



The LATH Group
(Looking After The Homeless)
Charity Number: 1157729

Electra House, Electra Way,
Crewe Business Park, Crewe,
Cheshire CW1 6GL

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022



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1. Charity Information

Registered Name	The LATH (Looking After The Homeless) Group
Operating Name	LATH
Registered Charity Number	1157729
Registered address	Electra House, Electra Way, Crewe Business Park, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 6GL
Correspondence address	The Secretary, 28 Princess Drive, Crewe, CW2 8HS
Operating address	St Mary's Caritas Centre, 65 Delamere Street, Crewe, CW1 2JX
Trustees	Bernard Potter (President) John McManus (Chairman) Frank Lepisz (Vice Chairman) Pat Gardner (Treasurer) Barbara Francis (Secretary)
Independent examiner	Dianne Wynne (Accountant)
Bankers	HSBC, 30 Market Street, Crewe, CW1 2ES



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2. Trustee report for the year ended 31st December 2022

Constitution

The LATH (Looking After The Homeless) Group is a Charitable Incorporated Company (CIO). The charity operates under the working name of LATH.

Charitable objects

The object of the CIO is to relieve poverty and sickness among homeless and disadvantaged people in the Crewe and Nantwich and surrounding areas by the provision of assistance, facilities, goods, services and other support.

Organisation

Our model of the charity structure continues to be refined based on skills and available time, with specific responsibilities for roles and a better form of communication between Trustees and volunteers, including Facebook groups. Our monthly Executive Committee meeting enables us to discuss any issues raised during our client sessions.

Members of the board of Trustees at the year-end were:

- Bernard Potter (President and acting Chairman)
- John McManus (Chairman – currently on sick leave)
- Frank Lepisz (Vice Chairman)
- Pat Gardner (Treasurer)
- Barbara Francis (Secretary)

Members of the Board of Trustees are appointed in accordance with the governing constitution and are approved each year at the Annual General Meeting.

There are no paid staff and we are lucky to have a group of around twenty regular volunteers who are dedicated to the objective of the charity and without whom we would not be able to operate. Unfortunately, many of our volunteers are in the elderly and/or vulnerable age group and unable to assist with service provision during much of 2022, until our drop-in centre re-opened in October. Some younger volunteers continued to do food deliveries and donation collection and distribution throughout this period. The value of the contribution by volunteers is not recorded in the accounts.

Activities during 2022

While we were waiting for our new rented premises to be built, a group of volunteers has continued collecting surplus food from Co-operative stores, and has distributed it to disadvantaged individuals and families – this support is not included in the statistics table below. We have also made several food bank and furniture referrals. This service has been much appreciated by clients, who have also benefitted from donations from the public of clothing, toiletries and household goods.

We were able to re-open our twice-weekly drop-in centre at the new premises in October 2022, and have provided our clients with breakfast and lunch, and advice and



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assistance on homelessness, welfare, benefits, employer issues, tax queries, tenancy issues and debt. We work closely with other charities in the area, and with the local council Homeless and Outreach team, to find the best solution for those disadvantaged people who are sleeping rough or sofa surfing. We regularly provide our clients with tents and sleeping bags, and with clothing and toiletries. We have quite a lot of Polish clients in Crewe, and our Polish-speaking volunteers have assisted numerous clients with benefit, tax and housing queries and forms.

In December 2022 we started a collaboration, supported by a grant from a local company, with a social prescribing provider. Pathways CIC is a social enterprise that delivers a range of pioneering health, work and wellbeing programmes designed to create sustainable change for individuals and for local communities, with a focus on enabling people to live happier and healthier lives.

Given the success of last year's hamper project, the Trustees decided to again provide Christmas hampers to needy families. We worked with a local retailer to provide a hamper containing festive treats to families identified by local schools and a lone parent charity. The hampers were much appreciated, and went some way to provide some festive cheer to struggling families.

Planned activities for 2023

LATH will continue to run a drop-in centre twice a week for homeless, vulnerable and lonely people. We will use food donations from local retailers to provide clients with a hot lunch, with surplus food to take away. We plan to use financial donations on other important issues for our customers, such as passport and ID replacement costs, travel costs, and buying essential supplies such as tents and sleeping bags.

We will continue to provide a wide range of advice and assistance in the areas of benefits, support services, housing and employment.

We will have computer facilities with three free-to-use computers, a printer and a telephone.



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Statistics (from October 2022 to Dec 2022)

We began operating our drop-in centre again from mid-October 2022. During the 10 weeks we were open, we received 359 visits from 51 individuals (average 18 clients per session). All were offered drinks and a hot snack, food to take away and advice and support.

The following table is a summary of the type of help provided in the last 3 months of 2022.

Type of help	Number of clients
Housing/accommodation, including tenancy	19
Provision of clothing/tents/sleeping bags	13
Welfare and benefits assistance	5
Making and attending appointments	2
Provision of cash for transport and/or purchasing food	2
Food bank referrals	4
Furniture referrals	2
Employment queries	2
Settled status/passport assistance	1
Debt advice	1

Free Helpline

For those wishing to contact LATH, we have a Freephone number (0800 508 8021) that directs callers appropriately. The Freephone number is managed by a sponsor company.

Income generation

During the autumn of 2022, we had a very successful concert to boost our funds. We have managed to continue as a charity through generous ad hoc donations. Our only source of regular income is through Friends of LATH, who donate either monthly or annually, much of which is gift-aided. Some income is derived from collection boxes in Co-operative shops.

We plan to hold another concert and a quiz night in 2023 to further boost our income.

Resources expended

Costs during 2022 were mainly rent for the drop-in premises, food top-up costs, essential items for rough sleepers, insurance, and payments for documentation and travel for our clients. Donations from well-wishers were used to help finance Christmas hampers and necessary items for disadvantaged people. We had a grant from a local company to pay for Pathways, the social prescribers.

Governance and internal control



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The Trustees take very seriously their overall responsibility to ensure the charity has appropriate systems to control and inspect Finances, Insurance, Health and Safety, Food Hygiene, Safeguarding and all statutory requirements. All volunteers advising clients obtain DBS clearance. New Trustees undergo Trustee training provided by our local CVS. Kitchen workers undertake basic food hygiene training.

GDPR implementation

The Trustees implement GDPR regulations to the files that contain sensitive data. Accordingly, such files are password protected and access to them is limited to the people who have the login and password. Computer use by registered people is password protected, and files are password protected in two stages. In addition, memory sticks are not used on laptops to prevent copying of data by unauthorised people.

The Future

We look forward to growing and adapting our charity to fulfil our mission and charitable objective, especially given the current hardships, which are expected to worsen during 2023.



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The LATH (Looking after the Homeless) Group

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity No. 1157729

Receipts and Payment Account

Year Ended		Year Ended
31.12.21		31.12.22
£		£
Income:		
906	Donations	1260.36
1000	Donations Gift Aided	720.00
2	Deposit Account Interest	18.86
214	Collection Boxes	487.35
0	Fundraising	1377.00
564	Friends	487.00
1314	Friends Gift Aided	1154.00
0	Sale of Equipment	0.00
600	Gift Aid Refund	346.27
600	Grants	9100.00
<u>£5,200</u>		<u>£14,950.84</u>
Expenditure:		
<u>Administration Costs</u>		
10	Post & Phone	25.70
197	Stationery Printing & Web	96.99
0	Funding Raising Expenses	82.50
25	IT Expenses	57.56
401	Insurance	401.29
250	Repairs to Equipment	289.00
0	Equipment	608.77
197	Sundry Expenses	143.55
5	Bank Charges	79.28
477	Mileage	520.08
<u>£1,562</u>		2304.72
<u>Homeless Aid</u>		
3641	Misc Aid to Individuals	411.02
0	Drop in Centre Rent	966.68
0	Drop in Centre Running Costs	245.76
925	Donation to Other Charities	8421.66
<u>£4,566</u>		10045.12
<u>£6,128</u>	Total Expenses	<u>£12,349.84</u>
-928	In year Surplus/Deficit	2601.00
22695	Balances at bank at 1.1.22	21766.63
<u>£21,767</u>	Balances at bank & in hand at 31.12..22	<u>£24,367.63</u>
	Bank Current Account	10355.75
	Deposit Account	14011.88
		<u>£24,367.63</u>

Prepared by P B Gardner - Treasurer

Audited by Mrs D Wynne

P B Gardner
Date 5/6/23

D Wynne
Date 28/07/23