

Trustees' Annual Report

Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch
Registered Charity Number: 1168020
For the year ended 31st March 2025

1. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch
Registered Charity Number: 1168020
Principal Address:
Beryl House
8 Albion Street
Brierley Hill
DY5 3EE

Trustees During the Year:

Christopher Bazley-Rose – Trustee
Jennifer-Ann Portman – Trustee
Dee Elaine Tranter – Trustee
Stephen Walder – Trustee
Pauline Anne Watson – Trustee

Graham Bristow – Trustee (resigned 31/08/2025)
Alicia Pawlowski – Trustee (resigned 30/09/2025)
Joanne Petter – Trustee (resigned 31/08/2025)

Independent Examiner:

French Ludlam & Co Ltd
661 High Street
Kingswinford
DY6 8AL
Work kindly completed pro bono

Bankers:

TSB Bank plc

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch an affiliated branch to the main Samaritans Charity which is located at The Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Elwell, Surrey, KT17 2AF. Samaritans Brierley Hill is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which adheres to its Constitutional Rules.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the branch's governing document. All trustees receive induction and ongoing training covering Samaritans' values, safeguarding responsibilities, governance obligations, and operational standards.

Management Structure

The branch is overseen by the trustee board, which holds responsibility for strategy, compliance, safeguarding, financial oversight, and risk management. The Branch Director(s) manages day-to-day operations.

The branch has no paid staff and relies entirely on its dedicated volunteer team of approximately 80 volunteers.

Risk Management

Trustees regularly review key operational risks including:

- Safeguarding
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Financial stability
- Building maintenance and service continuity
- Compliance with national Samaritans standards

Mitigations include training, supervision, financial controls, safeguarding procedures, and facilities maintenance.

3. Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purpose

Our purpose, aligned with Samaritans nationally, is to reduce the number of people who die by suicide by providing confidential emotional support to anyone struggling to cope.

Activities Undertaken

To achieve this, during the year the branch:

- Answered approximately 3,800 telephone calls
- Delivered a growing number of outreach sessions in the community
- Supported and organised around 80 volunteers through training, supervision and leadership
- Maintained the branch building, technology, and phonelines to ensure safe, reliable support
- Welcomed and trained a number of new volunteers

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the charity has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The branch provides a clear and vital benefit by offering emotional support with the aim of few people dying by suicide.

4. Achievements and Performance

During the year, Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch:

- Provided emotional support to thousands of people, evidenced by the 3,800 calls answered
- Expanded its outreach presence, engaging the community through a growing number of outreach sessions
- Successfully trained and integrated new volunteers, strengthening the branch's long-term capacity

- Maintained consistent service delivery despite increasing demand
- Ensured the branch building remained safe, functional, and accessible
- Continued full compliance with Samaritans' national quality, safeguarding, and training standards

5. Financial Review

Income

Total income for the year was £31,004, derived from:

- Local fundraising and donations
- Grants
- Gift Aid receipts

Expenditure

Expenditure was primarily on:

- Premises costs (utilities, maintenance, repairs, cleaning)
- Volunteer training, support, and resources
- Telephone and IT systems required for service delivery
- Insurance, governance, and compliance requirements
- Outreach activities and volunteer expenses

Reserves

At year end, the branch held £65,915 in cash at bank.

The trustees have set a target reserve level of £20,000, which is considered sufficient to cover several months of essential running costs and ensure service continuity in the event of unexpected financial difficulties.

The current level of reserves is above the target. This provides the branch with stability and the ability to address future maintenance needs and support volunteer recruitment.

Going Concern

The trustees are confident that the charity remains financially stable and able to continue operating for the foreseeable future.

6. Fundraising Statement

All fundraising is carried out by volunteers in accordance with Samaritans' national fundraising policies and the Code of Fundraising Practice. The branch does not employ paid fundraisers or use external fundraising agencies. Safeguards are in place to protect vulnerable people.

7. Safeguarding

The branch follows Samaritans' national safeguarding policies.

All volunteers undertake mandatory safeguarding training. Any concerns are escalated to the Branch Director and, where appropriate, the national safeguarding team. The trustees oversee safeguarding compliance.

8. Plans for the Future

In the coming year, the branch aims to:

- Continue increasing volunteer numbers
- Strengthen overnight and peak-time telephone coverage
- Enhance outreach work within the community
- Maintain and upgrade branch facilities and equipment
- Deliver high-quality training and support to all volunteers
- Undertake sustainable local fundraising to support long-term stability

9. Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

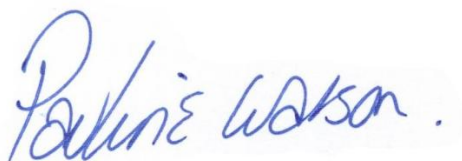
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

They must:

Ensure proper accounting records are kept
Safeguard the assets of the charity
Ensure the financial statements give a true and fair view
Approve and authorise the annual report

This report was approved by the trustees on 20th December 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Board:



Pauline Watson
Treasurer and Trustee
20th December 2025

THE SAMARITANS
BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

THE SAMARITANS
BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Samaritans of Brierley Hill

We report on the accounts of The Samaritans of Brierley Hill for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on Pages 2 - 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives us 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 to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

French Ludlam & Co Limited

FRENCH LUDLAM & CO LIMITED
Statutory Auditors and Accountants

Kingswinford
29 July 2025

THE SAMARITANS
BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

| <u>2024</u> | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| | | <u>INCOME</u> | | |
| | 4,055 | Fundraising | 2,856 | |
| 3,758 | <u>(297)</u> | Less fundraising expenses | <u>(122)</u> | 2,734 |
| 18,095 | | Donations and grants | | 26,377 |
| 500 | | Rental income | | 500 |
| 1,550 | | Gift Aid received | | 70 |
| 869 | | Interest received | | <u>1,323</u> |
| <u>24,772</u> | | | | <u>31,004</u> |
| | | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | |
| | - | Donation to Walsall Branch | 1,000 | |
| 4,233 | | Maintenance of centre | 6,908 | |
| 1,961 | | Insurance | 1,905 | |
| 3,502 | | Heat, light and water | 4,326 | |
| 411 | | Printing and stationery | 395 | |
| 1,042 | | Postage and telephone | - | |
| 485 | | Travelling | 101 | |
| 1,517 | | Outreach | 1,525 | |
| 3,397 | | Centre cleaning and refreshments | 2,831 | |
| 300 | | Volunteer support | 741 | |
| 1,932 | | Branch contribution | 2,795 | |
| 89 | | Sundry expenses | 828 | |
| <u>24,995</u> | <u>6,125</u> | Depreciation | <u>6,125</u> | <u>29,478</u> |
| <u>(222)</u> | | <u>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u> | | <u>1,526</u> |

ACCOUNTANTS REPORT

We certify the annexed summary accounts are in accordance with the full accounts of the branch.
A copy of the full accounts are available on request.

FRENCH LUDLAM AND CO LIMITED

Registered Auditors and Accountants

Kingswinford

29 July 2025

French Ludlam & Co. Limited

THE SAMARITANS
BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH

BALANCE SHEET

31st March 2024

31ST MARCH 2025

£

£

£

£

FIXED ASSETS

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| | | Freehold land and buildings at cost | | |
| | 93,143 | as at 31st March 2024 | 89,933 | |
| 89,933 | <u>3,210</u> | Less depreciation | <u>3,210</u> | 86,723 |
| | | Fixtures and equipment | | |
| | 9,371 | as at 31st March 2024 | 9,943 | |
| | <u>3,487</u> | Additions less disposals during the year | <u>-</u> | |
| | 12,858 | | 9,943 | |
| 9,943 | <u>2,915</u> | Less depreciation | <u>2,915</u> | 7,028 |
| <u>99,876</u> | | | | <u>93,751</u> |

CURRENT ASSETS

| | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| 2,041 | Debtors and prepayments | 146 |
| | Cash at bank | |
| 25,171 | Current account | 28,517 |
| 31,074 | United Trust Bank 100 day notice account | 37,398 |
| <u>58,286</u> | | <u>66,061</u> |

CURRENT LIABILITIES

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| <u>2,936</u> | Creditors | <u>3,060</u> |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|

55,350

NET CURRENT ASSETS

63,001

155,226

TOTAL NET ASSETS

156,752

155,226

155,448

Represented by:
Balance as at 31st March 2024
(Deficit)/Surplus For The Year

155,226

1,526

156,752

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29 July 2025

French Ludlam & Co. Limited

THE SAMARITANS
BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1) Accounting Policies

- a) Basis of accounting. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities ("the Charities SORP FRS 102"), and with the Charities Act 2011.
- b) Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (the "SOFA") when received. Gifts in kind are valued and brought in as income and the appropriate expenditure.
- c) Gross fundraising income from events organised by the charity itself is included in the SOFA when received. Where deemed material, fundraising proceeds not yet received by the charity at the year end have also been taken to income at the Trustees' estimate of likely receivable amount.
- d) Covenant, Gift Aid and other income received by the charity in respect of which a claim for repayment of tax has or will be made is grossed up for the tax recoverable and this gross amount recognised in the SOFA.
- e) Income from legacies is included in the SOFA when received or when the Trustees are satisfied the charity has a legally enforceable right of receipt of a conservatively measurable sum.
- f) Revenue grants for immediate financial support and assistance are recognised in the SOFA on receipt and on satisfaction of any preconditions.
- g) Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets of material value held by the charity for its own use on a straight line basis so as to write off their cost over their estimated useful lives as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Freehold buildings | 2% - straight line basis |
| Fixtures and equipment | 15% - straight line basis |

2) Staff Costs and Numbers

No members of staff were employed by the charity during the year.

3) Reconciliation of Funds

All funds held are available for the ordinary purposes of the charity.

- 4) As part of a restructuring of the national Samaritans organisation, on 1 October 2016, the assets, liabilities and activities of The Samaritans Brierley Hill Branch ("the Charity") were transferred to a new Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO). The transfer to the new CIO had no effect on the operations of the branch.

THE SAMARITANS
BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

THE SAMARITANS
BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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BRIERLEY HILL BRANCH

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THE SAMARITANS
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31st March 2024

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