

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

For the period ended 31st March 2025

### **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.

There have been no changes to Trustees in this financial year.

## 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 2024/25 include:

- Befriending / Mentoring - continues as a core activity. In this year support for a particular service-user came to a head when he fell into debt prior to release from prison. Previously the man was in good standing with his landlord. His prison sentence meant by law that he lost housing benefit whilst at the same time his rent was still due each month. The result was significant rent arrears for which reason he was served with an eviction notice which would have made him homeless without any likelihood of alternative housing. We supported this man because we understood that these circumstances would become a driver to more criminality. Since he won the court case, we have noted that the man who previously was considered a high risk repeat offender has not in fact committed any further crime - that is since October 2023 until the date of writing.

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

- As part of our integrated approach to support for prisoners and offenders two of our team now deliver a bereavement support programme at our local prison where any prisoner who has suffered loss and is stuck in their grieving may attend. This we have found to be a hugely beneficial service, inspiring the attendees to support each other as they find comfort and solace in sharing their stories of loss.
- Advocacy - on an individual basis - see above for an example of our advocacy. For others we liaise with landlords for property maintenance matters and also with police and other agencies. 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.
- Training - Cornergate has supported some of the most vulnerable people in our communities for more than twelve years. Our experience and knowledge continues to grow as we continue to work in long-term assignments. With this in mind Cornergate has developed a training programme for our team of volunteers and also



for teams in churches seeking to ensure that care is delivered to the highest standards and that risk management and safeguarding is integral to our daily working practice.

#### 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.

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 connection with 5 CSPs in the south and west of Hertfordshire (Dacorum, Watford, St Albans, Hertsmere and Three Rivers). Subsequently we have embarked on regular work with Dacorum police, collaborating on town centre patrols to meet with the most vulnerable, homeless and isolated people in our communities. We hope to expand this programme in future years.

### **D. Achievements and Performance**

See above 'Activities'. In summary we have:

- referrals from Watford probation, Hertfordshire police, local agencies, churches and so on.
- developed a new collaboration with Hemel Hempstead police that we hope will result in connection with more forgotten and potentially vulnerable people.
- established a bereavement support programme in the prison chaplaincy
- developed and delivered training for all volunteers. Enhanced our safeguarding and risk management processes.

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 31st March 2025 total income was £39,879. A grant was received amounting to £19,822 from a National Lottery Community Fund further supporting our Befriending / Mentoring programme. Overall expenditure totalled £28,253. 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**

The strategic direction of Cornergate Foundation is reviewed at least annually resulting in a plan which is then monitored. This has identified areas of growth as being our churches network, building the team of volunteers and thus perhaps our reach across a wider area and continuing to build partnerships with statutory agencies, housing association and so on.

**F. Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Signature

.....*E O'Reilly*.....

Full name

.....*EDMONN O'REILLY*.....

Position

.....*CHAIR TRUSTEES*.....

Date

.....*12/01/26*.....





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

CONNERGATE FOUNDATION

7135230

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

To

### 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	11,717		-	11,717	20,326
REGULAR DONATIONS	6,900		-	6,900	6,770
PROJECT FUNDING	- 0	19,822	-	19,822	12,126
GIFT AID	1,050	-	-	1,050	3,809
BANK INTEREST	390	-	-	390	288
	- 0	-	-	-	- 0
	- 0	-	-	-	- 0
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>20,057</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,879</b>	<b>43,319</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>20,057</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>39,879</b>	<b>43,319</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
DESIGN/PUBLICITY	78	-	-	78	1,356
FEES/LEGAL	299	-	-	299	210
HALL HIRE	150	-	-	150	157
PRISON/COMMUNITY SUPPORT WAGES	22,427	-	-	22,427	21,908
TRAVEL/EXPENSES	3,930	-	-	3,930	4,979
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FEE	660	-	-	660	-
INSURANCE	709	-	-	709	681
FUNDRAISING COSTS	- 0	-	-	-	-
	- 0	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>28,253</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,253</b>	<b>29,291</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>28,253</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>28,253</b>	<b>29,291</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 8,196</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,626</b>	<b>14,028</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>43,425</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,425</b>	<b>29,397</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>35,229</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,051</b>	<b>43,425</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	602		
	METRO DEPOSIT A/C	34,627	19,822	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>35,229</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted funds



	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Cost (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Cost (optional)
	PROJECTOR		531	531
	LAPTOP		1,899	1,899
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	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	

*E. Reilly*

EDMUND O'REILLY

07/01/2026







CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Cornergate Foundation

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1165264

Set out on pages

1 - 6

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2025**

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below \*)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: *HB Accountants*

Date: *13/1/26*

Name: *HB Accountants*

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

Address: *28 Plimpton House, Plimpton Road,  
Hodderdon, Herts EN11 0LB*

## Section B

## Disclosure

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