



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Transforming Futures Suffolk

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/08/2024

**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 31/08/2024.

**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 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act.

Advice has been given that PAYE deducted from salaries should be reconciled regularly and paid over to HMRC on a timely basis in accordance with HMRC regulations.

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:

20 / 11 / 2024

Name:

Sandra Careless

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

BA (Hons), Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

Address:

Kestrel View, 4 Barbould Close,
Palgrave, Diss,
IP22 1BJ

Transforming Futures Suffolk
UK Balance Sheet
As of 31 August 2024

	31 Aug 24	31 Aug 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Other Current Assets		
Grants due not received	7561	1987
Other debtors	0	16
Total Other Current Assets	7561	2003
Cash at bank and in hand		
Charity Bank	4116	4000
Co Op Current	1845	11237
Coop Deposit	2000	0
Equals	1693	0
Total Cash at bank and in hand	9654	15237
Total Current Assets	17215	17240
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	503	1832
Other Current Liabilities		
Grants c/f	1673	1333
Payroll Liabilities	116	-335
Total Other Current Liabilities	1789	998
Total Current Liabilities	2292	2830
NET ASSETS	14923	14411
Capital and Reserves		
Unrestricted Funds	13250	13078
Restricted funds		
Suffolk Community Foundation	1673	1333
Total Funds held	14923	14411

Transforming Suffolk (Home for Good)

Financial Summary to 31 August 2024

			2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	a			Previous year
Income				
Church donations		6432		6432
Individual donations		4731		4731
Contributions to activities		1221	175	1396
Grant income		5500	20121	25621
Bank Interest		116		116
Fundraising		250		250
Miscellaneous income				20
Total Receipts		18250	20296	38546
Expenditure				
Bank charges		0	0	0
Salary costs		13,781	4,876	18,657
Office equipment		0	0	0
Governance		23		23
Activity costs		1,163	12,996	14,159
Postage, telephone etc		213	4	217
Insurance		0	154	154
IT Equipment		894	0	894
Volunteer costs		0	48	48
Travel		399	545	944
Training		48	0	48
Marketing & publicity		454	0	454
Welcome bags		763	0	763
Other costs		0		0
		17,738	18,623	36,361
Movement for year		512	1,673	2,185
				3,573

ANNUAL REVIEW

SEPT 2023- AUG 2024



This year Home for Good Suffolk Celebrated 10 years of impactful work

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.

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. We value diversity and strive to create an inclusive environment where all individuals feel respected and valued. 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 believe that helping connect and support families with these shared experiences builds strong resilient homes and promotes the best outcomes for these young lives.

Governance, staffing & volunteer development

Current Trustees – Michelle Jones (Chair/Fund Raising)
Rachel Renfrew (Treasurer), Joanna Ward (Safeguarding)
and Julie Daniels (Administration)

Our trustees met 6 times during the year to ensure our charity objectives were being met, policies updated, ideas shared and finances tracked. This year Jane Jennison resigned as Chair and Melissa Naish came to the end of her maximum term - 3 consecutive terms of 3 years. Trustees receive regular reports from our employed coordinators and treasurer so they know exactly what is happening, are updated on future plans and our financial situation. These meetings are now conducted on Zoom to avoid travel time and costs as well as childcare difficulties.

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

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).

CO St Augustine's Church Hall,
Bucklesham Road, Ipswich IP3 8TH



Staff

Elaine Ingram (left)
Melissa Naish (middle)
Louise Bunton (right)

We now have 3 part time employees, who coordinate Home for Good: Suffolk together. We hope to be able to take on an additional member of staff in 2025 as we strive to grow and connect more churches and families living in Suffolk.

NEW TRUSTEES NEEDED

We are currently looking for one/two more trustees to support with grant applications and our IT systems

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 country to help develop our provision.

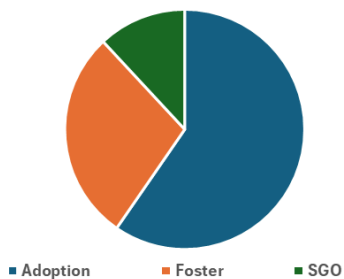
This year we have had 26 active volunteers, including 8 new ones, to help host our groups and activities and a further 16 active volunteers (known as Champions), who we connect with through our what's app group so they can share our work with their churches.

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

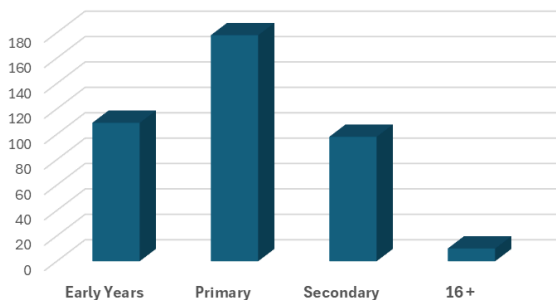
WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR?

This year through our 1:1 support, welcome bags, regular groups and one-off holiday activities/events we have had contact with 277 families/395 children, aged 0-18 years either in foster care, adopted or have special guardianship arrangements. 87 families more than last year which is a 22 % increase and 125 of these were new families to us.

We have met 277 families this year

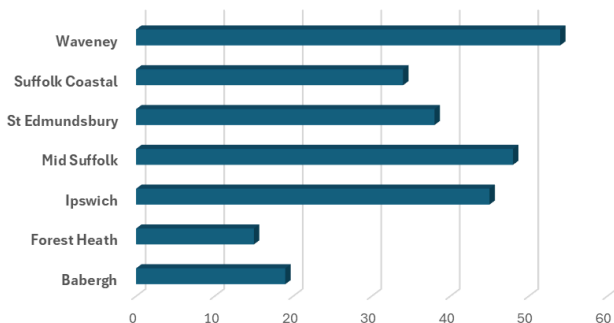


This year we reached 395 children



We now gather information about which districts our families come from and we currently have this data for almost all our families reached (253).

Localities of our families



OUR PROVISION OF ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS HAS CONTINUED TO EVOLVE AND EXPAND THIS YEAR, AS WE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE NEEDS OF OUR FAMILIES.

We currently have 465 families represented on our mailing list
162 foster families
240 adopters
63 special guardians

THIS YEAR WE HAVE RUN 13 MONTHLY GROUPS, 45 ONE OFF HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES (17 MORE THAN LAST YEAR) & 2 ADULT MEALS

Holiday Activity Feedback Example: “Thank you so much for organising. Whilst my son struggles with social interactions where he doesn't know people, he thoroughly enjoyed the paddle boarding part. Events like this help us manage his social anxiety by encouraging him out of the house and pushing boundaries”



WE HAVE HOSTED 6 ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS

This year has included new online sessions by Professionals from Suffolk County Council including Keeping in Touch with Birth Family, Life Story Work and sessions with the Permanence Team.

Online Life Story Work Session Feedback Example: I learnt “How important it is to explain the child’s history (where suitable) with the truth but baring in mind the child’s ability”

FAMILY SURVEY RESPONSE (MAY 2024)

Home for Good Suffolk is committed to listening and responding to your responses to the family survey & to any other feedback we receive.

Actions from this survey include

1. Our businesses and Churches Initiative to raise funds for monthly, term time activities
2. Providing activities specifically for adopters and SGO's
3. Providing online education focus groups and an online behavioural strategy session
4. Developing/providing signposting resources for mental health, finances, education etc

PROMOTING, CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

This year we have had contact with 5 new households who have considered fostering or adoption or supported lodgings. We know that 2 have been approved to foster.

ENQUIRERS/SUPPORT: We have provided 1:1 advice, support and a listening ear through our telephone support. We also provide prayer support and signpost families to relevant services.

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



Our closed Facebook group continues to be a safe space where families can share ideas, ask questions and where we can promote events.

We have 262 members, which is 10% more than last year (31st August 2024)



NEWLY APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS:

Families have received **34 welcome bags** this year containing useful information about what we do, as well as chocolates and useful books to support them too.

100 Books & Resources to Lend

These will be available for borrowing at our activities.



PROMOTING AND CONNECTING WITH SCHOOLS

In June we attended the Virtual School's Conference in Ipswich to increase awareness of Home for Good Suffolk and to connect with designated teachers for looked after and previously looked after children. We encouraged them to join our professionals mailing list to help keep them up to date with our provision for families. We are always keen to connect with different schools and provide new information packs for designated teachers. If you know of a school/designated teacher who needs an information pack please do get in touch.

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

EASTER EGG APPEAL

This Easter 14 Suffolk Church's generously gave **Easter Eggs** which we were able to give to the **children who attended our Easter Events**. Thank you so much for blessing our families.

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. Each term new prayer cards are shared on our Socials and with our champions, supporters and local churches.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

1 SEPTEMBER 2023-31 AUGUST 2024

Annual Income: £38,546

Mainly achieved through...

- Church donations **£6,432**
- Individual donations **£4,731**
- Contributions to activities **£1,396**
- Grants – **£25,621**

Annual Expenditure: £36,361

Our main expenditure are

- Salaries **£18,657**
- Activity costs **£14,159**

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

Monthly Giving: We encourages families and supporters to make a monthly donation. We are now up to **31** regular givers – an increase of **4** this year. You can sign up to give monthly with Stewardship. Scan or visit <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20258808>



In June 2024, 7 Suffolk Churches shared a video with their congregations celebrating 10 years of Home for Good Suffolk's impactful work. Our aims were to show what has been achieved during the last 10 years and to raise awareness that

EVERYONE CAN PLAY THEIR PART

1. **PRAY** for children in care who need a home and for families caring for vulnerable children.
2. **OPEN YOUR DOOR** to a child in care
3. **GIVE** financially to support our work

We also encouraged Churches to provide support to families caring for vulnerable children.

We have also shared a similar message during Sunday services at **5** additional churches and Ipswich's annual prayer event **Crown Him 2024**.

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 £13,250 - £4,000 of which is set aside in a deposit account.

