



Chester & District Samaritans CIO

Registered charity number:
1170862

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st March 2024**

Registered office:

36 Upper Northgate Street
CHESTER. CH1 4EF

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended :

31st March 2024

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The following pages do not form part of the financial statements

Detailed statement of financial activities	10, 11 & 12
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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 2024

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 five Trustees: The Director, Treasurer, Secretary and two others who take responsibility for Health & Safety and building maintenance. Responsibility for fund-raising is taken on by The Director currently. 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	
Secretary	Mrs	Barbara	Smith	
Trustee	Mr	Steffan	Roughsedge	
Trustee	Mr	Bernard	Woods	
Treasurer	Mr	Simon	Barrett	(From 26 Sept 23)
Trustee	Mr	John	Milnes	(to 25 Sept 23)
Trustee	Mrs	Beverly	Grimshaw	(to 1 Aug 23)

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 81 listening volunteers backed up by 10 support volunteers whose primary aim is fund-raising.

During this period 15,826 telephone contacts have been received and 653 e-mails responded to. The branch has continued to support the on-line chat service dealing with 991 contacts. Our outreach team have also supported 26 people face to face at events held in the Chester and District area.

Outreach - We have continued to work within our communities to develop contacts, show who we are, and show our support to community events. The Outreach and Publicity teams have attended some key community events and we will continue 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, Tarporley Rotary Club, University of Chester Law School and Squire Patton solicitors 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 2024 AGM.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Whitehead was confirmed as the Independent Examiner at the 2023 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 2024. 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: 12 July 2024

RESERVES POLICY

The branch currently holds cash reserves of £131,070

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 (£58,000) 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 Income increased during 2023/24 as a result of a prison grant uplift for the year from Samaritans central charity, plus the additional part payment of the 2024/25 prison grant in advance. There was no capital expenditure during the year but expenses were higher as a result of the increased activity supporting listeners at Berwyn prison, an increase in the annual contribution to the Samaritans central charity, and roof repairs to the owned property. As a result, our cash reserves declined by just under £13,000 during the year.

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS	6	183,872	190,658
CURRENT ASSETS	8		
Bank		131,070	143,767
CREDITORS	7	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		131,070	143,767
NET ASSETS		314,942	334,425
REPRESENTED BY:			
TOTAL FUNDS	8	314,942	334,425

The financial statements set out on pages 6 to 9 were approved by the Trustees on
6 August 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:



Lynne Casey
Director



Simon Barrett
Treasurer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

31st March 2024

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 2024

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 2023/24. The next revaluation is planned for 2024/25.

2 DONATIONS

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£
Voluntary donations	17,131	15,794
Friends of the Samaritans	4,120	6,142
HMPPS prison team grant	8,459	2,364
Gift Aid Tax Contribution	2,746	3,372
Other income	370	330
	<u>32,826</u>	<u>28,002</u>

3 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	535	224

4 SUPPORT COSTS

	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Office costs	29,245	29,301
Head Office Funding	11,645	10,083
Direct Costs	11,913	8,789
	<u>52,803</u>	<u>48,173</u>

5 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Depreciation £	Other costs £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising	0	39	39	105
Publicity	0	0	0	365
Support Costs	6,786	46,017	52,803	48,173
	<u>6,786</u>	<u>46,056</u>	<u>52,843</u>	<u>48,643</u>

Particulars of employees:

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

	2024	2023
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 2023	165,000	27,155	144,241	336,396
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Additions	0	0	0	0
At 31st March 2024	<u>165,000</u>	<u>27,155</u>	<u>144,241</u>	<u>336,396</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 31st March 2023	0	24,577	121,161	145,738
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	0	1,820	4,966	6,786
At 31st March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>26,397</u>	<u>126,127</u>	<u>152,524</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st March 2023	<u>165,000</u>	<u>2,578</u>	<u>23,080</u>	<u>190,658</u>
At 31st March 2024	<u>165,000</u>	<u>758</u>	<u>18,114</u>	<u>183,872</u>

7 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Creditors	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets			Total £
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £	
Total funds	183,872	131,070	0	0	314,942