

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered in England and Wales Number: 1168117

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth Contents For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Reference and Administrative Details
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Trustees

P Perkins (Director) (Resigned 02/12/2025) A Watson (Vice Director) I Hyslop (Secretary) R
Jeffery (Treasurer) M Gratwick (Appointed 17/09/2024) J Boichot (Appointed 02/09/2025)

Principal Office 13 King Street

Dorset
DT4 7BJ

Weymouth

Independent Examiner Michelle Ferris FCA

Albert Goodman LLP
Leanne House
6 Avon Close
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9UX

Bankers CAF Bank Limited

25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Constitution and the Charities Act 2011. The provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) have been adopted in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Constitution

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth is a registered charity in England and Wales, charity number 1168117. The charity's principal office is 13 King Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 7BJ. It is governed by its Constitution which was updated on 7 July 2016.

The Branch is overseen by a single Branch Leadership Team (BLT) who manage all aspects of the Branch. The BLT comprises elected Trustees and Deputy Directors appointed by the Director.

Trustees are elected and inducted by Branch Members in accordance with our constitution. In managing the Branch the BLT has assessed the major risks to the Branch and these are regularly reviewed and managed by the BLT.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Appointment of Board members ("Trustees" for Charity legislation purposes) is governed by the Constitution of the charity. The Trustees are authorised to co-opt new members on to the Board to fill vacancies in order to ensure adequate representation and diversity.

The following people were Trustees of the charity during the year and since the year end:

P Perkins (Director) (Resigned 02/12/2025)

A Watson (Vice Director)

I Hyslop (Secretary)

R Jeffery (Treasurer)

M Gratwick (Appointed 17/09/2024)

J Boichot (Appointed 02/09/2025)

common with other Samaritan branches:

- ☐ Volunteer Support
- ☐ Caller Support
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Prisons
- ☐ Outreach and publicity
- ☐ Administrative call distribution

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the Charity.

Investment Powers

The Constitution authorises the trustees to use all money raised to further its objects and to do all things that are lawful and conducive to the attainment of those objects and does not prevent investment.

Risk Management

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to give due consideration to the risks to which the charity is exposed and have set in place processes to identify and manage risks through Risk Registers. Risks are regularly reviewed, assessed, managed and escalated appropriately in accordance with the Risk Management policy. Risk management processes are in place and continue to be developed as required throughout the organisation.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Statement of Purpose

The charity has been supporting people in distress, working from a building opposite the Railway Station in Weymouth, for more than 50 years. Although we are a local charity we are part of the whole Samaritan movement. As well as talking to people Face to Face, on the Telephone and by Email, we are also involved with the HM Prison YOI Portland, where we train and support prisoners as Samaritan Listeners. We also support the HMP The Verne Portland.

The objectives set out in the Constitution are:

- 1) To enable persons in Dorset and the surrounding area as well as elsewhere who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those who may be at risk of suicide, to receive confidential emotional support at any time of the day or night in order to improve their emotional health and to reduce the incidence of suicide.
- 2) To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health.
- 3) To collaborate with and support Samaritans Central Charity and its affiliated branches in fulfilling these objectives.

Our Vision is still that fewer people die by suicide with our Mission being to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and behaviour.

Policies

The Trust is committed to the continuous improvement of our practices, policies and procedures and continues to review and update policies as required.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

It has been a very productive year with our listening volunteers answering over 13,000 calls and giving thousands of hours of support to those often in deep emotional distress. We rarely receive direct feedback from our callers but we know they are often grateful for being given the opportunity to unload their feelings. This lack of direct feedback is a challenge that Samaritans as an organisation is trying to address without harming the service we provide. However, it is rewarding when the caller thanks the listener and says that they are feeling better after being able to speak with someone about their troubles. While it is our mission that fewer people will die by suicide we are aware that callers are often able to stop those thoughts developing because they have had an empathetic Samaritan who listened to them without judgement.

As a branch we have been working with many local organisations to help raise the profile of Samaritans and publicise the help we can give to those in need of emotional support. We have continued the invaluable work with The Verne and HMP Portland where our team (led by Angela) trains and supports prisoners who provide a Samaritan service to fellow prisoners.

As an affiliate branch of Samaritans we are responsible for finance to cover the day to day running of our branch. As such, fundraising (Alice) is an integral part of Samaritans' life. We are grateful to Tim and Hilary Warren for the funds (£17,000) generated by the Chesil Rocks Art and Music Festival which was in a different form this year, together with donations from local Rotary and Lions groups and other local organisations. It is clear that there is great support for the branch from our local community where the presence of our Samaritans branch is much appreciated.

The branch receives bequests and donations from members of the local community while the sale of plants at the 'Wishing Well' in Upwey (Di Gilliver) contributes in many ways. We are very grateful for the work of the team of street and supermarket collectors (led by Judith) who go out several times a year to collect donations and they receive so much goodwill from the people they meet. The sale of the Weymouth Samaritans calendar (devised by Alice) was a great success, raising over £6000, and the Nationwide in Weymouth donated money from the sale of books in their branch. We have also had collections at a Britpop concert in Weymouth, stalls on the seafront and at the Fayre in the Square, music from the Portesham Ukulele Band in Bridport. Valerie Goodwin organised the production of 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Bull Hotel in Bridport and raised funds for our branch while the Sarah Millican tour again helped raise more valuable funds for Samaritans.

Our Publicity and Fundraising teams (led by Issy and Alice) work many hours in the community and have been expanding our presence. Weymouth Town Council chose Samaritans to support through their floral display in Greenhill Gardens. We are also approached by local schools (Sunninghill School) and colleges (Weymouth and Kingston Maurward) for their support to give talks and join them on their open days as well as giving presentations to organisations such as Dorset Police. Once again we thank Palm House Cafe in Weymouth, Asda Weymouth, Waitrose in Poundbury and South Western Railway for allowing us to use their premises for our displays.

In July we were fortunate that Jessica Worner from the National Suicide Prevention Alliance (NSPA) visited us and gave a talk on the work of the charity. The focus of her presentation was on the stigma surrounding suicide and the language used when engaging with those who are suicidal. NSPA shares the same vision as Samaritans that fewer people will die by suicide. It is believed that all parts of society can work together to take action to reduce suicide and improve support for those bereaved by suicide.

Although nationally it appears that volunteering is declining we are fortunate that our number of volunteers has remained steady with a slight increase in the number of listeners. The work of our Recruitment (Di Cunningham) and Training (Gwen and Ann) teams combined with the increased profile resulting from the

Publicity, Outreach and Fundraising teams has helped the branch to thrive.

The redecorating of the branch has now been completed as the roof repairs have been finished. We have restored the comfortable, secure and dry branch for our volunteers. However, we have still to resolve the legal situation and are grateful for the many hours spent by volunteers (especially Will and Mike) on this issue.

All of the work of the branch is undertaken by volunteers who give many hours on top of their listening shifts and our success is a result of fantastic teamwork. We are grateful for all the time given to supporting our branch by our listeners, support volunteers and often friends and family. We must thank those who are not officially Samaritans but often just turn up to help in any way they can. We must also say a huge 'thank you' to members of the Branch Leadership Team for all their work on top of their listening shifts. Colleagues give freely of their time without which we would not be able to function. We all work together, much of which is behind the scenes, to provide what is increasingly an important service.

Dave

BRANCH STATISTICS

Throughout the year ended 31 March 2025 the automated Samaritans telephone system was used enabling us to accurately capture statistical data on our call volumes for the year, although, importantly, not the content, for confidentiality reasons.

When COVID-19 restrictions were imposed our ability to provide a face-to-face service was ended. Since then new procedures have been introduced by the central charity which, due to the size of our branch, we are unable to meet.

We spoke to a caller on the telephone 12,211 times as opposed to 13,432 times in 2024. These

figures demonstrate that we remain constantly in demand for the service that we provide.

A heartfelt thank you to all our Weymouth Samaritans who were there for our callers throughout another busy year.

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

Income and endowments in the year were £55,214 (2024: £60,094).

Net loss of £5,871 was incurred in the year (2024: £20,623). At the balance sheet date total reserves were £116,012 (2024: £121,883).

The charity maintains a cash balance of £91,461 (2024: £130,289), and has net current assets of £66,377 (2024: £68,313). Total net assets are £116,012 (2024: £121,883).

As a branch we continued to actively partake in fundraising events throughout the period including new events

such as quiz nights and bingo. This along with an increase in donations, the continued support from Chesil Rocks festival as well as the highly successful 2025 calendar our total income received remained consistent with the previous year. We acknowledge and thank the efforts of all our volunteers who work tirelessly to fundraise and arrange events to ensure that the branch continues to remain open.

Most of our expenses are in line with prior years although some costs have seen an inflationary increase as would be expected in the current financial climate. However, accounts show a total loss for the year primarily due to the ongoing roof repairs amounting to £21,075 and the associated legal fees in respect of the remedial work claim. Total professional fees in the period amounted to £6,860.

The creditors in these accounts also include £7,018 claimed from our insurers in relation to flooding in 2022 which we have not been able to spend due to the ongoing problems with the roof.

Overall, the charity is solvent and there are no concerns with the charity being able to meet its short- and long-term liabilities.

Reserves Policy

At 31 March 2025, this policy equated to approximately £116,012 in total of unrestricted reserve funds.

The Trustees are aware that, except for a small amount of investment income, they rely totally on donations for their income. While historically they have received substantial support from a local event the annual running costs of the branch are such that they believe it is essential to maintain a level of reserves sufficient to cover not less than 2 years expenses. Expenses over the last 2 years have totalled £141,802, leaving a £25,790 deficit in our reserves policy.

To maintain a presence in the centre of Weymouth and close to the railway station the Charity occupies a grade 2 listed building the freehold of which was acquired some years ago.

The potential costs of any maintenance or unforeseen remedial work to such a building can be substantial and consequently the Trustees believe that reserves covering two years' expenses are not adequate.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have no uncertainties concerning the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ☐ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ☐ observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- ☐ make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ☐ state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- ☐ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Signature Signature

.....
Print name Print name

Trustee Trustee

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The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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.

.....
 Michelle Ferris FCA Leanne House for and on behalf of Albert Goodman LLP 6 Avon Close Chartered
 Accountants Weymouth Dorset Date:

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The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
 Statement of Financial Activities
 For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Unrest-	Rest-	Total	Unrest-	Rest-	Total	restricted Funds	restricted Funds	Notes	Funds	Funds	2025
Funds	Funds	2024	£	£	£	£	£	Income from:			
Donations and legacies	11,524	- 11,524	10,760	- 10,760	Investments	3,378	- 3,378	3,581	- 3,581	S.W.R	
Grant - - -	2,450	2,450	Charitable activities	36,234	- 36,234	39,224	- 39,224	Other (Prison travel grants)			
4,078	- 4,078	4,079	- 4,079								
Total income	55,214	- 55,214	57,644	2,450	60,094						

Expenditure on:

Raising funds	2	8,603	- 8,603	8,306	291	8,597	Main Charitable activities	3	38,066	- 38,066	51,385	2,331
53,716	Other Charitable activities	4	14,416	- 14,416	16,087	2,317	18,404					

Total expenditure	61,085	- 61,085	75,778	4,939	80,717							
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Net income/(expenditure) (5,871) - (5,871) (18,134) (2,489) (20,623)

Transfers 423 (423) - - -

Net income/(expenditure) (5,448) (423) (5,871) (18,134) (2,489) (20,623)

Reconciliation of funds:

Total funds brought forward 121,460 423 121,883 139,594 2,912 142,506

Net income/ (expenditure) in year (5,448) (423) (5,871) (18,134) (2,489) (20,623) _____

Fund balances carried forward 116,012 - 116,012 121,460 423 121,883 _____

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The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025

Notes 2025 2024 £ £ £ £ Fixed assets
Tangible assets 7 49,635 53,570

Current assets

Stock of goods for resale 20 20 Debtors 8 3,375 4,389 Cash at bank and in hand 91,461
130,289 _____ 94,856 134,698 Creditors
Amounts falling due within one year 9 (28,479) (66,385) _____

Net current assets 66,377 68,313 _____

Net assets 116,012 121,883 _____

The funds of the charity

Unrestricted funds:

General funds 11 116,012 121,460

Restricted funds:

Restricted fund - 423 _____

Total charity funds 116,012 121,883 _____

Approved by the board of Trustees for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Signature Signature

.....
Print name Print name

Trustee Trustee

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The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 General information and basis of accounting

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its Constitution. The address of the principal office is given on page 1. The nature of the charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Trustees report on pages 2-8.

The financial statements have been prepared in £ sterling on the historical cost basis and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

Donation and legacy income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Investment income in respect of funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably. This is normally upon notification of the interest paid by the bank.

1.3 Donated services

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), any unpaid general volunteer time is not recognised in the financial statements.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its charitable activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and costs of an indirect nature which are necessary to support them.

1.5 Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are included on the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation which is provided using the following basis:

Freehold Property 2% pa straight line basis

Lift system 20% pa reducing balance basis

Motor vehicles 20% pa reducing balance basis

Fixtures and Fittings 20% pa reducing balance basis

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth is a registered charity and is therefore not liable to taxation to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value added tax is not recoverable and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

General funds are unrestricted funds receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets this criterion is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs as appropriate.

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – Trade creditors and accruals are financial instruments and are measured at amortised cost.

[illegible]

Fundraising expenses	4,197 - 4,197	2,374 - 2,374	Advertising and publicity	934 - 934	302 - 302
Printing, postage and stationery	205 - 205	368 - 368	10% share of premises overheads	3,267 - 3,267	
	5,262	291	5,553		
	8,603 - 8,603	8,306	291	8,597	

	Unrest- Rest- Total						restricted Funds	restricted Funds	Funds	Funds	2025 Funds
Funds 2024	£	£	£	£	£	£					

38,066 - 38,066 51,385 2,331 53,716

	Unrest- Funds	Rest- £	Total £	Unrest- £	Rest- £	Total £	stricted restricted Funds	stricted restricted Funds	stricted restricted Funds	Funds	Funds	2025 Funds
Funds 2024	£	£	£	£	£	£						

14.416 - 14.416 16.087 2.317 18.404

There were no related party transactions in the year (2024 – none).

The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

At 31 March 2025	39,570	229	1,664	8,172	49,635	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
At 31 March 2024	40,990	286	2,079	10,215	53,570					

Other debtors 682 - Prepayments 2,693 4,389

3,375 4,389 _____

9 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year
2025 2024 £ £

Trade creditors 22,909 22,982 Accruals 5,570 43,403 _____ 28,479 66,385 _____

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The Samaritans of Dorset at Weymouth
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

10 Statement of funds – 2025

	Balance	Gains /	Balance	01.04.24	Income	Expenditure	(losses)	Transfer	31.03.25	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds														
General funds	121,460	55,214	(61,085)	-	423	116,012								

Restricted funds

S.W.R Grant 423 - - - (423) - _____

115,589 55,214 (61,085) - - 116,012 _____
Statement of funds – 2024

	Balance	Gains /	Balance	01.04.23	Income	Expenditure	(losses)	Transfer	31.03.24	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds														
General funds	139,594	57,644	(75,778)	- -	121,460									

Restricted funds

S.W.R Grant 2,450 (2,027) - - 423 Property maintenance 2,912 - (2,912) - - -

142,506 60,094 (80,717) - - 121,833 _____

Restricted funds

Last year the charity received a S.W.R Grant for the sum of £2,450 of which £2,027 was use for recruitment, advertising and outreach leaving a carried forward balance of £423. There is no more expenditure to be spent for this grant income, and the balance has been transferred to unrestricted reserves.

