

**SAMARITANS OF PRESTON AND DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Charity's objectives and aims are:

- To enable persons in Preston 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.

How our work delivers our aims

In common with all the other branches of Samaritans, we provide services to support people who require emotional support, including those who are in distress, despair and who may be suicidal. We do this by assisting to provide a 24-hour service of confidential, non-judgemental emotional support by telephone and face to face. Within the next 12 months we are looking to expand our services to include email and online messaging

We run an established Listener scheme at HMP Preston to help provide emotional support for those in the prison community. Currently we have 18 Listeners covering all wings of the prison and a further 18 in training. We have a strong working relationship with the prison community and our work is greatly appreciated by Safer Custody.

Our Outreach team continues to look for ways of providing or improving access to emotional support and to reduce suicide within our local community and groups of high risk. During the financial year we attended 37 events, in addition to a weekly term time drop in as part of our partnership with the University of Central Lancashire.

Over that period we reached thousands of people, through awareness raising on the railway stations as part of our participation in the Network Rail partnership (including promoting the Small Talk Saves Lives and Brew Monday campaigns), at supermarkets, JobCentres, World Suicide Prevention Day at Preston bus station and Preston Pride on the Flag Market to name a few. We are in contact with our local suicide prevention groups, and work with Preston Wellfest to raise public awareness of health and wellbeing issues and the support available to individuals, groups, and communities in Preston.

We gave talks to promote our services to at risk groups highlighting the work that we do and how we can help those who need our support but may not be aware of it, and engaged with education establishments providing presentations on managing emotional health, the value of talking and listening and gaining support.

During the financial year we had, on average, 95 volunteers including 7 support volunteers. Our 74 active listening volunteers ("ALV") provided 5,511 hours of direct telephone support, which equates to 17 hours and 11 minutes on the phone per ALV. The national average is 12 hours 38 minutes.

In January 2020 Samaritans made filling the night hour shifts a national priority, as that is, when callers can wait over 30 mins to speak to someone and they are often those in the most desperate need. We have achieved a significant increase in covering night minutes (2am - 6am) from 57 minutes in January 2022 to 2 hours 31 minutes in January 2024 per ALV. This is more than double our regional target of 70 minutes and more than double the national average – a fantastic achievement by both our listening volunteers and the directorate members responsible for volunteer support. Our hours on the phone, per ALV, in The Twilight period (10pm - 2am) are now 4 hours 31 mins compared to the national average of 2 hours 29 minutes.

This is in addition to the other services provided by the Branch, for example, training and supporting the Listener scheme and our extensive Outreach programme. Volunteers also freely gave their time in a number of different administrative and management roles to support the Branch. Our recruitment team is proactive and we have regular information evenings and an active training and mentoring programme. We had 10 trainee volunteers at the year end.

We are pleased to report that the effort of our volunteers during the year exceeded the support we were able to provide in the previous year, despite the Branch being closed for 5 weeks during the relocation. In the future our new premises will enable us to increase our reach and host meetings for other charities offering additional support to our local community.

Governance of the Branch

The work of Samaritans as a federated charity involves the Central Charity and the affiliated CIO branches working closely together to achieve common aims and objectives. The framework for ensuring this is via the constitutions of the Central Charity and affiliated branches and also via a branch agreement and operating agreement which define how all parts of the federated charity work together.

The trustees of the Branch are elected, by the branch members, on an annual basis with the exception of the Director who is elected a trustee for their three year term in office. Trustees can serve up to a maximum of six years. Trustees may also be co-opted by the elected Trustees to perform specific tasks as required. Trustees continue to oversee all aspects of governance including financial oversight, maintaining a Risk and Opportunity Register, ensuring compliance with Data Protection and Health and Safety law. Working as members of the Branch Leadership Team, but also in their own right, the Trustees set the expectations of the Branch in line with the constitution and the branch and operating agreements with the Central Charity.

As well as working within the federated charity of Samaritans, the Branch is responsible for its own finances.

Significant activities

The Branch relocated in March 2024 disposing of St Wilfrid Street and acquiring No 9 Navigation Business Village. This completed a long search to find the Branch a new home that offers more flexible accommodation in terms of accessibility; training and meeting room facilities; car parking and scope for future developments. The disposal and acquisition took place in March 2024 resulting in a five week closure of the Branch whilst works were completed. Outreach and Listener activities were maintained during the closure but the telephone helpline service was temporarily paused.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is an incorporated organisation and the governing document is the constitution dated 7 July 2017.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1173718

Principal address

9 Navigation Business Village
Navigation Way
Ashton on Ribble
Preston
PR2 2YP

Trustees

Sarah Jackson - Director	appointed November 2021
Martin Callagher – Deputy Director	appointed November 2021
Rebecca Wenham - Secretary	appointed November 2021
Michael Bowerman – Marketing & Publicity Manager	appointed December 2022
Lesley Dunn – Treasurer	appointed November 2023
Michael Morgan	appointed November 2023

Independent Examiner

M E Davenport
2 Nateby Court
Nateby
Preston PR3 0JF

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank
147 Church St,
Preston,
PR1 3UD

HSBC Bank
49A Fishergate,
Preston,
PR1 8BH

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report.
Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Signature ... Sarah Jackson.....

Full Name... Sarah Helen Jackson.....

Position..... Branch Director.....

Date..... 24 July 2024.....

Samaritans of Preston & District

Registered Charity No. 1173718

Financial Report

Year Ended 31st March 2024

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Financial report for the year

Premises at St Wilfrid Street presented significant sustainability and accessibility issues: step free access was via a back entrance through the accessible toilet; the back entrance was off a rear alleyway; the accessible toilet had an entrance door into it; stairs to the first floor were very steep and narrow. In addition, there were parking problems and resulting personal safety concerns, particularly during the night, and the space was limited overall and in terms of layout. The Trustees have invested significant time over the past two years considering the best option for future accommodation to provide a safe and appropriate environment which allows volunteers to focus on the core charitable objectives. With this in mind a Branch Refurbishment Reserve of £100,000 was designated to facilitate improvements to the Branch premises.

The Branch relocated in March 2024 disposing of St Wilfrid Street and acquiring No 9 Navigation Business Village. This completed a long search to find the branch a new home that offers more flexible accommodation in terms of accessibility; training and meeting room facilities; car parking and scope for future developments. The disposal and acquisition took place in March 2024 resulting in a temporary closure of the branch whilst works were completed. The statutory accounts reflect the transaction costs, but the costs of redevelopment and adaptations occurred at the start of the new financial year and the provisions/restricted funds in respect of these works are included on the balance sheet as at 31 March 2024.

Funds in the year were received by way of private donations from individuals and grants. The shop ceased to trade in September 2022 as it no longer made a financial contribution.

The principal source of income in the year was a sum of £50,000 received from the TJH Foundation who, together with Mr Trevor Hemmings, have been very generous to the charity over a number of years. This donation was specifically in relation to the redevelopment and adaptation of the new premises and is shown as a restricted fund. A number of smaller donations were also gratefully received in the year.

The financial results of the Samaritans of Preston & District for the year to 31 March 2024 are set out in the financial report. Whilst the accounts show net incoming funds of £70,953 for the year ending 31 March 2024, this is after a profit on disposal of the former premises of £74,674. The underlying deficit is £3,721 and this is before the contribution to central office of £2,950 paid post year end. The shop deficit in respect of the year ended 31 March 2023 will be offset by a reclaim in respect of statutory maternity pay accounted for on a receipts basis and due in the current financial year.

Reserves Policy and Future Plans

The Branch seeks to maintain a minimum liquid reserve of 12 months running costs. Available liquid reserves (that is, excluding the value of the building at 9 Navigation Business Village, Preston - £150,000, £74,674 set aside for refurbishment and adaptations and the restricted fund of £50,000) stood at £80,014 at the year-end and is, in the opinion of the trustees, sufficient to meet this reserves policy.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Preston and District Branch of the Samaritans

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on the following pages.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 144(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- (2) which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M E Davenport
2 Nateby Court
Nateby
Preston PR3 0JF

Signed: *ME Davenport*

Date: 30/6/24

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 23/24	Total 22/23
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>					
Voluntary income - donations and grants		11,811	50,000	61,811	37,182
Funds arising from charitable activities					6,686
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	2	74,674		74,674	
Total Incoming Resources		86,485	50,000	136,485	43,868
Resources expended					
<i>Costs of generating funds:</i>					
Charitable activities	3	(15,432)		(15,432)	(36,805)
Governance costs	3	(100)		(100)	(33,161)
Total Resources Expended		(15,532)		(15,532)	(69,966)
Net incoming /(outgoing) resources		70,953	50,000	120,953	(26,098)
Reconciliation of funds					
Balance brought forward at 1 st April 2023		233,735		233,735	259,833
Balance carried forward at 1st April 2024		304,688	50,000	354,688	233,735

The notes pages following form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2023/2024 £	2022/2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Property at valuation		150,000	50,000
Current Assets			
Cash at bank		204,368	184,147
Debtors		320	
		<u>204,688</u>	<u>184,147</u>
Less current liabilities			(412)
Net current assets		204,688	183,735
Net assets		<u><u>354,688</u></u>	<u><u>233,735</u></u>

Represented by:

General Funds		80,014	83,735
Designated Funds			
- Fixed Assets		150,000	50,000
- Branch Relocation/Refurbishment	7	<u>74,674</u>	<u>100,000</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds		304,688	233,735
Restricted Funds	8	50,000	
Total Funds		<u><u>354,688</u></u>	<u><u>233,735</u></u>

On Behalf of the Trustees

Sign Martin Callaghan

Print Name MARTIN CALLAGHAN

Sign SH Jackson

Print Name SH JACKSON

Approved by the Trustees on 03/07/2024 (Date)

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of The Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting by Charities (“the 2005 SORP”).

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of the Property.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a small charity.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees’ discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Within unrestricted funds the Trustees have designated amounts comprising the investment in the property and funds for further redevelopment and adaptations.

Restricted income funds can only be used for the specified purposes.

Incoming resources

Donations, Legacies and Other Voluntary Income are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Shop income is recognised as earned (that is, as the related goods or services are provided).

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters. In addition to the branch levy payable to Central Office.

Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and as such is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2 Profit on disposal of fixed assets

The property at St Wilfrid Street was disposed of during the year generating a net profit of £74,674 after disposal costs of £5,326. The funds generated were used towards the purchase No 9 Navigation Business Village offering more suitable and accessible accommodation.

3 Total Resources Expended

	Charitable Activities Costs 23/24	Governance Costs 23/24	Total 23/24	Total 22/23
Staff Costs	0	0	0	5,751
Training and associated venue hire	382	0	382	3,548
Rent & rates	385	0	385	4,272
Light and heat	1,318	0	1,318	6,910
Insurance	1,242	0	1,242	1,397
Repairs and renewals	374	0	374	571
Telephone	1,823	0	1,823	2,560
Printing, stationery and postage	440	0	440	479
Acquisition costs	2,754	0	2,754	0
Miscellaneous and general expenses	6,632	0	6,632	11,228
Bank & other charges	82	0	82	89
Accountancy charges	0	100	100	109
Branch contribution	6	0	0	33,052
	15,432	100	15,532	69,966

- 4 The charity employed a part time shop manager for part of the previous year until the closure of the shop in September 2022.
- 5 None of the trustees received any emoluments during the year.
- 6 Governance includes the contribution to Central Office and the costs for the Independent Examiner's review.
- 7 The costs of disposal and the additional investment in the new premises were offset against the designated fund.
- 8 Restricted income includes the donation from the TJH Foundation for the redevelopment and adaptation of the new premises.