

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

For the period ended April 5th 2024

### **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) 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2023 Mr Jon Sweeney resigned as trustee. We thank Mr Sweeney for his 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 2023/24 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. It has become increasingly clear that support required for some offenders is extensive and continues for a considerable period for such matters as mental health (statutory services are in our experience extremely patchy not to say scare, and we can find that our service is the only support that is readily available to them. Equally where there is support for such issues as debt recovery, the individual simply does not have the understanding of the potential outcomes to address these urgent matters without help. 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.

During this year we have been tasked with supporting (a) people who will not ever be able to secure employment, for various reasons and (b) people whose mental health or learning limitations may suggest that their potential to maintain personal relationships is limited. Since we always adopted a long-term approach to assignments we are able to provide effective friendship support to these people. Indeed we believe that this capacity may be quite unique in the arena.

- *Debate Club* - an educational and social programme at HMP The Mount - came to a close in 2023 due to the prison declining to continue its funding. This programme began in July 2021 and has been extended since the initial period. Debate Club



provided a fun environment where prisoners learn to articulate ideas and opinions and enter into debate with colleagues. The programme taught how to formulate ideas, negotiation, research, tests listening skills and how to handle potential confrontation. We are open to the possibility of delivering this programme at other establishments.

- *Prison Rehabilitation Programme* - for gang members - called '*Inside / Out*' this innovative new concept is aimed at prisoners whose crime(s) were connected with criminal gangs. Prisoners frequently speak of belonging and of being safer inside gangs than risking being left outside. This is a factor that we tackle head-on with an integrated programme that combines training alongside the creation of a positive, therapeutic community that prisoners establish and maintain, with the support of our team. A particularly exciting element of this programme is our ongoing involvement with ten prisoners who have directly helped with both our understanding of the challenges experienced by gang members and the design of the programme.
- *Advocacy* - on an individual basis supporting application for housing, training or other education, job-hunting, debt recovery/personal financial management or at court or dealings with the police. On this point it has become increasingly obvious that many offenders lack the skills to manage their personal finances and we are grateful for the support of agencies like CAP - Christians Against Poverty and CAB - Citizens Advice Bureau with whom we work to teach budgeting and to tackle debt.

#### 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.

Cornergate has worked for a number of years with probation officers from local offices. During this year we continued our partnership with local police, extending our work with 3 CSPs in the south and west of Hertfordshire (Dacorum, Watford, St Albans). Even as I write this report we have also included Three Rivers and Hertsmere. We firmly believe that this integrated approach to mentoring support and the establishment of good working partnerships with the core statutory agencies is the foundation necessary for success.

## **D. Achievements and Performance**

See above 'Activities'. In summary we have:

- delivered *Debate Club at HMP The Mount* - ended 2023
- delivered a weekly addiction recovery event at a local church.
- referrals from Watford probation, Hertfordshire police, local agencies, churches and so on
- continued to develop connections with local agencies and charities to better serve our service-users

- commenced design and development of a new prison-based project 'Inside / Out' - working with prisoners whose criminal history is through gangs.

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, enabling them to create their own, better future.

## E. Financial Review

### Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 5th April 2024 total income was £43,319. There were no restricted funds. Overall expenditure totalled £29,291. 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


With the direction of our new government's policy regarding the rehabilitation of offenders still emerging we remain ready to respond to new priorities and funding opportunities that may well result. The appointment of a prisons minister - Lord James Timpson OBE, DL - with a proven track record in delivering rehabilitation opportunities through business is undoubtedly an encouraging sign.

## 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

.....15/1/25.....





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

CONVERGENT FOUNDATION

1998004

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

2022

To

2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
INCOME	- 0		-	-	-
GIFTS	20,326		-	20,326	8,467
REGULAR DONATIONS	6,770		-	6,770	7,146
PROJECT FUNDING	12,126	-	-	12,126	3,683
GIFT AID	3,809	-	-	3,809	- 0
BANK INTEREST	288	-	-	288	69
	- 0	-	-	-	- 0
	- 0	-	-	-	- 0
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>43,319</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,319</b>	<b>19,365</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 0</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>43,319</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>43,319</b>	<b>19,365</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
DESIGN/PUBLICITY	1,356	-	-	1,356	
FEES/LEGAL/DONATIONS	210	-	-	210	157
GOODS/SUPPLIES	157	-	-	157	57
PRISON/COMMUNITY SUPPORT	21,908	-	-	21,908	16,320
TRAVEL/EXPENSES	4,979	-	-	4,979	4,430
TRAINING/CONFERENCES		-	-	-	-
PROF FEES/INSURANCE	681	-	-	681	400
HMRC PAYMENT		-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>29,291</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,291</b>	<b>21,364</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	- 0
	- 0	- 0	- 0	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 0</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>29,291</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>29,291</b>	<b>21,364</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>14,028</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,028</b>	<b>- 1,999</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>29,397</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,397</b>	<b>31,396</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>43,425</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,425</b>	<b>29,397</b>

### Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	METRO CURRENT A/C	2,558		
	METRO DEPOSIT A/C	40,867	-	-
		-	-	-







# CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

CORNERGATE FOUNDATION

On accounts for the year  
ended

5 April 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1165264

Set out on pages

7 and 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2024.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

*Keith Grover*

Date:

16/1/25

Name:

Keith Grover, for and on behalf of HB Accountants

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

ICAEW Chartered Accountant

Address:

Plumpton House, Plumpton Road

Hoddesdon

Herts. EN11 OLB

### Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

None