



**Chester & District Samaritans CIO**

Registered charity number:  
1170862

**REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31st March 2023**

**Registered office:**

36 Upper Northgate Street  
CHESTER. CH1 4EF

# **Chester & District Samaritans CIO**

## **REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended :

31st March 2023

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## **Chester & District Samaritans CIO**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023

### **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 a current account with HSBC Bank plc for branch general expenses. 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	Ms	Lynne	Casey
Treasurer	Mr	John	Milnes
Secretary	Mrs	Barbara	Smith
Trustee	Mr	Steffan	Roughsedge
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 73 listening volunteers backed up by 12 support volunteers whose primary aim is fund-raising.

The branch has not yet re-opened to visitors so it has not been possible to meet face-to-face callers this year. During this period 15026 telephone contacts have been received and 916 e-mails responded to. The branch has continued to support the on-line chat service and has been manning 4 shifts per week for this service dealing with 714 contacts.

Outreach - We have started to get back out within our communities to develop contacts, show who we are, and show our support to community events. The Outreach and Publicity teams have been on the ball this year with getting us out to some key community events and we need to push this further to help our local communities with support for those in emotional need.

Prison Team - Our Samaritan trained Listener teams have continued to offer vital support to men who are struggling to cope with their time in prison. The COVID pandemic made access to Listeners problematic at times but it is now returning to normal. Officers have worked with our Listeners to ensure, where possible, that when a prisoner asks for a Listener, he is able to see one.

Statistics show that the risk of dying by suicide is significantly higher in UK prisons than in the general population. Our vision, both Listeners and Samaritans is that fewer people die by suicide.

Funding was provided from a variety of sources. We benefited from donations by Timpsons, Altonover, Heswall Methodist group among others as well as generous donations from private benefactors. Fund-raising was again difficult and Friends activities were much curtailed.

A more detailed description of our activities can be found in the Annual Report submitted to our 2023 AGM.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Whitehead was confirmed as the Independent Examiner at the 2022 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 2023. 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: 17 August 2023



**RESERVES POLICY**

The branch currently holds cash reserves of £143,767

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 (£60,000) 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 £15,000.
- 3 As expected, our income was significantly reduced in 2022/23 following the ending of our adopted charity status. However, capital expenditure was also low and expenses didn't rise as much as expected. Our cash reserves declined by just over £6,000 during the year. The ending of a favourable energy supply contract will mean significantly higher expenses in 2023/24 so a further decline in the reserves held will be required to maintain the service supplied by the charity.

## Chester & District Samaritans CIO

### BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS	6	<u>190,658</u>	<u>204,805</u>
CURRENT ASSETS	8		
Bank		143,767	150,037
CREDITORS	7	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>143,767</u>	<u>150,037</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>334,425</u>	<u>354,842</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
TOTAL FUNDS	8	<u>334,425</u>	<u>354,842</u>

The financial statements set out on pages 6 to 9 were approved by the Trustees on 26 September 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:



Lynne Casey  
Director



John Milnes  
Treasurer

# Chester & District Samaritans CIO

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended

31st March 2023

	Note	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>							
Donations		22,266	-	22,266	43,332	-	43,332
Covid-19 Grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
HMPPS prison team grant		2,364	-	962	4,331	-	2,919
Gift Aid Tax Relief		3,372	-	3,372	3,105	-	3,105
Interest receivable		224	-	224	113	-	113
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>28,226</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,823</b>	<b>50,882</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,469</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>							
Costs of generating funds:		470	-	470	2,162	-	2,162
Fundraising and publicity		48,173	-	46,770	48,100	-	46,688
Support costs		48,643	-	47,240	50,262	-	48,849
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>97,286</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,480</b>	<b>100,524</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,659</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>							
		20,417	-	20,417	620	-	620
Funds brought forward		354,842	-	354,842	354,222	-	354,222
Revaluation of property		-	-	-	-	-	-
Funds carried forward		334,425	-	334,425	354,842	-	354,842

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 2022

### 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 2022/23. The next revaluation is planned for 2024/25.

### 2 DONATIONS

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£
Voluntary donations	15794	27460
Covid-19 Grants	0	0
Friends of the Samaritans	6142	15517
HMPPS prison team grant	2364	4331
Gift Aid Tax Contribution	3372	3105
Other income	330	355
	<u>28002</u>	<u>50769</u>

### 3 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	224	113

#### 4 SUPPORT COSTS

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cleaning contract	1,728	1,536
Office costs	27,573	29,213
Head Office Funding	10,083	6,328
Direct Costs	8,789	11,023
	<u>48,173</u>	<u>48,100</u>

#### 5 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Cleaning contract £	Depreciation £	Other costs £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fundraising	0	0	105	105	1,550
Publicity	0	0	365	365	612
Support Costs	1,728	14,768	31,677	48,173	48,100
	<u>1,728</u>	<u>14,768</u>	<u>32,146</u>	<u>48,643</u>	<u>50,262</u>

Particulars of employees:

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

	2023	2022
Number of support staff	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

## 6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
<b>COST</b>				
At 31st March 2022	165,000	26,534	144,241	335,775
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Additions	0	621	0	621
At 31st March 2023	<u>165,000</u>	<u>27,155</u>	<u>144,241</u>	<u>336,396</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 31st March 2022	0	22,311	108,658	130,970
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	0	2,265	12,503	14,768
At 31st March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>24,577</u>	<u>121,161</u>	<u>145,738</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31st March 2022	<u>165,000</u>	<u>4,222</u>	<u>35,583</u>	<u>204,805</u>
At 31st March 2023	<u>165,000</u>	<u>2,578</u>	<u>23,080</u>	<u>190,658</u>

## 7 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Creditors	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## 8 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets			Total £
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £	
Total funds	190,658	143,767	0	0	334,425