

SOMERFORD ARC CHARITY REPORT

March 2021- March 2022



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MARCH 2022

CHARITY COMMISSION REPORT

Relating to the performance of the:

Somerford ARC Community Centre

20 Southey Road

Somerford

BH23 3EH

Charity No. 1156427

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SOMERFORD ARC CHARITY REPORT

March 2021- March 2022

REPORT TO CHARITY COMMISSION

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2022

The trustees present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 and confirm they comply with the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006, the trust deed and the Charities SORP 2005.

Reference and Administrative Information

Name	Somerford Alliance Resource Centre (Somerford ARC Community Centre)
Registered	1156427
Charity No	
Address	20 Southey Road Somerford Christchurch BH23 3EH
Trustees	Christine Hopkins Paul Hilliard Janet Abbot Simon McCormack Denise Jones
Bank	HSBC 15 High Street CHRISTCHURCH Dorset BH23 1AF

Governing document

Somerford Alliance Resource Centre (Somerford ARC) is constituted as a CIO registered with the Charity Commission 28 March 2014. It is governed by a Constitution dated 6th January 2014 and amended on 26th March 2014.

Organisational structure

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

The trustees meet as a body monthly and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running the community facilities and the activities provided by the Charity.

The day-to-day management of the community facilities and projects are delegated to Trustees, Volunteers, a paid Office Manager and Office Assistant who deal with the day-to-day general running of the Centre.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Currently there are five trustees and we were actively looking to recruit a new Trustee that would play a more active role within the Community Centre on day to day basis.

When we select new trustees, we will seek to identify people who regularly attend events and functions organised by the charity and are willing to volunteer to help in our broader community work. Potential trustees will be invited to attend trustee meetings as observers and will be given more details of the charity's aims and activities. Due consideration of the person's eligibility, personal competence, specialist knowledge and skills at that time.

Induction and training of trustees

When any new trustees are introduced to their new role, they will be given copies of the Constitution and a guide to the policies and procedures adopted by our charity. Several publications from the Charity Commission are also provided including the guidance on charities and public benefit and on the advancement of religion for the public benefit. This ensures that any new trustees are aware of the scope of their responsibilities under the Charities Act. When any new trustees are appointed, they will work with an existing trustee assisting on activities and projects run by the charity. After satisfactory feedback they will then be given the task of leading an activity or project, reporting progress at trustees' meetings.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks the charity faces and have drawn up a risk matrix, which:

- Identifies the major risks by area of activity
- The nature of those risks
- The likelihood of the risks happening
- The measures taken to manage them

The trustees review the risk matrix regularly and are satisfied that systems are in place, and arrangements are in hand, to manage the risks that have been identified.

Insurance cover is in place and the finances of the Community Centre are kept under review. Appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, supported by regularly reviewed policies, are made for all those who work alone

with children or other vulnerable groups within the Community Centre where needed.

Objectives and activities

Our aims

The objects of the charity are set out in the charity's constitution and are summarised as follows:

Provide a community facility for the purposes of recreation, education and enjoyment principally but not exclusively for the people of Somerford and to promote through the Centre activities for the benefit of the residents of Somerford and of Christchurch

Our objectives

To further or benefit the residents of Somerford, the Grange Ward and the neighbourhood. Without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents, the local authorities, voluntary sector and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

An important part of our strategy is Community Welfare and Education. All our community facilities, activities, classes, health initiatives, education and IT are advertised, and we welcome the participation of all in our local community. Most of our activities are free and/or supported by donations or Grant Funding. Where a charge is made- concessions are made for students, residents and pensioners.

Helping people who have moved to Somerford and to settle into the community successfully is important to us.

Use of volunteers

Volunteers are an important resource in our community work. Volunteers are involved in most of our community activities and we have over 5 people regularly giving their time, who are mostly residents. Our trustees also give their time freely. We encourage all volunteers to be involved in voluntary activities and to share their skills with others.

All those volunteers working with any projects involving children or other vulnerable groups are DBS checked and certificated where applicable.

All volunteers receive full inductions and certificates in safeguarding, food hygiene and first aid.

Activities and achievements

How our activities deliver public benefit

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The trustees consider that these activities, summarised below, provide

benefit both to those who use the community facilities and the wider community of Somerford and Christchurch.

Community activities

We provide a community facility for the purposes of recreation, education and enjoyment principally but not exclusively for the people of Somerford and to promote through the Centre activities for the benefit of the residents of Somerford and of Christchurch

When considering the activities and events held at the Centre the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and to that end we try to ensure that events and activities are provided to ensure that the local residents and other members of the Grange Ward community have access to free events and skills and learning courses. This includes both the young and elderly members of the community.

Our community hall and rooms provide a valuable educational and recreational resource to all in our local community. A wide variety of activities are organised and take place from our community Centre.

Hall and rooms

HALL	IT SUITE	SNUG
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity 100 people• Disabled access• Large stage• Projector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equipped with 12 computers with webcams and an available network printer• 48inch television• tv and computers interactive• Large conference table seating 11• capacity: 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• comfortable room with two settees and armchairs• smart television• ideal for small groups, meditation and interviews

When facilities are not required for community use, they are available for hire on Commercial terms and subsidised for residents.

In developing our community programs, we are pleased to work in partnership with:

- BCP Council
- Bournemouth & Poole Skills & Learning
- Sovereign Housing Association
- Citizens Advice who provide advice to residents on debt, law, courts
- Citizens Advice Universal Credit Support
- BCHA Poole Refuge

YEAR - MARCH 2021/2022

New and current Sessions run by Somerford ARC

- **Community Lunch and Transport.** Over 51% of over 75s in the UK live alone and use television as their main company. In 2018 it was documented that Christchurch has the highest population of over 85s in the UK. These figures emphasise the challenges of isolation faced within our local area. Our focus is to provide regular activities and remove obstacles ensuring all residents can attend and participate. Our weekly lunch club brings people together keeping them mentally engaged and help maintain good emotional health. We can remove the Barriers of accessibility with a door to door bus service partnering with Christchurch Community Partnership. Our groups are created with the aspiration to uplift spirits with enjoyable and memorable days out **Weekly footfall: 60**
- **ADaPt Café.** It is estimated 13,101 people in Dorset over the age of 65 years have suspected dementia. Our ADaPt Café is a weekly support group for people living with Dementia, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and their carers. We continuously research to ensure users are getting all the benefits and support they are entitled to; offering emotional support outside the group if they need us through the tougher days. Exercise class to help improve mobility of joints, strengthen muscles and enhance mood and frequent crafting sessions allow users to bypass language barriers and express themselves through art. Those living with dementia can still experience sensation, relaxation and reminiscence, we have recently added a magic table, its games are specifically designed to stimulate all these three areas. Carers can feel emotionally isolated, and actively ignored at worst and may feel that people around them, can no longer listen to yet another account of the life they are now leading. We have an onsite counsellor available during sessions to support users.
Weekly footfall: 30
- **Breakfast Hub and Children's Activities.** 80% of mums under 30 meets with friends less due to lack of finances and obstacles with childcare. Ongoing loneliness and isolation for parents, makes them far more susceptible to anxiety and depression. Holidays can be stressful to low income families, financial hardship brings periods of isolation and inactivity, seeing declines in children's well-being. Our activity days are affordable fun crafting sessions made accessible to all. With the rise in use of local food banks and reports that 1 in 7 children are going to school without breakfast, we opened a term time breakfast hub for preschool children and parents after the school run, bringing parents together, with the additional benefit of bringing smaller children to play in a social environment improving their self-development. We aim to reduce isolation in this age bracket, providing affordable activities with the opportunity to signpost and support hard to reach families
Weekly footfall: 25-50

New and current support services

- **Bournemouth and Poole Skills and Learning.** The area has a high level of long-term unemployment and increasingly younger people are struggling to find work. Poor educational attainment, skill gaps, lack of self-confidence and self-worth are typical of the challenges we are seeing. Skills and Learning offer vocational and personal development courses, these opportunities help

users find their strengths and learn new skills, giving them a new sense of self-belief.

Weekly footfall: 10

- **Weekly Support Drop in.**

- Computer support
- Citizens Advice
- Sovereign Housing Association
- BCP Council Housing Team

Our drop in allows existing services to work together in a more integrated way, offering face to face support without an appointment. Experienced advisers from Citizens Advice specialise in matters varying from law and courts to debt. Sovereign Housing and BCP Housing provide housing advice to those in need and give tenants and applicants the opportunity to meet with their team. We have recently been joined by a Citizen's Advice Universal Credit specialist. We can see up to 60 people accessing this drop-in service a month with numbers continuing to rise due to the ongoing Universal Credit complications. Providing this user friendly, an easily accessible service reduces stress and anxiety

Weekly footfall: 20

- **Dorset Mind Your Head.** Nationally 1 in 10 children and young people needs support or treatment under mental health. Dorset Mind provides a programme aiming to equip young people to have the resources, tools and support they need to build resilience and learn how to deal with difficult emotions. Dorset mind offers a six week 1:1 counselling programme. Waiting lists for mental health support cause long delays that can lead to self-harming, a fall out of education and family breakdowns. To reduce the pressures on this service Dorset, Mind Your Head run a weekly drop-in group open to children and young people before and after there is a need for specialist support. seventy per cent of children who are experiencing a mental health condition don't receive the proper support they need, Dorset Mind and Dorset Mind Your Head work together in a bid to ensure all children relate to a support system. Aiming for children and young people be as mentally healthy as possible

Weekly footfall: 8

- **BCHA, Poole Refuge.** The National Centre for Domestic Violence has recorded "Through the period of March to September we have seen an overall increase of 21% of incoming requests when compared to the same period in 2019; a considerable rise but what is even more significant is the 52% increase in requests for help from male domestic abuse victims. The number of male victim's requests we have received over the last 5 years is around 7% of the total number of requests received, this number has risen to 10% for March to September 2020, that's an increase of almost 50%". Sadly, it has been highlighted that there has been a sudden rise of male victims within the area of Somerford. BCHA offer a drop in for male survivors of domestic violence. Providing a safe environment for males to talk about or seek advice relating to their experiences of domestic violence. It has been highlighted that there has been a sudden rise in male victims within our local area.

- **Citizens Advice Money Talks.** The Somerford estate has 4,875 residents and is in the top 20 percent of deprived areas in the UK. Local food banks evidence the financial struggles within the area. The number of people being helped is drastically rising, over 800 people in Christchurch were helped through the “summer school Holiday Hunger scheme” two thirds of which were children. Universal Credit is seen as the main driving force in creating the increase in the number of emergency supplies handed out. The new payment scheme is leaving claimants on a five-week minimum wait for their first initial payment, although it is not unusual to see applications take as long as 10 weeks, resulting in families having no choice but to turn to local food banks. People already on low incomes are plunging into rent arrears, debt and in some cases homelessness and due to ongoing job losses due to businesses folding more families are facing some very uncertain times, entering the already complicated benefit system. Citizen’s advice can advise and guide families on money worries and debt advice.
- **Councillor Surgeries.** For local Councillors of the Grange Ward to provide support and advice to residents
- **Digital Champions.** Free computer support
- **AA Group**

New and Current Groups and classes:-

- **Boogie Bounce.** Exercise programme using mini trampolines
- **Slimming World.** Local weight loss support group
- **Kickstart to Fitness.** Fitness class for all abilities with Sofiactive
- **Fit Club 60+.** Fitness class for over 60s with Sofiactive
- **Zumba Gold** Low Impact class for over 50s
- **Children’s Tap.** Beginners tap with Maria
- **Zumba.** High impact exercise group
- **Lawlor School of Dance.** children’s ballet all levels
- **C&H Dance.** Ballroom dancing

Annual Events

- **Christmas Lunch:** Dorset Community Payback to serve Christmas Dinner to our service users it’s a chance for everyone to get together have a glass of wine and enjoy the festivities with Highcliffe School Choir. In compliance with COVID-19 regulations this event was unable to go ahead in 2020. Somerford ARC Community Centre in its place was able to gather donations from Christchurch Rotary Club and ASDA to ensure services users who we knew were alone at Christmas received doorstep delivery gift bags.
- **Free Santa’s Grotto.** Each year we recreate a commercial grotto for families who wouldn’t ordinarily be able to afford to have this experience, so children don’t miss out on this magical time of year. Our grotto is built over a two day period. We are normally joined by Jules the Entertainer and families enjoy free refreshments and mince pies. We have been lucky enough to receive presents from Wave 105 Mission Christmas, enabling us to offer this event free to families, with local businesses supporting us by donating prizes so every

family that attends can be entered into a free raffle. Due to COVID-19 regulations our 2020 grotto was unable to open. Somerford ARC Community Centre in its place gifted family movie night packs too hard to reach families in our local area.

Organisations working with us

- **Skills and Learning.** Weekly Job Club
- **Police and PCSO'S.** To ensure our residents are safe and happy and can communicate easily with the police.
- **Dorset Community Action.** We work with Lyn Jefferies who works in our community engaging people that use the ARC to get involved.
- **Local Councillors**
 - **David Jones - Christchurch Town Council**
 - **Janet Abbott - Town Councillor**
 - **Simon McCormack- Ward Councillor and Town Councillor**
- **BCP Council.** Drop-in support for housing.
- **Fred Boucher.** Training Courses.
- **Somerford Children's Centre.** Ensuring partnership working
- **Christchurch Family Partnership Zone**
- **Local Schools.** Advertising events and support through parent mail
- **Christchurch Community Partnership**
- **Christchurch Library.** Referrals and advertising
- **Free use HQ Community.** Free preloved school uniform pop up shop
- **Christchurch Rotary.** Provide volunteers and help and support the ARC
- **McDonalds Somerford.** Support and help fundraise for various projects
- **BCHA Poole Refuge.** Drop in for male survivors of domestic violence.
- **Sovereign Housing Association.** Drop-in support for tenants.
- **Citizens Advice.** Various drop-in support sessions.

Going Forward in 2022

- Our aim for 2022 is to widen our services to the local community and build a stronger relationship with parents across the community with our new groups. We have come a long way this year, but we have so much more that we want to do in the community and our aim now is to go out for further funding to enable us to give our community more choices and opportunities.
- Skills and learning are planning further courses.
- Somerford ARC is rebranding our newsletter to go out to Somerford and The Grange Ward residents to show people what support and activities are available to them. The newsletter will include information for people to have their say about the estate and what they would like to see at the ARC and around the estate.
- We are currently researching Education Services to see how we can bring home-schooled children out of isolation and into a fun environment ensuring they are able to build on their social skills.
- Free Christmas Grotto for 2022 with gifts and entertainment.
- SAMEE Project are joining us to provide support to lone parents seeking to become self-employed.

Financial review year to 31 December 2021

Receipts

Core monthly hire from regular users / clubs is in the region of £1,500/£1,700pm which provides us a good base. This revenue is added to by other activities run by Skills and Learning and other organisations that have been in dialogue with the office manager and the team.

We encountered exceptional drop in revenue due to the current COVID-19 pandemic as for many months hall hire ceased. Somerford ARC Community Centre has been reliant on grants and funding throughout the pandemic. We were grateful for financial support from many partners including: The Foyle Foundation, BCP Council, Talbot Village Trust, Garfield Weston Trust, Dorset Community Foundation.

Payments

As expected in completing our year eight, running the ARC expenses have increased significantly as we have undertaken maintenance, building works and general purchases.

- Under the heading of maintenance this includes building improvements, mainly covered by specific funding.
- Items purchased are practical and make better use of the available space and facilities.
- Insurance increased due to the introduction of the PRE Music Licence and the VTCT Accreditation.
- Employees and volunteers are currently renewing certifications in health and safety, first aid, fire safety, safeguarding and food and hygiene.
- Wages cover two part time members of staff.
- The bank account balance stood at £31,477 at the year end, which is down to grant funding to enhance the ARC's facilities and for community projects in the coming year.

Reserves policy

The trustees have reviewed the reserves of the charity. Their policy is to hold enough funds to meet four months' operating costs of the Centre.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the 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 Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Signed: 

Dated: 15-04-2022

Christine Hopkins - Chair

Countersigned: 

Dated: 15-04-2022

Paul Hilliard - Treasurer



Somerford ARC	1156427
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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	01-Jan-20	To	31-Dec-20
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021	2020
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Hire Revenue	-	-	-	6,633	5,270
Grants & Donations	-	-	-	39,600	57,276
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	46,233	62,546
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	46,233	62,546
A3 Payments					
Council Tax	-	-	-	497	343
Telephone / Computer Fees	-	-	-	3,053	3,382
Gas & Electric	-	-	-	1,091	997
Water & Sewerage	-	-	-	297	548
Community Events	-	-	-	1,061	1,969
Breakfast Club	-	-	-	813	228
ADAPT club	-	-	-	1,439	951
Insurance/ licences	-	-	-	1,211	1,356
General Expenses	-	-	-	1,277	1,314
Maintenance	-	-	-	1,709	29,910
Training & Wages	-	-	-	21,861	21,942
Sundry Purchases	-	-	-	4,986	7,572
Sub total	-	-	-	39,295	70,512
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	9,000	9,000
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	39,295	70,512
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-	6,938	- 7,966
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	24,539	32,505
Cash funds this year end	-	-	-	31,477	24,539

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		31,477	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	31,477	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
	Computers, screens, TVs, projectors			9,000
B5 Liabilities				
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	p hilliard	Paul Hilliard	03.04.2022	
	c hopkins	Chris Hopkins	03.04.2022	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Somerford ARC (the Trust)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the '2005 Act'), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that your charity is not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 44 (1) (c) of the 2005 Act and section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; and
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name:  David Newman.

Relevant professional qualification(s) or membership of professional bodies (if any): AATQB.

Address: 15, SEAVIEW ROAD, UPTON, POOLE, Dorset BH16 5NF

Date: 18/7/22.