

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Charity Commission Registered No 1170711

**THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The principal objective of the charity is to provide assistance to individuals who are suicidal, despairing or in distress and to advance education by providing society with a better understanding of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings that may lead to suicide.

Charity Commission 1170711

Trustees Margaret Jepson
Monica Devlin
Paula Fairbairn
Susan Ling - resigned 21st September 2022
Susan Clarke (ex officio)
Judith Houghton - appointed 21st September 2022
John Littlewood - resigned 21st September 2022
Janine Clitheroe
Jayne Leek - resigned 31st January 2023
Jane Houghton-Fenning

Registered addresss 105 New Park Street
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB2 1DF

Bankers Natwest Bank
35 King William Street
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 7DL

Independent Examiner Reverend Alan A Clements
15 Carleton Road
Great Knowley
Chorley
PR6 8TQ

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees of The Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley have pleasure in presenting their Report and unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023. The legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The Financial Statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare statements of account for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2000. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley is a branch of the national Samaritans organisation but is a separate registered charity with independent management.

The governing body is the Branch Leadership Team, led by Margaret Jepson from June 2019, with 5 trustees elected at the Annual General Meeting by members of the branch and 2 trustees selected by the Director by virtue of their office holding responsibilities in the branch. The Trustees of the branch have met 6 times during this financial year to discuss branch leadership matters. For each of the meetings the Director and Secretary produced an agenda. Each agenda included items for discussion on finance, health and safety, risk management, publicity, fundraising, recruitment and prison matters.

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES REPORT

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

New Trustees are nominated and seconded by other members and a vote takes place at the Annual General Meeting (or alternatively at an Extraordinary General Meeting) if there are more nominations than vacancies.) All newly appointed trustees attend a formal meeting with the Director and are given a list of Trustee Responsibilities which are fully explained. They also take an online training course created by Samaritans Central Office and are presented with a certificate upon successful completion.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities, which is an annual process.

The Branch Leadership Team feel that as Trustees we have met and overseen our responsibilities in the best interest of all at the Branch.

Objectives

The objects of the Charity are:

To support people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those who may be at risk of suicide, to receive confidential emotional support at any time of the day or night in order to improve their emotional health and to reduce the incidence of suicide;

To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and

To collaborate with and support Samaritans Central Charity and its affiliated branches in fulfilling these objectives.

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES REPORT

Key Objectives

To maintain the service provided to our callers.

To provide ongoing support to our volunteers to enable them to continue to deliver our service.

To continue to recruit volunteers in order to deliver the best possible service.

Headline Performance

We have increased the number of hours that the branch is open to meet the needs of callers during the night.

All volunteers completed mandatory digital training modules and prepared for reintroduction of our face to face service.

There have been three cohorts of volunteers trained during the year, a welcome addition to our total number of volunteers.

Director's Report 2023

This report must begin with thanks to the Branch Leadership Team who agreed to serve for another year, when they should have been replaced. Unfortunately the person selected by the Branch to be the new Director was unable to take up the position. In order to continue the smooth running of the Branch, the existing team agreed to continue for a further year.

The major change in the Branch has been the provision of two shifts which cover the whole of the night, from 11.00pm - 5.00am the following day. This was in response to a call from Central Office to meet the challenge of increasing the number of volunteers available for calls during these hours. The hours between 2.00am and 6am are regarded as hot spots in terms of demand. This is when you cannot call friends or family however supportive, when you feel that you need someone to talk to. Volunteers are to be commended for meeting this challenge at a time when our callers need us most.

The reasons why callers use our service change little, they are mental health issues, family issues, loneliness and isolation and relationship issues. The figures for callers feeling lonely and isolated grew during the pandemic and remain higher than in pre-pandemic times. Those expressing suicidal feelings were about 14% of our callers nationwide.

**THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES REPORT**

Director's Report 2023 (continued)

The responses from our volunteers are welcomed by our callers. Samaritans' research showed that people reported a significant reduction in stress after calling Samaritans, on a scale of 10 feeling stress at 7.4 at the beginning of the call and 4.7 at the end of the call. 70% still felt better one week after calling. We cannot solve problems for our callers but what we can do, and will, is to give of our time to listen. Outcome research showed that 74% felt listened to, 74% felt they had options for dealing with difficult situations, 70% more hopeful for the future and 67% felt better able to cope with everyday life. These are excellent outcomes and are testament to the training and professional approach of all our volunteers.

Thanks to our excellent Recruitment and Selection team and our Training team, we have continued to recruit and train new volunteers. We have been able to maintain our goal of training three new cohorts each year, as we always need to replace those volunteers who have had to resign due to a change in their circumstances and we welcome our new volunteers.

Our major contribution outside the Branch is in the support that we provide for Listeners in HMP Garth. Nationally there has been a rise in suicides in prisons and as a Branch we have had an increased number of calls from prisoners. Staffing issues often mean that prisoners are subject to restrictions on prisoner movement that causes some distress. Thanks to Sue 26 and the prison team for their support of the Listeners in Garth and particular thanks to the Listeners who were able to support their fellow prisoners.

Fund raising continues to be a focus for the Branch as our expenditure means that we have had to draw on our reserves. Legacies played a big part in our income over the pandemic period and increased fund raising opportunities are slowly adding to our income. The Pay for a Day team continues to contact local businesses who contribute annually to support our service. Thanks to Jean 26 and Joan 27 who run the scheme and our local business community for their continuing support.

This will be the end of my service as Director and a new Director will take over for the next financial year. It has been a pleasure to serve the Branch, who are an extraordinary group of people, hard working, reliable and good fun to work with. Thank you to all our volunteers. As the publicity states, we are all ordinary people doing extraordinary work.

**THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES REPORT**

Financial Review

The Branch has recorded a deficit on unrestricted funds of £18,422 for the year, (2022, £26,792)

Reserves Policy

The Trustees take into consideration the level of reserves to be held for the prudent management of the operating expenditure, commitments and contingencies of the branch.

In normal circumstances the Trustees aim to hold reserves at a minimum the equivalent to normal operating expenditure over an 18 month period.

However, due to the current economic situation, the Trustees feel that it would be prudent to hold all reserves indefinitely to meet ongoing expenditure only. Until the economic situation improves, our previous policy of making excess reserves available for the benefit of the Samaritan organisation as a whole, will be suspended. The Trustees will review this policy periodically.

Investment Policy

The Trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds, taking account of the requirement that such investments must be secure and that the value of the capital involved must be maintained. The Trustees feel that the investment in National Savings Income Bonds satisfies these criteria. At 31st March 2023 investments held were £81,000 (2022, £60,000) with interest received during the year of £894 (2022, £59).

The charity also has a bank current account which at the year end held £49,607 (2022, £74,511).

Risk Assessment

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to assess and manage the risks that face the organisation and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

Independent Examiner

A resolution to appoint Reverend Alan A Clements as independent examiner will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES REPORT

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on *29TH JUNE 2023* and signed on it's behalf by:



Margaret Jepson
Trustee



Judith Houghton
Trustee



Janine Clitheroe
Trustee

The Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley
105 New Park Street
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB2 1DF

**THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Samaritans of Blackburn with
Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley**

I report on the financial statements of The Samaritans of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- 1) examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- 2) to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 3) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence which would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord to the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion should be drawn in order to enable the proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alan A. Clements

Rev'd Alan A Clements

15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley, PR6 8TQ

Dated *10th July 2023*

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
		Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Note						
Income and endowments							
Donations, grants and							
legacies	4	16,688	3,731	20,419	17,489	2,242	19,731
Trading activities	5	6,737	0	6,737	2,830	0	2,830
Investment income	6	<u>894</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>894</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>59</u>
Total income		24,319	3,731	28,050	20,378	2,242	22,620
 Expenditure	 7	 <u>42,741</u>	 <u>6,238</u>	 <u>48,979</u>	 <u>47,170</u>	 <u>51</u>	 <u>47,221</u>
 Net expenditure							
and net movement of funds		<u>(18,422)</u>	<u>(2,507)</u>	<u>(20,929)</u>	<u>(26,792)</u>	<u>2,191</u>	<u>(24,601)</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (Loss)	(20,929)	(24,601)
Adjustments for depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,312	4,077
Changes in:		
Debtors and prepayments	(212)	1,190
Creditors and accruals	3,131	7,667
Net cash movements	<u>(15,698)</u>	<u>(11,667)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and equivalents	(15,698)	(11,667)
Cash and equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>145,918</u>	<u>157,585</u>
Cash and equivalents at the end of the year	<u>130,220</u>	<u>145,918</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

		2023	2023	2022	2022
		£	£	£	£
	NOTE				
Tangible fixed assets	13		140,506		142,818
Current assets					
National Savings Income Bonds		81,000		60,000	
Debtors and prepayments		1,474		1,262	
Business reserve account		0		11,084	
Cash at bank		49,067		74,511	
Cash in hand		<u>153</u>		<u>323</u>	
		131,694		147,180	
Current liabilities					
Sundry creditors and accruals		542		682	
NBC accrual		<u>19,408</u>		<u>16,137</u>	
Net current assets			111,744		130,361
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>252,250</u>		<u>273,179</u>
Reserves as at 1st April 2022			273,179		297,780
Net loss for the year			<u>(20,929)</u>		<u>(24,601)</u>
Reserves at 31st March 2023			<u>252,250</u>		<u>273,179</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds			650		3,157
Unrestricted income funds			<u>251,600</u>		<u>270,022</u>
			<u>252,250</u>		<u>273,179</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29TH JUNE 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Margaret Jepson
Trustee



Judith Houghton
Trustee



Janine Clitheroe
Trustee

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1 General information

The charity is a registered charity and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

2 Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3 Accounting Policies

- a Basis of preparation - these accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.
- b Going concern - the trustees see no material uncertainties concerning the charity's ability to continue in operation.
- c Fund accounting - unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment. Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor and fall into one of two classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.
- d Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when received. Gifts in kind are valued and brought in as income and the appropriate expenditure.
- e Gross fundraising income from events organised by the charity itself is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when received. Where deemed material, fundraising proceeds not yet received by the charity at the year end have also been taken to income at the trustees estimate of likely receivable amount.
- f Covenants, Gift Aid and other income receivable by the charity in respect of which a claim for repayment of tax has or will be made, is grossed up for the tax recoverable and this gross amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

3 Accounting Policies (continued)

- g Income from legacies is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when received or when the trustees are satisfied that the charity has a legally enforceable right of receipt of a conservative measurable sum.
- h Revenue grants for immediate financial support and assistance are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on receipt and on satisfaction of any preconditions.
- i Costs of generating funds are those incurred in fund raising, publicity and public relations.
- j Support costs represent the costs of managing and administering the charity.
- k Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets of material value held by the charity for its own use on a straight line basis so as to write off their cost over their estimated useful lives as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Freehold property | At valuation |
| Fixtures and fittings | 4 years |
| Computers | 3 years |
| Telephony | 2 years |
- l No provision for taxation is included in the accounts as the charity is entitled to the exemption from tax afforded by Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
4 Donations and legacies						
Donations	9,832	0	9,832	14,222	0	14,222
Grants	6,856	3,731	10,587	3,005	2,242	5,247
Legacies	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>262</u>
	16,688	3,731	20,419	17,489	2,242	19,731
5 Trading Activities						
Fundraising events	6,737	0	6,737	2,830	0	2,830
6 Investment income						
Savings bond interest	<u>894</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>894</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>59</u>
	<u>24,319</u>	<u>3,731</u>	<u>28,050</u>	<u>20,378</u>	<u>2,242</u>	<u>22,620</u>
7 Cost of activities						
Utility costs	1,457	526	1,983	1,984	0	1,984
Canteen and cleaning	2,670	0	2,670	2,543	0	2,543
Repairs and renewals	2,297	0	2,297	591	0	591
Conference and training	3,410	0	3,410	1,401	0	1,401
Travel	4,129	1,050	5,179	3,984	0	3,984
Postage and stationery	354	0	354	425	0	425
Telephones/IT	1,466	424	1,890	2,525	0	2,525
Insurance	1,007	0	1,007	891	0	891
Publicity and recruitment	1,755	4,238	5,993	2,880	0	2,880
NBC fees	19,123	0	19,123	16,133	0	16,133
Depreciation	2,312	0	2,312	4,077	0	4,077
Sundries	1,541	0	1,541	1,891	0	1,891
Fundraising costs	1,220	0	1,220	345	0	345
Schools Project	0	0	0	0	51	51
Listener Anniversary Film	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,500</u>
	<u>42,741</u>	<u>6,238</u>	<u>48,979</u>	<u>47,170</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>47,221</u>

8 Net Income

Net income is stated after charging:

Depreciation of fixtures and fittings

£2,312

9 Independent Examiners fee

The independent examiner received payment of £100 . No expenses were incurred.

THE SAMARITANS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN, HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

10 Employee and staff costs

There were no employees during the year and therefore no staff costs.

11 Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

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 its volunteers in connection with its charitable activities.

12 Indemnity Insurance

The Samaritans have centrally provided professional indemnity insurance to protect volunteers, trustees and other volunteer members of all Samaritan branches..

13 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1st April 2022 and at 31st March 2023	<u>163,257</u>	<u>12,315</u>	<u>175,572</u>
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2022	23,257	9,497	32,754
Charge for the year	<u>0</u>	<u>2,312</u>	<u>2,312</u>
At 31st March 2023	<u>23,257</u>	<u>11,809</u>	<u>35,066</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31st March 2023	<u>140,000</u>	<u>506</u>	<u>140,506</u>

In November 2020 a professional valuation of the property was carried out by T V Shaw Ltd. The valuation resulted in a deficit on cost of £23,257.