



Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2025

Samaritans of Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot & Districts

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Trustees

Director	Michael Songer
Trustee & Secretary	Lesley Monk
Trustee	James David Reid
Trustee	John David Williams (appointed 28 November 2024)
Trustee & Treasurer	Cathrine Deborah Wratten

Principal Office

Hope Cottage
2 Mount Pleasant
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 9AD

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiners

Holy Brook Associates Ltd
Curious Lounge, 1st Floor, Pinnacle Building,
20 Tudor Rd
Reading
RG1 1NH

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1 Status and Administration

Samaritans of Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot & Districts is a registered charity. The registered number is 1170901.

Trustees

The following persons acted as trustees during the accounting period.

Name

Director	Michael Songer	Ex officio from 18 December 2023
Trustee & Secretary	Lesley Monk	Appointed 8 February 2024
Trustee	James David Reid	Appointed 30 November 2021
Trustee	John David Williams	Co-opted 28 November 2024
Trustee & Treasurer	Cathrine Deborah Wratten	Appointed 21 December 2022

2 Structure, governance and management

The charity, Samaritans of Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot and Districts, is an affiliated branch of a national organisation called Samaritans, a company limited by guarantee and incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11th April 1963, whose registered office is at The Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF.

The governing document of the charity is the Samaritan branch model constitution amended in December 2016 and adopted by the members on 14th June 2018.

Trustees are elected by members of the charity.

3 Objects and Activities

The objects of the Charity are:

- To enable persons in Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot and Districts and the surrounding area as well as elsewhere 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 Objects.

Samaritans' vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We work to achieve this by making it our mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviour.

In planning our activities for the year, we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

4. Achievements and performance

The branch received 20248 contacts during the year (2024 18,902). As usual three recruitment and training courses for new Samaritans were run. At the end of the year there were 110 listening volunteers (2024 109) and 12 support volunteers (2024 12).

The trustees met regularly through the year to oversee overall management and development of the charity. Regular financial reports are used to inform financial decisions including necessary building maintenance, the purchase of new equipment and to respond to other requests for funds, for example, for publicity materials and for training courses. It retains oversight of the charity's risks including financial, those related to ongoing delivery of the branch's Samaritans service, health and safety and data protection. Trustees also sit on the Branch Leadership Team together with the Deputy Branch Director and Deputy Directors with

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individual responsibility for: Volunteer Support; Recruitment and Selection; New Volunteer CORE Training, Ongoing training; Education and Events; Hub Liaison and Caller Support; Lead of Governance. Whilst financial resources are essential to run the charity, and in particular pay for the ongoing costs of running the branch premises, the branch has no paid staff. It is entirely reliant on the amazing team of volunteers who deliver the listening service and do all the other tasks involved in running the branch including fundraising, looking after the branch premises and all of the branch infrastructure. Without the contribution of these dedicated volunteers the service would not exist, and the trustees are indebted to each and every one of them.

The Samaritans run and the theatre event that were restarted in 2023 went from strength to strength in 2024. The trustees are, once more exceptionally grateful to personal, business and charity donors to our branch. Particular thanks are due to sponsors of the run including Nirvana Spa, Afton Chemicals, Easthampstead Rotary, Good Course Limited, Papercut, and to Wokingham Theatre for the theatre event and Huntswood who generously donated £12,500 restricted funds for the Hope Cottage refurbishment project. Easthampstead Rotary Fireworks also donated £5,500 which will also be used on the Hope Cottage refurbishment project.

The strong financial position evidenced in these accounts is expected to be enhanced and maintained in the year ahead albeit reserves will be reduced by the remaining expenditure on the premises refurbishment project.

Working with businesses in the communities we serve continues to support the sustainability of the branch's financial health with continued resource sharing arrangements with local organisations saving the expense of room hire.

The branch will also take opportunities to work with local businesses who can provide opportunities to their employees to support a local charity, whilst for the branch minimising the need to pay for basic maintenance work. These activities also help to raise awareness of Samaritans in the community.

Within this accounting year the Hope Cottage Refurbishment Project was instigated and commenced. The Trustees and Directorate approved a detailed plan for improvements to each area of the branch internally, the purpose of which was to update the property generally, but specifically to create a larger and more functional Operations room, more space in the Training room, a specific store room, and two Interview/ breakout rooms.

The new Operations room was opened shortly after the end of the financial year in May 2025, with a new third line/ workstation, that will create many opportunities for the branch.

The Trustees approved a detailed financial budget for this project, and as a result of strong financial and project management, the project is projected with confidence to be delivered to time and budget in Summer 2025.

We complete the financial period in a positive position and with a strong focus on financial sustainability going forward.

5. Financial Review

- a) **Unrestricted Funds:** Details of the breakdown of expenditure are given in the accounts. All of the funds have been applied for the purpose of the day to day running of a Samaritans branch. The main sources of income are the fundraising events, grants, donations, collections and various initiatives by the volunteers. The fund stands at £99,178 including £50,000 which is designated to be used on the property maintenance and improvement plan.
- b) **Restricted fund:** £12,500 restricted to Hope Cottage refurbishment project. This has been fully utilised in the new financial year 2025-6.

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- c) **Designated funds:** At the beginning of the financial year the branch held £5,017 funds designated for the premises refurbishment project. £4,750 was spent during the year and the £267 balance has been utilised in the new financial year 2025-6.
- d) **Availability of funds:** Apart from the Premises Capital Reserve, which is held in the form of freehold property revalued at £225,000 at the end of 2000, all other funds are held in cash or cash equivalents. The trustees consider that the charity has sufficient funds to carry out its objectives.
- e) **Policy on reserves:** In setting the reserves policy, the Trustees consider the need to provide against any future income shortfall, fulfil working capital requirements and allow funds to be available to support the branch property maintenance and improvement plan. This is balanced against the need to spend reserves now to deliver services to meet beneficiary needs.

As at 31 March 2025, the total funds held by the branch amounted to £111.7 thousand including £12.5 thousand restricted. Within this £30 thousand is earmarked for completion of the premises refurbishment project.

The trustees reserves policy is to maintain 18 to 24 months expenditure in reserves plus an additional designated fund for property maintenance and improvement. The central Samaritans charity is currently undertaking a strategic review of the way services are delivered across the UK. This may entail consolidation of the number of branches. In order to maximise flexibility to respond to recommendations from the strategy review the trustees have decided to increase the property maintenance and improvement plan fund to £60 thousand (2024 £50 thousand) including £30 thousand spent in 2025 on delivering the balance of the 2024-25 refurbishment plan. This leaves free reserves of £51.7 thousand (2023-24 £48.2 thousand).

The free reserves, as at 31st March 2025, of £51.7 thousand equate to 21 months expenditure.

The reserves policy will continue to be reviewed on at least an annual basis.

6. Trustees Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year that properly present the charity's receipts and payments during the year and its assets and liabilities at the end of the year. In preparing those statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements that are reasonable and prudent
- 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 proper accounting records which enable them to ensure that the receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 14 August 2025

Michael Songer

Samaritans of Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot & Districts

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report
on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Samaritans of Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot & Districts

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2025

Charity no

1170901

Set out on pages

1-2

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I 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.

Signed:

Date: 4th September 2025

Name: Rachel Eden

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Relevant professional qualification(s) or body	FCMA (Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)
Address:	Holy Brook Associates, Curious Lounge, 1st Floor, Pinnacle Building,
	Tudor Road, Reading, England,
	RG1 1NH

Section B	Disclosure
	NONE

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Receipts & Payments account to 31 March 2025

Receipts	31/3/2025			Total	Year to 31/3/2024
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted		
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	10,479			10,479	22,798
Collections	225			225	985
Donation building refurbishment			12,500	12,500	
<i>Fundraising activities</i>					
Samaritans Run	9,376			9,376	10,782
Samaritans Run Sponsorship	8,721			8,721	
Wokingham Theatre	3,208			3,208	2,319
<i>Other</i>					
Other	43			43	196
Interest	2,912			2,912	1,232
Total Receipts	34,964	-	12,500	47,464	38,313

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	31/3/2025				Year to
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	31/3/2024
Payments	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Raising Funds</i>					
Samaritans Run Expenses	3,313			3,313	3,112
Theatre Costs	250			250	250
General fundraising	369			369	111
<i>Raising Funds</i>	3,932	-		3,932	3,473
<i>Charitable Activities</i>					
Telephone & Internet	1,333			1,333	1,224
Meetings, training conventions	19			19	1,177
External Events	1,342			1,342	
Publicity	-			-	90
Centre expenses	1,161			1,161	982
<i>Charitable Activities</i>	3,854	-		3,854	3,472
<i>Management & Administration costs</i>					
Water, Gas & Electricity	4,219			4,219	3,988
Building maintenance	1,469			1,469	6,468
Building refurbishment		4,750		4,750	
Furniture & Equipment	-			-	712
Travel Expenses	783			783	540
Insurance	1,110			1,110	1,120
Cleaning	2,329			2,329	1,514
Contribution to Central Charity	10,438			10,438	6,319
Bank charges & transaction fees	352			352	534
Independent Examiner fees	360			360	
Other	398			398	121
<i>Management & Administration costs</i>	21,457	4,750	-	26,207	21,315
Total Payments	29,243	4,750	-	33,993	28,260
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	5,721	(4,750)	12,500	13,471	10,053

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	31/3/2025				Year to
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	31/3/2024
Bank Balances	£	£	£	£	£
Current	1,294			1,294	995
Deposit	12,223	0	12,500	24,723	30,271
Notice deposit accounts	37,860	47,500		85,360	66,703
Cash in Hand	300			300	238
	51,678	47,500	12,500	111,678	98,207

Reserves Movement	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	31/3/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Opening reserves	58,207	40,000		98,207	88,155
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	5,721	(4,750)	12,500	13,471	10,053
Movements between funds	(12,250)	12,250		-	
Reserves at end of period	51,678	47,500	12,500	111,678	98,207

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Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 March 2025

	31/3/2025	31/3/2024
	£	£
Fixed Asset		
Freehold Property	225,000	225,000
Current Assets		
Cash & bank	111,678	98,207
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets	<u>336,678</u>	<u>323,207</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	51,678	98,207
Designated funds	47,500	-
Restricted fund	12,500	
Property revaluation	225,000	225,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>336,678</u>	<u>323,207</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-

Approved by the Trustees on 14 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Cathrine Wratten
Trustee & Treasurer

Michael Songer
Trustee & Director

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Notes to the Financial Statements

1. The financial statements are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with those aspects of the SORP: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005, and other accounting standards, which apply to accounts following a Receipts and Payments format.
2. Voluntary income relating to donations, grants and legacies is included when received.
3. Gift Aid and covenanted income received excludes the associated tax repayment due to the charity. The tax repayment is shown in the year in which it is received.
4. Equipment expenditure is written off as incurred during the year.
5. Freehold premises were re-valued at £225 thousand on 20th December 2000. Subsequent expenditure has been written off as incurred. In accordance with the constitution, title to the branch premises is registered in the name of The Samaritans (Company Registration Number 757372).
6. Reserves as at 31 March 2025 include £47,500 designated to the Hope Cottage property maintenance and improvement fund. During the year Huntswood generously undertook fundraising towards the costs of the Hope Cottage refurbishment project and a generous donation of £12,500 was received the use of which is restricted to this project.