



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Westway Open Arms

(Charity registration number: 1153919)

Trustees' Annual Report

1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023

Welcome from the Chair of Trustees

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2023.

Welcome to the Westway Open Arms review of the past year. I hope that you find that this leaflet gives you an insight into the valuable work that takes place. There are so many highlights of the past year including the range of new activities and new faces on the team. It's been great to welcome new volunteers and new groups and people using the centre. This year we sadly lost one of our Trustees Revd John Wells. John died suddenly and is missed immensely. He was part of the original team that set up the charity and managed client support and food bank for a number of years. John has left behind a wonderful legacy. Thank you to Bernie Brown (Centre Manager) who continues to manage the day to day life of the centre. Westway Open Arms is so blessed to have such a wonderful and dedicated team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Trustees and their work which is often behind the scenes. Westway Open Arms would not function if was not for the dedication and support of numerous volunteers who give of their time and expertise to make the place such a joy to be part of. - Thank you!

Thank you to those individuals, churches, organisations, and businesses that support Westway Open Arms either financially or with ongoing support and encouragement. One of the great aspects of this work is meeting and working alongside a range of people.

May I therefore commend Westway Open Arms to you; thank all of our supporters in 2023 and encourage you to find out more and get involved.

God bless

Sam

Revd Samantha Taylor - Director of the Charity

About our organisation

This charity's main focus and mission from the start has been to make a real difference in Eastfield, aiming for the prevention or relief of poverty, and the relief

of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage; by operating a Social Action Centre in the heart of the community, providing critical support and interventions to local and vulnerable people in need or crisis in this Area of High Deprivation of Eastfield, Scarborough.

Westway Open Arms has Christian ethos and values, supporting and giving hope to all, regardless of age, gender or religion. We operate within and for the benefit of, and with the involvement of, the Community of Eastfield, Scarborough.

The main work of the charity is the operation of a Social Action Centre, providing often critical interventions for people within the community, on four days a week offering community services and support through:

- Drop-In Services & Support: drop in for tea, coffee, to warm up in the winter months and to simply have a listening ear. Craft and Gardening Clubs. Volunteer Training - basic domestic abuse training, First Aid. Free weekly lunch.
- Debt Advice & Support; assisting people with budgeting and managing finances.
- Client Support: advice, support, accessing grants assistance; sign-posting and referrals to other agencies; essential household items, baby clothing provided; support for clients in crisis and difficult circumstances; emergency gas and electric assistance.
- Foodbank: providing vital Emergency Food parcels for people in crisis.
- Christian Faith & Spirituality: Prayers; Listening ear. Events and services for those who wish to take part.

Activities & Achievements in 2023

New groups have evolved, there is a weekly lunch club, a monthly choir, soup and social, craft and gardening group continue to be popular. Senses (a toddler group for children with additional needs), IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Service) and the North Yorkshire Refugee Council have all joined the family at Westway.

Food Bank

The foodbank is an integral and vital part of the service we offer. It is designed to help in a crisis and is not a way of sustaining someone indefinitely who has ongoing financial problems. We continue to be grateful to Morrisons and Proudfoots, We are also indebted to all those who donate food on a regular basis. Thank you to Warburtons who supply bread, teacakes and crumpets fortnightly. Special thanks to Richard for the regular donation of fresh eggs. Our grateful thanks are also due to Scarborough Lions, and local churches who have helped us with generous donations over the past year. During the twelve months January to December 2023 we have issued in excess of 7500 food parcels which also include the provision for babies if required. As a Christian organisation we continue to offer to pray with people after we have interviewed them. There is no pressure and not everyone accepts, but those who do accept value what we offer.

School Lunches

Throughout the year we have provided lunch packs during the school holidays. We have distributed 750 packs this year. A big thank you to NFU for your support it has been invaluable. This service continues through 2023.

Client Advice & Support

We continue to be a service entirely provided by volunteers and there have been some changes in personnel during the year. The service is available daily, Monday to Thursday between the hours of 10.00am and 1.00pm, subject to the availability of volunteers. All client records are kept in strictest confidence. Everyone presenting for help is interviewed by one of our trained volunteers and an assessment of need identified. We are keen to signpost clients to the appropriate statutory / non-statutory agency. Over the year we have helped with a wide range of issues including eviction orders, benefit problems, applying for white goods with the support of SALT. We work closely with our colleagues in Rainbow Money and once a debt issue has been identified we signpost the client to Rainbow Money. Over the year we have built up relationships with various statutory and non-statutory agencies locally and in the town centre. Collaborating with partners is imperative ensuring our clients get the full person centred experience.

Debt Advice

Sheila and John, have continued to provide sympathetic support for local people who have found themselves struggling particularly with unaffordable debts. With a few meetings we are able to understand the issues and suggest a way forward.

In 2023 we met with 15 people over the 33 weeks we had available - still on Thursdays in the first floor Debt Advice office. From January to March 2024 we have met with 5 people over the 8 days that we were open.

It can take several meetings to reach a suitable debt solution gathering paperwork, contacting those who own the debts and understanding a person's income and expenditure. Generally when we operate as a satellite to Rainbow Money at the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough and we are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. We have systems, training and support provided by Community Money Advice, a national charity. In the first quarter 2024 the CMA IT system (called Catalyst) was given a major update to provide even more functionality.

Good News for 2024 - one of the debt solutions we can help with is the Debt Relief Order and this year there are some welcome changes to the eligibility.

Centre Manager Report

My name is Bernadette Brown (Bernie) I am the Centre Manager at Westway Open Arms and I have been in post since September 2021. Westway open Arms continues to be very busy. On average we have supported over 200 families each month with food, and client support. We continue to increase the number of volunteers in all areas, food bank, client support and activities. Some of these new volunteers are past clients who we have enabled to move forward. As our services see an increase in clients the uplift in volunteering is greatly appreciated. Without the support of our band of wonderful volunteers we would struggle to maintain all our amazing services and activities

In the last year we have developed a leaflet to advertise all that we do, this has generated a lot of interest both from new clients and organisations. We continue to have a very vibrant Lunch Club on a Wednesday a beautiful fresh cooked 2 course meal is provided this club is aimed at people experiencing loneliness and isolation, this could be people living on their own or mums or dads whose children have now started school. We continue to be supported by the community, Churches, schools, organisations, and local businesses. The generosity is greatly appreciated. We continue to grow our partnership working which is imperative to give the client a complete person centred approach.

Christian Faith & Spirituality

The very reason Westway Open Arms operates effectively is because it is a Christian Charity with values of love, acceptance of ALL people, and a non-judgmental approach which we believe is at the heart of Christianity. We are part of Holy Nativity Church (next door to the centre). We work with people of faith, different faiths and no faiths.

ACTS 435

Acts 435 is a charity website available nation wide that allows people to give money directly to others. Managed through a network of churches their goal is to get 100% of donated funds quickly to those in need.

If you would like to know more about the support Acts 435 is currently sponsoring or you would like to donate please contact Westway Open Arms.

Rosalind P.A. Brewer

Acts 435 Advocate on behalf of Westway Open Arms

Contributions made by Volunteers

Volunteering time is a very special gift, and all our volunteers are greatly valued. Thanks to our Volunteers for the continuing time and support we have received from them in this challenging couple of years.

During 2023 we had a team of approximately 36 volunteers actively covering our available services and support, with some volunteers committing to more than one role. Our volunteers, who come from all walks of life, ages and abilities, are the important foundation and mainstay of our workforce, and they operate within the high level of confidentiality required of the skilled roles they provide.

The charity is governed and strategically planned and managed by the voluntary team of professionally qualified and experienced trustees.

Our Impact

This past couple of years has demonstrated just how vital the services of this charity in the centre of the community are, and that this is frequently to where the people of this community, and partner agencies, turn for critical help.

Our Impact has significantly increased with the increased and often different needs and demands.

Westway Open Arms has provided a tremendous and sustained effort under the cost of living crisis, managing the pressures well with emergency measures in the face of great change and need.

About us

This charity's main focus and mission is to make a real difference in Eastfield, aiming for the prevention or relief of poverty, and the relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage; by operating a Social Action Centre in the heart of the community, providing critical support and interventions to local and vulnerable people in need or crisis in this Area of High Deprivation of Eastfield, Scarborough.

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Our main work is the operation of a Social Action Centre within the community, providing often critical interventions for people. In normal times we provide, over four days a week:

- Drop-In Services & Support
- Debt Advice & Support
- Client Support
- Foodbank
- Christian Faith & Spirituality

Structure, Governance and Management

Westway Open Arms is a well-respected and successful independent charity, being founded in July 2013, registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 23.9.2013, Registration number 1153919.

We are funded mainly through various grants, donations and fundraising. Our costs are kept low because most of our work is done on a voluntary basis, our premises are provided by the Church of England, and we are prudent in our use of funds, closely monitoring our finances on a quarterly basis at the Board of Trustees meeting.

Names of the charity trustees who managed the charity in 2023:

Revd. S Taylor	Chair
Canon R Brewer	Vice Chair
Mr I Johnston	Treasurer (not a Trustee)
Mrs M Burton	Board Secretary (not a Trustee)
Mrs J Wells	
Mrs R Brewer	
Mr G White	
Dr G Hayes	
Mrs K Hayes	
Mr Stephen Tate	

The recruitment and appointment of new Trustees is carried out solely by the Trustees of Westway Open Arms. Selection method chosen is based, as relevant, on seeking either to fill skills/experience gaps in the Trustee team, and/or to include key people who are significantly involved in the development and delivery of the charity's objectives; allowing for due consideration of good practice principles and equal opportunities.

Financial Review – Year Ending 31 December 2023

Westway has enjoyed another very successful year. We are very grateful to all the companies, organisations and individuals who have donated during the year. Donations increased significantly during 2023, as compared to 2022. A total of £75,696 in donations and £7,100 was received. This means that we have been able, in early 2024, to embark on expanding our services to support more clients and increase the ways in which we help existing clients. We have also been able to make plans to repurpose much of our external space into a sensory garden and hope to see this come into fruition during 2024.

Our existing services, such as our weekly lunches, provision of food parcels for schoolchildren and the food bank continue, thanks to the generous support received, both financially and by way of provisions from local supermarkets. New initiatives include chair yoga and "soup and social" get togethers.

Reserves Policy

The charity has set a policy of ensuring balances equivalent to approximately six months basic costs will be retained. At 31 December 2022 this is set at £14,000 unrestricted balances. Unrestricted funds at bank were £52,896 held in a current account and a linked savings account..

Thanks

There are many who have provided goods and services which aren't shown in our accounts. We thank all who have given to Westway Open Arms over 2023 helping the centre to help those in need in Eastfield.

Independent Examiner of Accounts **2023:**

Valerie Hall (Rural Accounting) FIAB

Raven Cottage, Silpho, Scarborough, YO13 OJP

Declarations:

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	S. Taylor	G. White
Full name(s)	Revd. Samantha Taylor	Graham White
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Charity Director and Chair of Trustees	Trustee

Date

8th October 2024

Charity's principal address:

Westway House, Westway, Eastfield, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 3EE



Charity Name		No (if any)	
Westway Open Arms, Eastfield, Scarborough		1153919	
Receipts And Payments Accounts			
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01 Jan 2023		31 Dec 2023

Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of Westway Open Arms, Scarborough.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's 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.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners 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 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records

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.

Name VALERIE HALL FIAB (RURAL ACCOUNTING)

Address RAVEN COTTAGE, SILPHO, SCARBOROUGH, YO13 0TP

Valerie L Hall

Date 9/4/2024.



Charity Name		No of staff		CC16a
Westway Open Arms, Eastfield, Scarborough		1153919		
Receipts And Payments Accounts				
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
	01 Jan 2023		31 Dec 2023	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	5,150	1,950	-	7,100	250
Donations	47,186	28,510	-	75,696	39,878
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry	96	-	-	96	0
Room Hire	2,050	-	-	2,050	6,945
Legacy	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	1,649	200	-	1,849	5,789
Bank Interest	1,161	-	-	1,161	34
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	57,292	30,660	-	87,952	52,896
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	57,292	30,660	-	87,952	52,896
A3 Payments					
Running Costs	12,620	331	-	12,951	8,094
Activities	563	5,080	-	5,644	4,823
Volunteers Events	104	-	-	104	-
Repair and Renewals	9,002	-	-	9,002	809
Equipment	396	314	-	710	702
Director Expenses	564	-	-	564	496
Centre Manager	-	19,478	-	19,478	17,166
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Advice	293	-	-	293	299
Client Support	334	-	-	334	148
Food Bank	310	3,467	-	3,777	4,709
Fuel Vouchers	65	-	-	65	5,609
Sub total	24,251	28,670	-	52,921	42,855
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Fridge, Microwave	-	-	-	-	215
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	215
Total payments	24,251	28,670	-	52,921	43,070
Net of receipts/(payments)	33,042	1,990	-	35,031	9,826
A5 Transfers from funds	-	1,772	-	1,772	-
Transfers into funds	1,772	-	-	1,772	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	127,291	16,052	-	143,343	133,517
Cash funds this year end	162,105	16,270	-	178,374	143,343



Charity Name Westway Open Arms, Eastfield, Scarborough		No. of arms 1153919	
Receipts And Payments Accounts			
For the period from	initial year date 01 Jan 2023	To	final year date 31 Dec 2023
			CC16a

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Barclays Bank accounts	31,956	16,270	-
	Fixed Term Deposit Accounts	130,000	-	-
	Cash	148	-	-
	Total cash funds	162,105	16,270	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Gift Aid in 2024 for 2023 donations		-	-
				-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details NONE	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	From 2022 - Fridge, Microwave	General	215	-
	From 2021 - Laptops, Phones, Routers	General	2,408	-
	From 2020 - DVD, Laser Printer, Cooker, Fridge	General	1,653	-
	From 2019 - Vacuum Cleaner, CCTV	General	1,046	
	From 2018 - Shredder, Step ladder, Highchairs	General	170	
	From 2017 - Garden features, flipchart stand, microwave	General	1,546	-
	From 2016 and before - Projector Screen, HP laptop, Sewing Machine, Television, Sound bar, Projector, Office chair, Television, Speaker Bar, Tables, Printer, Round Tables, Folding chairs, Laptop	General	6,028	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	December Services - power, IT support & water, together with Christmas Food Bank & activity costs	General		

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	S. Taylor	Samantha Taylor	8.10.24
	G. White	Graham White	8.10.24



Charity Name Westway Open Arms, Eastfield, Scarborough		No (if any) 1153919	
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Valerie L Hall

Date 9/4/2024.