

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period ended April 5th 2023

A. Reference and Administrative details:

Name of charity:	Cornergate Foundation
Charity number:	1165264
Registered address:	Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church, Northridge Way, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2AU
Trustees:	Eamonn O'Reilly (chair) Jon Sweeney Caroline Young Helen Fellows (Treasurer) Chris James
Co-Founder & Head of Programmes:	Kim Hobbs

B. Structure, Governance and Management

Cornergate Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed under the provisions of our constitution dated 11th November 2015.

Trustees have been appointed from the local community having consideration for the needs of the organisation and the skill sets required to sustain and develop the work of the charity. Trustees have the authority to appoint, retain or dispense with other trustees under the terms of the constitution.

Governance of the charity is by regular trustees meetings, covering such matters as legal, regulatory, risk, strategy and financial. Operational matters, including the implementation of trustees decisions are primarily driven by the founders together with assistance from trustees or others.

In 2022 Mrs Annette Hobbs resigned from the trustees and was replaced in January 2023 by Mr Chris James. We thank Mrs Hobbs for her commitment to the work of Cornergate since its inception in 2013.

C. Objectives and Activities

Objects:

"Cornergate Foundation exists for the public benefit, promoting the social inclusion of people in need, including those who have been in prison (or who have a criminal conviction) or who suffer, or have suffered addictions or mental health conditions, illness or other hardships, by the provision of funds, advocacy, goods or services of any kind, including accommodation or open space, whether supported or otherwise.

Such services may be provided in the United Kingdom or such other parts of the world as the Trustees may, from time to time, think fit."

We confirm that the trustees have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Activities in 2022/23 include:

- Befriending / Mentoring - this continues as a core activity having developed this service into a highly effective programme of support for ex-offenders seeking to restart their lives after prison and to seek a new direction away from crime. This service fully restarted after the restrictions placed upon us under COVID and we now receive regular referrals from local probation teams. Outcomes from this service frequently include:
 - gaining employment,
 - successfully re-connecting with family and children,
 - regaining good mental health and dispensing with medication (under independent medical supervision),
 - recovering from addiction,
 - establishing financial independence.

This service remains on a small scale due to limited volunteers. We are constantly recruiting for both prison and community roles.

- The continued success of *Debate Club* - an educational and social programme at HMP The Mount. This programme began in July 2021 and has been extended since the initial period. Debate Club provides a fun environment where prisoners learn to articulate ideas and opinions and enter into debate with colleagues. The programme teaches how to formulate ideas, negotiation, research, tests listening skills and how to handle potential confrontation. An apparently simple idea that germinated as we were looking for new programmes to stimulate and inspire prisoners as we all emerged from COVID has since become a real hit with prisoners and is well attended each week. Interest has come from other prisons and also from other project leaders within the prison too.
- Advocacy - on an individual basis supporting application for housing, training or other education, job-hunting or at court or dealings with the police.

Strategic partnerships:

Cornergate aims to serve the local community by helping ex-offenders to restart their lives after prison, making communities safer for all. We seek partnerships with statutory agencies including the police, probation and the prison and were therefore pleased to achieve a commercial arrangement for the first time with HMP The Mount. We have since achieved registration under the Criminal Justice System Dynamic Purchasing System in order to smooth future commercial arrangements.

Cornergate has worked for a number of years with probation officers from local offices. During this year we have also extended our partnership with local police forces and continue to do so even as I write this report. Experience has shown us again and again that we must work ever more closely with all significant agencies in the criminal justice system in order to ensure the best possible outcome for our service-users and all stakeholders.

Our role has been to support the individual under our befriending /mentoring programme, providing a listening ear. Our Befriender / Mentors are engaging individuals with whom the service-user can test ideas and plans before implementing them. Additionally team members provoke self-examination by assignees through careful questioning and by exploring choices, thereby encouraging service-users to change some of their thinking and behaviour that has led to previous poor decision-making and even worse outcomes.

D. Achievements and Performance

See above 'Activities'. In summary we have:

- delivered *Debate Club* at HMP The Mount under formal contract
- delivered a weekly addiction recovery event at a local church.
- re-established regular referrals with Watford probation
- through connections made at *Debate Club*, have received referrals from the local prison.
- achieved registration on CJS DPS purchasing system which will be significant for smooth payment from statutory funding sources
- developed a bid for a new programme working with some of the hardest to reach offenders - working closely with police, probation and the prison. We anticipate hearing whether funding is approved in the new financial year.
- continued to develop connections with local agencies and charities to better serve our service-users

Outcomes with our service-users include employment for some, re-establishing relationships with family and in particular with children, financial independence including tackling debt, support to tackle addiction and finally but just as importantly, mental wellbeing and confidence.

E. Financial Review

Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 5th April 2023 total income was £19,365. There were no restricted funds. Expenditure was £21,364 overall. The trustees continue to monitor expenditure to ensure our long term sustainability.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds - ie those which have not been designated for a specific use - should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.


Future Plans


Since the close of the year a number of opportunities have presented themselves as our experience and reputation has grown. We anticipate further work through the prison, probation and the local police as well as the local churches. Through the latter we are receiving a small number of referrals alongside opportunities to present our message of hope and rehabilitation.

F. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.


Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Signature	
Full name	EAMONN O'REILLY
Position	CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
Date	3RD JANUARY 2024

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	CORNERGATE FOUNDATION		1165264		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from 4/6/22		To 4/5/23		
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
INCOME	- 0		-	-	-
GIFTS	8,467		-	8,467	8,682
REGULAR DONATIONS	7,146		-	7,146	5,855
PROJECT FUNDING	3,683	-	-	3,683	5,723
GIFT AID	- 0	-	-	-	-
BANK INTEREST	69	-	-	69	8
	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	19,365	-	-	19,365	20,268
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Total receipts	19,365	- 0	- 0	19,365	20,268
A3 Payments					
DESIGN/PUBLICITY		-	-	-	199
FEES/LEGAL/DONATIONS	157	-	-	157	268
GOODS/SUPPLIES	57	-	-	57	2,160
PRISON/COMMUNITY SUPPORT	16,320	-	-	16,320	9,223
TRAVEL/EXPENSES	4,430	-	-	4,430	2,683
TRAINING/CONFERENCES	- 0	-	-	-	-
PROF FEES/INSURANCE	400	-	-	400	335
HMRC PAYMENT	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,364	-	-	21,364	14,868
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
Sub total	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
Total payments	21,364	- 0	- 0	21,364	14,868
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,999	-	-	- 1,999	5,400
A5 Transfers between funds	- 0	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	31,396	-	-	31,396	25,996
Cash funds this year end	29,397	-	-	29,397	31,396
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period					
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	
B1 Cash funds	METRO CURRENT A/C	4,318			
	METRO DEPOSIT A/C	25,079	-	-	
		-	-	-	
	Total cash funds	29,397	-	-	
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	

Cor. 03/01/24

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted funds
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Cost (optional)
	PROJECTOR		531	531
	LAPTOP		1,899	1,899
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	Amount due (optional)
			-	31 December 1899
			-	31 December 1899
			-	31 December 1899
			-	31 December 1899
			-	31 December 1899
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval


 03/01/24