



Chester & District Samaritans CIO

Registered charity number:
1170862

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st March 2021**

Registered office:

36 Upper Northgate Street
CHESTER. CH1 4EF

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended :

31st March 2021

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021.

LEGAL STATUS

Chester and District Samaritans CIO is registered with the Charity Commission. The Registered Charity Number is 1170862. The charity is governed by its Rules, which are in force since the charity was registered on 20 December 2016. It came into operation on 1 April 2017 when it took over the operations, assets and liabilities of the former charity Samaritans of Chester & District (Reg. No. 256460). This change took place at the behest of the Samaritans Central Charity to improve the operation of the service. Chester & District Samaritans is an affiliated branch of Samaritans Central Charity.

OBJECTIVES OF CHESTER & DISTRICT SAMARITANS

Samaritans exist to provide confidential support to anyone going through crisis and in danger of taking their own lives and to befriend the lonely, distressed and despairing, 365 days a year.

INVESTMENT POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS

The Trustees are required to keep a general bank account and any other accounts for specific purposes. All money not required for current expenses shall be invested. The reserves policy is described on page 4.

It has two current accounts with HSBC Bank plc. One is for branch general expenses and the other is used by Friends for fund-raising. There is also a savings account with Virgin Money.

THE BRANCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chester & District Samaritans has a branch leadership team consisting of Trustees and Deputy Directors. The Trustees are elected by the branch membership and are responsible for maintaining the branch premises and all the facilities necessary for the continued safe and secure operation of the listening service. There are usually six Trustees: The Director, Treasurer, Secretary and three others who take responsibility for fund-raising, Health & Safety and building maintenance. The Deputy Directors are appointed by the Director to look after specific areas of branch operations.

The full leadership team meets at least four times per year but the Trustees and Directors also meet separately as and when required.

THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Director / Chair	Mr	Michael	Nicol
Treasurer	Mr	John	Milnes
Secretary	Mrs	Barbara	Smith
Trustee	Mrs	Lesley	Brown
Trustee	Mrs	Beverly	Grimshaw
Trustee	Mr	Bernard	Woods

RESULTS

The financial results for the year, and the charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Chester and District Samaritans are available to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair including those which may lead to suicide. This service is provided by an average of 89 listening volunteers backed up by 16 support volunteers whose primary aim is fund-raising.

The branch would normally be open to visitors from 10:00 until 18:00 everyday of the year. Unfortunately, owing to Covid-19 restrictions, it has not been possible to meet face-to-face callers this year. During this period 13237 telephone contacts have been received and 5473 e-mails responded to. The branch has also participated in the trial of the on-line chat service and has been manning 3 shifts per week for this service dealing with 225 contacts.

Covid has also stopped most Outreach activities. The film made last year with Storyhouse has been made available but could only be tested in a couple of secondary schools before lockdown. Contact has been maintained with various local community groups and Outreach talks will continue as soon as conditions allow. A podcast interview was made for a company's staff wellbeing programme explaining what Samaritans do and how they can help with people they know.

It is the role of the branch prison team to support the Listeners at HMP Berwyn in their work, we do not 'listen' ourselves. Support is provided via regular meetings and emails with the Listeners and also by working with the prison authorities to find a way, for sometimes uncomfortable purposes, to co-exist.

2020 was a particularly difficult year inside prisons. 'Lock-up' was over 23 hours a day and many inmates did not see their families during the year. Self-inflicted deaths are known to be six times more likely in a prison than in the general population; we don't know yet what the impact of Covid will be. Under trying circumstances the Listener teams took over 7,000 calls and will have had many more informal conversations with those in need.

Funding was provided from a variety of sources. We benefited from donations by Westminster Foundation, Timpsons, Ardagh Metal among others. We have also qualified for Covid-19 grants from HMG Small Business Grants and Pears Foundation. In September 2019, the branch was chosen by staff on the Eaton Estate, part of the Grosvenor Estate, to be their Adopted Charity for two years. Working with the Friends group, this connection continues to raise substantial funds for the branch even in these difficult times.

A more detailed description of our activities can be found in the Annual Report submitted to our 2021 AGM.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Whitehead was confirmed as the Independent Examiner at the 2020 AGM

Signed by order of the Trustees



Honorary Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHESTER AND DISTRICT SAMARITANS CIO CHARITY NUMBER: 1170862

I report on the accounts of Chester & District Samaritans CIO (the Charity) for the year ended 31st March 2021. The Charity prepares receipts and payments accounts and had an income less than £250,000 in the relevant financial year.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the Charity, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

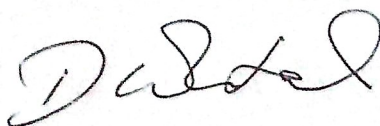
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe in any material respect that:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
- or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Whitehead F.C.C.A.
21 Highlander Road
Saighton
Chester CH3 6DH

Dated: 18/07/2021



RESERVES POLICY

The branch currently holds cash reserves of £134,356

These reserves are deemed necessary for 3 purposes:

- 1 Support for on-going operations. The branch is heavily reliant on fund-raising for income and this can be variable depending on the success of particular fund-raising initiatives. It is, therefore, deemed sensible to maintain reserves equivalent to approximately 18 months expenses at minimum operating costs (£50,000) to protect the operations of the branch against significant fluctuations in income.
- 2 A small fund that can be used to pay for unexpected outlays on maintenance of existing premises. This has been set at £10,000.
- 3 The work to refurbish and re-equip the training facilities on the upper floor has been completed at a cost of £24,000. This was partly funded by a Covid-19 grant (c. £7,000) with the remainder coming from designated reserves. This was less than anticipated so the remaining £21,000 of designated reserves have been released. Our income has also been higher than expected this year and expenditure lower, which means that our reserves have risen. The Branch Leadership Team will decide how best to use these reserves to improve the service we offer.

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS	6	<u>219,866</u>	<u>211,659</u>
CURRENT ASSETS	8		
Bank		134,356	119,232
CREDITORS	7	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>134,356</u>	<u>119,232</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>354,222</u>	<u>330,891.45</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
TOTAL FUNDS	8	<u>354,222</u>	<u>330,891</u>

The financial statements set out on pages 6 to 9 were approved by the Trustees on 20 July 2021 and were signed on their behalf by:



Sean Reavenscroft
Director



John Milnes
Treasurer

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended

31st March 2021

	Note	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Donations	2	54,368	54,368	-	35,000	35,000	-
Covid-19 Grants	2	17,135	17,135	-	-	-	-
HMPs prison team grant	2	2,568	1,027	1,540	4,634	975	3,659
Gift Aid Tax Relief	-	4,407	4,407	-	2,605	2,605	-
Interest receivable	3	419	419	-	601	601	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		78,897	77,356	1,540	42,840	39,181	3,659
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Costs of generating funds:							
Fundraising and publicity	5	6,068	6,068	-	3,904	3,904	-
Support costs	4	49,499	47,958	1,540	54,387	47,728	6,659
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		55,567	54,026	1,540	58,292	51,632	6,659
NET INCOMING RESOURCES							
		23,330	23,330	-	15,452	12,452	3,000
Funds brought forward		330,891	330,891	-	346,343	343,343	3,000
Revaluation of property	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Funds carried forward	8	354,222	354,222	-	330,891	330,891	-

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31st March 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention on a Receipts & Payments basis, generally as set out in Charity Commission guidance CC16.

Cash flow statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset bearing in mind that the office equipment is in use 24 hours per day. An asset list has been set up to aid calculation of the depreciation for each item.

Freehold property	See below
Office Equipment	25%
Fixtures & fittings	10%

In June 2015, the property was subjected to a revaluation by a chartered surveyor. The outcome of this survey was that the current value of the property, if sold on the open market, was now £165,000. Therefore, this is the value which is now displayed in these accounts. No further revaluation has been carried out in 2020/21.

2 DONATIONS

	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Voluntary donations	28,010	21,489
Covid-19 Grants	17,135	-
Friends of the Samaritans	26,085	13,243
HMPPS prison team grant	2,568	4,634
Gift Aid Tax Contribution	4,407	2,605
Other income	274	268
	<u>78,478</u>	<u>42,238</u>

3 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

	2021 £	2020 £
Bank interest receivable	419	601

4 SUPPORT COSTS

	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Cleaning contract	2,448	2,435
Office costs	30,748	30,236
Head Office Funding	4,017	6,641
Direct Costs	12,286	15,076
	<u>49,499</u>	<u>54,387</u>

5 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Cleaning contract £	Depreciation £	Other costs £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fundraising	0	0	658	658	3,650
Publicity	0	0	5,410	5,410	254
Support Costs	2,448	15,724	31,326	49,499	54,387
	<u>2,448</u>	<u>15,724</u>	<u>37,394</u>	<u>55,567</u>	<u>58,292</u>

Particulars of employees:

The average number of staff employed by the charity during the financial year amounted to:

	2021	2020
Number of support staff	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
COST				
At 31st March 2020	165,000	19,342	126,779	311,121
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Additions	0	6,469	17,462	23,931
At 31st March 2021	165,000	25,811	144,241	335,052
DEPRECIATION				
At 31st March 2020	0	16,986	82,476	99,461
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	0	2,627	13,098	15,724
At 31st March 2021	-	19,613	95,573	115,186
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st March 2020	165,000	2,356	44,304	211,659
At 31st March 2021	165,000	6,198	48,668	219,866

7 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Creditors	-	-
	-	-

8 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets			Total £
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £	
Total funds	219,866	134,356	0	0	354,222