



Chester & District Samaritans CIO

Registered charity number:
1170862

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st March 2025**

Registered office:

36 Upper Northgate Street
CHESTER. CH1 4EF

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended :

31st March 2025

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees' annual report	1 - 2
Independent examiner's report	3
Reserves Policy	4
Balance sheet	5
Statement of financial activities	6
Notes to the financial statements	7 - 9

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements

Detailed statement of financial activities	* 10, 11 & 12
--	---------------

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025

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 grow our branch to better support our local community, 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 four Trustees: The Director, Treasurer (who also takes responsibility for building maintenance), Secretary and another who takes responsibility for Health & Safety. 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	(to 5 Aug 24)
Trustee	Mr	Steffan	Roughsedge	(to 31 August 24)
Trustee	Mr	Bernard	Woods	
Treasurer	Mr	Simon	Barrett	
Secretary	Mrs	Sally-Marie	Roberts-Davies	(From 6 Aug 24)

Dennis

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 92 listening volunteers backed up by 11 support volunteers whose primary aim is fund-raising.

During this period 15,577 telephone contacts have been received and 689 e-mails responded to. The branch has continued to support the on-line chat service dealing with 968 contacts. Our outreach team have also supported 69 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 team 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. 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.

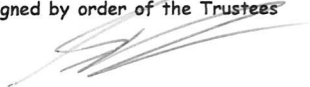
Funding was provided from a variety of sources. We benefited from donations by Paypal Giving fund, Tarporley Rotary Club, Bristol Myers Squibb, among others as well as generous donations from private benefactors. Fund-raising was again difficult during the year.

A more detailed description of our activities can be found in the Annual Report submitted to our 2025 AGM.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Whitehead was confirmed as the Independent Examiner at the 2024 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 2025. 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: 23 July 2025



RESERVES POLICY

The branch currently holds cash reserves of £135,621

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 Income increased during 2024/25 as a result of (1) a reduction on donations generally but an increase in private individual donations, (2) receiving the balance of 2023/24 prison grant with in the year in addition to the annual prison grant for the current year 2024/25, (3) a grant restricted for use on capital projects at the owned property, offset by (4) a lower gift aid receipt due to the annual 24/25 HMRC claim being delayed to 2025/26 year. New chairs for the Operations room and a new CCTV camera system were purchased as Capital expenditure during the year. Expenses were lower mainly as a result of the lower Berwyn prison expense claims, a decrease in the annual contribution to the Samaritans central charity, offset by a donation to support another Samaritans affiliated charity. As a result, our cash reserves increased by just over £4,000 during the year.

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS	6	266,677	183,872
CURRENT ASSETS	8		
Bank		135,621	131,070
CREDITORS	7	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		135,621	131,070
NET ASSETS		402,298	314,942
REPRESENTED BY:			
TOTAL FUNDS	8	402,298	314,942

The financial statements set out on pages 6 to 9 were approved by the Trustees on 5 September 2025 and were signed on their behalf by:



Lynne Casey
Director



Simon Barrett
Treasurer

Chester & District Samaritans CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st March 2025

	Note	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Donations		26,740	-	26,740	21,621	-	21,621
HMPSS Listener team grant		10,197	-	10,197	8,459	-	8,459
Grants		10,000	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid Tax Relief		228	-	228	2,746	-	2,746
Interest receivable		576	-	576	535	-	535
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		47,740	-	37,740	33,361	-	33,361
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Costs of generating funds:		-	-	-	39	-	39
Fundraising and publicity		45,385	-	45,385	52,804	-	52,804
Support costs		45,385	-	45,385	52,843	-	52,843
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		90,770	-	90,770	104,986	-	104,986
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES							
		2,355	-	7,645	10,000	-	19,482
Funds brought forward		314,942	314,942	-	334,425	334,425	-
Revaluation of property		85,000	85,000	-	-	-	-
Funds carried forward		402,298	392,298	10,000	314,942	314,942	-

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 2025

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%

New assets purchased in the year were chairs for the operations room.

In August 2024, 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 £250,000. Therefore, this is the value which is now displayed in these accounts. The next revaluation is planned for 2034/35.

2 DONATIONS

	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£
Voluntary donations	22,840	17,131
Friends of the Samaritans	3,900	4,120
HMPPS prison team grant	10,197	8,459
Gift Aid Tax Contribution	228	2,746
Grant	10,000	-
Other income	-	371
	<u>47,164</u>	<u>32,826</u>

3 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	576	535

4 SUPPORT COSTS

	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Office costs	27,251	29,245
Head Office Funding	7,186	11,645
Direct Costs	10,948	11,913
	<u>45,385</u>	<u>52,803</u>

5 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Depreciation £	Other costs £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fundraising	0	0	0	39
Publicity	0	0	0	0
Support Costs	5,131	40,254	45,385	52,803
	<u>5,131</u>	<u>40,254</u>	<u>45,385</u>	<u>52,843</u>

Particulars of employees:

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

	2025	2024
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 2024	165,000	27,155	144,241	336,396
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Additions	85,000	2,935	0	87,935
At 31st March 2025	250,000	30,090	144,241	424,331
DEPRECIATION				
At 31st March 2024	0	26,397	126,127	152,524
Assets disposed of	0	0	0	0
Charge for the year	0	507	4,624	5,131
At 31st March 2025	-	26,904	130,750	157,654
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st March 2024	165,000	758	18,114	183,872
At 31st March 2025	250,000	3,187	13,491	266,677

7 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Creditors	-	-
	-	-

8 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets			Total £
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £	
Total funds	266,677	125,621	10,000	0	402,298