

Trustees' Annual Report

1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

Section A: Reference and administration details

Charity name

FOUNTAINS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Registered charity number

1166723

Charity's principal address

c/o 3 The Mount, Mount Lane,
Market Drayton,
Shropshire
TF9 1AG

Names of the charity trustees

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Lindsay Bashford	Chair	
Rob Belcher	Treasurer	
Wendy Bishop		Until June 2024
Sandra Davis		

Section B: Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

Constitution

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods

New trustees are selected and appointed by the Charity's Trustees

Additional governance issues
(optional information)

None

Section C: Objectives and activities

The object of the charity set out in the governing document

To preserve and protect good mental health in Staffordshire and the surrounding areas by the provision

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

of a confidential counselling service.

Fountains Counselling Service is a voluntary organisation staffed by professionally qualified volunteer counsellors. It continues to offer counselling support to adults experiencing a variety of life challenges including anxiety, stress and depression, loss and bereavement, anger, abuse and relationship difficulties.

The Service is accessible to all and does not charge a fee for counselling sessions (although a donation is welcomed from those clients who are able to make a contribution towards sustaining the service).

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (*optional information*)

None

Section D: Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Following detailed discussions, Fountains Counselling entered into a formal partnership with Reach Christian Counselling. Under the partnership Reach receive and allocate requests for counselling and ensure Counsellors provide a safe and appropriate service; Fountains recruit and support Counsellors in Staffordshire and surrounding areas.

In order to promote the work of Fountains, the chair liaised with United Christian Broadcasters and gave an in depth interview which had a particular focus on our work and its Christian context.

Fountains continues to promote its activities by liaising with local churches in Stafford and in Stoke and maintaining an active website.

Section E: Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At present Fountains Counselling Service does not have an explicit policy on financial reserves. However, this is on the agenda to address in 2024/25 as part of a review of its wider Finance Policy and Procedures.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details
(optional information)

The headline points are:

- The Service ceased banking with Barclays and in November 2023 opened a new Charity and Community Bank Account with the Cooperative Bank.
- At 30 September 2024 (close of annual accounts) the Service had total funds of £24,942.48, a small decrease of £395.20 on the previous year;
- The Service's counselling activities recommenced in the 2023/24 financial year as Fountains entered a partnership with Reach Counselling (Merseyside). Consequently, both expenditure and income transactions started to show a slow and steady increase.

Income

- Overall income remained relatively low (£703.38) although increased significantly from the previous year;
- Although limited, the Service once more started to receive client donations due to counselling services restarting;
- We also continue to receive church donations (£615);
- There were no fundraising activities during the year.

Expenditure

- As the Service recommenced activities, expenditure during 2023/24 more than quadrupled on the previous year to 1,098.58. In line with our new partnership with Reach Counselling, we started paying them a £250/month management administration fee for the last 3 months of the financial year (£750). This was the most significant outgoing in the year.
- Other significant costs in 2023/24 were counsellor payments (£140) and our annual membership of the relevant professional body (£152.25).

Summary

In 2023/24 counselling activities recommenced towards the end of the year. Our partnership with Reach Counselling means that we have started working in a different way to previously. From a financial perspective, we have commenced paying Reach a monthly management and administration fee. We pay counsellors for each patient session undertaken in our area, and share received client donations equally with Reach.

Our accounts currently remain in a healthy state.

Section F: Other optional information

None

Section G: Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature:

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Full name:

Professor Charles Lindsay Bashford

Position:

Chair of Trustees

Date:

2025-09-23

FOUNTAINS COUNSELLING SERVICE
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30/09/2024

		2023	2024
		£	£
<u>(1) Unrestricted Funds</u>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations etc	Church donations	293.02	615.00
	Client donations	0.00	60.00
	Individual donations	20.00	20.00
	Charitable donations and grants	0.00	0.00
Other	Gift Aid rebate	0.00	0.00
	Fundraising activities	0.00	0.00
	Other	0.00	8.38
Total		313.02	703.38
<u>Payments</u>			
General	Administration service costs	0.00	750.00
	Counsellors' payments	0.00	140.00
Other	Professional membership	0.00	152.25
	Telephone costs	147.76	28.84
	Insurance	0.00	0.00
	Website hosting	100.66	0.00
	Promotion expenses	0.00	27.49
	Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Total		248.42	1,098.58
Net of receipts (payments)		64.60	-395.20
Cash fund last year end		25,273.08	25,337.68
Cash fund this year end		£25,337.68	£24,942.48

(2) Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 30th September 2024

Monetary Assets

Bank and Cash balances (no cash held or cash transactions)	year end	year end
	30.09.23	30.09.24
Total held in bank account	25,337.68	24,942.48
minus value of unpresented cheques at year end	0.00	0.00
plus value of unbanked receipts	0.00	0.00
total	£25,337.68	£24,942.48

Other assets (non-endowed)

None

No other accounts held, no other funds held, no liabilities.

For and on behalf of Fountains Counselling Service Management Committee

Rob Belcher (Treasurer)