

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

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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.

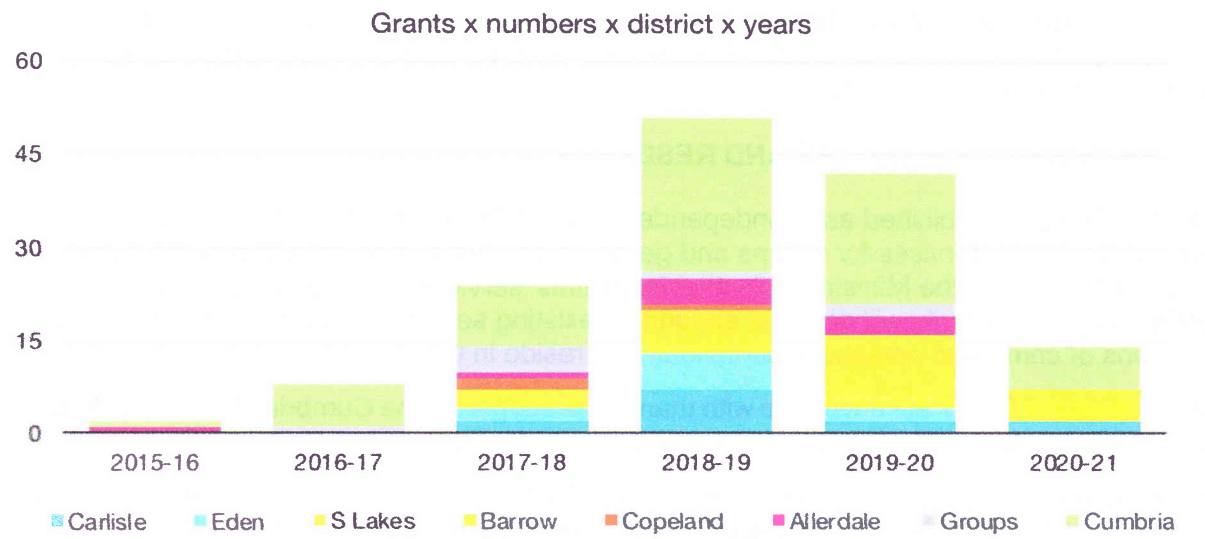
Grants

As already indicated, the number of applications received during the year was substantially reduced. The table below indicates the number of applications, the amounts awarded, and the geographical spread since the Charity began in 2015.

We continue to receive applications predominantly as a result of domestic violence, where perpetrators have wrecked homes, and women and children have had to leave with few, if any, possessions. However, we do not wish the Trust to be seen as purely a DV funder, and aim to provide support to the vulnerable victims of other types of crime.

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

[illegible]



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

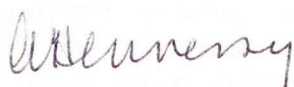
The charity was established as an independent charitable trust by the Cumbria PCC to provide additional services for victims and generate additional income to supplement the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victims' services. The aspiration is that funding from the Charity will assist 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.

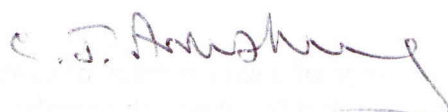
Other income streams continue to be sought and donations have been received from time to time. The charity has sought to raise its profile as a means of generating both additional income and further appropriate applications for funding.

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:
 - 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:

11th May 2021

CUMBRIA VICTIMS CHARITABLE TRUST

Receipts and Payments Account
1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

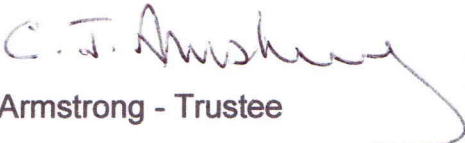
Registered Charity Number 1160978

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Receipts			
Bank interest	165.67		165.67
Donations	35.83		35.83
	<u>201.50</u>		<u>201.50</u>
Payments			
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