

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.

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:

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?

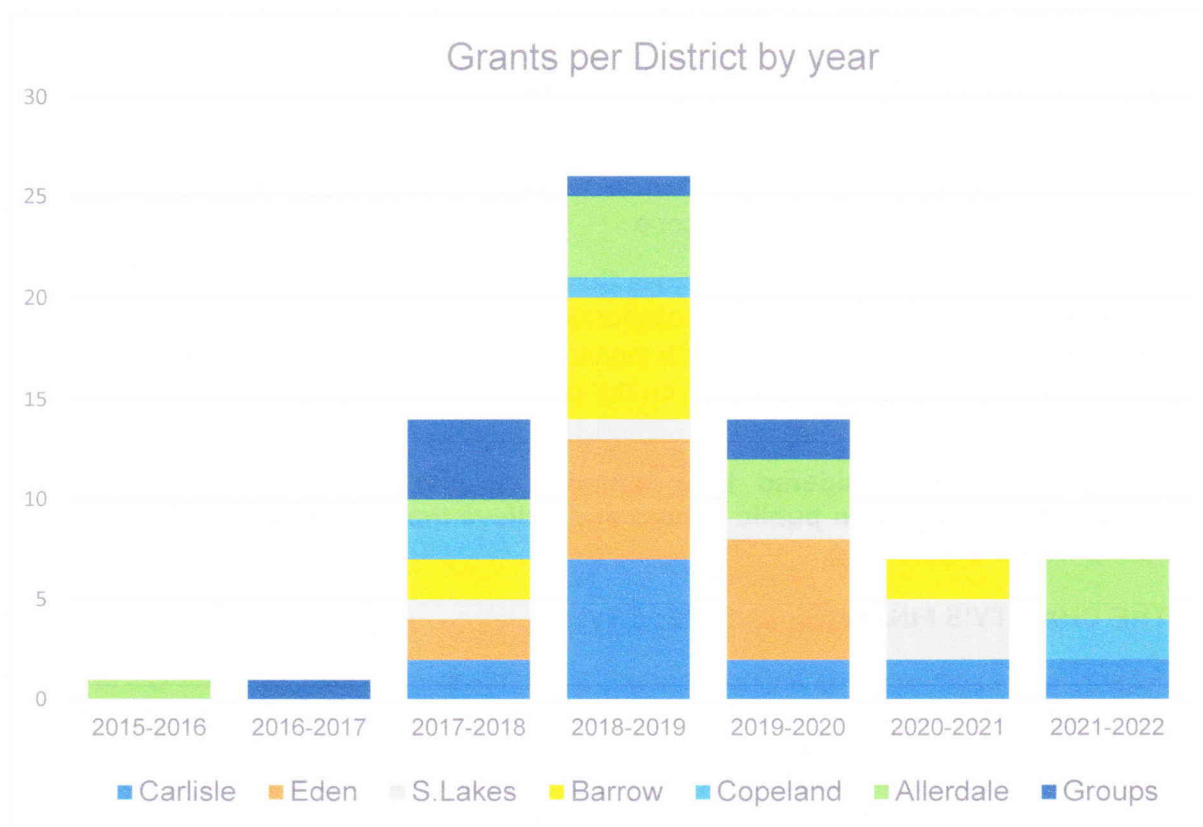
Grants will normally be no more than £500; however, CVCT reserves the right to make any award amount it sees fit.

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.

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. This does not mean that the Trust should be seen as purely a DV funder, and it is anxious to encourage applications from the vulnerable victims of other types of crime. To this end it made substantial efforts to raise awareness of the Fund among those organisations that are likely to come into contact with victims of crime, and to encourage them to support applications falling within our published criteria.

[illegible]



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.

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 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:

18th 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
Receipts			
Bank interest	153.48		153.48
Donations	81.87		81.87
	<u>235.35</u>		<u>235.35</u>
Payments			
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