

AGM REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022- 2023

A Picture of the work of Liverpool Veterans HQ during the Financial Year
of 2022 - 2023

Reg Charity No
1172805

Foreword



Rt Hon. The Earl of Derby

Patron Liverpool Veterans HQ

With as many as 10% of prisoners being veterans, with 4% of serving personnel reporting probable PTSD, 20% reporting other common mental disorders and 13% reporting alcohol misuse, many of our Armed Forces enter civilian life with a higher risk of homelessness, substance misuse, relationship breakdown and mental health issues (especially delayed-onset PTSD) than their civilian contemporaries; combined with the unfamiliarity young single soldiers, sailors and airmen have of the housing landscape and the certainty they will not own a property; combined with the reluctance to approach the usual channels of support and advice because of the stigma and dishonour that such weakness might reveal to themselves and former colleagues, and the worrying perception within business that combat soldiers might be 'damaged goods', there is now a greater need to support our veterans than ever before at a local level.

Liverpool Veterans HQ provides the local, one stop advice and support that our veterans, reservists and their families so desperately need. The team of buddies and case workers operate at street level, talk the veterans' language, quickly identify the issues and cut through the red tape in a unique way and is attracting much interest from other veteran support agencies.

I was delighted to accept the role of Patron in our first year as a charity, and congratulate and thank the team for their hard work and dedication. And I watch with keen interest the developing plans and support for the Kings Barracks – a true one stop shop for the City Region's veterans.

Rt Hon. The Earl of Derby

Patron Liverpool Veterans HQ



The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006 present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st march 2023

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the statement of recommended practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005.

Charity name:

Liverpool Veterans HQ

Registered Charity Number

1172805

Registered Office

28 St Domingo Vale
Everton
Liverpool
L5 6RW

Patron

Rt Hon. The Earl of Derby

Current Board Members

Mark Haig	Chairman
Jan Cox	Secretary
Neil Meadows	Treasurer & Founder Board Member
Ian Fazakerley	Founder Board Member
Colleen Martin	
Jason Jordan	
Craig Horner	

Board members retired.

Ian Francis 2023
Cllr Roy Gladden 2022

Bankers

Barclays Plc
48 – 50 Lord St
Liverpool
L2 1TD

Structure Governance & Management

Governing Document

The Organisation which is a CIO registered Charity was established as a CIO in April 2017, the governing document is the company's memorandum of articles of association

Appointment of Management Committee

The Trustees, who are also directors, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st march 2023

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are appointed on the basis of their ability to bring to the board a range of skills to assist in the governance and development of the charity, before appointment they are guided by the Chair and Vice Chair through a comprehensive induction procedure designed to give them a complete understanding of the aims and aspirations of the Charity.

We also work with training providers like LCVS and put our Trustees through training and workshops on Charitable Law and Legislation

Charity Commission literature is provided to all trustees on an ongoing basis to assist them to understand their legal responsibilities.

Organisational Structure

Liverpool Veterans HQ has a board who meet a minimum of 4 times per year and is responsible for strategic direction and policy of the charity. There is also a strategy & finance subgroup which also meets 4 times per year.

Each board member has been allocated a strategic lead ie Health & wellbeing, housing, mental health, custody etc.

Risk identification and management

The trustees are aware that the main area of risk is the cost of managing and maintaining Veterans HQ and its programmes to provide resources for the veteran's community. Significant risks to funding have led to the development of strategic plans that would allow for the diversification of funding and activities. The board of trustees regularly reviews the organisations reserves along with the treasurer and is seeking to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended.

Public Benefit

When planning and programming activities for the beneficiaries of Liverpool Veterans HQ Trustees of Liverpool Veterans HQ are mindful of the Charity commission guidelines on public benefit.

Cont.....

Fundraising

Notwithstanding the decline of funding opportunities, the Charity has continued to be successful in obtaining grants and commissions for the continuation of HQ programmes and projects.

The Charity is seeking to secure additional commissions with other local authorities to roll out similar CIO's in other local areas to support their veterans communities.

As more and more cuts hit the 3rd sector we are seeing a rise and demand for additional and on going support, veterans will face even more hardship without our support.

We have a high percentage of veterans who experience debt and poverty this leads to other issues like mental health problems and poor physical health with the recent cost of living problems we are now seeing veterans experiencing rent arrears, homelessness and food and fuel poverty.

HQ continues to manage and engage our funders on a regular basis in order that they feel part of the solution and see positive action taking place first hand as a result of their funding.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees regularly review the organisations reserves and have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (free reserves) held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended.

At this level HQ would be able to continue the current level of activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.



Liverpool Veterans HQ – Chairman Report

Mark Haig

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for Liverpool Veterans HQ for the year 2022/23.

The covid-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact our veterans and their families and coupled with a challenging economy means that Veterans HQ has seen an increase in demand for our support services. Charities nationally are also facing difficult challenges in obtaining and securing external funding and contributions to maintain services. It is a credit to the staff and buddies of Veterans HQ that we continue to provide a point of contact for those veterans who need support. Many do so on a voluntary basis and never cease to amaze me with their energy and creative solutions to problems faced.

We continue as a charity to benefit from the knowledge and extensive networks of our CEO, Bob Blanchard, and the Board of Trustees extend their thanks for his continued dedication. He regularly helps align organisational strategy, values and culture that has resulted in a financially stable and veteran centred charity.

On behalf of the Board I must give special thanks to Roy Gladden Cllr who stepped down as Chair as he undertook his role as Lord Mayor. Roy has provided great stewardship to the charity as Chair over the last 10 years. His experience has been invaluable and his approachable manner appreciated by all.

There have been some significant developments to note. The move to St Domingo Vale however we have already outgrown these premises and as a result the Charity is seeking a more modern, accessible building. We have submitted an expression of interest in LCC One Stop Building and are pushing to proceed and progress this.

Our work in Prisons is going extremely well and we have received many letters, notes, emails and comments about the work of the team and how it changes peoples lives for the better. As a result of this the programme has been funded again for another 12 months.

We are currently working with a housing developer and have put them in touch with LCC and we are looking at the prospect of veterans building environmentally friendly homes in the city. This will address the housing shortage that we all face when trying housing veterans especially those with often complex support needs.

Looking forward we will continue to provide a range of support services to our veterans and their families with the aim of having a positive impact on their lives. My thanks to members of the Board who contribute their time and skills to ensuring that this charity meets its obligations and has a clear vision and strategy.



CEO Report
Bob Blanchard

Liverpool Veterans HQ goes from Strength to Strength and this year was no exception, 2022 – 2023 has seen HQ becoming the lead Veterans Hub in the Northwest in Supporting Veterans in Custody. Our work within the criminal justice system in supporting veterans has been exceptional, it has been recognised as a quality programme and as a result Liverpool Veterans HQ have become the lead Veterans Organisation in HMP Risley, which is exciting as Risley have become a Veterans HMP accepting veterans from across the Region.

The work in supporting veterans in custody is often complex difficult and requires the support of a multi disciplinary team in ensuring quality support for the individual Liverpool Veterans HQ though could not achieve the goals it has been able to without the support of our dedicated staff and team of buddies who are all dedicated and committed to ensuring our veterans and their families receive the level of support designed to meet the veterans unique support needs and requirements.

During the later part of this financial year Liverpool Veterans HQ was proud to have The Mayor of Liverpool Cllr Roy Gladden present our buddies with a recognition Certificate, this ceremony was held at the Town Hall in Liverpool with the Lord Mayor stating how inspirational the work of the buddies was and how it changed lives. As part of the same event it was felt that we should recognise the hard work carried out by our dearly departed friend Andy Cooke who sadly passed away some 12 months previous, as a mark of respect and in his honour Liverpool Veterans HQ presented the Andy Cooke award a special award presented to an individual supporting veterans in Custody. Andy's son & daughter travelled up from down south to be at the presentation at Liverpool Town Hall that made the day even more special.

The day to day support continues to be especially busy with an average of 80 veterans dropping in to HQ each month, our walk & talk events are proving even more popular and thanks goes to awards for all for supporting our walks, golf and fishing sessions and the Veterans Foundation funding our walk of 100 Veterans that will happen at the start of the next Financial Year.

I cannot end this report with saying a special thank you to the Board all who have played a big part in ensuring that HQ meets and continues to meet it's legal obligations as a charity and our staff and buddies who ensure the day to day support of veterans, the support and development of our partnerships continue – I thank you one and all.



Liverpool Veterans Buddies receiving their Awards at Liverpool Town Hall from Liverpool Lord Mayor Cllr Roy Gladden.

Mission

- *“Supporting and Empowering ex armed forces Personnel, Reservists and their families to reach their full potential”*

Our Vision

- *“To provide a unique, holistic support service and engagement programme for ex armed forces personnel, reservists and their families across the Liverpool City Region and surrounding areas.”*
- *We actively engage with ex armed forces personnel, reservists, and their families.*
- *We provide support, advice, information and sign posting to relevant services.*
- *We deliver a strategic and effective service.*
- *We act to ensure ease of access to resources, services and pathways.*
- *We support existing delivery partners and actively seek out new partners to collaborate and innovate.*
- *We reduce waiting times to support services.*
- *We are open, fully inclusive and transparent in everything we do.*
- *We share good practice so that everyone benefits.*

Veterans HQ delivers in three areas of action and aligns itself with the National Veterans Action Plan 2022 – 2024 by establishing our key priorities for 2022 - 2024:

1. Understanding our veteran community – it is vital that we have a detailed understanding of our veteran population and their experiences to provide the right services and support for veterans and their families. Our Strategy will deliver this, including for those whose experiences have not been well understood in the past.
2. Transforming services and support for veterans – we have seen significant progress in recent years on improving the services and support available to veterans and their families. Our Strategy sets out how we will build on that progress and continue to develop the support available to make a tangible difference to our veteran community, from healthcare to employment.
3. Celebrating our veterans and their contribution to society – all veterans should feel that their service is appreciated by the community the local authority and the nation. Veterans HQ will fully recognise veterans’ valuable contributions to our community, society and economy, and challenge damaging misconceptions and stereotypes

Veterans HQ Key Achievements

- 2010 – Liverpool Veterans formed as a project and governed by BNENC
- 2011 – Launch of Veterans Make it Happen Board Co- Chaired by Chairman of Veterans HQ
- 2011 – Signing off of on Liverpool City Council’s Liverpool Veterans Strategy
- 2012 – The launch of the UK’s first one stop shop for Veterans
- 2014 – The development of our Veterans in Custody programme
- 2016 - Secured Armed Forces Covenant Bronze Award
- 2016 – New Beginnings Big Lottery bid award to BNENC - £355k
- 2016 – shadow board - Liverpool Veterans HQ charity
- 2017 – Aged Veterans funding agreed - £90k to BNENC
- 2017 – Charity Commission registration grants CIO status
- 2017 Liverpool Veterans HQ announces 3 significant developments:
 - Rebranded as Veterans HQ
 - Website and social media launched
 - The Earl of Derby, DL – first Patron of Veterans HQ
 - Joint bid with Sovini Group to develop King’s Barracks, Everton Road
- 2017 – Veterans HQ earns Armed Forces Covenant SILVER Award
- 2018 – Kings Barracks Centre of Excellence scheme approved by LCC
- 2020 Secured Armed Forces Covenant GOLD Award
- 2021 –Finalist in National Health & Social Justice Awards
- 2022 – Lead Veterans Organisation in Risley HMP
- 2022 – Veterans in Custody lead for VPPP
- 2022 – Continuation Funding secured from NHS England
- 2022 – LCC Veterans Housing Sub Group Representative

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Company Law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that provides a true and accurate view of the state of affairs of the company and its income and expenditure for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently:
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent:
- Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue as a ongoing concern:
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in financial statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial accounts comply with the companies act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and any other irregularities.

By order of the board

Mr Mark haig
Chair
Board of Trustees
Liverpool veterans HQ

Date 19/04/2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Liverpool Veterans HQ

On accounts for the year
ended

March 31st 2023

Charity no
(if any) 1172805

Set out on pages

1,2,3

1,2,3(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

L.M. Thornton

Date:

15/5/23

Name:

L.M. THORNTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Treasurer of Mothers' Union Branch

Address:

4 The Hawthorns

Ecclesham

Chorley PR7 5PW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

No issues were found during independent examination



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

1172805

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	1st April 2022	To	31st March
----------------------------	----------------	-----------	------------

Liverpool Veterans HQ

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Carry over	76,500	87,125		163,625	233,636
Bank Interest	10			10	6
AFCTF Development fund		25,000		25,000	25,000
VPPP		35,000		35,000	8,750
MNF & Grants		61,025		61,025	7,000
Donations	2,068			2,068	6,258
Feeding Liverpool		4,487		4,487	
Veterans Foundation		10,150		10,150	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	78,578	222,787		301,365	280,650

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

Sub total					

Total receipts

--	--	--	--	--

A3 Payments

Salary on costs & Pensions		93,800		93,800	104,653
Bldg / utilities / rates / waste /		14,296		14,296	5,632
Insurance / Legal / ISO	2,343			2,343	8,372
Design & Print	1,360			1,360	1,886
Counselling		810		810	2,250
Bank Charges	191			191	157
Health prog Miibus hire		4,356		4,356	9,465
Training / Programmes /		5,556		5,556	2,978
vols expenses / refreshments		7,971		7,971	5,057
Sub total	3,894	126,789		130,683	140,450

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

Capital items for office		2,989		2,989	95
Sub total		2,989		2,989	95

Total payments

3,894	129,778		133,672	
-------	---------	--	---------	--

<i>of receipts/(payments)</i>	78,578	222,787		301,365	
A5 Transfers between funds	3,894	129,778		133,672	
A6 Cash funds last year ended	33,372	130,253			163,625
Cash funds this year ended	74,684	93,009		167,693	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories

B1 Cash funds

cash in bank		167,693	163,625
		167,693	163,693

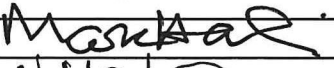
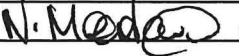
B2 Other monetary assets

B3 Investment assets

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

B5 Liabilities

Signed by one or two
trustees on behalf of all the

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Mark Haig	1/5/19
	Neil Meadows	1/5/19