

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

for the year ended
31st March 2024



Serving our community

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Acknowledgements

The Board of Trustees acknowledges with gratitude the work of its officers for their support to the entire board. Thanks also to our Charity Manager, Ben Hall and his team, and to all the volunteer clinicians, Charity volunteers and supporters who work together to advance the aims of this exceptional Charity.

Last, but not least, we would like to acknowledge the guidance and contribution of our various professional advisors and the assistance of our Independent Examiner, Whitings LLP.



Figure 1: SARS team on shift - CCP Andy Bates, Dr Edwin Li & CCP Jemma Varela

Chairman's Foreword



Whilst reading the Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts I am reminded yet again, of all the truly wonderful people who are associated and connected with our charity. We are fortunate to be supported by inspiring and humbling individuals who give up so much, so that other people can benefit from the expertise and experience that a SARS responder brings to the scene of a sudden medical or trauma emergency.

The phrase, "*Teamwork makes the dream work*", is often found in motivational quotations and as part of other dramatic visualisations across social-media platforms. It is as relevant today, as it was back in 2002 when it was first coined by John C Maxcell in his book of the same name. Whatever your views on social media-might be, it is an irrefutable fact that the Charity must embrace new ways of publicising and organising its vitally important fundraising work in today's ever-changing, technologically driven world. To this end, our fundraising team have been working incredibly hard, often quietly behind the scenes, exploring new systems that we can use to best support the Charity to increase its fundraising capability. This work will only be successful if built upon firm foundations, and I must take a moment to thank all the office staff who have carried out their work so efficiently.

All of our volunteers, both new and old, are the lifeblood of the Charity and without them we would be nothing. I would like to place on record my thanks to all our longstanding volunteers, many of whom have given more than a decade of service to the Charity. At the same time I would like to extend a warm welcome to Cassidy, Ted and Jon who have augmented our Charity's volunteer pool in the last year. I would also like to mention Callum, Keiran, Harry and Tom who have joined the Charity as clinical volunteers - it is inspiring to see that we continue to benefit from already busy people giving up their precious spare time for the benefit of others.

I must also mention Paul Hockey, my Vice-Chair on the Board of Trustees who stood down during the year. Paul's expertise in the area of Human Resources has vastly benefitted SARS over the years, and we wish him well for the future. I would also like to welcome Peter Lord, Andy Janes and Brenda McLoughlin to the Board, their wealth of experience will prove invaluable in future years.

Whilst we quite rightly celebrate those people who have joined the Charity, we also acknowledge the tremendous achievements of Dr Andy Mason, who finally decided to retire as a volunteer earlier this year after 50 years of service. Many of you will remember that Andy was one of our most prolific clinical responders before standing down from clinical duties in 2014. Since then he had been equally busy supporting SARS by heading up our community-based CPR sessions, updating our PowerPoint presentations and even coming to the rescue when some of our 'simulation' equipment needed 're-engineering'. We will all miss you terribly but wish you both a long and prosperous retirement.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to commend the Annual Report to you and trust that you will enjoy hearing more about the tremendous work carried out by SARS.

James Whatling

Governance and Administration

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service ("SARS") was formed as a Registered Charity on 1st May 1972 and is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered under the Charities Act 2011 and governed by an updated constitution dated 19th December 2022 with Charity registration number 1168764 and Company registration number CE008550.

Board of Trustees

Clinical Trustees:

Mr James Whatling Chairman

Dr Karol Silovsky

Mr Tim Daniels

Dr Patricia Mills

Non-Clinical Trustees:

Mr Harold Richardson Vice Chairman

Mrs Anne Daultrey Treasurer

Mr Paul Hockey Resigned 15th November 2023

Mr Michael Caddock Secretary

Mr Peter Lord Appointed 14th June 2023

Mr Andrew Janes Appointed 14th June 2023

Ms Brenda McLoughlin Appointed 13th December 2023

Charity Manager:

Mr Ben Hall

Principal Address:

Unit 1b, Woolpit Business Park, Windmill Avenue, Woolpit IP30 9UP

Independent Examiner:

Whitings LLP, Greenwood House, Greenwood Court, Skyliner Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7GY

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Lloyds Bank, Victoria Branch, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT

Report of the Trustees

Principal Objects

The principal object of the Charity as defined by its constitution is to provide immediate medical treatment and care to persons in need by reason of accident or other emergency in the geographical county of Suffolk and adjoining areas. This work was begun by the CIO's predecessor in 1972. Highly skilled SARS clinical volunteers provide prehospital care to patients suffering a serious or life-threatening medical emergency or trauma. The service is provided without charge and is available to anyone.

The Charity has expanded interpretation of its core objective to include the education of the public in Basic Life Support (BLS) skills including Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

The Charity received no funding from central government, or other agencies, and relies on voluntary grants and donations to enable it to continue its vital work.

Activities in Furtherance of Principal Objects

During the year under review, our volunteer clinicians were mobilised to 561 emergency calls. The Trustees are committed to increasing SARS' clinical resources to enable an expansion of our response.

Public Benefit

The Charity provides public benefit by delivering its Principal Objects as outlined above. A more detailed description of how public benefit is delivered and recognised is contained in the Charity's Annual Impact Statement, filed as an appendix with this Annual Report.

Organisation and Structure

The Trustees are the Charity Trustees as defined by Section 177 of *The Charities Act, 2011*.

As an Emergency Medical Charity, the Trustees are obliged to ensure that proper arrangements exist to ensure compliance with medical regulation and best practice, and the constitution of the Charity requires a minimum of three Trustees to be registered clinicians.

The Board of Trustees meets a minimum of four times a year to receive reports from the Charity Manager and Treasurer, review clinical operations and financial statements, and to monitor the day-to-day activity of the Charity. In addition to monitoring these key elements, the Trustees also review progress towards a number of defined strategic objectives and plans, and to consider risk.

Medical regulation and risk are overseen by the Clinical Management Committee, whose primary objective is to develop and maintain Clinical Governance procedures to ensure safe and effective care for patients attended by SARS clinicians. The Committee must include a minimum of five SARS clinicians including at least one Doctor and one Paramedic.

Risk Management

Risk management is a standing item on the agenda of each Trustees' meeting and Trustees aim to review a specific area of identified risk on each occasion.

FINANCIAL REPORTING AND REVIEW

Reporting

The Trustees have adopted the option of reporting the Charity's financial activities through a Receipts and Payments Account supplemented by a Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The Charity has no permanent or endowment funding and is wholly dependent on day-to-day cash flow. The Trustees consider this is better reflected using this format.

Review

The Trustees consider the financial results for the year are satisfactory. Despite the impact of higher inflation and interest rates, total receipts were almost equivalent to 2023 when the Charity celebrated its 50th anniversary and achieved its highest ever level of income in a financial year. Charity Fundraising produced £36,691 in 2024 (2023: £11,791) due to the efforts of a dedicated team of charity volunteers and staff from head office. Fundraising and public awareness of SARS have both benefitted from attendance at local events which has in part increased the costs of raising funds.

The payments by the Charity increased to £176,765 (2023: £143,038) reflecting increased activity by our clinical volunteers responding to more medical emergencies, new medical volunteers joining, and the purchase of some new personal protective equipment (PPE) partially funded from specific donations. In spite of this, at the end of the financial year the Charity's payments exceeded receipts by only £772. In 2023 there was an excess of receipts amounting to £17,124 of which £12,201 was for specific capital expenditure which was made in 2024 and included in the payments for the current year.

As shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2024, the Charity had unpaid liabilities of £4,610 (2023: £7,240). There were no outstanding debts due to the Charity in either year.

Reserves

At 31st March 2024, the total available unrestricted cash amounted to £133,828, which is considered sufficient by the Trustees to maintain its reserves policy.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 16th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



James Whatling - Chair of Trustees



Michael Caddock - Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on pages 11 to 14.

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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Jaimie King ACA

For and on behalf of

Whitings LLP

Greenwood Court

Skyliner Way

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk IP32 7GY

Date: 16th October 2024



Figure 2: Equipment costs associated with equipping SARS Solo- and Team Clinicians

SUFFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE SERVICE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	Restated 2023 Total £
RECEIPTS					
Donations	1	148,466	44,124	192,590	222,093
Other activities	2	36,691	-	36,691	11,791
Investments		2,323	-	2,323	763
Revenue Receipts		187,480	44,124	231,604	234,647
Sale of Assets		-	-	-	1,680
Total Receipts		187,480	44,124	231,604	236,327
PAYMENTS					
Raising funds		37,328	-	37,328	23,298
Charitable activities	3	126,375	13,062	139,437	119,740
Revenue payments		163,703	13,062	176,765	143,038
Purchase of assets	4	19,346	36,265	55,611	76,165
Total payments		183,049	49,327	232,376	219,203
Net revenue receipts in the year		23,777	31,062	54,839	91,609
Net capital payments in the year		19,346	36,265	55,611	74,485
TOTAL NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)		4,431	(5,203)	(772)	17,124
Cash funds last year end		129,397	12,201	141,598	124,474
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		133,828	6,998	140,826	141,598

The attached notes on pages 13 & 14 form part of these accounts

SUFFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE SERVICE**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
CASH FUNDS					
Cash at bank		133,664	6,998	140,662	141,413
Petty Cash		164	-	164	185
Total Cash Funds		133,828	6,998	140,826	141,598

**FIXED ASSETS retained for
charity's use****Estimated value at 31st March 2024**

5

	132,828	-	132,828	108,410
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LIABILITIES


Creditors due within one year	4,610	-	4,610	7,240
Photocopier lease: due within one year	960	-	960	-
due between 1 and 5 years	3,535	-	3,535	-
RRV lease: due within one year	1	-	1	1
due between 1 and 5 years	1	-	1	2

The attached notes on pages 13 & 14 form part of these accounts

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on
 16th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



 James Whatling - Chairman



 Anne Daultrey - Treasurer

SUFFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE SERVICE**Additional Notes to Accounts****1 Grants and Donations**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Restated Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations	69,977	41,554	111,531	122,529
Local Authority	23,197	2,570	25,767	25,036
Public and Third Party				
Fundraising	55,292	-	55,292	74,528
	148,466	44,124	192,590	222,093

2 Other Activities

Receipts raised by 'Public and Third Party Fundraisers', £55,292 (2023: £74,528), and funds generated through charity lottery, collection pots and merchandise amounted to £60,700 (2023: £78,788). This income, previously reported under 'Other Activities', is now recorded as 'Donations'. This is in order to distinguish income raised directly by SARS fundraising events, £36,691 (2023: £11,791), exclusively under 'Other Activities'. Prior year figures have been restated in line with this amendment.

3 Analysis of expenditure - Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rescue Services	105,659	13,062	118,721	100,226
Support Costs	20,716	-	20,716	19,514
Charitable activities	126,375	13,062	139,437	119,740

4 Purchase of Assets

During the financial year four items of medical equipment were acquired at a cost of £55,611 (2023: six medical and three office equipment items were acquired and a fundraising vehicle at a cost of £76,165), £36,265 of which was purchased with funds raised specifically for these items.

SUFFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE SERVICE

Additional Notes to Accounts continued

5 Fixed Assets

	Medical Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Vehicles £	Total £
At 31 March 2023	80,153	2,636	25,621	108,410
At 31 March 2024	111,573	2,039	19,216	132,828

Fixed Assets are stated at the Trustees' estimate of net realisable value.

6 Analysis of staff costs and key personnel

A total of 5 staff (FTE 3.5) are employed by the Charity (2023: 5 staff, FTE 3.5).

No employees received more than £60,000 during the year (2023: none).

7 Related Parties

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023: none).

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

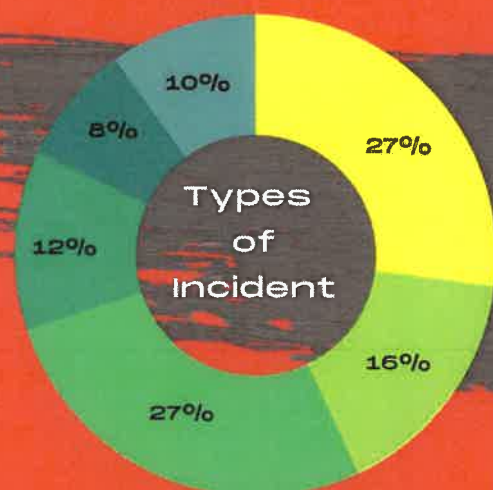
IMPACT STATEMENT



When addressing the Charity's aims and objectives and when planning future activities, the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. This impact statement allows a fuller description of the Charity's activities and achievements than is possible within the main body of the Trustees' Annual Report.

SARS OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

2023/24



Cardiac Arrests
RTC's
Medical
Falls
Sport and Other
Psychiatric

561

Mobilisations

30%

1st on Scene

Advanced Interventions & Equipment

LUCAS automated chest compression device

Advanced Airway Management

Sedation and Anaesthesia

Video Laryngoscope

Surgical Skills

Ultrasound

Analgesia



A SARS responder improves outcomes for patients by:

1. SAVING LIVES

2. DELIVERING VITAL ADVANCED INTERVENTIONS IN THE PREHOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT

3. REDUCING THE RISK OF PERMANENT DISABILITY

4. PROVIDING EFFECTIVE RELIEF FROM PAIN

Immediate medical care is provided by a network of solo-responders in their own specially equipped vehicles responding from various locations around the county. They are supplemented by teams of responders using SARS Rapid-Response Vehicles (RRVs). All SARS responders carry equipment and drugs not normally found on emergency ambulances, thereby significantly enhancing the Charity's ability to improve patient outcomes and save lives. The Charity's services are provided without charge to any person in need throughout the geographical county of Suffolk and its adjoining areas.

SARS responded to 561 calls in the year ending 31st March 2024. SARS remains responsive and successful in achieving positive patient outcomes thanks to the dedication and expertise of our clinicians supported by a small team of committed staff at HQ and our non-clinical volunteers.

In total, SARS treated 396 patients between April 2023 and March 2024 and a SARS responder was the first medical resource on scene in 30% of the medical emergencies that they attended.



Figure 3: Clinical Support Volunteer, Colin Gray and Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Liam Sands

"The fact of the matter is, it was SARS getting there so quickly that really made the difference to me" – SARS patient, Tony Michell.



Figure 4: Charity volunteers play a vital role in helping raise funds for SARS



Figure 5: 1318 adults and children attended SARS CPR & Defibrillator awareness sessions in 2023/24

16 patients in cardiac arrest were resuscitated with the help of fellow emergency service personnel.

"We all have things to be grateful for and a lot of the time they go unnoticed, and sometimes unneeded, but when you do, WOW it makes you appreciate life and the generous people that give up their precious time to help others. Mum had a cardiac arrest in Dobbie's Garden Centre in Woodbridge earlier this year. Thankfully some amazing first aid trained staff, the onsite defibrillator, and the volunteers at SARS saved my Mum's life, and she has made a full recovery"

Statement by Adrian Game, whose mum was treated by a SARS Critical Care team in 2023.



Figure 6: SARS Clinicians 2023-24

SARS clinicians carry advanced drugs, including painkillers and sedatives, which are not normally found on front-line ambulances. This enables them to undertake specialist interventions such as sedation and anaesthesia, which would not otherwise be possible outside a hospital environment.

Over the course of this year, SARS clinicians administered sedations and provided advanced pain relief to 66 time-critical patients to enable their rapid transfer to hospital. SARS clinicians undertook surgical and advanced airway management procedures on 35 patients to help preserve life before transferring to hospital.

In the majority of these cases, the patients were accompanied to hospital by a SARS clinician to ensure their condition remained stable throughout the journey.



Figure 7: SARS Dr James Price, CCP Jemma Varela & Dr Jack Webb with former cardiac arrest patient, Mike Munson, in 2023