

THE RIVER MANCHESTER
A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(CHARITY No. 1153700)
Annual Report & Accounts
For the year ending MARCH 2021

**THE RIVER MANCHESTER
SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION**

Registered Name
Charity Incorporated
Organisation The River
Manchester

Registration no. 1153700

Trustees
Terry Carthy, Chairman (stepped down and re-appointed as Chair in December 2020)
Sefa Amesu
Lesley Wiseman
Deborah Fuller

Registered Office
3 Pepperhill Road
Moss Side
Manchester M16 7PD

Independent Examiners
Rana & Co
P O Box 145
Manchester M19 1UY

Bankers
The Co-operative Bank
Delf House, Southway,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

**The River Manchester
Trustees Annual Report
YEAR ENDED 31ST March 2021**

Charity Incorporated Organisation registered with The Charity Commission on 6th September 2013.

The Trustees, present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The Trustees throughout the Year and to the date of this report and their advisors are set out on the accompanying Information Page.

Structure, Governance and Management

The management and administration is carried out by the Chief Executive, Mrs Lydia Chan who reports to the board of trustees. She is assisted in the day to day operation by 2 staff members Project Co-ordinator Janet Wong and Food Development cum Driver Andre Gordon-Ollivierre and a core of 14 volunteers.

The board of Trustees meet quarterly, also regularly at other times to review progress, and to plan for the future development of the Charity.

Trustees Statement - Public benefit

Our objectives, as outlined below, have been designed with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in mind. Throughout this year we have pursued these objectives as we have reviewed our activities both informally and in our official trustees meetings. At all times we have had regard to the Commissions guidance on the public benefit requirement.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity has the following objectives which are:

The relief and support of persons who have suffered or are in danger or suffering sexrelated violence or abuse, their children and dependants by the provision of food, clothing, furniture, friendship, training and other assistance.

Activities

Fundamental to the work of the charity is our faith in Jesus Christ; our Christian faith brings hope and change, where faith and action can bring freedom to those who are captives and victims of domestic abuse. We demonstrate our faith in practical ways where we are able to offer a safe place for connections to be

made, a place where practical provision of food, clothing, furniture and practical training is made available to help people move on in their lives and most importantly in prayer. The charity exercises prayer opportunities to pray for their clients and have seen reports of how prayer has healed them.

During the year with the covid-19 pandemic, in late March 2021 we had to observe government guidelines in closing our retail shop, our cafe, training in house, outreaches in refuges and external activities. As many charities faced a dire situation of not being operational, we chose to keep our frontline key services open to meet the emergencies which meant that our services escalated in referrals. Our frontline services were kept opened 2 days a week to cater for the need of providing the following: food parcels, move to safety and collection/deliveries for essential furniture whilst office staff worked from home. The following services took place:

1. provision of emergency food parcels. The number for this grew from a weekly 20 food parcels to 90 food parcels. Over the year, we supported over 2026 food parcels for women and children and some men with children.
2. furniture and collections and deliveries of furniture and starter packs for electrical items i.e. washing machines. We continued with collection for beds, washers, etc as there was a growth in demand due to charity shops not being open during the pandemic and clients' were being rehoused escalated.
3. work experience and training and a safe place to connect - moving from face to face activity, this became an online activity with digital credits given to beneficiaries for zoom sessions to take place on a weekly basis.
4. Move to safety -supporting 120 moves for single mothers and their children.
5. Cooking in refuges: our outreach came to a standstill.
6. Painting project: due to social distancing, we could not provide this service as it was dependent on volunteers' time.

Activities in the year

Exploring uncharted territory due to the pandemic, with funding being affected as the charity shop was closed, this event brought the best of our trustees in place bringing their different skills and strengths. The trustees supported the Chief Executive for the next phase of the charity especially the Chair, providing weekly health operational checks and encouragement and a more hands on approach to ensure the sustainability and vision of the charity.

Volunteers and staff faced a down time where staff had to be placed on furlough and

vulnerable volunteers were required to stay away.

Operational challenges:

With Covid 19 risk assessments in place, we had to reduce the number of volunteers attending the premises of the charity. At the same time, one staff was put on furlough and the charity operated with the most minimal of staff and volunteers. As the lockdown entered the second time, the Chief Executive was put on part-time furlough. As the need increased for food parcels and moves to help our clients resettle, we were able to get funding for a 6 month Food Development Worker, Andre Gordon Ollivierre, who was also a part time driver to help in our moves funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The charity resumed full operations in July once restrictions were removed and all staff were back from furlough.

Recruitment of volunteers and trainees. With the current volunteers out of action due to Covid 19 restrictions who had health vulnerabilities, we managed to recruit 5 new volunteers who were on furlough to carry out deliveries to those who were in isolation.

We were not able to host any open days due to restrictions. We started a newsletter to contact our supporters to keep them posted.

Retail and cafe:

The charity operates two enterprises i.e. the charity shop and a cafe. However with the Covid19 pandemic and lockdown 1, 2 and 3, we have had to close the retail outlet for most parts of the year and a permanent closure on the cafe. The closure of the charity shop had an impact on our finances. With the increase in the number of food parcels, these food stock took up most of the space in the cafe. We also had to have a quarantine area for collection of goods and merchandising of goods took place on the internet platform.

Removal service

With a relatively small and dedicated team of volunteers, we were able to provide an emergency moving service. This service increased in demand and we were able to secure funding to provide this as a free service to 120 referrals for women and children. This service is provided via our volunteer drivers and 2 assistants throughout the week.

Training and skills

When the pandemic started, there was a loss of services from other charities and we were getting more referrals from Black Asian Minority Ethnic groups, in particular from Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST). We supported 30 persons in a 8 weeks programme to help them assimilate to life in UK and improving their mental wellbeing. There were walks led by our volunteers as well as zoom meetings took place online which helped these women stay connected and reduced their isolation. A number of workshops took place ranging from nutrition, health and wellbeing, cooking, arts and craft.

Impact and achievements

We continue to have an impact in releasing people to recover from their wounds into people who are safe, connected and confident to become independent people who can realise their dreams, move into jobs, feel secure and improved well-being. Beneficiaries felt connected, found new online support, were confident, happier and found their own voice and identities. Our referrals are mainly from high risk beneficiaries referred from Women's Aid, Independent Domestic Advisors, Early Help, Children's Services, Social Services and WAST.

Testimony:

"I looked forward to the walks and zoom meeting. I had no family here except my daughter. The walks and zoom meeting kept my sanity during the pandemic, otherwise I would be alone with just my daughter. This sense of belonging is very important to me. Since I've joined the group, my feelings of loneliness and anxiety have reduced significantly. Overall it has a positive effect on my mental health and well-being."

Plans for the future and challenges

The charity's sustainability to continue empowering people through its services and build stronger relationships with other referral agencies to work with these beneficiaries.

Financial review

During the initial period 2020-21, The River Manchester's income was affected by the closure of the shop. We were solely reliant on generating our own income and had to diversify to apply to grants and Government's funding through the furlough and covid-19 business grants. We were also helped with a corporate sponsorship that enabled us to continue providing services to help families flee from their perpetrators and rebuild a new life elsewhere.

The charity currently has been able to build a 6 months reserve (£42,000) to cover 5 months operating costs, objectives and risks that it might face as well as plans for growth and expansion.

The plan for the next year will be to improve our level of services and to engage with more agencies, local businesses and further presentations to garner support from churches, schools and local communities.

Independent Examiner

Rana & Co has been appointed as independent examiner for the year.



Terry Carthy
Chair of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report on the Trustees of The River Manchester

I wish to report of the accounts of the River Manchester for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity
commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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

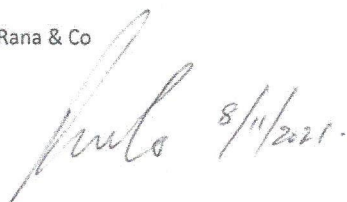
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting
requirements of the 2011 Charities Act 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.

Rana & Co



Independent Examiner
PO Box 145,
Manchester
M19 1UY.

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted Fund £	2021 Restricted Fund £	Total £	2020 Unrestricted Fund £	2020 Restricted Fund £	Total £
Incoming Resources							
Incoming resources from generated funds:	3						
Voluntary Income	3.1	22696	71943	94639	17679	4200	21879
Activities in generating Income	3.2	32102	6314	38416	53881	[540]	53341
Investment Income	3.3	-	-		-	-	0
Incoming Resources from charitable activities			-			-	
Total Incoming Resources		54798	78258	133055	71560	3660	75220
Resources Expended							
Cost of generating Funds	4						
Charitable Activities	4.1	16785	62165	78950	63713	3779	67492
Governance Costs	4.2	4644	60	4703	2205	-	2205
Other Resources expended		1272	-	1272	1132	-	1132
Gains/Losses Asset-Loss on Disposal		-			1408		1408
Total Resource Expended		22700	62225	84925	68458	3779	72238
Net Movements in Funds		32097	16033	48130	3102	[119]	2982
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total funds brought forward from previous year		32484	725	33209	29382	844	30226
Total Funds carried forward		64581	16758	81339	32484	725	33208

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	2021	2021		2020	2020	
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
Fixed Assets	5,088	-	5,088	6,360	-	6,360
Currents Assets						
Debtors	2,600	1,000	3,600	2,600	-	2,600
Bank Current Account	60,779	17,158	77,937	25,638	725	26,363
Cash in hand	159	-	159	38	-	38
	63,538	18,158	81,696	28,276	725	29,001
Current Liabilities						
Accrual	4,044	1,400	5,444	2,152	-	2,152
Net Current Asset	59,494	16,758	76,252	26,124	18,158	44,282
Total Net Asset	64,582	16,758	81,340	32,484	725	33,209
less current liabilities						
Funds of the Charity						
Unrestricted Fund	64,582	-	64,582	32,484	-	32,484
Restricted Fund		16,758	16,758		725	725
Total Funds	64,582	16,758	81,340	32,484	725	33,209

THE RIVER MANCHESTER

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

* Accounting and reporting by Charities - statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015);

* and with*

--

 accounting standards;
or

* and with the Charities Act.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

This set of accounts represent The River Manchester sEVERN year financial reporting.

2. Accounting policies

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those deleted. Where a difference or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of Incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (Sofa) When: <ul style="list-style-type: none">* the charity becomes entitled to the resources;* the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and* the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Investment Income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Expenditure and Liabilities Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Governance costs	Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.
Support Costs	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.
Assets Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	Van YH63FML Depreciated £1,272 for 12 months to 31 March 2021.

3. Analysis of Incoming resources

3.1 Voluntary Income	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£
Donation from individuals	16096	10041
Gift Aid Tax Claimed	-	3220
Grants	78543	8618
	<u>94639</u>	<u>21879</u>
3.2 Activities for generating funds	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Sponsorship -HMRC 80% Job Retention Grant	6314	
Sales of Donated Goods	32102	53341
	<u>38416</u>	<u>53341</u>
3.3 Investment Income	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Bank Interest Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3.4 Charitable Activities Income		
Van Donation Received	-	-
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

4. Analysis of resources expended

4.1 Cost of Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	Total	Total
	£	£
Fundraising cost	584	-
Salaries and wages	38317	31928
PAYE/Employee NI	7340	5668
Pension Contribution	2076	1828
Staff Training Cost	55	20
Volunteers Training Cost	59	7
Vehicle Repair/Hire Cost	829	1594
Van Petrol Expenses	2031	2174
Volunteer Travel Expenses	1365	638
Volunteer Expenses	646	541
Project Cost	4263	1344
Heat & Light	1547	2303
Rent	13481	15808
Business/Water Rates	313	-971
Insurances	1878	2073
Caretaking	339	595
Repairs & Maintenance	390	150
Postage & Stationery/printing	201	254
Phone & Internet	2061	717
Publicity Cost	400	19
IT Cost	262	-
Equipment Purchase	511	127
Materials Cost	-	-
Cafeteria Purchase	-	675
Cafeteria Equipment	-	-
	<u>78950</u>	<u>67492</u>

4.2 Governance Cost

	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	£	£
Audit & Accountancy Cost	3750	1499
Bank Charges	459	387
Fees Paid	494	319
	<u>4703</u>	<u>2205</u>
Other Resources Cost		
Depreciation Motor Vehicle	<u>1272</u>	<u>1132</u>
Gains and Losses		
Asset Write off Van	<u>-</u>	<u>1,408</u>