

Objectives

We provide a Christian response to the social need for more foster families, adoptive homes and supported lodgings, by raising awareness of the local need through connecting and partnering with Suffolk Churches. We do not assess or place children but signpost enquiries and work closely with our local authority, Suffolk County Council, and their Fostering and Adoption teams.

Governance, staffing and volunteer development

Trustees – Jane Jennison (Chair), Rachel Renfrew (Treasurer), Julie Daniels and Melissa Naish

Our trustees met 6 times during the year to ensure our charity objectives were being met, policies updated, ideas shared and finances tracked. They receive regular reports from our employed coordinators and treasurer so they know exactly what is happening, updated on future plans and our financial situation. These meetings are now conducted on Zoom as this works best - avoiding traveling time and childcare difficulties.

We recruit trustees through Facebook posts, articles on Network Suffolk, and our mailouts to families and supporters.

We are currently looking for one/two more trustees.

Staffing

Melissa Naish (left)

Louise Bunton (right)



are our part time employees, who coordinate Home for Good: Suffolk together. We are please to announce that Elaine Ingram will be joining the team in October 2023 as we strive to grow and connect more churches and families living in Suffolk.

We journey alongside ALL local families who foster, adopt or have special guardianship. Everyone is welcome to join in our activities and events throughout the year - regardless of faith or background. We want to ensure all families feel supported and connected. Looking after children and young people who are in care or have experience of the care system is a demanding and challenging job. These children have often experienced early trauma, abuse and neglect, which can have a life-long impact. We feel that helping connect and support families with these shared experiences builds strong resilient homes and promotes the best outcomes for these young lives.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SUFFOLK



Home for Good: Suffolk is a Suffolk wide small organisation, founded in 2014. We are connected to the national charity Home for Good www.homeforgood.org.uk but operate separately since Sept 2016 under the local charity Transforming Futures – Suffolk (Charity No. 1169250).

Volunteers

We couldn't achieve all we do without the dedication of our volunteers. Our volunteers help by either hosting one-off events, more regular meetups or by helping us share/promote our work within Suffolk churches. With Suffolk being such a large county to reach, we depend on our volunteers in locations across the county to help develop our provision.

This year we have had 20 active volunteers, including the 10 new ones, to help host our groups and activities and a further 14 active volunteers (known as Champions), who we connect with through our termly online Champion updates/what's app group so they can share our work with their churches.

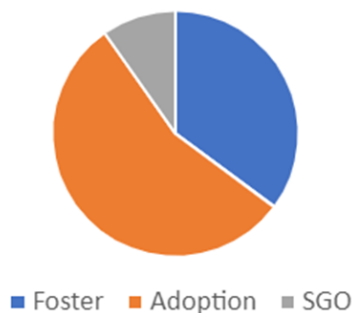
We are always keen to recruit new volunteers, so contact us if you would like to know more about how you/your church could get involved.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR?

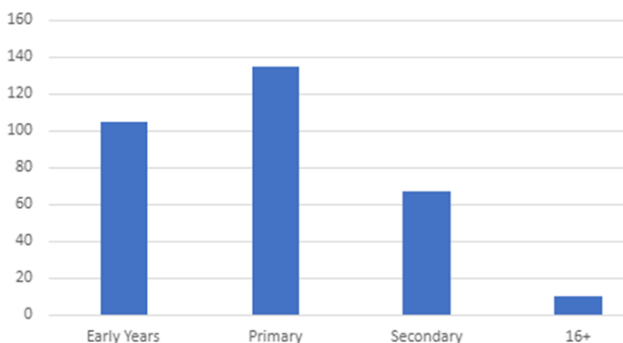
This year through our 1:1 support, welcome bags, regular groups and one-off holiday activities/events we have had contact with 221 families/308 children aged 0-18 years either in foster care, adopted or have special guardianship arrangements.

This is an 30% increase in families connecting since last year.

We have met 221 families this year

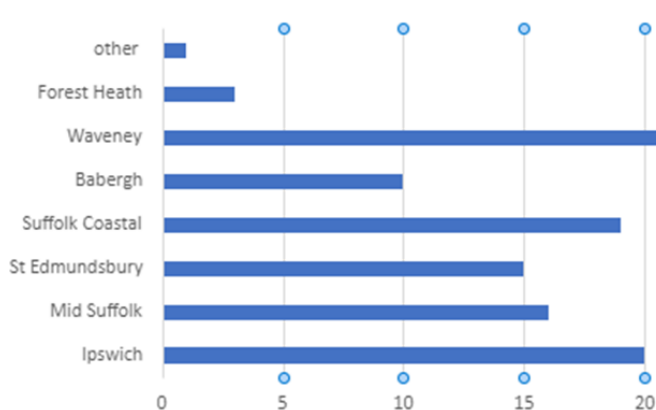


We reached 308 children



We have started gathering information about which districts are families come from too – We currently know this data for almost half of our families reached (105)

Localities of our families



OUR PROVISION OF ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS HAS CONTINUED TO EVOLVE AND EXPAND THIS YEAR, RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR FAMILIES.

We currently have 413 families represented on our mailing list

- 130 foster families
- 224 adopters
- 59 special guardians

THIS YEAR WE HAVE RUN 20 MONTHLY GROUPS, 30 ONE OFF HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES/ADULTS MEALS AND SEVERAL ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Some of our support has remained online allowing all areas of Suffolk to access

This has included a monthly SEND Zoom group and information sessions to learn about Supported Lodgings, choosing a primary school, Working with schools, Support families caring for children who are neurodiverse and communicating with schools



'THE HOME FOR GOOD ACTIVITY DAYS REALLY HELP THE CHILD I CARE FOR. IT HELPS THEM BY THEM PLAYING AND COMMUNICATING WITH OTHER CHILDREN IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS TO THEM, FOR THEM TO FEEL PART OF REGULAR MEET UPS WITH FRIENDS THEY HAVE NOW MADE. IT HELPS CARERS BE ABLE TO GIVE THE CHILD THE EXPERIENCES THEY DESERVE AND OPPORTUNITIES.'



PRIVATE
FACEBOOK
GROUP

Our closed Facebook group continues to be a safe space where families can share ideas and ask questions. We have continued to see growth in this group 241 members (31st August 2023)

PROMOTING, CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

As well as mailing out to families on our mailing list we also mail through Suffolk Fostering and Adoption. We also attended 3 Suffolk County Council events for fostering/adoptive families.

67 welcome bags given out to newly approved households this year each containing useful information about what we do, as well as chocolates and useful books to support them too.



Further support opportunities we have provided through 1:1 advice, support and a listening ear through our telephone support. We also provide prayer support too.

ENQUIRIES AND APPROVALS

This year we have had contact with 4 new household who have considered fostering or adoption or supported lodgings. We know that 1 has been approved to foster.

Lending library

We hold over 100 titles of books and resources which we can post out to families to borrow



PROMOTING AND CONNECTING WITH SCHOOLS

This year we have been particularly focused at reaching schools to help them learn about us and know how to sign post families. We have connected with 78 different schools, all of which have received a new information pack for their designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children. We have encouraged them to join our professionals mailing list to help keep them up to date with our provision for families.

CONNECTING WITH SUFFOLK CHURCHES

Through our Champions and social media platforms we have encouraged Suffolk Churches to take up national campaigns to raise the profile of the number of vulnerable children who come into the UK care system every year - highlighting the constant need for more foster carers and adopters. Home for Good creates resources for Mothering Sunday and Father's Day which are available from their website during the right season - www.homeforgood.org.uk

PRAYER CARDS

We believe in the power of prayer and wanted to make it easy for people to support us by praying with us for specific needs and giving thanks for our developments/resources. These are shared on our Socials, with our champions, supporters and local churches.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

1 SEPTEMBER 2022-31 AUGUST 2023

Annual Income: £28,676.15

Mainly achieved through...

- Church donations £4,365,
- Individual donations £3,279
- Contributions to activities £1,433
- Grants – £19,543

Annual Expenditure: £25,102.86

Our main expenditure are

- Salaries £10,885
- Activity costs £11,230

Other costs include insurance, publicity materials, bank charges, telephone, postage, travel, volunteers, DBS's and training

Monthly Giving

We encourage families and supporters to make a monthly donation.

We are now up to 27 regular givers – an increase of 7 this year.

You can sign up to give monthly with Stewardship.

Scan or visit <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20258808>

HOME FOR GOOD SUNDAY

In November 2022 we provided a video and encouraged Suffolk churches to show during a Sunday service. Our aims were

- 1.To help raise awareness of the constant need for more foster carers and adopters
- 2.To share how we support enquires and families once approved
- 3.Encourage individuals and churches to respond – challenging them how they can play their part in supporting us!

We believe our video was shown in 8 different churches – the majority of which were new to sharing about the work of Home for Good: Suffolk in their Church.

We have also shared a similar message during Sunday services at 5 additional churches and Ipswich's annual prayer event Crown Him 2023

Reserves

The trustees keep the reserves of the charity under review, considering the nature of the

income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves.

The trustees consider that to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services and/or event of winding up, a designated reserve of £6000 equating to 6 months operational costs is appropriate.

The current level of free reserves is £6290, £4000 of which is set aside in a deposit account.





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Transforming Futures Suffolk

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/08/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1169250

Set out on pages

(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 31/08/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 1* accounting records were not kept in
accordance with section 130 of the Act or
2* ~~the accounts do not accord with the~~
accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

16/04/24

Name:

Brian N Freed

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

Associate of the Institute of Bankers (AIB) 1971-

Address:

3 Cranborne Chase

Ipswich

Suffolk IP4 3EQ

Transforming Suffolk (Home for Good)

Income & Expenditure to 31 August 2023

			2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous year
Income				
Church donations	4365		4365	3686
Individual donations	3279		3279	2588
Contributions to activities	1433		1433	779
Grant income	7600	11943	19543	8100
Bank Interest	35		35	3
Fundraising	20		20	32
Total Receipts	16733	11943	28676	15188
Expenditure				
Bank charges	45	0	45	93
Salary costs	5488	5397	10885	9111
Office equipment	16	0	16	0
Governance	6		6	0
Activity costs	1813	9417	11230	4080
Postage, telephone etc	151	10	161	242
Insurance	0	154	154	154
Volunteer costs	48	284	332	90
Travel	447	518	966	1083
Training	7	90	97	0
Marketing & publicity	469	558	1027	537
Welcome bags		139	139	1362
Other costs	44		44	83
	8535	16568	25103	16835
Movement for year	8198	-4625	3573	-1647

Transforming Suffolk (Home for Good)

Balance Sheet at 31st August 2023

	31 Aug 23	31 Aug 22
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Other Current Assets		
Grants due not received	1987	0
Other debtors	16	0
Total Other Current Assets	2003	0
Cash at bank and in hand		
CAF current account	0	44
CAF Deposit account	0	4003
Charity Bank	4000	0
Co Op Current	11237	6869
Total Cash at bank and in hand	15237	10916
Total Current Assets	17240	10916
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1832	0
Other Current Liabilities		
Grants c/f	1333	0
Payroll Liabilities	-335	0
Total Other Current Liabilities	998	0
Total Current Liabilities	2830	0
Net Current Assets	14411	10916
Unrestricted Funds	13078	6291
Restricted Funds		
Suffolk Community Foundation	1333	4625
Total funds held	14411	10916