

# CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1160978

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2015-03-19

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Website** [www.cumbriavictimstrust.org.uk](http://www.cumbriavictimstrust.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE EFFICIENCY OF THE POLICE AND OTHER AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO VICTIMS IN CUMBRIA BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THEM TO PROMOTE AND IMPROVE SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME. TO RELIEVE PERSONS WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS OR SICKNESS AS A RESULT OF BEING A VICTIM, WITNESS OR BEING AFFECTED BY CRIME.

**Activities:** Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust generates additional income to supplement the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victims services. The Trust assists by expanding services to support the needs of victims of crime and antisocial behaviour who are in need of financial assistance to help meet costs incurred as a result of their becoming the victim crime or antisocial behaviour.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Cumbria

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,348	£10,360	-	-
2024-03-31	£2,316	£1,793	-	-
2023-03-31	£947	£485	-	-
2022-03-31	£235	£99	-	-
2021-03-31	£201	£108	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>ANNETTE HAZEL HENNESSY OBE</b>	Chair	2017-01-13
CHRISTOPHER JOHN ARMSTRONG MBE		2014-10-09
Dr VENETIA YOUNG		2017-11-22
Glenys Marriott		2017-02-20
Marcia Elaine Reid Fotheringham		2020-04-01
Natalie Bradbury		2021-12-14

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160978

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# Accounts

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# **CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**For the period ended 31 March 2025**

**Registered Charity Number 1160978**

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

For the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

## 1. THE CHARITY

Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust (CVCT) was registered on 19 March 2015 by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered number 1160978. Administration is carried out by one of the Trustees (Christopher Armstrong) from his home address, which has been registered with the Charity Commission as the Charity's base.

## 2. THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The charitable objectives of the CVCT are:

- To promote, for the benefit of the public, the efficiency of the police and other agencies providing services to victims in Cumbria by working in partnership with them to promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress or sickness as a result of being a victim, a witness or otherwise being affected by crime.

**The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity during the report period have addressed these objectives.**

## 3. THE TRUSTEES

During the report period, the Trustees of the CVCT were:

Annette Hennessy (Chair)	Christopher Armstrong
Glenys Marriott	Venetia Young
Marcia Reid Fotheringham	Natalie Bradbury

As a CIO Foundation Model, the members of the Charity are the Trustees. As well as the usual responsibilities of Trustees, their duties include ensuring that the Board is composed of sufficient suitably qualified people to provide good governance. Trustees serve for 3 years before the need for re-election and there is no upper limit. As of 31 March 2025 current terms of office of the Trustees are:

To 31 March 2026	Christopher Armstrong		
To 31 March 2027	Glenys Marriott	Marcia Reid Fotheringham	
To 31 March 2028	Annette Hennessy	Venetia Young	Natalie Bradbury

Trustees come from across Cumbria, with the Board continuing to have real depth and breadth of knowledge about the County and its communities. All members of the Board are active in making a difference across a broad spectrum of work, in health, mental health, with victims, in domestic violence, with offenders and diversity. Whilst Board meetings do focus on the work of the Trust, they also provide a rich source of intelligence and generative thinking about all of the work we do in Cumbria and the wider world.

The Trustees met as a Board on 4 occasions, mostly by videoconference, to consider applications for funding and to transact other business. However, to ensure speedy decisions on applications for urgent funding, most applications were dealt with by email between the Trustees, resulting in the majority of decisions being made within 5 days of receipt of the application.

In addition to meeting as a Board, Trustees also came together on 4 occasions as an independent Scrutiny Panel assessing the level of care Cumbria Constabulary offers to victims of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

## 4. THE CHARITY'S VISION AND VALUES

### 4.1 Our Vision and Values

**Our vision is:**

- To build a lasting, sustainable impact on the lives of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship, distress or sickness as a result of being a victim or witness, or being affected by crime in Cumbria;
- To promote awareness of the impact of crime and improvement in the services for victims of crime;
- By working with others, grant-giving and building a sustainable charity.

**Our values can be expressed thus:**

CVCT is a County-wide Charity that supports a wide range of victims of crime in a way that is timely, effective, compassionate and fair, and which makes a difference to their lives.

### 4.2 Development Plan

Although we are a small Charity, with a very specific and targeted remit, we have agreed a Development Plan to ensure our focus remains on achieving the objectives of the Charity. Each Plan covers a 3 year period, is reviewed annually and has 3 overriding strategies:

- Stability – to demonstrate good governance and accountability,
- Funding – to achieve funding continuity,
- Impact – to develop and grow the impact of the Charity.

The current Plan covers the period 2023 to 2026 and the review at the end of March 2025, the end of the second year of the Plan, indicated that the Charity remained on target and focussed on its objectives

## 5. OUR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### 5.1 Development Plan Review

#### 5.1.1 Stability

- During the year we undertook a complete and thorough review of all our policies to ensure they were still up-to-date and fit for purpose. We decided that only minor changes were necessary, although we ensure all policies are kept under review.

- We conducted an audit of our governance and organisational practices against CVS and nationally recognised standards. While some of those standards (eg regarding premises and employment) do not apply to a charity such as CVCT, it was gratifying to have confirmation that the Charity had maintained the highest standards.
- Trustees are very conscious of their legal responsibilities and remain sighted on Charity Commission recommendations and guidance. Trustees also ensured that the Annual Return to the Charity Commission was completed and lodged expeditiously.
- Each meeting of Trustees received up-to-date information about the Charity's finances and reviewed any risks the Charity might face.
- We maintained regular contact with key stakeholders such as Cumbria Community Foundation and the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner to ensure that the important relationships we have fostered remained strong.
- We continued to ensure that the narrative about the work of CVCT remains available to the public via the website, regular use of social media and personal interaction.
- As the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the Charity approaches, we began a major exercise to review the place of CVCT within the wider context of efforts to support victims of crime, both now and in the future. That review will include looking at future funding issues.

### 5.1.2 Funding

- The funds held on behalf of the Charity by Cumbria Community Foundation had reached a critical point and therefore a further donation was made to top-up the fund and so continue to provide for urgent grants to be made to vulnerable victims of crime to assist in their recovery from the impact of those crimes.
- During the year, Trustees were conscious that the guidance issued on the level of grants available had failed to keep up with inflation. Trustees therefore agreed to amend the guidance by referring to a range of £200 to £700 per application, while making it clear that there was no upper or lower limit and that the figures quoted were for guidance only.

### 5.1.3 Impact

- Working closely with Cumbria Community Foundation, which administers the CVCT Fund on behalf of the Charity, we reviewed our published grant criteria and strengthened the guidance to applicants and those who sponsor them in making an application. Trustees wished to ensure that the criteria and guidance were clear and helpful, and to emphasise the importance of making a strong case which addressed the criteria, so as to avoid the possibility of refusal through lack of key information.
- We were pleased to see an up-turn in the number of applications for grants we received. We attribute this to a wider recognition of the existence of the Fund as well as the hard work by our Grants Officer at Cumbria Community Foundation, Sarah Thompson, in promoting and supporting our efforts.
- We would welcome more direct feedback from applicants and their sponsors as to the impact a grant has had on their recovery. However we understand the continuing stresses most victims will still experience, and the workload of those professionals who support them, and so we have to rely largely on word-of-mouth feedback. Nevertheless we do receive written feedback from time to time. The messages are universally positive and speak to the simplicity of the application process and the importance of the timely assistance received at a critical point in victims' lives.

- Trustees have continued to act as an independent Scrutiny Panel to oversee efforts by Cumbria Constabulary to ensure that female victims of violence receive appropriate support and can access the rights to which they are entitled under the Victims Code. This involvement is seen as valuable, not only by Trustees, in extending their understanding of this subject, but also by the Constabulary and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner.
- In the wider context of victim issues, we continued to look for appropriate opportunities to provide a Cumbrian perspective in national consultations about matters that impact on the services available to victims of crime.
- Expanding victim care is still work in progress but through the work on the VAWG Panel, coupled with the grants made, we believe we are making a significant contribution to victim care in Cumbria.

## 5.2 Partnerships

Trustees welcome the increasing focus nationally on providing care and support for victims of crime whose lives have been sorely affected by their experiences. For too long comfortable words have not been followed by robust action and it is pleasing to see that this is changing. We therefore welcomed the introduction of the Victims' Code and look forward to it carrying the force of law so that all agencies are made to focus on the care they give to victims as they travel through the criminal justice system and beyond, and are held accountable for their performance.

The Trustees of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust believe that the best way to effectively deliver any service, particularly in the public and not-for-profit sectors, is generally through committed partnership working - the sum of the whole can be so much more than the sum of the individual parts. That is why, in seeking an enhanced service for victims of crime, CVCT works to foster partnerships with stakeholders who share similar objectives. In this we are aided by the relative smallness of Cumbria, making it easier to build working relationships with key individuals.

**We particularly value our partnerships with the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, Cumbria Police and Cumbria Community Foundation.**

CVCT was the brainchild of Cumbria's first Police & Crime Commissioner, who saw an independent body as able to do things that statutory bodies were constrained from doing. He and his immediate successor backed the Trust with money from the funds allocated to them for victim care by central government. It is from this funding that CVCT allocates grants to vulnerable victims to help them to cope with, and recover from, the impact of the crime they have experienced.

The Trustees therefore value the well-established partnership that has developed with successive Commissioners and their staff and hope to build on that firm base with the current Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, with whom meetings have already taken place. Within his office, a particularly valuable relationship has been established with Sandra Radcliffe, the Victims Quality Champion, with whom we work closely in the VAWG Scrutiny Panel.

An activity that gives Trustees significant satisfaction is the role we play in providing independent scrutiny of the way in which Cumbria Police officers carry out the Constabulary's responsibilities for addressing offences of violence against women and girls (VAWG). This is a national priority but our understanding is that not all police forces have thrown themselves so whole-heartedly into addressing these responsibilities as has Cumbria, and not all have been confident enough to expose themselves to independent scrutiny. As committed Cumbria residents, this impresses us greatly and we are pleased to be entrusted with this role.

We are aware of how much effort, how much resource and how much training has been devoted to this important subject, capably and enthusiastically coordinated by the VAWG Tactical Lead Inspector Mike Taylor, and it is apparent that the leadership from the top has positively impacted on practices throughout the Force.

It was apparent from an early stage of its existence that CVCT Trustees, all busy people, would be unable to make the background enquiries that grant applications require. Consequently a fund was established with Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF), whereby those enquiries – often extensive - are made by our dedicated CCF Grants Officer Sarah Thompson who then reports to Trustees for them to make the final decision on whether or not to grant an application. All subsequent administration of payments also falls to CCF. It is a highly successful partnership, with valuable advice on all aspects of grant-making readily available to Trustees. CCF also provides important support, via its website and networks, to CVCT's own efforts to publicise the help available to victims of crime from the Trust.

CVCT is open to developing other partnerships where these can benefit victims of crime. In the past we have worked with Safety Net (UK) and the Birchall Trust, both of which support victims of rape and sexual abuse, by providing funds, subject to the condition that the funds be used for individual victims rather than for organisational expenditure. We have also funded Victim Support to provide mobile telephones to vulnerable victims, to enable them to contact support services in an emergency.

### 5.3 Grants

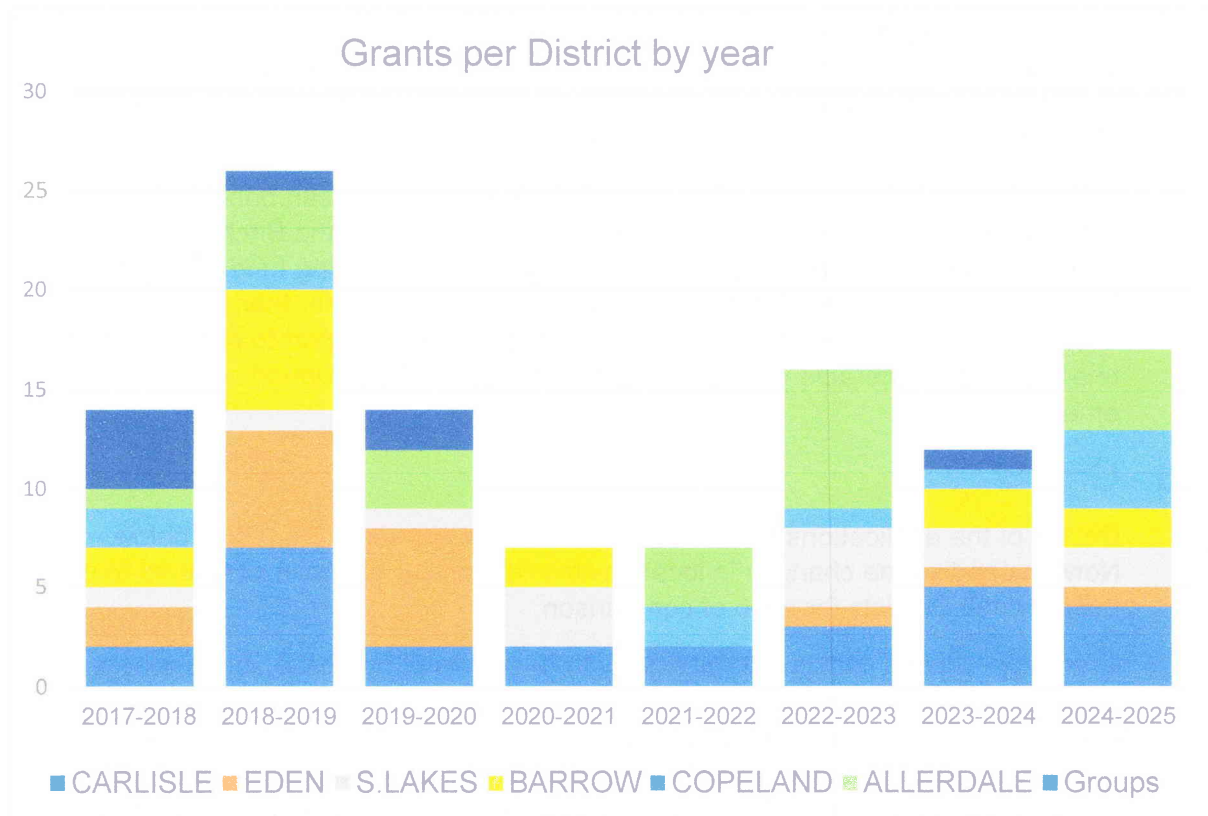
Details of the applications received during the year appear in the tables below. Notwithstanding the changes in local government areas, we have continued to use the previous Districts for ease of comparison.

Grant applications continue to be mainly from victims of domestic abuse, where perpetrators have wrecked homes and women have had to leave with few, if any, possessions. Trustees are anxious, however, that the Trust should not be seen as purely a DA / DV funder and it is keen to encourage applications from the vulnerable victims of other types of crime. We also wish to extend help to members of minority groups which are less likely to engage with "officialdom", including asylum seekers and refugees. We want to encourage organisations which come into contact with such groups to support applications falling within our criteria.

We would also comment that the bare number of applications received does not reflect the number of victims benefitting from CVCT grants as, in most cases, vulnerable victims have responsibilities for equally vulnerable children.

This year has seen an increase in the number of applications received, a feature which is welcome in one way but which still probably represents only the tip of the iceberg of those who need help. Along with our key partner Cumbria Community Foundation, we put significant effort into raising awareness of the Fund through our website (<https://cumbriavictimstrust.org>), our X account (@CumbriaVictimsCT – which has over 1300 followers) and through networking by Trustees.

The Charity remains of the view that providing direct practical help for individual victims is a better use of its funds than providing grants to organisations for their own use. As already stated, we have in the past funded organisations to act as agent for CVCT, applying the same criteria, particularly where individual victims may not be able to apply for help in the usual way. We believe our emphasis on the individual and their needs is the most effective way of supporting vulnerable victims of crime.



	CARLISLE	EDEN	S.LAKES	BARROW	COPELAND	ALLERDALE	Groups	Individuals
	Received /granted	Received /granted	Received /granted	Received /granted	Received /granted	Received /granted	Received/granted Totals	Received/granted Totals
<b>2015-2016</b>								
Numbers						1/1		1/1
Amount								£1947
								Total £1,947
<b>2016-2017</b>								
Numbers							1/1	8/7
Amount							£2000	£18000
								Total £20,000
<b>2017-2018</b>								
Numbers	2/2	2/2	2/1	3/2	3/2	2/1	4/4	14/10
Amount	£721	£72	£2000	£560	£406	£1340	£9100	£5754
								Total £14,854
<b>2018-2019</b>								
Numbers	9/7	7/6	3/1	8/6	2/1	5/4	1/1	34/25
Amount	£2,435	£2,018	£250	£2,220	£2,176	£1,756	£1,500	£10,855
								Total £12,355
<b>2019-2020</b>								
Numbers	2/2	7/6	3/1	13/10	0/0	3/3	2/2	29/21
Amount	£850	£379	£275	£2,320	£0	£800	£1,737	£4,624
								Total £6,361
<b>2020-2021</b>								
Numbers	2/2	0/0	3/3	2/2	0/0	0/0	1/0	7/7
Amount	£1,219	£0	£1,520	£850	£0	£0	£0	£3,589
								Total £3,589
<b>2021-2022</b>								
Numbers	2/2	0/0	1/0	0/0	2/2	3/3	0/0	8/7
Amount	£1,290	£0	£0	£0	£755	£1,251	£0	£3,296
								Total £3,296
<b>2022-2023</b>								
Numbers	4/3	1/1	4/4	1/0	1/1	7/7	0/0	18/16
Amount	£830	£81	£1,221	£0	£280	£3,106	£0	£5,518
								Total £5,518
<b>2023-2024</b>								
Numbers	5/5	1/1	2/2	4/2	1/1	0/0	1/1	13/11
Amount	£1,785	£500	£725	£654	£500	£0	£1,500	£4,164
								Total £5,664
<b>2024-2025</b>								
Numbers	5/4	1/1	3/2	4/2	4/4	6/4	0/0	23/17
Amount	£2,450	£592	£1,025	£1,470	£1,960	£1,651	£0	£9,148
								Total £9,148

## 5.4 CVCT Criteria and Guidance

Behind every application there is a tale of need and much careful thought goes into the deliberations of Trustees, in each and every case, in coming to grant decisions. It is often a heart-wrenching task. Regrettably there remains plenty of evidence of need in the County, and valiant efforts are being made, especially through the Community Foundation, to address this where possible. However most of it is beyond the remit of the Trust which must, of necessity, focus on helping victims recover from the effects of crime and not of their circumstances. Our criteria and guidance have been carefully crafted in an attempt to assist applicants and those who support them to make the strongest case possible for a successful outcome.

### GRANT CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE

#### WHO WILL WE HELP?

**Victims of crime** or anti-social behaviour **who reside in Cumbria** and who

- are in urgent need, distress, hardship or sickness as a result of crime; *and*
- are vulnerable; *and*
- need help to cope, to recover, or to avoid re-victimisation; *and*
- have limited resources and little or no other funding available to them.

#### PRIORITIES

The priorities of the Trustees are:

- To promote the **safety** of the victim;
- To relieve **urgent** need or distress;
- To provide essential **basic** requirements, eg relating to washing, cooking and sleeping.

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS

- The application must be supported by an independent case worker or professional involved with the case. The role of the sponsor is to ensure the application contains all relevant information and meets the CVCT guidelines, and to help the applicant to prioritise need.

**To provide CVCT Trustees with the information necessary to enable them to make a decision, and thus to maximise the possibility of a successful outcome, it is strongly recommended that, in completing a grant application, the starting point should be what are the victim's basic requirements (bearing in mind these criteria) rather than focussing on the prima facie maximum grant.**

- Proof of a conviction is not essential, nor is reporting the crime to the police. In the absence of such proof, a reasonable belief by the sponsor that the applicant is the victim of a crime is acceptable.
- There should be a close connection, both as to cause and in time, between crime and application.
- Where a grant is made, CVCT, via CCF, will usually pay suppliers / contractors direct.
- Payments will not be made to, or on behalf of, third parties who are not direct victims.

- There is no minimum or maximum award amount and CVCT reserves the right to make any award it sees fit. However, as a guide, grants typically range from £200 to £700, depending on the applicant's needs.
- CVCT Trustees have complete discretion and reserve the right to consider any factors they deem relevant.

#### **CVCT WILL NOT NORMALLY FUND**

- Furniture, carpets and household items, other than basic essentials relating to washing, cooking and sleeping. These must represent best quality low budget items – premium models will not be supported.
- CCTV.
- Damage to motor vehicles.
- Uninsured loss.

Trustees may be willing to consider such matters if the applicant can establish that exceptional circumstances justify an award.

#### **CVCT WILL NOT FUND**

- Debt, whether incurred by the victim or someone else.
- Counselling / therapy.
- Education / training.
- Overseas travel, expeditions.
- Statutory agencies, or administrative equipment or general expenses for other bodies.

## 5.5 Feedback

Although we encourage feedback on the impact a grant has made on a victim's recovery and to enable us to hear how our processes are perceived, the direct responses we receive are restricted by the work pressures on the professionals who deal with victims. Nevertheless the messages that we do receive are positive and speak to the fact that the grants provide much needed items at a time of distress and, perhaps more importantly, a feeling that someone cares.

Here are some quotes received over the last couple of years:

**Context:** *Applicant needed to move due to high risk domestic abuse. She needed beds and bedding for the children plus help with removal costs.*

**Quote:** *"(The grant) reduced the stress of moving when there was little money. It also made a big impact to the children's lives to get a new bed and bedding. Thank you for being so helpful and for being so generous".*

**Context:** *Grant provided for purchase of camera to enable victim of on-line child grooming to engage in a positive activity as a means of recovering from severe emotional and mental impact.*

**Quote:** *"X will enrol on the level 2 photography course at college. (X is) very grateful for such a great camera to start her photographic education."*

**Context:** CVCT provided funds to Victim Support to purchase basic mobile telephones, to be given to victims of domestic or sexual abuse.

**Quote (from Victim Support (Cumbria):**

**The award:**

- enables our clients to have a means of summoning help from the Police should they need it/should further abuse happen. This is very important as so often abusers smash or confiscate the survivor's phone to isolate them from summoning help or assistance during an abusive incident.
- Enables our clients to continue accessing family/friends support where they can as so often the abuser distances & isolates the survivor from their friends & family as a means of exerting power & control over them.
- Enables our clients to maintain regular contact with their IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) so they can jointly focus on promoting and maintaining the survivor's safety in the form of ongoing safety planning, risk assessment and risk management. Frequently the IDVA is the only person a survivor can turn to for support, advice & guidance.
- Enables our clients to access online apps to promote their safety such as the Hollie Guard app, Bright Sky app, WEPROTECT app etc.

**Quote** from a victim of high-risk domestic abuse who was allocated a mobile phone:

*My mobile was smashed/broken during the incident I reported to the Police. I needed a phone to access support, contact the housing team & call the Police if required. (It has) improved my safety and support network. I'd like to thank the CVCT for providing me with the phone as it has made a big difference to me. I now feel safe.*

**Context:** Grant used to purchase replacement bed for victim of rape who was suffering psychologically and who could not face using the bed on which the offence took place.

**Quote:** "The financial support greatly improved the client's physical and psychological wellbeing".

**Context:** Victim of domestic violence had to move, with her children, to another part of the County to avoid further violence.

**Quote:** "The recipient is very pleased with the support provided by the grant. She would have struggled without it".

**Since it was established in 2015, the Trustees believe that the Charity has grown and developed to have an influence and a positive impact on victim care in Cumbria. This can be seen through our work with the Constabulary and the OPFCC on VAWG and the numbers of victims and families we have supported through grants.**

## 5.6 In summary

CVCT Trustees remain of the view that the combination of small amounts of funding, at the right time, in quick time, provides the most valuable support to victims. We aim to communicate a decision on each application within 5 days of receipt and at times we have done so within 24 hours. This pragmatic, practical intervention provides much more than the money, it also indicates kindness and hope, at a very grim, hard time for individuals.

*“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted”* Aesop

The Trustees have considered their activities in the light of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that those activities have complied with the guidance.

## 6. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES

The Charity is an independent charitable trust formed to help provide additional services for victims of crime in Cumbria and, over time, to generate additional income where possible to supplement the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victims' services. The Charity continues to seek to raise its profile as a means of generating both additional income and further appropriate applications for funding.

The aim is that funding from the Charity is timely, effective, compassionate and fair, and that it makes a difference to the lives of individual victims of crime and anti-social behaviour who reside in Cumbria.

The Trustees of CVCT acknowledge with thanks the support of the Cumbria Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and also that of the Cumbria Community Foundation.

**In view of the fact that the Charity is largely a grant-making body, and carries no overheads, the Trustees have decided that it is not necessary at this stage to have a formal Reserves Policy. In reality, the sums outlined in the Charity's year-end accounts are Reserves since grants are made from the Fund established with Cumbria Community Foundation, which is topped up from sums in hand as and when required. However, this matter will be kept under regular review.**

## 7. THE FUTURE

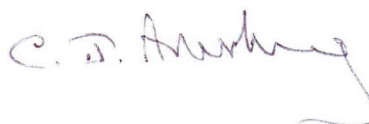
As outlined earlier in this Report, as the Charity completes a decade of work on behalf of victims, Trustees have instigated a major review of CVCT, its activities and its place in the overall provision of support for victims of crime in Cumbria. That review will include discussions with partners and other stakeholders.

While the review is in progress, it will be business as usual. We will remain committed to our objects, providing timely relief to vulnerable victims at a time of great need, monitoring the provision of victims' services and making informed comment, based on the combined varied experience of Trustees, where that is appropriate.

Signed on 4 JUNE 2025 on behalf of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust



Trustee



Trustee

## Independent Examiner's Report

to

### The Trustees of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and 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 Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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

Signed:



Name in Full:

JANE ELIZABETH VICKERS, CIPFA

Address:

11 The Nurseries  
Linstock  
CARLISLE  
CA6 4RR

Date:

7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025**

Registered Charity Number 1160978

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
<b>Receipts</b>			
Bank interest	2248.35		2248.35
Donations	<u>100.00</u>		<u>100.00</u>
	<u>2348.35</u>		<u>2348.35</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Website	99.00		99.00
Professional fee	50.00		50.00
Trustee expenses	55.00		55.00
Grant – CVCT Fund	10000.00		10000.00
Videoconference licence	<u>155.88</u>		<u>155.88</u>
	<u>10359.88</u>		<u>10359.88</u>
<b>Net Receipts (Payments)</b>	(8011.53)		(8011.53)
Cash funds brought forward	70145.51		70145.51
Cash funds at 31 March 2025	62133.98		62133.98

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 March 2025**

Cash at Bank	Deposit account	55920.65	
	Current account	<u>6213.33</u>	62133.33
Cash fund at 31 March 2025			62133.98

Approved by the Trustees on 4 JUNE 2025 and signed on their behalf by

  
C. J. Armstrong - Trustee

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160978

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# Accounts

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# **CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**For the period ended 31 March 2024**

**Registered Charity Number 1160978**

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

## 1. THE CHARITY

Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust (CVCT) was registered on 19 March 2015 by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered number 1160978. Administration is carried out by one of the Trustees (Christopher Armstrong) from his home address, which has been registered with the Charity Commission as the Charity's base.

## 2. THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The charitable objectives of the CVCT are:

- To promote, for the benefit of the public, the efficiency of the police and other agencies providing services to victims in Cumbria by working in partnership with them to promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress or sickness as a result of being a victim, a witness or otherwise being affected by crime.

**The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity during the report period have addressed these objectives.**

## 3. THE TRUSTEES

During the report period, the Trustees of the CVCT were:

Annette Hennessy	Christopher Armstrong
Glenys Marriott	Venetia Young
Marcia Reid Fotheringham	Natalie Bradbury

As a CIO Foundation Model, the members of the Charity are the Trustees. As well as the usual responsibilities of Trustees, their duties include ensuring that the Board is composed of sufficient suitably qualified people to provide good governance. Trustees serve for 3 years before the need for re-election and there is no upper limit. As of 31 March 2024 current terms of office of the Trustees are:

To 31 March 2025	Annette Hennessy	Venetia Young	Natalie Bradbury
To 31 March 2026	Christopher Armstrong		
To 31 March 2027	Glenys Marriott	Marcia Reid Fotheringham	

Trustees come from across Cumbria, with the Board continuing to be possessed of a real depth and breadth of knowledge about the County and its communities. All members of the Board are active in making a difference across a broad spectrum of work, in health, mental health, with victims, in domestic violence, with offenders and diversity. Whilst Board meetings do focus on the work of the Trust, they also provide a rich source of intelligence and generative thinking, about all of the work we do in Cumbria, and the wider world.

The Trustees met as a Board on 4 occasions, mostly by videoconference, to consider applications for funding and to transact other business. However, to ensure speedy decisions on applications for urgent funding, most applications were dealt with by email between the Trustees, resulting in the majority of decisions being made within 5 days of receipt of the application. In addition to meeting as a Board, Trustees also came together on 4 occasions as an independent Scrutiny Panel assessing the level of care Cumbria Constabulary offers to victims of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

## **4. THE CHARITY'S VISION AND VALUES**

### **4.1 Our Vision and Values**

**Our vision is:**

- To build a lasting, sustainable impact on the lives of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship, distress or sickness as a result of being a victim or witness, or being affected by crime in Cumbria;
- To promote awareness of the impact of crime and improvement in the services for victims of crime;
- By working with others, grant-giving and building a sustainable charity.

**Our values can be expressed thus:**

CVCT is a County-wide charity that supports a wide range of victims of crime in a way that is timely, effective, compassionate and fair, and which makes a difference to their lives.

### **4.2 Development Plan**

Although we are a small charity, with a very specific and targeted remit, we have always thought it important to have a plan. Without a plan or route map, it is difficult to know if you are achieving your objectives or reaching your destination. Our 3 year Development Plan to work towards our vision is simple, with 3 key strategies:

- Stability – to demonstrate good governance and accountability,
- Funding – to achieve funding continuity,
- Impact – to develop and grow the impact of the charity.

Each strategy is considered from 4 angles:

- Processes,
- Financial capability,
- Communications,
- Relationships.

The Plan is reviewed each year to ensure that everything remains on target. The review at the end of March 2024, the end of the first year of the current Plan, indicated that the charity remained on target and focussed on its objectives

## **5. OUR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **5.1 Development Plan Review**

#### **5.1.1 Stability**

- Feedback from Cumbria Community Foundation, from discussion among Trustees and from those who have sponsored applications has led to changes in the criteria and decision making process. Active consideration is being given to the amounts of individual grants made.
- An audit of our governance processes against CVS standards is planned for next year. We remain confident that we are operating in line with Charity Commission requirements and guidance.
- The Charity's narrative is maintained on the website, through social media and through Trustee contacts and meetings.
- Communication channels are active through a wide variety of Trustee links, police relationships and the Victims Quality Champion within the Office of the Cumbria Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- Board members are not afraid to challenge each other or in meetings with others. We need to consider that we may need to find an additional Trustee.

### **5.1.2 Funding**

- The fund held on behalf of the Charity by Cumbria Community Foundation has not yet been exhausted, although estimates suggest it may be so during 2024-2025. Plans are therefore in place to transfer more funds to CCF when required.
- A review of networks has developed recently through our involvement as the independent VAWG Scrutiny Panel. Building networks remains a continuing focus for us.
- Visible stories of the impact of grants are still slow to come through. Where we do receive feedback from or on behalf of victims, this goes onto our website and into our Annual Report.

### **5.1.3 Impact**

- Through our work on the VAWG Panel, with the Victims Quality Champion and with Cumbria Community Foundation, we have positive working relationships based on mutual trust and integrity which have led to a collaborative, developmental approach to the work.
- The referrals this year have decreased slightly, despite continued efforts to publicise CVCT, but there is still a steady flow of applications. We appreciate the work that our link CCF officer Sarah Thompson has done to help with this. Latterly discussions have taken place to raise the CVCT profile on the Constabulary intranet.
- Expanding victim care is still work in progress but through the work on the VAWG Panel, coupled with the grants made, we believe we are making a significant contribution to victim care in Cumbria.

## **5.2 Partnerships**

The Trustees of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust recognise that partnership working is the best way to deliver an enhanced service for victims of crime, and seek to expand and develop such partnerships. These are the bodies with which we work most closely.

### **5.2.1 Cumbria Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner**

The Charitable Trust was formed when the then Police & Crime Commissioner for Cumbria identified a means whereby the scope of victims' services in Cumbria might be enhanced by the involvement of an independent voluntary body, able to operate without the constraints often met by statutory entities. To support this initiative both he and his successor in office allocated funds from the budget devolved by central government for victim care. It is from this funding that CVCT allocates grants to vulnerable victims to help them to cope with, and recover from, the impact of the crime they have experienced. The Trustees therefore value the well-established partnership that has developed with the Commissioner and his staff and hope to build on it in future, for the benefit of victims of crime. A particularly valuable relationship has been established with Sandra Radcliffe, the Victims Quality Champion, with whom we work closely in the VAWG Scrutiny Panel.

### **5.2.2 Cumbria Police**

Trustees welcome the increasing focus nationally on providing care and support for victims of crime, whose lives have been sorely affected by their experiences. For too long comfortable words have not been followed by robust action and it is pleasing to see that this is changing. We therefore welcome the introduction of the Victims' Code and hope that it will carry the force of law so that all agencies are made to focus on the care they give to victims as they travel through the criminal justice system and beyond, and are held accountable for their performance.

A particular national focus during 2023-2024 has been on the way in which agencies deliver the requirements of the Code to female victims of violence – the Violence Against Women and Girls initiative (VAWG). CVCT Trustees have been pleased to be invited by Cumbria Police and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner to provide an independent perspective on the way in which Cumbria's police officers discharge their duties under the Code. We understand that not all forces have been prepared to open themselves to independent scrutiny and it is very much to the credit of Cumbria Police that it has wholeheartedly embraced not only the duties expected but also the implications of an independent scrutiny. We are aware that significant resource has been devoted to creating a culture which espouses the need to support victims and we have been extremely impressed with the seriousness with which Constabulary officers and staff have approached the task. It is a commitment led from the top, with dedicated senior officers delivering the message to all areas of the force. We are pleased to be involved in this important area and commend Cumbria Police for showing the way to enhanced victim care.

### **5.2.3 Cumbria Community Foundation**

CVCT Trustees all being busy people, for practical purposes CVCT commissioned Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF) to administer the grant fund on its behalf. Guidance on how to make grant applications, and the criteria that apply, appear on both the CVCT and CCF websites. Applications are directed to CCF where, by contact with the sponsor of the application (usually an independent case worker with knowledge of the applicant's circumstances) any necessary queries are resolved and further information sought. An anonymised application form, with an assessment by the CCF Grants Officer, is then sent to Trustees who make the final decisions on grants. This arrangement continues to work well. We are particularly grateful to our CCF contact Sarah Thompson, who often has to make extensive enquiries in order to provide the information needed for Trustees to make an appropriate decision.

### **5.2.4 Other partnerships**

Although grants are primarily made to individual victims of crime, we recognise that some victims are unable to engage with the application process. In this regard we have from time to time commissioned victim-focussed bodies as our agent, providing them with funds from which they can make small emergency grants to victims who turn to them for help. In the past we have provided funds for Safety Net and the Birchall Trust, both of which support victims of rape and sexual abuse. This year we provided a grant to Victim Support to enable them to provide basic mobile telephones to victims of domestic abuse whose own devices have been taken or destroyed by perpetrators, thus enabling the victims still to contact the police or other support network. Victim Support workers are also frequent sponsors of applications for grants, providing an essential step in the process of helping victims to recover.

Our involvement with these respected bodies has had a positive spin-off for Trustees by expanding their knowledge of both formal investigative processes and the impact and prevalence of particular offences. This more detailed information, added to the already-diverse background of CVCT Trustees (including criminal justice, medicine, psychology), gives the Board further in-depth knowledge and experience which they can bring to bear on their work.

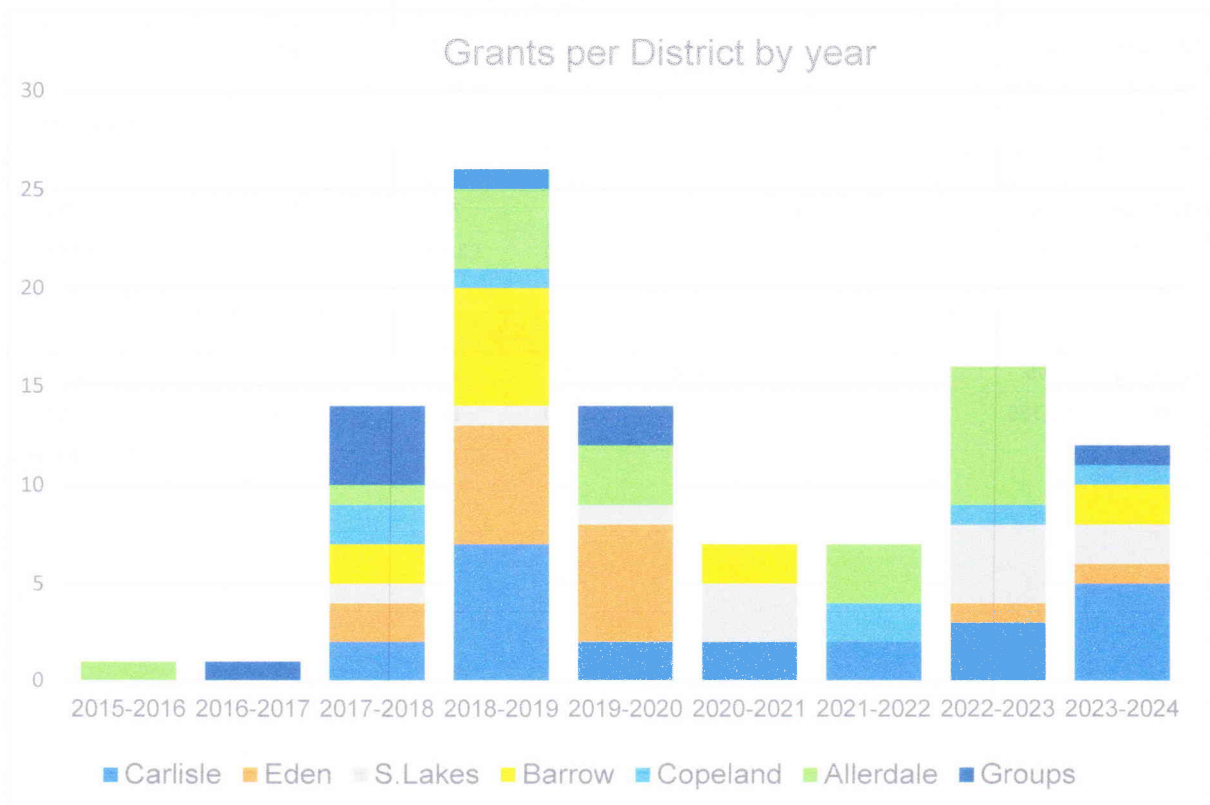
### 5.3 Grants

Details of the applications received during the year appear in the tables below. Notwithstanding the changes in local government areas, we have continued to use the previous Districts for ease of comparison.

Despite on-going efforts to advertise the existence of the Fund across the County, including through our website (<https://cumbriavictimstrust.org.uk>) and active use of our X (Twitter) account (@CumbriaVictimsCT) - which has nearly 1300 followers, the number of applications remains relatively low and indeed was slightly down on the previous year. This is the case even from areas where levels of deprivation might indicate a greater need from victims of crime. Part of the explanation could be the existence of other funds specifically available in those areas or the availability of funds to address pure economic need, a factor beyond our more limited remit.

Applications remain predominantly from victims of domestic violence, where perpetrators have wrecked homes and women and children have had to leave with few, if any, possessions. Nevertheless Trustees are anxious that the Trust should not be seen as purely a DV funder and it is keen to encourage applications from the vulnerable victims of other types of crime. To this end it continues to make substantial efforts to raise awareness of the Fund among those organisations that are likely to come into contact with victims of crime, including asylum seekers and refugees, and to encourage them to support applications falling within our published criteria.

The Charity remains of the view that providing direct practical help for individual victims is a better use of its funds than providing grants to organisations for their own use, although we have in the past funded organisations to act as agent for CVCT, applying the same criteria, particularly where individual victims may not be able to apply for help in the usual way. We believe this is an effective way of supporting vulnerable victims of crime.



	Carlisle Received /granted	Eden Received /granted	S.Lakes Received /granted	Barrow Received /granted	Copeland Received /granted	Allerdale Received /granted	Groups Received/granted Totals	individuals Received/granted Totals
2015-2016								
Numbers						1/1		1/1
Amount								£1947
								Totals £1947
2016-2017								
Numbers							1/1	8/7
Amount							£2000	£18000
								Totals £20,000
2017-2018								
Numbers	2/2	2/2	2/1	3/2	3/2	2/1	4/4	14/10
Amount	£7,21	£72	£2,000	£560	£406	£1,340	£9,100	£5,754
								Totals £14,854
2018-2019								
Numbers	9/7	7/6	3/1	8/6	2/1	5/4	1/1	34/25
Amount	£2,435	£2,018	£250	£2,220	£2,176	£1,756	£1,500	£10,855
								Totals £12,355
2019-2020								
Numbers	2/2	7/6	3/1	13/10	0/0	3/3	2/2	29/21
Amount	£850	£379	£275	£2,320	0	£800	£1,737	£4,624
								Totals £6,361
2020-2021								
Numbers	2/2	0/0	3/3	2/2	0/0	0/0	1/0	7/7
Amount	£1,219	0	£1,520	£850	0	0	0	£3,589
								Totals £3,589
2021-2022								
Numbers	2/2	0/0	1/0	0/0	2/2	3/3	0/0	8/7
Amount	£1,290	0	0	0	£755	£1,251	0	£3,296
								Totals £3,296
2022-2023								
Numbers	4/3	1/1	4/4	1/0	1/1	7/7	0/0	18/16
Amount	£830	£81	£1,221	0	£280	£3,106	0	£5,518
								Totals £5,518
2023-2024								
Numbers	5/5	1/1	2/2	4/2	1/1	0/0	1/1	13/11
Amount	£1,785	£500	£725	£654	£500	£0	£1,500	£4,164
								Totals £5,664

## 5.4 CVCT Criteria and Guidance

Behind every application there is a tale of need and we see each one as an opportunity to learn. As part of this thinking, we continuously review both our processes and our grant criteria as new issues come to light. Consequently, during the year, we made further slight adjustments to the criteria used to guide both applicants (and those who support them) and our decisions. Regrettably there remains plenty of evidence of need in the County, and valiant efforts are being made, especially through the Community Foundation, to address this where possible. However most of it is beyond the remit of the Trust which must, of necessity, focus on helping victims recover from the effects of crime and not of their circumstances.

### GRANT CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE

#### WHO WILL WE HELP?

**Victims of crime or anti-social behaviour who reside in Cumbria and who**

- are in urgent need, distress, hardship or sickness as a result of crime; *and*
- are vulnerable; *and*
- need help to cope, to recover, or to avoid re-victimisation; *and*
- have limited resources and little or no other funding available to them.

#### PRIORITIES

The priorities of the Trustees are:

- To promote the **safety** of the victim;
- To relieve **urgent** need or distress;
- To provide essential **basic** requirements, eg relating to washing, cooking and sleeping.

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS

- The application must be supported by an independent case worker or professional involved with the case. The role of the sponsor is to ensure the application contains all relevant information and meets the CVCT guidelines, and to help the applicant to prioritise need.

**To provide CVCT Trustees with the information necessary to enable them to make a decision, and thus to maximise the possibility of a successful outcome, it is strongly recommended that, in completing a grant application, the starting point should be what are the victim's basic requirements (bearing in mind these criteria) rather than focussing on the prima facie maximum grant.**

- Proof of a conviction is not essential, nor is reporting the crime to the police. In the absence of such proof, a reasonable belief by the sponsor that the applicant is the victim of a crime is acceptable.
- There should be a close connection, both as to cause and in time, between crime and application.
- Where a grant is made, CVCT, via CCF, will usually pay suppliers / contractors direct.
- Payments will not be made to, or on behalf of, third parties who are not direct victims.
- There is no minimum or maximum award amount and CVCT reserves the right to make any award it sees fit. However, as a guide, grants typically range from £200 to £700, depending on the applicant's needs.
- CVCT Trustees have complete discretion and reserve the right to consider any factors they deem relevant.

## **CVCT WILL NOT NORMALLY FUND**

- Furniture, carpets and household items, other than basic essentials relating to washing, cooking and sleeping. These must represent best quality low budget items – premium models will not be supported.
- CCTV.
- Damage to motor vehicles.
- Uninsured loss.

Trustees may be willing to consider such matters if the applicant can establish that exceptional circumstances justify an award,

## **CVCT WILL NOT FUND**

- Debt, whether incurred by the victim or someone else.
- Counselling / therapy.
- Education / training.
- Overseas travel, expeditions.
- Statutory agencies, or administrative equipment or general expenses for other bodies.

## **5.5 Feedback**

- We have gathered feedback over the year on some of the grants made, which has been most welcome, and evidences that the funds provide much needed items at a time of distress. We continue to debate how we might improve this, but we are aware that our grants form only a small part of the work of CCF and victim care in Cumbria.
- The number of applications does not fully reflect the number of direct and indirect victims who have benefitted from CVCT grants. In 2023-2024, the number benefitting was more than double the number of applications.
- Some quotes from, or on behalf of, recipients of CVCT grants:

Context: Applicant needed to move due to high risk domestic abuse. She needed beds and bedding for the children plus help with removal costs.

Quote: “(The grant) reduced the stress of moving when there was little money. It also made a big impact to the children’s lives to get a new bed and bedding. Thank you for being so helpful and for being so generous”.

Context: CVCT provided funds to Victim Support to purchase basic mobile telephones, to be given to victims of domestic or sexual abuse.

Quote:

“(This funding) will really assist some of our most vulnerable victims in Cumbria to remain safe and remain in contact with support / emergency services if their mobiles are damaged by their abuser or taken by police for digital forensic checks”.

Context: Grant provided for purchase of camera to enable victim of on-line child grooming to engage in a positive activity as a means of recovering from severe emotional and mental impact.

Quote: “X will enrol on the level 2 photography course at college. (X is) very grateful for such a great camera to start her photographic education.”

**Since it was established in 2015, the Trustees believe that the Charity has grown and developed to have an influence and an impact on victim care in Cumbria. This can be seen through our work with the Constabulary and the OPFCC on VAWG and the numbers of victims and families we have supported through grants.**

## **5.6 In summary**

As Trustees we remain of the view that the combination of small amounts of funding, at the right time, in quick time, provides the most valuable support to victims. We aim to communicate a decision on each application within 5 days of receipt and at times we have done so within 24 hours. This pragmatic, practical intervention provides much more than the money, it also indicates kindness and hope, at a very grim, hard time for individuals.

**“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted” Aesop**

An unanticipated outcome has been that these small grants can also support the frontline workers, in what can be a relentless struggle to help victims to recover from the impact of crime and (at times) the criminal justice system.

## **6. THE FUTURE**

As we look to the future for the Trust our priorities remain to:

- Increase referrals from vulnerable victims of all kinds of crime;
- Continue to collect feedback from recipients to evidence the impact of grants;
- Take appropriate opportunities to engage in the debate about how victim care might be improved;
- Further develop the Trust's scope.

We remain keen to work with partners across Cumbria, both statutory, such as the PFCC and the Police, and the Third Sector, to collaborate and share understanding about victim care in Cumbria. We are also committed to monitoring the provision of victims' services and to making informed comment, based on our combined experience, where that is appropriate.

**The Trustees have considered their activities in the light of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that those activities have complied with the guidance.**

## **7. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES**

The Charity was established as an independent charitable trust to help provide additional services for victims and, in time, generate additional income to supplement the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victims' services. The aspiration is that funding from the Charity will assist in expanding existing services and supporting the needs of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour who reside in Cumbria.

The Trustees of CVCT acknowledge with thanks the support of the Cumbria Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and also that of the Cumbria Community Foundation.

Other income streams continue to be sought and donations have been received from time to time. The Charity continues to seek to raise its profile as a means of generating both additional income and further appropriate applications for funding.

**In view of the fact that the Charity is largely a grant-making body, and carries no overheads, the Trustees have decided that it is not necessary at this stage to have a Reserves Policy. However, this matter will be kept under regular review.**

**Signed on behalf of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust**

*Allenway*

**Trustee**

*C. J. Armstrong*

**Trustee**

**Date:** 5 JUNE 2024

## Independent Examiner's Report

to

### The Trustees of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and 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 Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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

Signed:



Name in Full:

JANE ELIZABETH VICKERS, CIPFA

Address:

11 The Nurseries  
Linstock  
CARLISLE  
CA6 4RR

Date:

29-5-2024

## CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

### Receipts and Payments Account 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

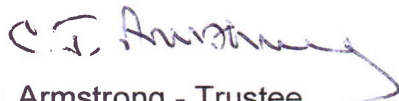
Registered Charity Number 1160978

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
<b>Receipts</b>			
Bank interest	2231.61		2231.61
Donations	<u>84.09</u>		<u>84.09</u>
	2315.70		2315.70
<b>Payments</b>			
Website	99.00		99.00
Professional fee	50.00		50.00
Grant - Victim Support	1500.00		1500.00
Videoconference licence	<u>143.88</u>		<u>143.88</u>
	1792.88		1792.88
Net Receipts	522.82		522.82
Cash funds brought forward	<u>69622.69</u>		<u>69622.69</u>
Cash funds at 31 March 2024	<u>70145.51</u>		<u>70145.51</u>

### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 March 2024

Cash at Bank	70145.51
Cash fund at 31 March 2024	<u>70145.51</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 5 JUNE 2024 and signed on their behalf by

  
C. J. Armstrong - Trustee

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160978

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

For the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

## 1. THE CHARITY

Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust (CVCT) was registered on 19 March 2015 by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered number 1160978.

Administration is carried out by one of the Trustees (Christopher Armstrong) from his home address, which has been registered with the Charity Commission as the Charity's base.

## 2. THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The charitable objectives of the CVCT are:

- To promote, for the benefit of the public, the efficiency of the police and other agencies providing services to victims in Cumbria by working in partnership with them to promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress or sickness as a result of being a victim, a witness or otherwise being affected by crime.

**The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity during the report period have addressed these objectives.**

## 3. THE TRUSTEES

During the report period, the Trustees of the CVCT were:

Annette Hennessy

Christopher Armstrong

Glenys Marriott

Venetia Young

Marcia Reid Fotheringham

Natalie Bradbury

Since the Charity is registered with the Charity Commission as a Foundation Model, the members of the Charity are the Trustees, whose duties include ensuring that the Board is composed of sufficient suitably qualified people to provide good governance. Under the terms of the governing document, Trustees serve for 3 years before the need for re-election; there is no upper limit.

The agreed terms of office of the current Trustees are:

To 31 March 2023 Christopher Armstrong (who has been re-appointed for a further term commencing 1 April 2023)

To 31 March 2024 Glenys Marriott Marcia Reid Fotheringham

To 31 March 2025 Annette Hennessy Venetia Young Natalie Bradbury

Trustees are drawn from across the county, with the Board continuing to be possessed of a real depth and breadth of knowledge about Cumbria and its communities. All members of the Board are active in making a difference across a broad spectrum of work, in health, mental health, with victims, in domestic violence, with offenders and diversity. Whilst Board meetings do focus on the work of the Trust, they also provide a rich source of intelligence and generative thinking, about all of the work we do in Cumbria, and the wider world.

The Trustees met on 6 occasions, mostly by videoconference, to consider applications for funding and to transact other business. However, to ensure speedy decisions on applications for urgent funding, most applications were dealt with by email between the Trustees, resulting in the majority of decisions being made within 5 days of receipt of the application.

## **4. THE CHARITY'S VISION AND VALUES**

### **4.1 Our Vision and Values**

Through detailed discussions, Trustees have an agreed vision for the Charity, established values and a detailed strategy to achieve our vision, as described in a Development Plan covering the period April 2020 to April 2023. The Plan has been reviewed regularly and objectives have been achieved.

**Our vision is:**

- To build a lasting, sustainable impact on the lives of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship, distress or sickness as a result of being a victim or witness, or being affected by crime in Cumbria;
- To promote awareness of the impact of crime and improvement in the services for victims of crime;
- By working with others, grant-giving and building a sustainable charity.

**Our values can be expressed thus:**

CVCT is a county-wide charity that supports a wide range of victims of crime in a way that is timely, effective, compassionate and fair, and which makes a difference to their lives.

## **5. OUR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **5.1 Partnerships**

The Charitable Trust was formed when the then Police & Crime Commissioner for Cumbria identified a means whereby the scope of victims' services in Cumbria might be enhanced by the involvement of an independent voluntary body, able to operate without the constraints often met by statutory entities. To launch this initiative both he and his successor in office, the current incumbent, allocated funds from the budget devolved by central government for victim care. CVCT commissioned Cumbria Community Foundation to administer a Fund on behalf of the Trustees, although it is the Trustees who make the final decisions on grants. That arrangement continues to work well, with particular thanks to our CCF contact Sarah Thompson, enabling Trustees to ensure that applications are dealt with in accordance with our published criteria and that decisions made are defensible and of benefit to victims of crime.

Given that background, we have always maintained strong links with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria. Although we are independent, we value the continued links with the current incumbent, meeting regularly both to inform him of the progress of the Charity and also to explore ways in which the Trustees, with their diverse backgrounds, can assist him in his responsibility for commissioning victims' services across Cumbria.

We believe that, as time has gone on, trust in CVCT has grown, with the result that, for example, an ongoing project has seen the CVCT Board acting as a "critical friend" in a review of how the victim's voice is captured and used. This focusses particularly on offences of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and involves scrutiny of the level of victim care provided by Cumbria Police in individual cases against the requirements of the Victims Code. Trustees are very heartened by the willingness of the Police to open their actions to independent scrutiny.

This activity has also led to a positive spin-off for Trustees. We have been able to learn more about the complexities of investigating cases of sexual assault, spiking and hate crimes and we are therefore better equipped to understand the effects on victims.

The background of CVCT Trustees gives the Board an in-depth knowledge and experience of both the criminal justice and health systems, including how those systems impact on victims. Trustees fully support the rationale behind the national Victims Code of Practice and believe that delivery of timely, sensitive and supportive services for victims should be a shared responsibility across the relevant bodies. In responding to the Government's consultation on delivering justice for victims, we advocated this approach and also the need for a strong lead and public accountability to ensure delivery of victims' entitlements.

## **5.2 CVCT Criteria and Guidance**

Every application tells a tale of need, and we see each one as an opportunity to learn. During the year, we again reviewed the criteria used to guide both applicants and our decisions. We came to the conclusion that, in some respect, they were too restrictive and made it too difficult for too many individuals, particularly those seeking to set up a new life away from the source of their distress. We therefore made slight but significant changes. Regrettably there remains plenty of evidence of need in the County, and valiant efforts are being made, especially through the Community Foundation, to address this where possible. However most of it is beyond the remit of the Trust which must, of necessity, focus on helping victims recover from the effects of crime and not of their circumstances.

### **Overview**

Grants for victims of crime who reside in Cumbria to promote the safety of the victim, to relieve urgent need or distress, and to provide essential basic requirements, relating to washing, cooking, sleeping and clothing.

### **Who can apply?**

Any victim of crime who resides in Cumbria and has been affected by crime or anti-social behaviour.

Victims who are in need, distress, hardship or sickness as a result of crime; *and* who are vulnerable; *and* who need help to cope, recover or to avoid re-victimisation, or to replace essential items; *and* who have limited resources with no other funding available to them. Victims must be supported by an independent case worker or professional involved with the case.

### **What the Fund will support:**

Initiatives to assist victims to cope with and recover from their experience.  
Initiatives to prevent victims being targeted and/or being repeat victims of crime.

### **What the Fund will not *normally* support:**

Furniture, carpets and household items, other than basic essentials relating to washing, cooking and sleeping.  
CCTV.  
Damage to motor vehicles.  
Uninsured loss.

### **What the Fund will not support in addition to our normal exclusions:**

Debt, whether incurred by the victim or someone else.  
Counselling / therapy.  
Education / training.  
Overseas travel or expeditions.

### **How much can you apply for?**

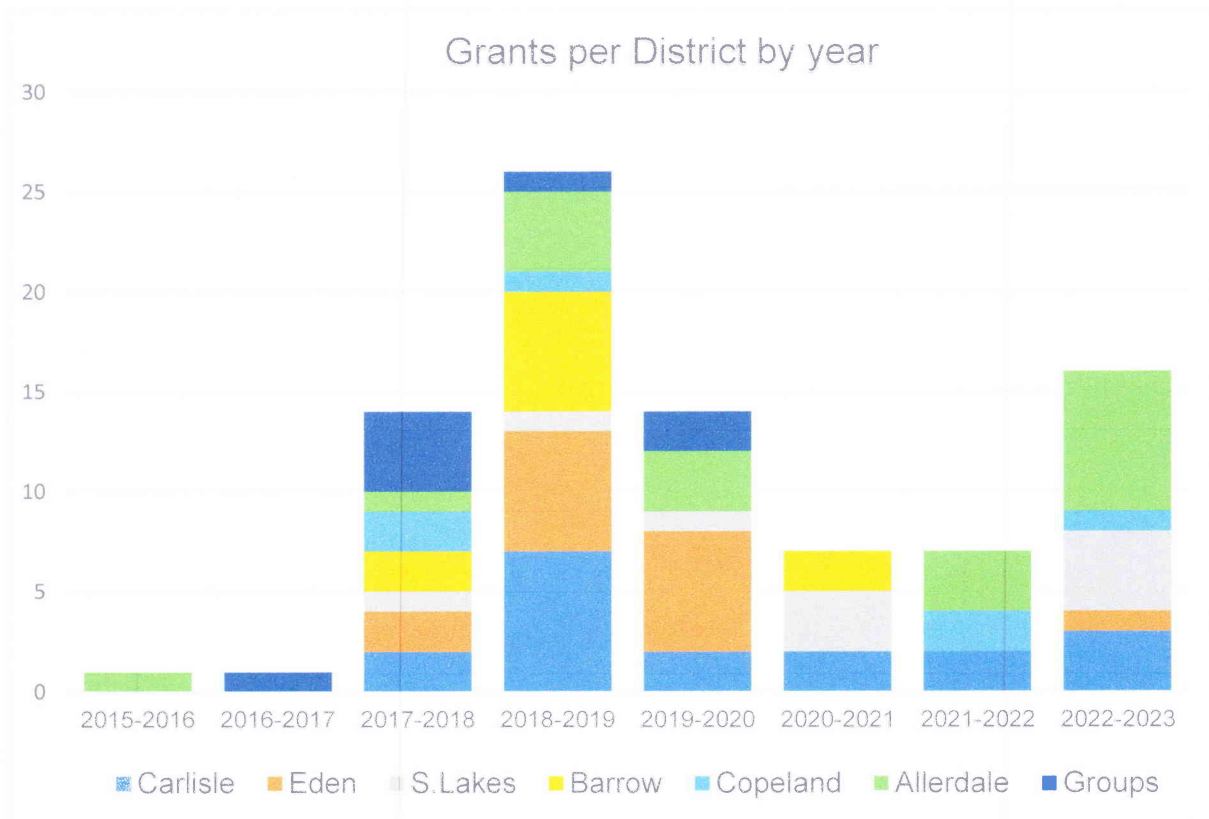
Grants will normally be no more than £500 but CVCT reserves the right to make any award amount it sees fit.

### 5.3 Grants

Details of the applications received during the year appear in the tables below. Trustees remain puzzled that, despite strenuous efforts to advertise the existence of the Fund across the County, including through our website and active use of our Twitter account (which has nearly 1300 followers), applications still remain relatively low. This is the case even from those areas such as Barrow and Copeland where levels of deprivation might indicate a greater need from victims of crime. It may be that part of the explanation could be the existence of other funds specifically available in those areas.

Applications remain predominantly from victims of domestic violence, where perpetrators have wrecked homes and women and children have had to leave with few, if any, possessions. However Trustees are anxious that the Trust should not be seen as purely a DV funder and it is keen to encourage applications from the vulnerable victims of other types of crime. To this end it continues to make substantial efforts to raise awareness of the Fund among those organisations that are likely to come into contact with victims of crime, including asylum seekers and refugees, and to encourage them to support applications falling within our published criteria.

The Charity remains of the view that providing direct practical help for individual victims is a better use of its funds than providing grants to organisations for their own use, although we have in the past funded organisations to act as agent for CVCT, applying the same criteria, particularly where individual victims may not be able to apply for help in the usual way. We believe this is a new way of supporting victims of crime.



	Carlisle Received /granted	Eden Received /granted	S.Lakes Received /granted	Barrow Received /granted	Copeland Received /granted	Allerdale Received /granted	Groups Received/granted Totals	individuals Received/granted Totals
<b>2015-2016</b>								
Numbers						1/1		1/1
Amount								£1947
								Totals £1947
<b>2016-2017</b>								
Numbers							1/1	8/7
Amount							£2000	£18000
								Totals £20000
<b>2017-2018</b>								
Numbers	2/2	2/2	2/1	3/2	3/2	2/1	4/4	14/10
Amount	£721	£72	£2000	£560	£406	£1340	£9100	£5754
								Totals £14854
<b>2018-2019</b>								
Numbers	9/7	7/6	3/1	8/6	2/1	5/4	1/1	34/25
Amount	£2435	£2018	£250	£2220	£2176	£1756	£1500	£10856
								Totals £12356
<b>2019-2020</b>								
Numbers	2/2	7/6	3/1	13/10	0/0	3/3	2/2	29/21
Amount	£850	£379	£275	£2320	0	£800	£1737	£4424
								Totals £6161
<b>2020-2021</b>								
Numbers	2/2	0/0	3/3	2/2	0/0	0/0	1/0	7/7
Amount	£1219	0	£1520	£850	0	0	0	£3589
								Totals £3589
<b>2021-2022</b>								
Numbers	2/2	0/0	1/0	0/0	2/2	3/3	0/0	8/7
Amount	£1290	0	0	0	£755	£1251	0	£3296
								Totals £3296
<b>2022-2023</b>								
Numbers	4/3	1/1	4/4	1/0	1/1	7/7	0/0	18/16
Amount	£830	£81	£1221	0	£280	£3106	0	£5518
								Totals £5518

## 6. STRATEGIES

The end of the 2022-2023 financial year sees the end of the current Development Plan. Trustees adopted three key strategies for the 3 year period 2020 – 2023, each underpinned by ensuring the right processes, financial capability, communications and relationships. Those strategies (which have been reviewed against delivery each year) were:

- To demonstrate good governance and accountability
- To achieve funding continuity
- To develop and grow the impact of the Charity.

## 6.1 Good governance and accountability

### **Outcome: Good governance and accountability - 2023**

- The Board has continually reviewed its processes, particularly in the light of feedback from CCF and other victims' organisations. We have worked in partnership with CCF to make amendments to simplify the processes where we can.
- The development plan has served the Trust well, its simplicity and clarity standing the test of time.
- Funds continue to be monitored at each meeting. At the close of 2022-23, after 8 years of data, the Trust has allocated an average of £568 to 94 families and victims of crime. We have also allocated £14,336 to groups working with victims, asking them to work to our published criteria, so the number of victims we have supported will be much higher.
- Our narrative has developed during 2022-23 and over the last few years. This is the result of a number of factors merging. All Trustees are significantly involved with the fabric of Cumbria in a variety of ways, which gives opportunities for the CVCT message to become more widespread. In turn it means that our work and narrative have become the richer, for the intelligence and information we gather. The relationship with CCF is one we continue to value and it brings a critical friend perspective to the process of grant making. It is also the case that our work with the Constabulary and OPCC on the Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel is helping to develop and refine our narrative. It is the consistency and persistency of our message - that we want to be more central to victim care in Cumbria - that has allowed this to happen.
- We have effective productive relationships with the key organisations responsible for commissioning and ensuring victim care.
- We have an effective Board, one where the members engage, bring fresh perspectives, are adaptable, add value and are not afraid to challenge each other and the decisions we make

**The evidence of the past three years is that we do demonstrate good governance and accountability**

## 6.2 Funding continuity

### **Outcome: Funding continuity - 2023**

- There is little to report on the approach to future funding as, to date, we still have over £60,000 remaining to distribute, the result of fewer than anticipated applications for qualifying grants. Trustees consider it unlikely that additional external funding would come forth given the amount in hand. Consequently we have prioritised other work, such as increasing the number of individual grants, strengthening our relationships, and the work with Violence Against Women and Girls Scrutiny Panel.

**As of April 2023 the Trust continues to manage the fund set up in 2015 with £150,000 from money allocated to the Trust by the PCC from money devolved by Government for witness care in Cumbria.**

## 6.3 Impact

### **Outcome: Impact of the charity's resources leading to Trust continuity - 2023**

- At the end of its eighth year in existence, and nearly five years with the current PCC, OPCC and CCF arrangements, we are seeing the benefit of the relationships that have been built over these years. Evidence of this is the way in which the Trustees have now been part of developing the review process with the Constabulary for the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

- The number of applications received has increased in 2022-23. Whilst more referrals are welcome, this year we have asked for feedback from CCF (via sponsors such as Victim Support) and the OPCC about what more we can do. Where we can we have improved our processes. For now we are content that awareness of CVCT is as good as it can be without investing in expenditure which would deplete funds available for grants.
- We have gathered feedback this year on some of the grants made, which has been most welcome, and evidences that the funds provide much needed items at a time of distress. We continue to debate how we might improve this, but we are aware that our grants form only a small part of the work of CCF and victim care in Cumbria.
- Some quotes from recipients of CVCT grants:

*“The grant removes a large weight off my shoulders. It means I can get essential items for my house which would have taken me months to afford. It was a lifeline when I needed it the most. I’m really grateful to have been helped by the Trust”.*

*“The grant was very much appreciated and enabled (me) to move into the property quicker than expected”.*

*“That’s absolutely amazing. I’m so happy and grateful. Thank you again”.*

**In 2023 the Trust will have been in place for over 8 years, with evidence that it has grown and developed to have an influence and an impact on victim care in Cumbria. This can be seen through our work with the Constabulary and the OPCC and the numbers of victims and families we have supported through grants**

#### **6.4 In summary**

We remain of the view that the combination of small amounts of funding, at the right time, in quick time, provides the most valuable support to victims. We aim to communicate a decision on each application within 5 days of receipt and at times we have done so within 24 hours. This pragmatic, practical intervention provides much more than the money, it also indicates kindness and hope, at a very grim, hard time for individuals.

***“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted”***      **Aesop**

An unanticipated outcome has been that these small grants can also support the frontline workers, in what can be a relentless struggle to help victims to recover from the impact of crime and (at times) the criminal justice system.

### **7. FUTURE THINKING**

As we look to the future for the Trust our priorities remain to:

- Increase referrals from vulnerable victims of all kinds of crime;
- Continue to collect feedback from recipients to evidence the impact of grants;
- Further develop the Trust’s scope.

We remain keen to work with partners across Cumbria, both statutory, such as the PCC and the Police, and the Third Sector, to collaborate and share understanding about victim care in Cumbria. We are also committed to monitoring the provision of victims’ services and to making informed comment, based on our combined experience, where that is appropriate.

The Trustees have considered their activities in the light of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that those activities have complied with the guidance.

**8. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES**

The Charity was established as an independent charitable trust by the Cumbria PCC to provide additional services for victims and, in time, generate additional income to supplement the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victims' services. The aspiration is that funding from the Charity will assist in expanding existing services and supporting the needs of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour who reside in Cumbria.

The Trustees of CVCT acknowledge with thanks the support of the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and also that of the Cumbria Community Foundation.


Other income streams continue to be sought and donations have been received from time to time. The Charity continues to seek to raise its profile as a means of generating both additional income and further appropriate applications for funding.

**In view of the fact that the Charity is largely a grant-making body, and carries no overheads, the Trustees have decided that it is not necessary at this stage to have a Reserves Policy. However, this matter will be kept under regular review.**

**Signed on behalf of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust**



**Trustee**



**Trustee**

**Date:** 12 July 2023

## Independent Examiner's Report

to

### The Trustees of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and 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 Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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

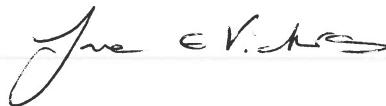
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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

Signed:



Name in Full:

JANE ELIZABETH VICKERS, CIPFA

Address:

11 The Nurseries  
Linstock  
CARLISLE  
CA6 4RR

Date:

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023**


Registered Charity Number 1160978

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
<b>Receipts</b>			
Bank interest	898.82		898.82
Donations	<u>48.54</u>		<u>48.54</u>
	<u>947.36</u>		<u>947.36</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Website	49.00		49.00
Professional fee	50.00		50.00
Publicity banner	82.80		82.80
Trustees' expenses	159.45		159.45
Videoconference licence	<u>143.88</u>		<u>143.88</u>
	<u>485.13</u>		<u>485.13</u>
Net Receipts	462.23		462.23
Cash funds brought forward	<u>69160.46</u>		<u>69160.46</u>
Cash funds at 31 March 2023	<u>69622.69</u>		<u>69622.69</u>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 March 2023**

Cash at Bank	69622.69
Cash fund at 31 March 2023	<u>69622.69</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 26 April 2023 and signed on their behalf by

  
C. J. Armstrong - Trustee

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160978

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# Accounts

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CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31 March 2022

Registered Charity Number 1160978

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

For the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

## 1. THE CHARITY

- Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust (CVCT) was registered on 19 March 2015 by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered number 1160978.
- Administration is carried out by one of the Trustees (Christopher Armstrong) from his home address, which has been registered with the Charity Commission as the Charity's base.

## 2. THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The charitable objectives of the CVCT are:

- To promote, for the benefit of the public, the efficiency of the police and other agencies providing services to victims in Cumbria by working in partnership with them to promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress or sickness as a result of being a victim, a witness or otherwise being affected by crime.

**The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity during the report period have addressed these objectives.**

## 3. THE TRUSTEES

During the report period, the Trustees of the CVCT were:

Annette Hennessy

Christopher Armstrong

Glenys Marriott

Venetia Young

Marcia Reid Fotheringham

Natalie Bradbury (from 14 December 2021)

At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 13 April 2021, the Trustees decided to amend the charity's constitution so as to reduce the term of office for Trustees from 4 years to 3 years before the need for re-election, and to remove the upper limit of 8 years.

Following those amendments, the agreed terms of office of the current Trustees are:

To 31 March 2023 Christopher Armstrong

To 31 March 2024 Glenys Marriott Marcia Reid Fotheringham

To 31 March 2025 Annette Hennessy Venetia Young Natalie Bradbury

The Board was delighted to welcome a new Trustee, Natalie Bradbury who, from the point of view of age and personal experience, brings a fresh perspective to the Board's deliberations. With Trustees drawn from across the county, the Board continues to be possessed of a real depth and breadth of knowledge about Cumbria, and its communities. All members of the Board are active in making a difference across a broad spectrum of work, in health, mental health, with victims, in domestic violence, with offenders, and diversity. Whilst Board meetings do focus on the work of the Trust, they also provide a rich source of intelligence and generative thinking, about all of the work we do in Cumbria, and the wider world.

The Trustees met on 6 occasions to consider applications for funding and to transact other business. However, to ensure speedy decisions on applications for urgent funding, most applications were dealt with by email between the Trustees.

## 4. THE CHARITY'S ETHOS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### 4.1 Our Vision and Values

Through detailed discussions, Trustees have an agreed vision for the Charity, established values and a detailed strategy to achieve our vision, as described in a Development Plan covering the period April 2020 to April 2023. The Plan has been reviewed regularly and objectives have been achieved.

**Our vision is:**

- To build a lasting, sustainable impact on the lives of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship, distress or sickness as a result of being a victim or witness, or being affected by crime in Cumbria;
- To promote awareness of the impact of crime and improvement in the services for victims of crime;
- By working with others, grant-giving and building a sustainable charity.

**Our values** can be expressed thus:

CVCT is a county-wide charity that supports a wide range of victims of crime in a way that is timely, effective, compassionate and fair, and which makes a difference to their lives.

### 4.2 Our Activities and Achievements

#### Cumbria Community Foundation

We continue to work closely with Cumbria Community Foundation, which administers the Fund on behalf of the Trustees, although it is the Trustees who make the final decisions on grants. The amounts awarded are from the Fund established with CCF and are not reflected in the Trust's accounts. This collaborative approach ensures that we have robust processes in place to ensure that the funds are safely allocated. We are well supported by our CCF advisor to find out the relevant information to ensure that applications are dealt with in accordance with our published criteria and that decisions made are defensible. In addition, we are strengthening our efforts to gain feedback from recipients and their sponsors to gauge the impact our grants have and whether our objectives are met.

#### Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

Given that the inspiration for CVCT came from the then Police and Crime Commissioner, who saw the benefit of an independent body in expanding services for victims, and who backed up that judgement with funding, we have always maintained strong links with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria. Although we are independent, we value the continued links with the current incumbent, meeting regularly both to inform him of the progress of the charity and also to explore ways in which the Trustees, with their diverse backgrounds, can assist him in his responsibility for commissioning victims' services across Cumbria. As an example, an ongoing project has seen the CVCT Board acting as a "critical friend" in a review of how the victim's voice is captured and used.

The background of CVCT Trustees gives the Board an in-depth knowledge and experience of both the criminal justice and health systems, including how those systems impact on victims. Trustees fully support the rationale behind the national Victims Code of Practice and believe that delivery of timely, sensitive and supportive services for victims should be a shared responsibility across the relevant bodies. In responding to the Government's consultation on delivering justice for victims, we advocated this approach and also the need for a strong lead and public accountability to ensure delivery of victims' entitlements.

## CVCT Criteria and Guidance

Every application tells a tale of need, and we see each one as an opportunity to learn. During the year, we again reviewed the criteria used to guide both applicants and our decisions. We came to the conclusion that, in some respect, they were too restrictive and made it too difficult for too many individuals, particularly those seeking to set up a new life away from the source of their distress. We therefore made slight but significant changes. Regrettably there remains plenty of evidence of need in the County, and valiant efforts are being made, especially through the Community Foundation, to address this where possible. However most of it is beyond the remit of the Trust which must, of necessity, focus on helping victims recover from the effects of crime, and not of their circumstances.

### **Overview**

Grants for victims of crime who reside in Cumbria to promote the safety of the victim, to relieve urgent need or distress, and to provide essential basic requirements, relating to washing, cooking, sleeping and clothing.

### **Who can apply?**

Any victim of crime who resides in Cumbria and has been affected by crime or anti-social behaviour.

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Initiatives to assist victims to cope and recover from their experience.

Initiatives to prevent victims being targeted and/or repeat victims of crime.

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Furniture, carpets and household items, other than basic essentials relating to washing, cooking and sleeping.

CCTV.

Damage to motor vehicles.

Uninsured loss.

### **What the Fund will not support in addition to our normal exclusions:**

Debt, whether incurred by the victim or someone else.

Counselling/therapy.

Education/training.

Overseas travel or expeditions.

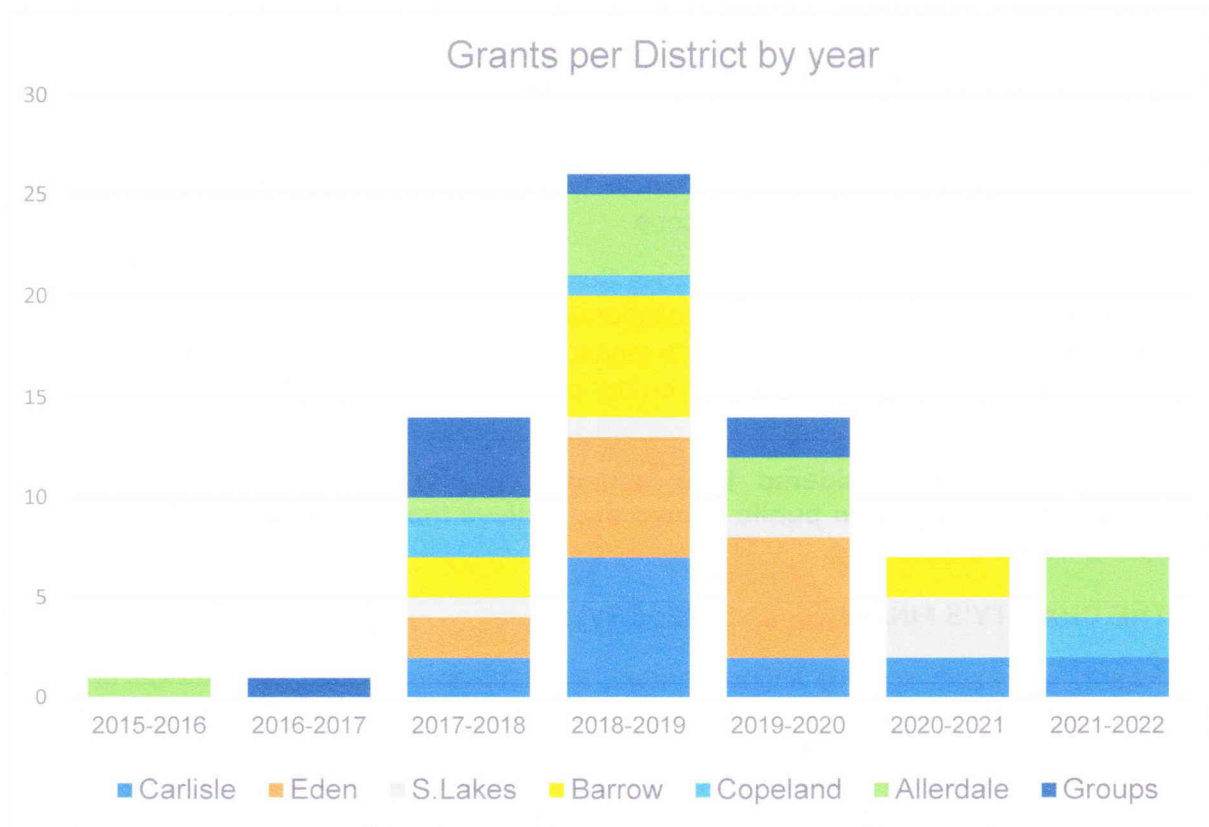
### **How much can you apply for?**

Grants will normally be no more than £500; however, CVCT reserves the right to make any award amount it sees fit.

## Grants

The number of applications received during the year continued to be substantially below those received prior to the Covid pandemic. The table below indicates the number of applications, the amounts awarded, and the geographical spread since the Charity began in 2015. Trustees are perplexed that, despite strenuous efforts to advertise the existence of the Fund across the County, applications remain low, even from those areas where deprivation might indicate a greater need from victims of crime. It may be that part of the explanation could be the existence of other funds specifically available in those areas.





### Impact

In the past, feedback on the impact of grants has been sporadic, because of the sensitive nature of the work, and the need for collection through third parties. We have given a great deal of thought to this, about how we might reasonably and continuously understand if the grants support recovery from the impact of the crime. It is important to be able to tell stories (anonymously) to encourage others to apply, and to help encourage future funding. We introduced a simple feedback form, but as ever it is the personal touch that counts. One of the Trustees has agreed to make follow up calls with the sponsor to find out how the grant has helped, and our Grants Officer at CCF has also agreed to seek feedback on our behalf. In this way we are beginning to get a better picture about the value of our approach in targeting individual victims.

In a previous Annual Report, we outlined the findings of a simple piece of evaluation conducted with CCF. The outcome mirrored discussions we had had directly with potential sponsor bodies, and demonstrated that it was the combination of small amounts of funding, at the right time, in quick time, that provided the most valuable support to victims. We aim to communicate a decision on each application within 5 days of receipt, and at times we have done so within 24 hours. This pragmatic, practical intervention provides much more than the money, it also indicates kindness and hope, at a very grim, hard time for individuals. An unanticipated outcome has been that these small grants can also support the frontline workers, in what can be a relentless struggle to help victims to recover from the impact of crime, and (at times) the criminal justice system.

## Future thinking

As we look to the future for the Trust our priorities remain to:

- Increase referrals from vulnerable victims of all kinds of crime;
- Continue to collect feedback from recipients to evidence the impact of grants;
- Further develop the Trust's scope.

We remain keen to work with partners across Cumbria, both statutory, such as the PCC and the Police, and the Third Sector, to collaborate and share understanding about victim care in Cumbria. We are also committed to monitoring the provision of victims' services and to making informed comment, based on our combined experience, where that is appropriate.

**The Trustees have considered their activities in the light of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that those activities have complied with the guidance.**

## **5. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES**

The charity was established as an independent charitable trust by the Cumbria PCC to provide additional services for victims and generate additional income to supplement the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victims' services. The aspiration is that funding from the Charity will assist in expanding existing services and supporting the needs of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour who reside in Cumbria.

The Trustees of CVCT acknowledge with thanks the support of the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, and also that of the Cumbria Community Foundation.

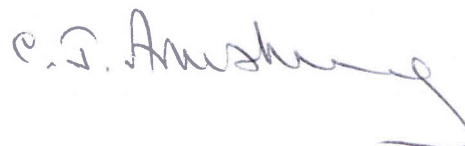
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**In view of the fact that the charity is largely a grant-making body, and carries no overheads, the Trustees have decided that it is not necessary at this stage to have a Reserves Policy. However, this matter will be kept under regular review.**

Signed on behalf of the Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust.



Trustee



Trustee

Date: 14/6/2022

# Independent Examiner's Report

to

## The Trustees of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and 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 commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### Basis of independent examiner's report

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 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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

Signed:



Name in Full:

JANE ELIZABETH VICKERS, CIPFA

Address:

11 The Nurseries  
Linstock  
CARLISLE  
CA6 4RR

Date:

18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

Receipts and Payments Account  
1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

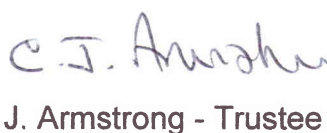
Registered Charity Number 1160978

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
<b>Receipts</b>			
Bank interest	153.48		153.48
Donations	81.87		81.87
	<u>235.35</u>		<u>235.35</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Website	49.00		49.00
Professional fee	<u>50.00</u>		<u>50.00</u>
	<u>99.00</u>		<u>99.00</u>
Net Receipts	136.35		136.35
Cash funds brought forward	<u>69024.11</u>		<u>69024.11</u>
Cash funds at 31 March 2022	<u>69160.46</u>		<u>69160.46</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 March 2022

Cash at Bank	69160.46
Cash fund at 31 March 2022	<u>69160.46</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 14/6/2022 and signed on their behalf by

  
C. J. Armstrong - Trustee

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1160978

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# Accounts

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**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

**ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL REPORT**

**For the period ended 31 March 2021**

**Registered Charity Number 1160978**

**CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

**Period ended 31 March 2021**

**INDEX**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST**

For the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

## **1. THE CHARITY**

- Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust (CVCT) was registered on 19 March 2015 by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered number 1160978.
- Administration is carried out by one of the Trustees (Christopher Armstrong) from his home address, which has been registered with the Charity Commission as the Charity's base.

## **2. THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY**

The charitable objectives of the CVCT are:

- To promote, for the benefit of the public, the efficiency of the police and other agencies providing services to victims in Cumbria by working in partnership with them to promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To promote and improve services for victims of crime.
- To relieve persons who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress or sickness as a result of being a victim, witness or otherwise being affected by crime.

**The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity during the report period have addressed these objectives.**

## **3. THE TRUSTEES**

During the report period, the Trustees of the CVCT were:

Annette Hennessy

Christopher Armstrong

Glenys Marriott

Venetia Young

Marcia Reid Fotheringham

The Charity's governing document provides that new Trustees are to be appointed by the existing Trustees. To promote continuity, it was agreed that each Trustee would serve for a limited period of time prior to seeking re-appointment. Current provisions within the governing document state that no Trustee may serve for a period exceeding 4 years without re-appointment, nor may any Trustee serve for more than 8 consecutive years. However, the Trustees have decided to call an Extraordinary General Meeting in April 2021 to consider whether these terms remain appropriate. The proposals to be considered are to reduce the term of office to 3 years before the need for re-election, and to remove the upper limit of 8 years.

Pending considerations of those matters, the terms of office of the current Trustees are:

Annette Hennessy to 31 March 2025

Christopher Armstrong to 31 March 2023

Glenys Marriott to 31 March 2024

Venetia Young to 31 March 2025

Marcia Reid Fotheringham to 31 March 2024

The Board is possessed of a real depth and breadth of knowledge about Cumbria, and its communities. All members of the Board are active in making a difference across a broad spectrum of work, in health, mental health, with victims, in domestic violence, with offenders, and diversity. Whilst Board meetings do focus on the work of the Trust, they also provide a rich source of intelligence and generative thinking, about all of the work we do in Cumbria, and the wider world.

The Trustees met on 6 occasions to consider applications for funding and to transact other business. However, to ensure speedy decisions on applications for urgent funding, most applications were dealt with by email between the Trustees.

## **4. THE CHARITY'S ETHOS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **4.1 Our Vision and Values**

Through detailed discussions, Trustees have an agreed vision for the Charity, established values and a detailed strategy to achieve our vision, as described in a Development Plan covering the period April 2020 to April 2023. The Plan has been reviewed regularly and objectives have been achieved.

**Our vision is:**

- To build a lasting, sustainable impact on the lives of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship, distress or sickness as a result of being a victim or witness, or being affected by crime in Cumbria;
- To promote awareness of the impact of crime and improvement in the services for victims of crime;
- By working with others, grant-giving and building a sustainable charity.

**Our values** can be expressed thus:

CVCT is a county-wide charity that supports a wide range of victims of crime in a way that is timely, effective, compassionate and fair, and which makes a difference to their lives.

### **4.2 Our Activities and Achievements**

#### Cumbria Community Foundation

We continue to work with Cumbria Community Foundation, which administers the CVCT Fund on behalf of the Trustees, in considering applications for grants from the Trust. The amounts awarded from the Fund established with CCF are not reflected in the Trust's accounts. The collaborative approach that the Trust has with CCF ensures that we have robust processes in place, we are able to ensure that the funds are safely allocated, and we are supported by our CCF advisor to find out the relevant information to ensure that applications are dealt with in accordance with our published criteria and that decisions are defensible.

#### Impact of COVID

As will be apparent from the table below, referrals reduced dramatically following the start of the lockdown in March 2020. We continued to promote the Trust's work through Twitter, to make direct approaches to groups, and we also sought to build it into the infrastructure designed to deal with COVID, for example through the local resilience groups and on-line safeguarding groups. It felt counter intuitive, during a time of great duress, that the Trust's funds were in less demand. Our combined understanding and intelligence led us to think that this was, and is, a result of a number of factors. For example, in some ways there was less reported crime, but in other ways more hidden crime, like domestic violence, coupled with the slowing down of the criminal justice process. Face to face contact and frontline

service delivery were also disrupted. Lastly COVID brought an increase in the availability of funding and grants to groups and individuals. In many ways all of this created a perfect storm which reduced the demand on CVCT funds.

## CVCT Criteria and Guidance

Whilst our criteria remain the same, we treat every application as an opportunity to learn, and we regularly review the criteria to see if they are helpful, or if they are making it too difficult for too many individuals. The sad fact is that there remains plenty of evidence of need in the County, but most of it is beyond the remit of the Trust and outside our criteria. The focus of the Trust, of necessity, is on helping victims recover from the effects of crime, and not their circumstances.

### **Overview**

Grants for victims of crime who reside in Cumbria to promote the safety of the victim, to relieve urgent need or distress, and to provide essential basic requirements, relating to washing, cooking, sleeping and clothing.

### **Who can apply?**

Any victim of crime who resides in Cumbria and has been affected by crime or anti-social behaviour.

Victims who are in need, distress, hardship or sickness as a result of crime; *and* who are vulnerable; *and* who need help to cope, recover or to avoid re-victimisation, or to replace essential items; *and* who have limited resources and no other funding is available to them.

Victims must be supported by an independent case worker or professional involved with the case.

### **What the Fund will support:**

Initiatives to assist victims to cope and recover from their experience.

Initiatives to prevent victims being targeted and/or repeat victims of crime.

### **What the Fund will not *normally* support:**

New white goods--used or reconditioned items should be identified where possible.

Furniture, carpets and household items, other than basic essentials, e.g. mattress. CCTV.

Damage to motor vehicles.

Uninsured loss.

### **What the Fund will not support in addition to our normal exclusions:**

Debt, whether incurred by the victim or someone else.

Counselling/therapy.

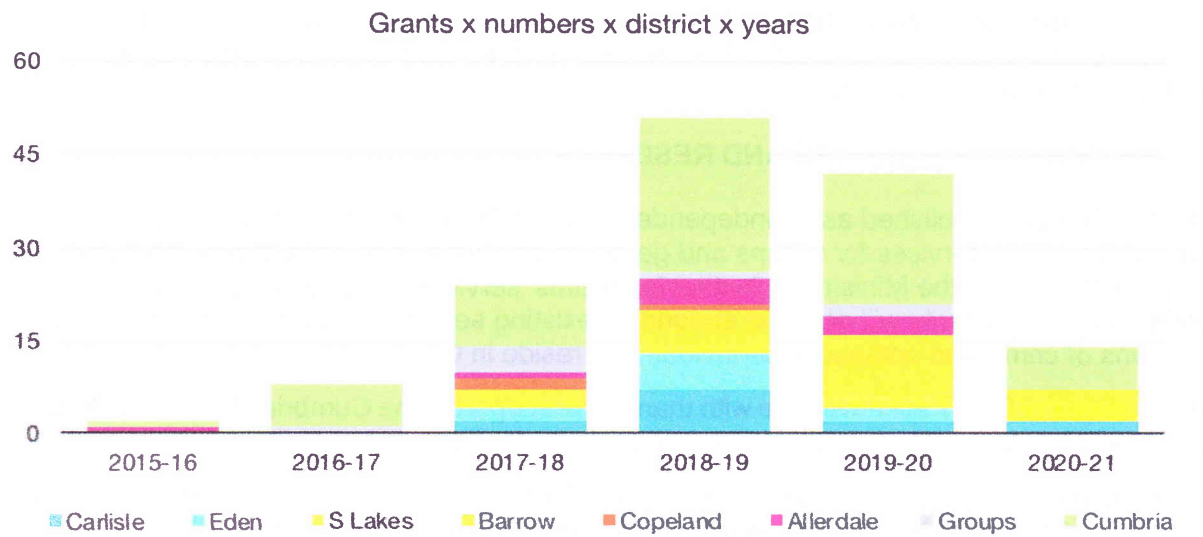
Education/training.

Overseas travel or expeditions.

### **How much can you apply for?**

Grants will normally be no more than £500; however, CVCT reserves the right to make any award amount it sees fit.





### Impact

Feedback on the impact of the grants has been sporadic, because of the sensitive nature of the work, and the need for collection through third parties. The evidence of the earlier evaluation through CCF demonstrated a really positive impact. We have given a great deal of thought to this, about how we might reasonably and continuously understand if the grants support recovery from the impact of the crime. What is most important is that we can tell the stories (anonymously) to encourage others to apply, and to help encourage future funding. We have introduced a simple feedback form, but as ever it is the personal touch that counts. One of the Trustees has agreed to make follow up calls with the sponsor to find out how the grant has helped. It is early days but we are hopeful of getting a richer picture this way.

### Future thinking

In our previous Annual Report, we outlined the findings of a simple piece of evaluation conducted with CCF, the outcome of which demonstrated that it was the combination of small amounts of funding, at the right time, in quick time, that provided the most valuable support to victims. This pragmatic, practical intervention provided much more than the money, it also indicated kindness and hope, at a very grim, hard time for individuals. An unanticipated outcome was that these small grants also supported the frontline workers, in what can be a relentless struggle to support victims to recover from the impact of crime, and at times the criminal justice system.

As we look to the future for the Trust our priorities remain to:

- Increase referrals from vulnerable victims of all kinds of crime;
- Continue to collect feedback from recipients to evidence the impact of grants;
- Further develop the Trust's scope.

It will be interesting to see how Cumbria and indeed the wider world builds back better from COVID. One thing is for certain, that it has brought a very different perspective to life and work. We have found that it has brought new opportunities, for example to integrate awareness of the Trust into the COVID infrastructure. We remain keen to work with partners across Cumbria, both statutory, such as the PCC and the Police, and the Third Sector, to collaborate and share understanding about victim care in Cumbria.

**The Trustees have considered their activities in the light of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that those activities have complied with the guidance.**

## **5. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES**

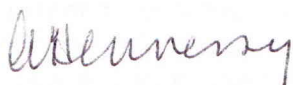
The charity was established as an independent charitable trust by the Cumbria PCC to provide additional services for victims and generate additional income to supplement the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victims' services. The aspiration is that funding from the Charity will assist in expanding existing services and supporting the needs of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour who reside in Cumbria.

The Trustees of CVCT acknowledge with thanks the support of the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, and also that of the Cumbria Community Foundation.

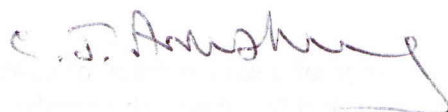
Other income streams continue to be sought and donations have been received from time to time. The charity has sought to raise its profile as a means of generating both additional income and further appropriate applications for funding.

**In view of the fact that the charity is largely a grant-making body, and carries no overheads, the Trustees have decided that it is not necessary at this stage to have a Reserves Policy. However, this matter will be kept under regular review.**

Signed on behalf of the Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust.



Trustee



Trustee

Date: 8 June 2021

## Independent Examiner's Report

to

### The Trustees of Cumbria Victims Charitable Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on page 10.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and 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 commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

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 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

#### 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:
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  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.

Signed:



Name in Full:

JANE ELIZABETH VICKERS, CIPFA

Address:

11 The Nurseries  
Linstock  
CARLISLE  
CA6 4RR

Date:

11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

Receipts and Payments Account  
1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

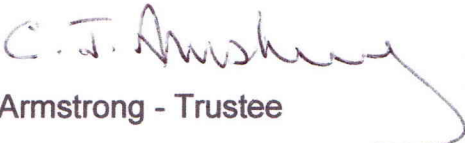
Registered Charity Number 1160978

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
<b>Receipts</b>			
Bank interest	165.67		165.67
Donations	35.83		35.83
	<u>201.50</u>		<u>201.50</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
Website	49.00		49.00
Trustee expenses	9.10		9.10
Professional fee	<u>50.00</u>		<u>50.00</u>
	<u>108.10</u>		<u>108.10</u>
Net Receipts	93.40		93.40
Cash funds brought forward	68921.61		
Plus unrepresented cheque returned	<u>9.10</u>		
	68930.71		68930.71
Cash funds at 31 March 2021	<u>69024.11</u>		<u>69024.11</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 March 2021

Cash at Bank	69024.11
Cash fund at 31 March 2021	<u>69024.11</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 8 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by

  
C. J. Armstrong - Trustee