. Some of the group members also posted in the group to support each other through difficult times.

We continued to use Twitter, Instagram, and our YouTube channel to share messages and information. These allow us to keep in touch with other local services and share information.

We continued to reach out to ensure that Halton residents knew how to access our services. These methods proved to be an invaluable platform for communication whilst we continued to increase our face-to-face offer. We remain in a good position technologically to approach the year ahead.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Service Utilisation		Total
Telephone support	Wellbeing/listening support calls	1760
Counselling	Counselling sessions (remote)	108
	Counselling sessions, face to face	208
	Counselling related calls & assessments	501
Face to face services	Support group attendances	411
	Face to face listening sessions	22
On-line support groups	No. of posts on Facebook Peer Support Group	3144
	No. of comments	6574
	Number of reactions	16574
	Webchats/online messaging	125
On-line engagement	Website visitors	3110
	Facebook main page followers	1209
	Twitter followers	478
	Email subscribers	431
Newly registered people	Patients	39
	Carers	21
	Bereaved	10
	Children & Young People	11
	Total	81

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

What our service users say...

Mr P

"The social media side to the group has entertained me and is something I still log onto several times a day! Easy and fun way to interact with other group users"

Mrs B

"It is so good to be able to talk to others who appreciate how I feel. Everyone is so friendly and understanding"

Anon

"It gave me chance to open up, made me think about how to move forward, talk about my feelings and what I was going through. Talking to others really helped me"

Mrs C

"I feel I have had an opportunity to discuss my worries and concerns, and this has helped with dealing with my diagnosis and treatment"

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Public Benefit:

In identifying and reviewing these priorities, aims and objectives, plus the supporting actions and activities for the year, we have been fully mindful of the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. We have aimed to ensure that all these planned actions and activities, agreed or noted by the Trustees/Directors at our regular Committee Meetings, are for public benefit and in-line with the charities purpose.

Financial Review

The deficit of the charity for the year amounted to (£31,584) ((£12,052) ~ 2021)

Reserves Policy

Details of the charity's reserves are shown in note 7a and show a figure of £105,586. This level of reserves is equivalent to 4 months of the centre's running costs. This is above the centre's aim of holding £64,000 the equivalent of 6 months running costs and this figure includes the costs of closure. However, the charity also have a designated funds policy which separates funds for the purpose of working with children and young people and also a fund for respite purposes. This amounts to £75,000. These funds are not part of the charities reserve funds.

Risk Management

The trustees actively review the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and acknowledge that the key risks relate to reduction in core funding and utilisation of the service.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

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

- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board on 13th October 2022 and signed on behalf of the directors by:

Gordon Ellis

Gordon Ellis
Chairperson

Reference and Administrative Details

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

PATRONS OF WIDNES AND RUNCORN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Jackie Ashley

Jim Mills

Derek Twigg MP

Dee Graal

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021 - 2022

Honourable President

Dr Mary Gibbons, Retired G.P.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairperson	Gordon Ellis
Vice Chairperson	Clair Picton
Treasurer	Ken Hill

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Mr Gordon Ellis	Retired local Business Director
Mrs Clair Picton	Halton Resident (Voluntary Sector representative)
Dr Mary Gibbons	Retired G.P.
Sheila Warr	Retired Macmillan Breast Care Specialist Nurse
Mr Kenneth Hill	Retired local authority worker
Mrs Susan Pybus	Ex-bank worker (of the Widnes Cancer Support Fund Association)
Allison Roberts	Reflexology Therapist
Mr Ian Connolly	Retired Salesman

Company Secretary

Nicola Donaghue

Principal Staff

Nicola Donoghue	Operations Manager
Karen Millington	Centre Co-Ordinator P/T
Corrinne Stevens	Centre Co-Ordinator P/T
Nicola Brady	Administrative Support Worker
Val Melling	Bookkeeper / Administrator
Maureen Isherwood	Outreach & Engagement Worker
Sam Bourque	Children & Young People's Co-ordinator / Counselling Co-ordinator

Method of appointment

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Members of the Board are the Directors for the purposes of company law and the Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Registered address

21-23 Alford Street
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7TR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Albert Square
23-24 Albert Road
Widnes, WA8 6JW

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022 set out on pages 15 to 24.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- ☐ state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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

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

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams

Jane Williams
MAAT

Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
St Maries
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

13th October 2022

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income from:					
Income from donations	(4)	22,119	72,200	94,319	110,977
Income from charitable activities	(5)	4,821	-	4,821	8,270
Other incoming resources	(6)	4,200	-	4,200	3,013
Bank interest		2	-	2	6
Total incoming resources		31,142	72,200	103,342	122,266
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	(7)	59,126	75,800	134,926	134,318
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		(27,984)	(3,600)	(31,584)	(12,052)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(27,984)	(3,600)	(31,584)	(12,052)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds as at 01 April 2020		61,286	44,300	105,586	117,638
Total funds as at 31 March 2021	(9)	33,301	40,700	74,001	105,586

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.
All activities are regarded as continuing.
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 13.
The Notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these accounts.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2022

		2022	2022	2022	2021
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	(8)	-	21,595	21,595	25,195
Total current assets		-	21,595	21,595	25,195
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(11)	-	11,050	11,050	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(12)	36,649	8,055	44,704	82,143
Total current assets		36,649	19,105	55,754	82,143
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors (due within one year)	(13)	3,348	-	3,348	1,752
Total current liabilities		3,348	-	3,348	1,752
Net Assets		33,301	40,700	74,001	105,586
Funds of the charity					
Restricted Funds		-	40,700	40,700	44,300
Unrestricted funds		33,301	-	33,301	61,286
Total Funds		33,301	40,700	74,001	105,586

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2022

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 complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The notes on pages 17 to 24 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 13th October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Hill

Ken Hill
Director / Trustee

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022

		2022	2021
		Total	Total
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA		(31,584)	(12,052)
Capital purchase		-	-
Depreciation		3,600	3,600
Investment income		2	6
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5)	(11,050)	0
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		1,596	464
		<u>(37,436)</u>	<u>(7,982)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	(6)	<u>(2)</u>	<u>- 6</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash:		(37,438)	(7,988)
Total cash as at 01 April 2021		82,143	90,131
Total cash as at 31 March 2022		<u>44,704</u>	<u>82,143</u>

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these accounts.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Basis of preparation

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

- 1.1** with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:
 - (a) The Charities Act 2011
 - (b) The Companies Act 2006
 - (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102
 - (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2015)
- 1.3** The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102
- 1.4** The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Fund accounting

- (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.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 7a.

2.2 Income

- (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. caravan), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) 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.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

- (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.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

2.4 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.

Rates of depreciation

Caravan: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

2.5 Debtors

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

2.6 Cash

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.7 Creditors

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

2.8 Taxation

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

3 Transactions with trustees and related parties

No trustees received any expenses or remuneration during the period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

4 Income from donations	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Halton Borough Council: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,500	11,500	11,000
Halton Borough Council: Public Health	-	6,500	6,500	6,500
NHS Halton CCG	-	54,200	54,200	55,750
Halton Borough Council: Recovery Fund	5,762	-	5,762	-
The Steve Morgan Foundation	-	-	-	16,261
LCR Cares	-	-	-	3,000
Donations	16,357	-	16,357	18,466
	<u>22,119</u>	<u>72,200</u>	<u>94,319</u>	<u>110,977</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Fundraising	4,821	-	4,821	8,270
	<u>4,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,821</u>	<u>8,270</u>
6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Contributions	1,875	-	1,875	436
Other Incoming Resources	2,325	-	2,325	2,577
	<u>4,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>3,013</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

7 Expenditure of charitable activities

		2022 Unrestricted funds	2022 Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<u>Direct Costs</u>					
Salaries and NICs	7a	22,599	72,200	94,799	105,931
Payroll costs		1,164	-	1,164	1,109
Printing & Stationery		614	-	614	491
Telephone & Postage		3,265	-	3,265	2,993
Equipment		8,144	-	8,144	1,385
Other Expenses		43	-	43	346
Fees & licenses		35	-	35	45
<u>Premises</u>					
Rent		8,866	-	8,866	8,761
Utilities		2,209	-	2,209	1,957
Insurance		1,069	-	1,069	951
Cleaning		47	-	47	985
Repairs & Maintenance		1,564	-	1,564	267
<u>Other</u>					
Bank Charges		197	-	197	152
Training		344	-	344	48
Travel		111	-	111	136
Event		343	-	343	-
Group Activities		11	-	11	811
Caravan Expenses		5,871	-	5,871	4,280
Counselling & Supervision		1,046	-	1,046	-
Marketing & Fundraising		129	-	129	57
Depreciation		-	3,600	3,600	3,600
Governance costs	(10)	1,455	-	1,455	13
Total resources expended		59,126	75,800	134,926	134,318

7a Staff costs and numbers

	£	£
Gross salaries	97,676	102,122
Employer's NI	- 4,650	1,752
Employer's Pension	1,773	2,057
	94,799	105,931

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more in the current accounting period

The average number of employees during the year was 3.4 (2021:3.4)

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

8 Tangible assets

	Caravan £	Total £
<u>Cost</u>		
At 1 April 2021	35,995	35,995
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2022	<u>35,995</u>	<u>35,995</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2021	10,800	10,800
Charge for year	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,600</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>14,400</u>	<u>14,400</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2022	<u>21,595</u>	<u>21,595</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>25,195</u>	<u>25,195</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

9 Movements in funds

	As at 01/04/2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	As at 31/03/2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General funds	61,286	31,142	59,126	-	33,301
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Caravan	44,300	-	3,600	-	40,700
HBC: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,500	11,500	-	-
HBC: Public Health	-	6,500	6,500	-	-
NHS Halton CCG	-	54,200	54,200	-	-
		-	-	-	-
	44,300	72,200	75,800	-	40,700
<u>Total funds</u>	105,586	103,342	134,926	-	74,001

Purpose of restricted funds

We are grateful to all our funders who provided support to our centre running costs and salaries.

10 Governance Costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent Examiners' fee	525	-
Accountancy	95	-
Professional fees	702	-
DBS Checks	120	-
Administration	13	13
	<u>1,455</u>	<u>13</u>

11 Debtors and prepayments

	£	£
Debtors	11,050	-
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>11,050</u>	<u>-</u>

12 Cash at bank and in hand

	£	£
Current Accounts	28,368	58,440
Deposit Accounts	11,934	20,272
Fundraising Account	3,928	3,021
Cash in hand	474	410
	<u>44,704</u>	<u>82,143</u>

13 Creditors and accruals

	£	£
Creditors	1,723	1,752
Deferred Income	1,625	-
	<u>3,348</u>	<u>1,752</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2022

13 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Income from donations	22,119	21,466	72,200	89,511
Income from charitable activities	4,821	8,270	-	-
Other incoming resources	4,200	3,013	-	-
Bank interest	2	6	-	-
Total incoming resources	31,142	32,755	72,200	89,511
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	59,126	36,927	75,800	97,391
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(27,984)	(4,172)	(3,600)	(7,880)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(27,984)	(4,172)	(3,600)	(7,880)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds as at 01 April 2020	61,286	65,458	44,300	52,180
Total funds as at 31 March 2021	(9) 33,302	61,286	40,700	44,300

Accounts

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Charity number 1145810

A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948



The Centre

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

Web Site: www.widnesandruncorncancersupport.org.uk

Registered Charity no.1145810

Company no. 07830948



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Greater Merseyside Community
Accountancy Service

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report

Thanks and acknowledgements

The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals, groups and organisations who have supported Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group throughout the year. More than ever our funds have been compromised and the generosity and consideration of many people has been overwhelming during such a challenging time.

Thank you once again to NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) whose grant agreement has provided a further year of financial support. In recognition of the potential difficulties, these funds were administered quickly and efficiently with the best interest of our community and sector at heart.

Halton Borough Council (HBC) have again provided the Voluntary Sector Core Grant and a grant from the Public Health Team. These vital grants were dealt with swiftly to allow our services to adapt and continue to provide the support our community needed.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have once again provided a grant to support our Children and Young People's service.

The grants received this year have provided a considerable percentage of our staff and running costs. At a time when these grants could well have been impacted, the foresight and appreciation of those responsible for their provision has shown a clear understanding of our community needs, and faith in the services we deliver.

Alongside grants and funds, we are very fortunate to receive financial and other varying types of support from organisations, groups and individuals within our community. We would like to note a special thanks to:

Ormiston Chadwick Academy OCA for their creativity and colourful ways to raise funds and awareness. They donated a further £175.

Connor Hill, Rhiannon Craig and friends from Time2Smile worked tirelessly throughout the early days of the pandemic to make and sell creative face coverings. They donated an amazing £650.

The Andy Parker Football Tournament is an annual event which could not take place in its usual format this year. Not to be deterred, an alternative bike ride was arranged! Thank you so much for all the hard work and fundraising from RJ Parker, family & friends and the many businesses and individuals who plan and support this event. An amazing £3133 was raised.

A huge thanks to everyone who supported our virtual online events this year and for all those who got involved with '25 Things in May'. The ideas and efforts were amazing. We must also thank our very special little helpers for their wonderful work: Ben, Olivia, and Ruby, you are our stars!

Ben has fundraised throughout the year raising over £1200! Ben was awarded the Community Kindness Award 2020 which was presented to him by Mayor Margaret Horabin!

We would also like to thank individuals for their very generous donations:

S Warr, D Graal, S Carson, C Wright, A Inglethorpe, C Rowe, G Davis, Jacqui & Elliott, G Lancaster, P Rigbe, D Goulding, M Wynne, Barry & Jean, M Wilkinson, D Millington, J Noon, P Byrne, MA Mcveigh, S Spruce, T Hirsch, R Hardman, J Cain, G Davis, J Rooney, A Power, I Davis, J Woods, Madeleine, Jacob, Josh & John, D Allison, H Rice, P Davis, S Smith, S Hornby, G McNicholas, E Foulkes, A Hart, P McNicholas, K & B Flanagan, K Martindale, H Burkhill, S Ramsay, J Housley, Mrs Julie Housley, L Sephton, J Walls, K Dennett, M Hardman, E Stevens, P Rolfe, S Thompson, R Magson, C Barton, D Tarr, S Putterill, S Cathcart, E Leech, T Moran, M Green, C Whitehead, P Brand, M Blackhall, P Rice, C Bourque, J Bissenden, G Daulby, D McKay, J Stephens, H Whitfield, F Curran, Mark, Lynsey, Jack & Lydia, J Prince, J Curran, R Bourque, N Wright, D Lloyd, M Lloyd, A Lloyd, J Gwynne, M Isherwood, June & Dave, D Flannagan, J Hobby, S Ramsay, S Tobin, M Phelan, L Stevens, C Wright, L Farrow, S Bourque, B Wheat, J Carter, F Carter, J Hunt, J Wright, D Bennett, L Rylands, E Hill, J Hill, BM Carr, J Brady, L Bashford and I Hare.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

L Farrow is a long-term volunteer, supporter and fundraiser. She continues to run the in-house lottery. Lyn has raised over £10,000 since starting the lottery! Thank you, Lyn, for all your hard work and to all those who contribute. We know this is also supported greatly by volunteer K Farrow.

These fantastic individuals have raised funds in many ways such as collections, sales of handmade goods and raffles: J Brady, Dot Bennett, L Rylands, L Hawkins, J Beesley, S Parker, K & B Flannagan and L Farrow. We are very grateful for your hard work and dedication.

We are sometimes in receipt of donations following the passing of someone who has found support in our service. It is difficult to imagine the strength it takes to organise collections and donations in memoriam, and we are very grateful to the family and friends who have lost loved ones and choose to do this for our charity. Thank you G Whitfield and Widnes Royal Mail office, A Reid and Mr G Keating.

A heart-felt thank you also to the many volunteer counsellors who have provided a much-needed part of our service. Their willingness to adapt in providing telephone, video-call and socially distanced counselling has been a testament to their dedication and commitment to counselling those in need.

As you can see, it has been a year filled with compassion, kindness, utilisation of skills and generosity. We can never thank you all enough for all you have done and the help and support this has provided for many people.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Chairman's report 2020 – 2021

The year April 2020 to March 2021 is certainly one that will be forever remembered. Early in 2020 when the signs of difficulties ahead were emerging we could not have imagined the reality of what was to come.

In a time when life in the world we had known was at serious risk of harm, we all had to dig deep and find ways to navigate a new path. It was difficult to comprehend the gravity of the situation and I could not be prouder of the way in which our organisation responded and rose to this challenge.

Early in the year the possibility of our staff team being furloughed was considered by the Board of Directors and I. Taking into account the need to close our Centre and the very nature of what we do, initially, it did not seem viable to continue to operate. With lots of thought and discussion and after seeking the opinions and ideas of our staff team we decided to adapt our way of working to provide some alternative, interim support, until we could resume a full service, little did we know how the year would unfold.

I am delighted to say that with the collaboration of our board and staff team, we continued to offer an alternative yet very effective support service throughout the whole year. We have carefully followed advice and guidance with regards to how to operate safely and know undoubtedly it would not have been the right thing for our service users if we had decided to close.

Closing our doors and moving our staff team to work from their homes was complex and came with a whole host of considerations. An empty building, varying levels of home-working facilities, I.T. complications, families & pets at home, our volunteer team, employment considerations to mention but a few. Our staff team set to work and carefully navigated and evolved a new way of working. Led by our Operations Manager Nicola, I know this was no easy task and the Board and I are thankful for the resilience and determination shown by our team, driven we know by their compassion and dedication to the people we serve.

A guiding light for our organisation has been Halton & St Helens Voluntary, Community Action (VCA), always a powerful force for the good of our sector and wider community. This year has highlighted their ability to respond, plan and pre-empt potential situations, pulling together resource, skill and community spirit to orchestrate a community-wide support network. Alongside the work of our Borough Council, local Public Health representatives and Halton Clinical Commissioning, they have continually supplied a sea of assistance and support with creative and relentless compassion. We cannot thank them enough.

We are as always indebted to our financial supporters who provide the vital grants required to run the core of our services. NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, Halton Borough Council (HBC) Voluntary Sector Core Funding, HBC Public Health, and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services have again provided funds and grants which enable us to support our community in dealing with the impact of cancer. Their fast response and flexible approach has been exemplary.

Additionally, this year we have been supported in our adapted working by The Steve Morgan Foundation (SMF) and Liverpool City region – LCR cares. These grants have allowed additional IT equipment, support and the installation of a number of COVID-safe measures within our Centre. SMF has also supported the protection of our reserve funds, insightfully recognising the longer-term financial implications.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Thanks and acknowledgements are shown further in the report yet I would like to recognise the continuous fundraising efforts of our team and the kindness and generosity of our supporters. The steady trickle of income which was generated by those dropping-in to the Centre of course ceased when our doors closed. The alternative online raffles, quizzes, games and donations have been supported by many and we are truly thankful for each and every contribution.

Many of our volunteers have been operational during this time, quietly and unassumingly supporting our cause. This has included the wonderful 'Centre Champion' calls detailed later in the report, various fundraising efforts and those who have regularly engaged in our online support mechanisms, encouraging others and creating a shared sense of responsibility for assisting one another's wellbeing. Much of this has simply been given without request and without expectation of anything in return. We also applaud our service users who have been adaptable and accepting during a difficult time. Our organisation is powered by such kindness of spirit and altruism.

Amongst the achievements and celebrations of the year there have of course for many been some very traumatic and devastating events. Our heartfelt thoughts go to those who have suffered loss and change during this period. We hope that our service and the many neighbouring services in our Borough can provide warmth and support for you and your loved ones.

I will end on a note of gratitude and respect for our staff team and my fellow Board of Directors. They have embraced the need for adaptation, thrown themselves into a world of video-meetings, carefully considered risks and territory unknown for the good of others. We know this challenge is not behind us and we will continue to steer our Centre ship through stormy waters doing as our mission stipulates – to provide emotional and psychological support for local people who have been touched by cancer.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Treasurers Report

We are indebted once again to Jane Williams for the independent submission of our 2020-21 annual accounts and for the preparation of a balance sheet for submission to Companies House.

This is the ninth full accounting year since our incorporation as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

We are fortunate and grateful also to have been in receipt of another yearly grant from NHS Halton CCG, Children & Young People's funding from Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services and to have been the recipients of further grant support from Halton Borough Council via the Public Health Department and Voluntary Sector Core Grants.

Additional funds in response to the pandemic have been received from Liverpool City region- LCR Cares and The Steve Morgan Foundation.

Forthcoming items of note for the accounts:

Reserves and designated funds policy

- We ended the year with £105,586
- Six months reserves is approximately £64,000 based on this year's expenditure.
- Our Designated Funds Policy for respite was £9,000.
- We have designated funds of £10,000 to cover redundancy and expenses in the event of closure.

Ken Hill
Treasurer

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Operations Manager Report

My fifth year as Operations Manager has certainly been the most challenging and yet in many ways the most rewarding. I echo all that our Chairman has shared and feel that the additional time, effort and compassion that our Chairman and Board of Directors have given this year has been outstanding.

I feel very fortunate to have the backing of such a committed Board who strike a carefully considered balance between strategic involvement and recognising the need to adapt and engage differently. Alongside everything this year has demanded with all its twists and turns, came regular support, ad hoc calls and offers of help. Amongst the mandatory and necessary requirements came the "how are you doing, what can we do to help" calls. With all that needed to be addressed, never did our board fail to recognise the additional stress and pressure placed on our team and the wellbeing of all was at the forefront throughout.

Reflecting on this time has provided the opportunity to truly assess what has been achieved against the odds.

The date sign on the Centre reception desk said 16th March 2020. The staff and volunteers had been asked to be at home the previous week and this was the last day I worked at the Centre for some time. The sign stayed that way for a while. The emptiness and echoey sound when the Centre is empty is something I usually associate with quiet time to prepare reports, type up notes, plan ahead and generally keep up to date with everything. The sound and atmosphere at this time had shifted into something unrecognisable and unsettling.

Our service prides itself on the warm welcome, the open door, the place to turn up to when cancer has invaded lives, thoughts, and feelings. "How" I heard myself say out loud as I stood in an empty Centre; so used to interaction, warmth and life and yet now silent much like the world outside. How could we possibly do this... run this Centre, support all those people with no Centre? The feeling was overwhelming, alarming and weighed heavy.

The Centre is a beautiful space. We maintain its welcoming appearance with its homely yet professional feel. It is looked after and cared for. It is cleaned, heated, powered by electricity and gas. We must supervise it, maintain it and fix and mend things much like any work or community space. We have policies and procedures and a certain way of doing things which have to be kept in check, but that is not all. What we have is amazing people. Good, decent compassionate people who are the glue of our service. They are the magic which makes the policies, procedures, facts and figures turn into something spectacular, and they were all awaiting guidance on the 'How'.

With some contemplation and renewed vigour, we started to plan. I understood my role was to motivate, inspire and empower our team to face the situation and I was not alone. Buoyed by our Chairman and Board, we thrashed out ideas, quickly mastered various technologies which once felt unfathomable and saw the entire experience as an opportunity to overcome, learn and to drive our service forward.

During in April, May, and June, as well as providing our core listening service, we took some planned events online which was a leap of faith. This was a first for us and we were delighted to see that our afternoon tea and 25th Anniversary events were a great success. Many service users and followers held their own mini celebrations at home and sent pictures and interacted with us throughout the day. We had pre-recorded videos, stories from the past and present, and a real sense of coming together despite being apart. We also had a '25 things in May' theme where we asked people to fundraise under this theme to celebrate our anniversary. Some people did 25 minutes of walking per day, 25 new recipes in May, 25 handmade cards, 25 Joe Wicks exercise sessions! – the creativity was endless.

Throughout July, August and September, Things felt a little more settled. Regular support/wellbeing calls were being made and received, we had set up our Centre Champion volunteers, and we had regular counselling via telephone and video call. The previous years of increasing our social media presence paid off as we had the platforms to further grow these and created virtual support groups as well as weekly video-call peer support meetings.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

A ray of hope came at this time with the 'Rule of 6' being introduced as part of government guidance. As our premises are relatively small, we joined forces with 'The Studio' nearby and began small socially distanced support groups. These had lots of measures in place to keep everyone safe and made such a difference to those who could attend and be safely together.

Face to face counselling could also begin again. With some adaptations to our space to adhere to recommended guidance, we could welcome counselling back in small numbers. Many of our counselling team continued to provide the telephone and video-call sessions too.

In October, November, and December, we had a sense that the prolonged restrictions were beginning to take an even greater toll. Calls were providing reports of increased loneliness, feelings of despair and the anticipation of longer darker days was causing further distress. We knew our role was to keep on being creative, keep on going and to listen and respond to what we were hearing.

We provided photograph challenges, quizzes, personal letters to those harder to reach, welcome/wellbeing kits were sent to people new to our service, we ran competitions for young people, therapeutic ideas and suggestions for taking care at home. We tried a plethora of ideas, suggestions and activities to keep spirits up. The most helpful thing we found was for people to be listened to, to be valued, to be heard and to feel connected.

As 2021 began, we all looked to the promise of a better year. The current services were much more embedded, and things were running well. We had kept in regular contact with our volunteers and noticed a decline in contact across the board as people were able to go out a little more and restrictions were not as tight. The government roadmap began to take shape and plans for our Centre to have improved ventilation were beginning to develop.

We engaged regularly with other local support organisations and as mentioned in our Chairman's report, this was much to the credit of Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action. This has been imperative in keeping our service current and in touch with local policy and developments.

I feel it is important to recognise that our staff team throughout this have also experienced the difficulties, complications, and heartache that the pandemic has brought. We offered various methods of support such as mindful relaxation, regular meetings, and opportunities to talk and yet it is often those who see themselves as there to support others who find it difficult to make time for themselves. The board and I, and I am sure our many service users are very grateful and appreciative of their dedication above and beyond their roles and know that this is far more than a job role to them, it is their way of life to support others.

The biggest lesson for us all I feel has been a very basic bottom line –people need people. We all need connection, purpose and meaning in our lives. Our focus is to provide support for those touched by Cancer, yet it is important to remember that Cancer does not define a person. A person is a unique, complex individual and is a person first, before a cancer patient. The needs we have met this year have in some ways been different, yet the intent is the same. We are here to support people, connect them to others and ultimately help them to find ways to manage and help themselves in coping with all that life can bring. Cancer has a way of bringing lots of things to the surface and I know in my heart that this year, we have evolved to meet the needs presented while staying true to our purpose.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Our services

Core Support

Listening and information services – What can be referred to as the 'bread and butter' of our services has remained strong and consistent throughout.

Incoming and outgoing support/listening calls have been very well utilised and have been a real lifeline for many. Each call has been very different. Some short and sweet who were happy to be kept included and valued. Some calls were lengthy and emotional, especially from those who live alone as the days and nights were long and lonely in lockdown. Others that were having treatment, surgery and appointments cancelled were thankful of some contact and support. The calls gave many the opportunity to vent and express concerns, worries and emotions and our staff team supported one-another in dealing with this. We introduced a traffic light system which meant after each call with careful listening and gentle questions, we could determine the potential level of need for each individual. This acted as a guide and helped us to utilise our resources to support our service users in the best way we could.

Halton Borough Council and a number of neighbouring services were offering support with prescriptions, shopping, and various other essentials, particularly for those being asked to shield. We were able to identify when people needed this and refer them for this practical help.

In response to the increasing requests and needs, we provided a weekly support group via video call. This of course came with lots of technical challenges for which we provided information and support. Many were surprised at their ability to master the art of video calling! These meetings brought some welcome cheer, contact and company.

There were a number of people who registered with our service at a time when we could not offer our usual level of support. We created thoughtful 'Welcome Boxes' for them, with a heartfelt letter offering our current services. We have then kept in touch throughout. The boxes contained mini-items including an individual tea bag and biscuit, a notepad and pen with our logo and contact number, some small selfcare items and some little treats.

When we were able to offer some limited face-to-face services, we provided one-to-one meetings for both newly registered and long-term service users. This was a very difficult time for people so within those hourly slots they could be listened to, supported, and could freely discuss their thoughts, feeling and concerns in confidence.

Centre Champions – When providing our telephone services, we quickly identified the need for more frequent calls to some of our more vulnerable service users who were feeling very isolated. We set up an additional offer with the help and support of our trusted volunteers. Four volunteers already known to us were brought together as a virtual support team and the name 'Centre Champions' was born. They were provided with refresher training on listening support and safeguarding advice and guidance. With the support of our staff team, they have provided weekly or fortnightly calls to the individuals we had identified. This has been a huge success and is something we will consider for the future.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Psychological Support

Counselling – Counselling has continued throughout the pandemic mostly via telephone call and some video calls. This change could be undertaken as Sam, our Counselling Co-ordinator completed an online counselling course put together by the BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) for Open University. This was to prepare counselling services for change as a result of the pandemic. Following on from this we were able to put some new policies and procedures in place to help us to offer alternatives to face to face counselling.

This has been of great benefit to our service users during such difficult times. It was a big ask for our counsellors as this is a new way of working for them. We have maintained good communication with the colleges during this time to ensure we are doing the best for our counsellors. This has meant offering the counsellors more support and extra guidance. We have also been able to offer some Covid safe face-to-face counselling sessions for those service users who felt telephone counselling wasn't right for them. This again was another learning curve for us and our counsellors have adapted to the changes with great positivity and professionalism. Working this way has provided the opportunity to see the benefits of being able to provide remote support, particularly for those who may be too unwell or find it too difficult to meet face-to-face. This would likely never have happened had we not been challenged to work in different ways.

Children and Young people's support - With the closure of schools during lockdown periods and most schools not allowing visitors it has been quite difficult to engage with children and young people as we once did. We made phone calls and wrote letters to parents keeping them up to date with the service and checking in with how the family were coping. We also set up an online chat facility linked to our website that children, young people and their families could access if they wanted to talk or seek support. We had the idea of sending out some wellbeing activities to the children and young people who had used our service and so made 18 wellbeing packs which included mindful colouring, a craft activity, a notebook, playdoh, bubbles, breathing activities and general wellbeing activities.

We also held an art competition where we asked children and young people to produce a piece of artwork about something that inspires them. We had some great entries, and our winners were Finlay whose inspiration was his love of marine biology, David Attenborough and a love of sharks and Erika whose inspiration was her grandad. Erika's painting shows a memory of sitting with her grandad watching TV.

Peer Support

Bosom Buddies – The usual annual event which takes place during Breast Cancer Awareness month took on a different form. Two of our team members provided a 'live' event from our Centre via video call. This is always a very lively celebration, and this year was no different. Various games, activities, raffles and fun were had, and the Mersey Gateway bridge was lit in bright pink to mark the evening.

GOG'S – Our Gentlemen Only Group members have kept in regular contact with each other. When we were able we arranged some socially distanced group meetings at The Studio. Several of the gents came to meet up and were happy to adhere to all Covid-safe guidance. A number of gents have also continued to meet socially outside of our services which is a real testament to their support for one another.

Hugs Peer Support Group – Many of the people who attend this group have been accessing peer support for a number of years. They have continued to keep in regular contact with each other and we have provided telephone support as and when requested and required.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Wellbeing

Holistic Therapies – As these could not be provided, we began a weekly therapy item within our Facebook support groups named 'Therapeutic Thursdays' which included a range of activities such as mindful activities, relaxation techniques and hints and tips on taking care of our wellbeing. Our holistic therapists joined in and provided articles and ideas.

Art Therapy Workshops – Our weekly and monthly arts & crafts activities have not been available, yet we have had an alternative online virtual group, via Facebook. There have been activities; quizzes, photo challenges, word puzzles and craft ideas every day, including weekends!

Respite

For much of the year, the site where we have our respite caravan has been closed. When we were able, we visited and introduced some COVID-safe measures and a small number of guests were able to attend under careful guidance. Sadly, this was utilised for only a short time, and we will be working hard in the year ahead to offer the missed breaks for those who would have enjoyed respite.

Outreach & Engagement

Networking has always been an important part of the Outreach & Engagement role. As well as ensuring that the services we offer are continually promoted to the residents of Halton, it provides valuable opportunities to raise our profile, whilst keeping up to date with the wide variety of services available from other organisations throughout the borough.

We have maintained contact with the following groups by taking part in regular online meetings. This has enabled us to keep in contact with other organisations and to continually promote the services we have offered throughout a very difficult period:

- Halton Healthwatch Advisory board (board member)
- Patient Engagement Group (Whiston Hospital)
- Halton PPG Plus (Patient Participation Group)
- Halton CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) E&I group (Engagement & Involvement)
- CO-OP Network (for local organisations)
- Age Concern expert panel
- Child Bereavement Network group (Cheshire & Merseyside)
- Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance TYA CQG (Teenage & Young Adults)
- Cancer Academy user group

Social media and connectivity

We have worked hard to develop our social media offer and the last year has shown this to be more important than ever. The foundation and building blocks we had built, put us in good stead to move our services to a virtual offer. We have grown and developed significantly throughout this year.

Website - Over the previous 12 months we have had 3250 visits to the website, which is a 16.7% increase from 2019/20. Of those, 2777 were first time visits and 473 were returning visits. The monthly statistics continue to show a correlation between spikes in visit numbers and social media posts directing people to the website, particularly the news section where the latest information about what is going on at The Centre is displayed.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Service Utilisation

Service utilisation		
Telephone support	Total number of support/wellbeing calls	3440
Counselling	Telephone counselling sessions	341
	Face to face counselling	12
Face to face services	Support group attendances	103
	Face to face listening sessions	8
On-line support groups	No. of peer support posts on private Facebook group	1895
	No. of comments	5211
	Number of reactions	15260
	No. of support activity posts on private Facebook group	2004
	No. of comments	14329
	Number of reactions	23883
	Video conference peer support meeting attendances	342
	Webchats/online messaging	96
	New service users	41

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued



Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Trustees' report continued

Public Benefit:

In identifying and reviewing these priorities, aims and objectives, plus the supporting actions and activities for the year, we have been fully mindful of the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. We have aimed to ensure that all these planned actions and activities, agreed or noted by the Trustees/Directors at our regular Committee Meetings, are for public benefit and in-line with the charities purpose.

Financial Review

The deficit of the charity for the year amounted to (£12,052) (£50,863 ~ 2020)

Reserves Policy

Details of the charity's reserves are shown in note 7a and show a figure of £105,586. This level of reserves is equivalent to 4 months of the centre's running costs. This is above the centre's aim of holding £64,000 the equivalent of 6 months running costs and this figure includes the costs of closure. However, the charity also have a designated funds policy which separates funds for the purpose of working with children and young people and also a fund for respite purposes. This amounts to £75,000. These funds are not part of the charities reserve funds.

Risk Management

The trustees actively review the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and acknowledge that the key risks relate to reduction in core funding and utilisation of the service.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

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

- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Board on 9th September 2021 and signed on behalf of the directors by:

Gordon Ellis
Chairperson

Reference and Administrative Details
Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Charity number 1145810
A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948

PATRONS OF WIDNES AND RUNCORN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Jackie Ashley

Jim Mills

Derek Twigg MP

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020 - 2021

Honourable President

Dr Mary Gibbons, Retired G.P.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chairperson	Gordon Ellis
Vice Chairperson	Clair Picton
Treasurer	Ken Hill

TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Mr Gordon Ellis	Retired local Business Director
Mrs Clair Picton	Halton Resident (Voluntary Sector representative)
Dr Mary Gibbons	Retired G.P.
Sheila Warr	Retired Macmillan Breast Care Specialist Nurse
Mr Kenneth Hill	Retired local authority worker
Mrs Susan Pybus	Ex-bank worker (of the Widnes Cancer Support Fund Association)
Allison Roberts	Reflexology Therapist

Company Secretary

Nicola Donaghue

Principal Staff

Nicola Donoghue
Karen Millington
Corrinne Stevens
Nicola Brady
Val Melling
Sam Bourque

Operations Manager
Centre Co-Ordinator P/T
Centre Co-Ordinator P/T
Administrative Support Worker
Bookkeeper / Administrator
Children & Young People's Co-ordinator /
Counselling Co-ordinator

Method of appointment

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Members of the Board are the Directors for the purposes of company law and the Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Registered address

21-23 Alford Street
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7TR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Albert Square
23-24 Albert Road
Widnes, WA8 6JW

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on pages 17 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- ☐ state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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

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

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
St Maries
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

9th September 2021

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income from:					
Income from donations	(4)	21,466	89,511	110,977	74,976
Income from charitable activities	(5)	8,270	-	8,270	10,219
Other incoming resources	(6)	3,013	-	3,013	13,340
Bank interest		6	-	6	-
Total incoming resources		32,755	89,511	122,266	98,535
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	(7)	36,927	97,391	134,318	149,398
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources		(4,172)	(7,880)	(12,052)	(50,863)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(4,172)	(7,880)	(12,052)	(50,863)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds as at 01 April 2020		65,458	52,180	117,638	168,501
Total funds as at 31 March 2021	(9)	61,286	44,300	105,586	117,638

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.
All activities are regarded as continuing.
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 13.
The Notes on pages 19 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Charity number 1145810
A Company limited by guarantee number 7830948
Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2021

		2021	2021	2021	2020
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	(8)	-	25,195	25,195	28,795
Total current assets		-	25,195	25,195	28,795
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(11)	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(12)	63,038	19,105	82,143	90,131
Total current assets		63,038	19,105	82,143	90,131
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors (due within one year)	(13)	1,752	-	1,752	1,288
Total current liabilities		1,752	-	1,752	1,288
Net Assets		61,286	44,300	105,586	117,638
Funds of the charity					
Restricted Funds		-	44,300	44,300	52,180
Unrestricted funds		61,286	-	61,286	65,458
Total Funds		61,286	44,300	105,586	117,638

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 complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The notes on pages 19 to 26 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 9th September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Ken Hill
Director / Trustee

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2021

		2021	2020
		Total	Total
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA		(12,052)	(50,863)
Capital purchase		-	-
Depreciation		3,600	3,600
Investment income		6	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5)	-	4,013
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		464	(16)
		<u>(7,982)</u>	<u>(43,266)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	(6)	<u>(6)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash:		(7,988)	(43,266)
Total cash as at 01 April 2020		<u>90,131</u>	<u>133,397</u>
Total cash as at 31 March 2021		<u>82,143</u>	<u>90,131</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form an integral part of these accounts.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Basis of preparation

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

- 1.1 with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:
 - (a) The Charities Act 2011
 - (b) The Companies Act 2006
 - (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102
 - (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2015)
- 1.3 The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102
- 1.4 The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Fund accounting

- (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.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 7a.

2.2 Income

- (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. caravan), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) 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.

2.3 Expenditure and liabilities

- (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.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

2.4 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.

Rates of depreciation

Caravan: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

2.5 Debtors

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

2.6 Cash

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.7 Creditors

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

2.8 Taxation

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

3 Transactions with trustees and related parties

No trustees received any expenses or remuneration during the period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

4 Income from donations	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Halton Borough Council: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,000	11,000	11,000
Halton Borough Council: Public Health	-	6,500	6,500	3,250
NHS Halton CCG	-	55,750	55,750	23,948
NHS Halton CAMHS	-	-	-	14,165
The Steve Morgan Foundation		16,261	16,261	
LCR Cares	3,000	-	3,000	-
Donations	18,466	-	18,466	22,613
	<u>21,466</u>	<u>89,511</u>	<u>110,977</u>	<u>74,976</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	8,270	-	8,270	10,219
	<u>8,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,270</u>	<u>10,219</u>
6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Contributions	436	-	436	8,031
Centre Outings	-	-	-	3,169
Centre Events	-	-	-	733
Other Incoming Resources	2,577	-	2,577	1,407
	<u>3,013</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,013</u>	<u>13,340</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

7 Expenditure of charitable activities

		2021 Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted funds	2021 Total funds	2020 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Direct Costs					
Salaries and NICs	7a	20,071	85,860	105,931	101,546
Payroll costs		-	1,109	1,109	1,069
Printing & Stationery		491	-	491	1,307
Telephone & Postage		2,993	-	2,993	2,242
Equipment		-	1,385	1,385	1,192
Other Expenses		-	346	346	706
Fees & licenses		45	-	45	375
Premises					
Rent		8,761	-	8,761	9,145
Utilities		1,957	-	1,957	2,540
Insurance		951	-	951	1,117
Cleaning		985	-	985	1,927
Repairs & Maintenance		267	-	267	361
Other					
Bank Charges		152	-	152	362
Training		48	-	48	753
Travel		136	-	136	973
Event		-	-	-	930
Group Activities		-	811	811	8,400
Caravan Expenses		-	4,280	4,280	5,690
Counselling & Supervision		-	-	-	609
Marketing & Fundraising		57	-	57	993
Depreciation		-	3,600	3,600	3,600
Governance costs	(10)	13	-	13	3,561
Total resources expended		36,927	97,391	134,318	149,398

7a Staff costs and numbers

	£	£
Gross salaries	102,122	97,507
Employer's NI	1,752	2,612
Employer's Pension	2,057	1,427
	105,931	101,546

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more in the current accounting period
The average number of employees during the year was 3.4 (2020:3.4)

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

8 Tangible assets

	Caravan	Total
<u>Cost</u>	£	£
At 1 April 2020	35,995	35,995
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>35,995</u>	<u>35,995</u>
 <u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2020	7,200	7,200
Charge for year	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,600</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>10,800</u>	<u>10,800</u>
 <u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2021	<u>25,195</u>	<u>25,195</u>
 At 31 March 2020	<u>28,795</u>	<u>28,795</u>

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2021

9 Movements in funds

	As at 01/04/2019	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	As at 31/03/2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	65,458	32,755	36,927	-	61,286
Restricted funds					
Caravan	52,180	-	7,880	-	44,300
HBC: Vol Sec Funding	-	11,000	11,000	-	-
HBC: Public Health	-	6,500	6,500	-	-
NHS Halton CCG	-	55,750	55,750	-	-
The Steve Morgan Foundation	-	16,261	16,261	-	-
	52,180	89,511	97,391	-	44,300
Total funds	117,638	122,266	134,318	-	105,586

Purpose of restricted funds

We are grateful to all our funders who provided support to our centre running costs and salaries. The Steve Morgan Foundation provided funding from the #SMF EmergencyFund. LCR Cares provided funding towards the Support of vulnerable people in the community.

10 Governance Costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent Examiners' fee	-	300
Accountancy	-	95
Professional fees	-	3,090
DBS Checks	-	63
Administration	13	13
	13	3,561
11 Debtors and prepayments		
	£	£
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	-	-
12 Cash at bank and in hand		
	£	£
Current Accounts	58,440	65,709
Deposit Accounts	20,272	23,983
Fundraising Account	3,021	-
Cash in hand	410	440
	82,143	90,131
13 Creditors and accruals		
	£	£
Creditors	1,752	1,288
Deferred Income	-	-
	1,752	1,288

Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support Group
Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2021

13 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Income from donations	21,466	22,613	89,511	52,363
Income from charitable activities	8,270	10,219	-	-
Other incoming resources	3,013	10,320	-	3,020
Bank interest	6	-	-	-
Total incoming resources	32,755	43,152	89,511	55,383
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	36,927	96,018	97,391	53,380
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	(4,172)	(52,866)	(7,880)	2,003
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(4,172)	(52,866)	(7,880)	2,003
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds as at 01 April 2020	65,458	118,324	52,180	50,177
Total funds as at 31 March 2021	(9) 61,286	65,458	44,300	52,180