

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

Annual Report and Accounts for 12 months ended 31st March 2021

Board of Trustees

Chair and Director:	Helen Beech	(from 1 st January 2021)
Secretary:	Peter Entwistle	(from 18 th September 2017)
Treasurer	Keith Anderson	(from 26 th June 2020)
Trustee:	George Gibson	(from 18 th September 2017)
Trustee:	Anthony Hilton	(from 18 th September 2017)
Trustee:	Dorothy Hulley	(from 18 th September 2017)
Trustee:	Linda Pyatt	(from 18 th September 2017)
Trustee:	Jean Cope	(from September 2019)
Trustee:	Tessa Hammersley	(from 1 December 2020)
Trustee:	Sarra Hoy	(from 1 December 2020)
Trustee:	Maxine Jefferies	(from 1 December 2020)

Independent Examiner: J. G. Evans,
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Registered Charity Number: 1170130

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District (SMD)

SMD is a charitable incorporated organization affiliated to the national charity Samaritans, a charitable company limited by guarantee. SMD is one of 201 branches who work with the Central Charity in a federated way, governed by Branch Agreements and operating within criteria set down in an Operating Agreement.

Samaritans vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We aim to achieve that by alleviating emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviour. In doing this we volunteer using our values which are:

Listening – We explore feelings distress and despair and help callers to reach better understanding of their situation and the options open to them.

Confidentiality – If callers feel safe, they are more likely to be open about their feelings.

Self-determination – We believe that callers have the right to make their own decisions wherever possible

Being nonjudgmental – We want callers to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection

Human Contact – Giving callers time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental emotional need and reduces distress and despair.

Director's Report for 2020-2021

The past year has been extremely challenging, operating as we were in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. March 2020 saw the introduction of a national lockdown with its major restrictions for everyone. Samaritans volunteers were considered by the government to be essential workers and as such were allowed to travel from their homes and to continue to operate in branch. Strict COVID protocols had to be put in place within the branch, including re-organisation of the space; only two volunteers on duty at any one time; social distancing procedures during shifts and on shift handovers; and a rigorous cleaning regime.

Understandably, a number of volunteers were unable to continue doing duties as they were vulnerable, self-isolating or shielding, etc. In general around a third of volunteers were non-active at any one time – this rose to 45% at its height. Coupled with an increase in the number of calls received by Samaritans as the impact of the pandemic was felt across the country, our ability to cope was severely tested. It is to the very great credit of those volunteers who were able to continue doing shifts, often going above and beyond, that the rota was able to be filled most of the time, with few ad hoc closures. It was teamwork and individual contributions both at their very best and I am very grateful to all our volunteers for their support during this difficult time.

As noted in last year's report, it had been felt for some time that our Boden Street premises were not up to the required standard, and the COVID restrictions increased the challenges of

working within the space. A working party was set up to investigate a move to new premises; working at admirable speed they found and secured a suitable building, 9 King Edward Street. A seven-year rental lease was signed on 1 June 2020 and work was done, by the same team, to ready the premises for occupation in August 2020. The Boden Street premises were vacated and put up for sale, although they continued to be regularly monitored by a small team of volunteers. At what was a challenging time for commercial property sales, although there were several potential interested buyers, these unfortunately fell through. (At the time of writing this report, June 2021, a sale has been successfully concluded).

The impact of COVID was felt in other areas of our operation. Notably, as people were not able to meet in person, all meetings, including our AGM which took place in December, had to be done remotely via Zoom. It also included all of our training, and it's thanks to our Training Team that they were able to sustain our high standard of training to two full cohorts of trainees during the year. Trainees acknowledged the good quality of their training experience, and additionally how 'welcomed' they felt to the branch in spite of the considerable challenges. This reflects well on the efforts of our Training Team, Mentors and all active volunteers who welcomed and supported our new members.

All of our Outreach work (eg with schools, Network rail) had to be suspended, as did our attendance at HMP Styal in support of the Listener Scheme, although we continued to support the Listener Team by sending cards regularly, and by having a dedicated mobile phone by which they could contact us if necessary.

Our shop had to close from March. As restrictions were lifted in July it re-opened, only to close again after Christmas when the second national lockdown kicked in.

A positive note during the year was the opportunity to celebrate moving into our new premises. A small team was set up in July to explore how we could suitably acknowledge this important achievement whilst mindful of COVID limitations. An official opening event took place in September, with invitees including the local MP, Mayor and Leader of Cheshire East Council, along with senior Samaritans from the region, as well as some of our local business supporters. It was officially opened by multiple world and Olympic champion track cyclist and supporter of the branch, Sir Chris Hoy MBE. It garnered significant press interest including a piece on BBC NW Tonight. Although celebratory, it was managed within strict COVID guidelines – a real achievement!

Despite the difficulties being experienced everywhere, altruism, and a desire to make a difference seemed to be part of the national mood and we had an increase in enquiries to join us, resulting in a waiting list of potential volunteers of around 75 people. This is both an opportunity and a challenge.

Other noteworthy positives include the introduction of online chat as a means of people being able to contact us. Macclesfield branch was one of the earliest branches to take part in this fledgling service – once again a testament to our volunteers in embracing change.

We were also early adopters in another technological development – the Branch Management Tool, which manages the journey of potential volunteers from enquiry, through recruitment and selection and then training until they are full members.

In terms of personnel, we were fortunate to recruit a new Treasurer, Keith Anderson, in June. He brings valuable experience from a previous role as Treasurer with East Cheshire Hospice and has made a very positive contribution to our financial management. In October a working party was set up to identify a new branch Director to take over from our interim Director who had been in place since December 2019. This resulted in a new Director, Helen Beech, being appointed from 1 January 2021. As well as building on existing expertise, this allowed the opportunity of recognising new opportunities and creating new Deputy Director posts of : Vice Deputy, Communications, and Fundraising, as well as specific specialist roles in Publicity. The new Branch Leadership Team, comprised of both Trustees and Deputy Directors who lead functional areas of the branch, is a vibrant, energetic and collaborative team who are well placed to lead the branch into the post-pandemic world and to take on board the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. In particular, in our newly created Communications Deputy Director and Publicity Champion, our social media and website channels are in good hands.

In January 2021 a second national lockdown in light of an increase of COVID-19 cases and concerns about a new COVID-19 variant imposed further restrictions for everyone . We reviewed and redoubled our COVID protocols in branch to maximise volunteer safety. Whilst this led to an initial increase in volunteers not able to do duties, this has reduced month on month. We have developed a framework for returning volunteers to support as smooth a re-introduction to duties as possible, recognising that some have been on long term leave of absence for a significant time.

The new premises have proved to offer much better opportunities for us to work as safely as possible, including improved ventilation. The building layout is spacious and modern. New technology was installed as part of the move and individual, rather than shared, headsets have been made available to all volunteers. All this results in a comfortable working environment which is fit for purpose and motivational for us all.

I am immensely proud of how Macclesfield Samaritans has risen to the unimaginable challenges faced during the year. This is due to a committed and capable Leadership Team, wonderful volunteers who have demonstrated flexibility and willingness to do more than their fair share, and a sense of teamwork amongst everyone to do what it takes to deliver a high quality service to those who need us. This capability and attitude within the branch will stand us in good stead to face the opportunities and challenges that the coming year brings.

Helen Beech
Director

Treasurer's Report

The new charity (Samaritans of Macclesfield & District Charitable Incorporated Organisation and linked branch) was incorporated on June 1st, 2017.

As reported last year the Trustees decided that it is sufficient under Charity Commission rules (because we are only a small charity) to produce Receipts and Payments Accounts and that this should be done effective from the financial year ended 31st March 2021. Hence the attached Accounts are prepared on that basis.

Total revenue for the twelve-month period ending 31st March 2020 amounted to £50,754 (2020: £35,053). Significant revenue is received from the shop trading, totalling £7,896 (2020: £30,100). Donations totalled £9,800 (2019: £4,300). The shop income was significantly reduced because of Covid 19 Restrictions, but we received grants to offset this totalling £29,669.

Total running costs were £53,118 (2020 £42,391). This increase is mainly caused by moving from our owned premises at 2 Boden Street to rented premises at 9 King Edward Street. Our Boden Street premises are currently on the market.

The Branch Contribution reduced from £13,492 to £11,248.

This contribution is arrived at by a standard formula set down by the Samaritans organisation to ensure unnecessary reserves are not built up in branches.

The net deficit on Revenue Account was £2364 (2020 £10,145). £12,229 was spent on Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment in the year as a result of the move to 9 King Edward Street in September 2020 giving a total deficit for the year of £14,593 (2020 £10,145).

Cash reserves at 31st March 2021 totalled £115,357 (2020 £132,252).

Restricted funds included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities are as follows :-

1. A grant of £1,000 received towards the costs of increasing the number of volunteers recruited.
2. The Facy Legacy which was donated for use within the branch, with a specific restriction that it not be utilised against NOMS.

Designated funds are included in the amount of Unrestricted Investment funds amount of £54,470 in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities in respect of the following :-

1. Premises Reserve £39,525
2. Repairs Reserve £9,000

These funds were committed in support of the charity's operational and administrative premises and have not changed during the year.

No Persons were employed by the charity during the period (2020 – Nil), all time being given to the charity voluntarily.

The charity is covered by a centrally effected professional indemnity insurance policy to protect trustees, directors and other volunteer members.

None of the charity's trustees were directly or indirectly remunerated in any way. It is the policy of the charity to reimburse in full all expenses properly incurred by it's volunteers in connection with it's charitable activities. During the year, the total amount reimbursed to trustees and members is shown in the Receipts and Payments Account mainly under the headings Travel expenses and Fundraising expenses

I K Anderson
Honorary Treasurer



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Samaritans of Macclesfield

and District Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	To
1st April 2020	31st March 2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	9,800	-	-	9,800	-
Gift Aid	1,254	-	-	1,254	-
Investment Income	217	-	-	217	-
Prison Grant	1,919	-	-	1,919	-
Grants	29,669	-	-	29,669	-
Shop income	7,896	-	-	7,896	-
Transfer from Old Charity	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	50,754	-	-	50,754	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	50,754	-	-	50,754	-
A3 Payments					
Heat, Light and Water	3,388	-	-	3,388	-
Repairs and renewals	864	-	-	864	-
Cleaning & Housekeeping	1,288	-	-	1,288	-
Telephone and office costs	3,906	-	-	3,906	-
Insurance	1,717	-	-	1,717	-
Office Rent	6,617	-	-	6,617	-
Volunteer training & support	4,860	-	-	4,860	-
Travel expenses	5,887	-	-	5,887	-
Equipment hire	216	-	-	216	-
Listener	206	-	-	206	-
Prison costs	36	-	-	36	-
Fundraising expenses	180	-	-	180	-
Shop Rent	8,980	-	-	8,980	-
Shop costs	1,408	-	-	1,408	-
Accountancy/Independent Examiner	430	-	-	430	-
Branch Contribution	11,248	-	-	11,248	-
Opening expenses	1,886	-	-	1,886	-
Sub total	53,118	-	-	53,118	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment, Fixtures and Fittings	12,229	-	-	12,229	-
Sub total	12,229	-	-	12,229	-
Total payments	65,347	-	-	65,347	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 14,593	-	-	- 14,593	-
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	129,950	-	-	129,950	-
Cash funds this year end	115,357	-	-	115,357	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Investment Fund	56,470	54,456	
	Bank Account	4,431	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	60,901	54,456	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

Unrestricted funds Restricted funds Endowment funds

	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Land and Buildings		98,700	-
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		13,799	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

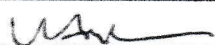
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



IK. ANDERSON

18th June 2021



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1170130

Set out on pages

7-8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2021**.

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 or
- 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:

Julie Evans

Date:

29th June 2021

Name:

Julie Evans

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

Address:

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STOCKPORT

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