

Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

Annual Report and Accounts for 12 months ended 31st March 2024

Board of Trustees

Director:	Zoe Smith	(from 1 st April 2022)
Chair, Trustee and Secretary:	Dorothy Hulley	(from 2 nd July 2017)
Treasurer:	Keith Anderson	(from 26 th June 2020)
Trustee:	Anthony Hilton	(from 18 th September 2017- 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	Linda Pyatt	(from 18 th September 2017- 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	Jean Cope	(from 16 th September 2019)
Trustee:	Tessa Hammersley	(from 1 st December 2020)
Trustee:	Frances Gathercole	(from 8 th July 2021)
Trustee:	Sarra Hoy	(from 1 December 2020- 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	LeElla Wagg	(from 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	Katrina Hyde	(from 24 th January 2024)
Trustee:	Robert Hammersley	(from 24 th January 2024)

Independent Examiner: Melissa Bowers,
Harts Limited,
Westminster House,
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Macclesfield. SK10 1BX

9, King Edward Street,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire, SK10 1AQ
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 2023-2024

It was another eventful and busy year at Macclesfield and District Samaritans. The year started with the completion of our purchase of 69-71 Pickford Street – our Charity Shop. This shop is our main source of income and we are enormously grateful to our shop manager, LeElla and our eBay expert, Maureen, (not to mention the many shop volunteers who give up their valuable time every week). During this last year, Trustees and other interested parties have been researching how to refurbish this property to maximise the retail space and improve this substantial asset going forward. It is an exciting project.

We marked the placing of our bespoke Samaritans benches in West Park Macclesfield with a "Benches and Bubbles" party- sadly the weather didn't co-operate but despite the wind and rain, Sarra did an amazing job to swiftly decamp and move the party to the branch. We hope that many local users of the park will use these facilities to engage in conversation, supporting the "Small Talk Saves Lives" campaign.

We were honoured by a visit from the High Sheriff of Cheshire who met with a group of Trustees, Deputy Directors and listening volunteers to find out more about the work of Samaritans. She was a delightful lady and was clearly much impressed by all that she saw and heard about- so much so that she tweeted about us on her much viewed social media page.

We were thrilled to be shortlisted for the North Cheshire Business Awards. Zoe 8 and Linda 76 attended the awards ceremony where we were presented with a Bronze Certificate for being the 3rd best Charity in the north west.

Sarra 146 organised a series of talks from outside speakers, as well as tapping into the expertise of some of our own Listening and support volunteers. These included talks on Self Harm from Satveer,

which was so very helpful to increase our understanding of the many and complex emotions behind this emotive subject. We were entertained and enthralled by the talk linked to the Chimp Paradox. Our own John 66 gave us background to the work that Childline do, and Robert 68s partner Claire told us about how the NHS and other agencies work with people with mental health.

Our DD for Volunteer support (Beks72) initiated a series of informal meetings that we are calling "Huddles". Each of these sessions gives volunteers the opportunity to discuss issues from calls they have taken and to explore in more depth some of the important topics that have been raised locally or centrally. These include ending call, identifying, logging, and dealing with inappropriate callers and delving more deeply into how calls of a sexual nature can impact on us as listening volunteers. An incentive for attendees is that there is always something nice to eat.

Our training team were pleased to be able to return to face-to-face Core Training, after needing to train via Zoom during the pandemic. Two cohorts of trainees have successfully completed their Core Training and been welcomed into the Ops room as either Full or Probationary listening volunteers.

We have again been busy with our Outreach work delivering sessions to schools including Kings School and Poynton High School. We also continued our work in support of Network Rail with attendances at Macclesfield, and other local train stations, 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 and been a presence at the local Pride events. We are always looking for new ways to raise awareness and give support within our community.

We continue to support HMP Styal where there continue to be insufficient trained Listeners for a number of reasons. We are immensely proud of our Prison Team for often going beyond their remit and taking on the challenging role of listening to prisoners themselves.

As always filling the rota is an on-going task and over the year the shift patterns have been adjusted, especially the hours of need (or anti-social) shifts. It was pleasing to note that overall, we increased our hours of need minutes. At the start of the year, we averaged 19 minutes per active volunteer but by the end of the year we averaged 48 minutes per active volunteer.

A group of Macclesfield volunteers attended the North West conference in April, where we heard a moving talk from one of the "3 dads walking". Of course, another highlight of conference is the chance to mix with Samaritans from other branches in the discussion groups and at the evening Fancy Dress party. There are photos from the event, but perhaps not for general viewing!

Social activities were organised and enjoyed. Our Christmas party, despite the awful weather, was a great night out, entertained by the amazing Ukulele band. Other social events have included pub lunches, country walks (to a pub!!), ten pin bowling, crafting...to name but a few. We also had a joint celebration of Macclesfield Samaritan's 60th birthday alongside with the Samaritans 70th birthday. We are always open to suggestions for other events where we can not only enjoy ourselves but also get to know newer volunteers.

The year to the end of March 2024 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 2023/24

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 2024 amounted to £70,566 (2023: £60,725).

Significant revenue is received from our charity shop and eBay sales, totalling £50,197 (2023: £47,953).

Donations totalled £13,012 (2023: 7,931) and were boosted by a £5,000 legacy from a past Director.

Total running costs were £40,273 (2023: £93,703). The total running costs for 2023 included a donation to Barrow branch of £10,000 and a Branch Contribution to Samaritans Central Office of £32,585 which were one off items.

Because of the purchase of Pickford Street shop at the end of March 2023, rent ceased to be paid, resulting in a saving of £7,000 per annum. Other than that, expenses were well controlled and similar to the previous year.

The net Receipts for the year were £30,283 (2023 : Net Payments 240,012)

Cash reserves at 31st March 2024 totalled £44,759 (2023 £14,476). Having significantly depleted our cash reserves by the purchase of the shop in the previous year, the Trustees aim was to rebuild our reserves so that they cover 12 months expenditure. This was achieved in the year, our cash balance being £44,759 compared to total expenditure of £40,273.

Keith Anderson
14th June 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Samaritans of Macclesfield and District

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st April 2023		31st March 2024

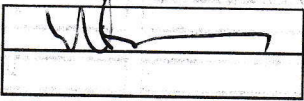
Section A Receipts and payments

	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	13,012	-	-	13,012	7,931
Ebay Sales	14,608	-	-	14,608	7,963
Fundraising	1,876	-	-	1,876	987
Gift Aid	823	-	-	823	1,048
Investment Income	418	-	-	418	779
Prison Grant	4,229	-	-	4,229	2,026
Shop income	35,589	-	-	35,589	39,990
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	70,556	-	-	70,556	60,725
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale of premises	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	70,556	-	-	70,556	60,725
A3 Payments					
Heat, Light and Water	4,015	-	-	4,015	1,974
Repairs and renewals	-	-	-	-	25
Cleaning & Housekeeping	1,644	-	-	1,644	1,260
Telephone, IT and office costs	5,157	-	-	5,157	4,208
Insurance	1,812	-	-	1,812	1,123
Office Rent	11,000	-	-	11,000	11,000
Volunteer training & support	179	-	-	179	2,824
Volunteer Recognition	88	-	-	88	977
Gifts	192	-	-	192	127
Travel expenses	6,026	-	-	6,026	6,810
Donation to Barrow branch	-	-	-	-	10,000
Listener	1,045	-	-	1,045	173
Prison costs	1,492	-	-	1,492	903
Fundraising expenses	332	-	-	332	-
Shop Rent	1,750	-	-	1,750	7,000
Shop heat light and water	2,668	-	-	2,668	1,223
Other shop expenses	1,759	-	-	1,759	2,215
Storage	6	-	-	6	968
Independent Examiner	600	-	-	600	-
Branch Contribution	1,530	-	-	1,530	32,585
Outreach expenses	2,360	-	-	2,360	8,306
50th Celebration	117	-	-	117	-
Sub total	40,273	-	-	40,273	93,703
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment, Fixtures and Fittings	-	-	-	-	6,073
Land and Buildings	-	-	-	-	200,960
Sub total	-	-	-	-	207,033
Total payments	40,273	-	-	40,273	300,736
Net of receipts/(payments)	30,283	-	-	30,283	- 240,012
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,476	-	-	14,476	-
Cash funds this period end	44,759	-	-	44,759	- 240,012

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	42,390		-
	Co-op Bank Account	2,369	-	-
	Total cash funds	44,759	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Land and Buildings		200,960	-
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment		6,073	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	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: **IAN KEITH ANDERSON**

Date of approval: **14/8/2024**



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

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 2024

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 31/03/2024.

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; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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:

MVC Bowers

Date:

29/08/24

Name:

Melissa Bowers

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

FCCA

Address:

Harts Limited, Westminster House

10 Westminster House, Macclesfield, Cheshire

SK10 1BX

Dorothy Hully (Trustee)
Joe Smith (Director)