

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

Annual Report and Accounts for 12 months ended 31st March 2023

Board of Trustees

Chair and Director:	Zoe Smith	(from 1 st April 2022)
Chair, Trustee and Secretary:	Dorothy Hulley	(from 18 th September 2017)
Treasurer:	Keith Anderson	(from 26 th June 2020)
Trustee:	Anthony Hilton	(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:	Frances Gathercole	(from 1 July 2021)

Independent Examiner:

Melissa Bowers,
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Westminster House,
10, Westminster Road,
Macclesfield. SK10 1BX

9, King Edward Street,
Macclesfield,
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Telephone: 01625 426000
Email: macclesfield@samaritans.org
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 2022-2023

The start of the year saw changes in the leadership structure of the branch. Helen Beech handed over the branch directorship to Zoe Smith on 1st May 2023.

Whilst the main restrictions of the Covid pandemic were broadly over, there were still issues with dealing with filling the shift rota when volunteers tested positive for the virus. We are proud that throughout the Covid restriction we continued to train two cohorts of new listening volunteers every year via Zoom. The training team was very pleased to resume face-to-face training for the most recent cohort who began their training in February 2023.

We are gradually returning to pre-Covid practices although many of the routine meetings continue to be done via Zoom, or via a mixture of face-to-face and use of technology for those who are unable to attend in person.

We were fortunate to be in receipt of a substantial legacy (reported in our Annual Report for 2021-2022) and a working party considered how these monies could be used to benefit both our callers, our branch and Samaritans in general. A large donation was given to Barrow branch of Samaritans to help them modernise their premises. A number of bespoke benches have been commissioned. They will have appropriate, supportive Samaritans wording engraved on them and will be placed in parts of the greater Macclesfield area to encourage people to sit and engage in conversation. Five benches will be opened to the public in July

2023. We also improved a corner of our training room at the branch by creating a 'cosy corner' with comfortably sofas where we could hold smaller informal meetings or sit quietly to debrief to leaders at the end of a shift.

The most significant decision re the use of our surplus money was to purchase our Charity Shop on 69-71 Pickford Street. The shop has been our main source of income for many years, and when the opportunity presented itself to purchase the building where we have rented the ground floor, Trustees made the decision to put in an offer to buy both the ground floor and the two upper floors which was accepted. All the necessary precautions, consideration of advantages and disadvantages, surveys, valuations and legal advice were discussed at length and we were delighted that just before the end of the 2022-2023 financial year the purchase was completed.

Whenever a branch selects a new Director, the branch welcomes external visitors who objectively examine all the protocols, policies and procedures – measuring them against a Quality Framework. Our inspection was in November 2022 and whilst this created a great deal of additional work by Trustees and the Branch Leadership Team, the end result was worth it as we received an Excellent rating. We are now working towards achieving all the objectives on our post-inspection Action Plan.

We have been busy without Outreach work delivering sessions to schools including Fallibroome High School and Poynton High School. We also resumed our work in support of Network Rail with attendances at Macclesfield station to promote Brew Monday and the Small Talk Saves Lives project. In addition we have delivered talks and awareness sessions to local businesses and organisations. We are always looking for new ways to raise awareness and give support within our community.

We continue to support HMP Styal but for various reasons, there were insufficient trained Listeners within the prison. Our Prison Team were committed to providing emotional support until the Listener Scheme could resume and so they undertook the Listener role themselves, providing face-to-face support for two three-hour shifts every week. We are immensely proud of them for going beyond their remit and taking on this often challenging role. I am pleased to report that a new group of Listeners are undergoing training and should shortly be relieving our Prison Team.

We were pleased to be recognised by Central Office as a branch whose written word responses to caller was of high quality. As a result, Macclesfield Branch will continue to respond to email callers until the planned transfer of these calls to the central Email Hub. All of our volunteers who either write the emails or check them completed the mandatory training by the deadline date.

In the aftermath of Covid when it was so difficult to get together in person, we have been organising a range of social events so that we can re-connect- especially with newly trained volunteers who we have only seen on Zoom. These events ranged from larger scale nights out (two were held at the Snow Goose in September and December 2022 with brilliant entertainment provided by the Congleton Ukulele band including our very own Dave 39), to smaller events e.g. ten-pin bowling, pub lunches, country walks (ending at a pub), escape

room challenges, games afternoons etc. All were well attended and helped to maintain our very strong team spirit, which was recognised in our previously mentioned inspection.

The year to the end of March 2023 was, as always, full of challenges but we are proud of the manner in which we have overcome obstacles that might have impeded our ability to provide the best possible support for our callers. I look forward to the next part of the challenge in the knowledge that Samaritans of Macclesfield and District are a strong and robust team.

Zoe Smith
Branch Director.

Treasurer's Report for 2022/23

It is sufficient under Charity Commission rules (because we are only a small charity) to produce Receipts and Payments Accounts and these are attached.

Total revenue for the twelve-month period ending 31st March 2022 amounted to £60,725 (2022: £192,251). In the previous year we received a significant legacy of £50,000 and sold our Boden Street shop.


Significant revenue is received from our charity shop and eBay sales, together totalling £47,953 (2022: £30,295). The shop traded gradually better as COVID 19 restrictions reduced.

Total running costs were £93,703 (2022: £53,121). This figure of running costs included a donation to Barrow branch of £10,000 and a Branch Contribution to Samaritans Central Office of £32,585. This contribution is based on a standard formula and was so large because of the sale of the Boden Street shop and the legacy mentioned above. It 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 £32,979 (2022 surplus £139,130).

On 28th March 2023, we purchased the freehold of our shop plus the building offices and storage area on the 1st and 2nd floor for £200,000 plus additional associated costs; this will save us rent and storage costs and provide both the shop and eBay operation with more space and secures an excellent shop location for the future.

Cash reserves at 31st March 2023 totalled £14,476 (2022: £254,488). Having significantly depleted our cash reserves by the purchase of the shop, the Trustees aim is to rebuild our reserves so that they cover 12 months expenditure.



Keith Anderson
Honorary Treasurer
3rd June 2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

Charity No:
1170130

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st April 2022		31st March 2023

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	7,931	-	-	7,931	59,584
Ebay Sales	7,963	-	-	7,963	373
Fundraising	987	-	-	987	-
Gift Aid	1,048	-	-	1,048	1,588
Investment Income	779	-	-	779	183
Prison Grant	2,026	-	-	2,026	3,169
Shop income	39,990	-	-	39,990	29,922
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	60,725	-	-	60,725	94,819
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	97,432
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	97,432
Total receipts	60,725	-	-	60,725	192,251
A3 Payments					
Heat, Light and Water	1,974	-	-	1,974	1,835
Repairs and renewals	25	-	-	25	302
Cleaning & Housekeeping	1,260	-	-	1,260	1,845
Telephone, IT and office costs	4,208	-	-	4,208	4,270
Insurance	1,123	-	-	1,123	1,139
Office Rent	11,000	-	-	11,000	11,000
Volunteer training & support	2,824	-	-	2,824	1,080
Volunteer Recognition	977	-	-	977	1,411
Gifts	127	-	-	127	-
Travel expenses	6,810	-	-	6,810	4,064
Donation to Barrow branch	10,000	-	-	10,000	-
Listener	173	-	-	173	10,858
Prison costs	903	-	-	903	233
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Shop Rent	7,000	-	-	7,000	7,000
Shop heat light and water	1,223	-	-	1,223	997
Other shop expenses	2,215	-	-	2,215	2,045
Storage	968	-	-	968	1,032
Independent Examiner	-	-	-	-	250
Branch Contribution	32,585	-	-	32,585	2,648
Outreach expenses	8,306	-	-	8,306	1,072
Sub total	93,703	-	-	93,703	53,121
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment, Fixtures and Fittings	6,073	-	-	6,073	-
Land and Buildings	200,960	-	-	200,960	-
Sub total	207,033	-	-	207,033	-
Total payments	300,736	-	-	300,736	53,121
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 240,012	-	-	- 240,012	139,130
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	254,488	-	-	254,488	-
Cash funds this year end	14,476	-	-	14,476	139,130

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	10,972	-	-
	Co-op Bank Account	3,504		
	Nat West bank account	-	-	-
	HSBC Bank account	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,476	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Land and Buildings		200,960	-
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		13,138	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Boe Smith	ZOE SMITH	16-8-23	
	Dot Hully	DOT HULLEY	16-8-23	



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 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1170130

Set out on pages

5 & 6

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31/03/2023.

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:

- 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:

Melissa Bowers

Date:

09/08/2023

Name:

Melissa Bowers

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

FCCA

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