

Annual Report from the Chair of Trustees, North Cotswold Community Awareness For the year 2020

Stating the obvious, 2020 was a year as no other. Having been successful in our fund raising efforts during 2019 we were in discussion with our key agencies (schools, healthcare professionals and social services) about how we might start to think about supporting them sustainably rather than in the ad hoc, emergency relief manner that we have always worked. Then in March 2020 we are all too aware of the turn of events that hit us all, hitting those with already stretched resources the hardest.

Recipients of our help have always been those who live on the poverty line and for whom the slightest change in circumstances means that ends just don't meet. As the UK went into lockdown those employed as cleaners, in hospitality and in casual work saw their income dry up immediately. Many were on zero hours contracts and therefore the furlough scheme was not a help. Access to government grants took longer than ever as demand spiked and so Community Awareness was called into action in unprecedented ways.

The good news is that we formed part of a true community response. Food and access to food was most important. With children no longer in school the one meal a day that could be relied upon was no longer there and we will all be familiar with the enormous efforts made around the country to counteract the terrible effects of this loss. We worked alongside village shops, local farmers/food producers and local supermarkets to provide food parcels (delivered to those who were sheltering), food vouchers and accounts at local stores to ensure that families had fresh and nutritious food. Our food expenditure went from zero in 2019 to £22,286 in 2020.

At the same time as this massive increase in need we, as other charities, saw a decline in our income. No more fundraising, no local events where we typically saw donations. On the other hand local organisations, council and family trusts made it clear that they were there to help and were fortunate to secure unprecedented levels of support from organisations such as the Rotary Club, Gloucester Freemasons, Gloucestershire and Cotswold Councils - all of whom set up emergency relief funds for which we were eligible. Together with National Lottery Funding and the generosity of some local family trusts we restored our finances and were able to meet demand.

Food was just one area of growth, demand for help with clothing doubled 2019 - 2020 and that for furniture went from £2k - £7.5k in the same period. Our Christmas programme doubled in size, taking into account more families that needed help. It also took a very different shape, having to use gift vouchers rather than physical gifts since the logistics of being able to deliver to more than 100 families were even more challenging during social distancing measures.

We have been keen to ensure that we are spreading our resources wisely and the agencies with which we work have typically put families on a support programme with us for three months at a time. This ensures that the family has the basics that they need but that they also work within a sustainable budget.

We await the effects of the tapering of furlough relief on those families who were lucky enough to receive it, but at the time of writing we hope that the worst is now past and that we will be seeing, by Christmas 2021, a return to something like normal fundraising efforts and our “usual” levels of demand.

One particular area of concern is that of mental health. We are being advised by our key agencies that children are already suffering the effects of isolation following lockdown as well as having been subjected to domestic violence caused by increased household stresses. We know that government resources are stretched to breaking with children having to wait months before even being assessed by a mental health practitioner. We have begun to support schools and individual families with access to therapies and anticipate that this demand will increase in the coming months. This is no trivial undertaking and our fundraising will focus on this for the remainder of 2021/22.

We are of course hugely grateful to those who supported us financially and for the untiring efforts of schools, social services and health care professionals to support those who find themselves in need through no fault of their own. We recognise that they did this at a time when they were often challenged personally - we have always been impressed by their energy and selflessness but this challenging time showed just how special they are. This is also the time to thank the Trustees of North Cotswold Community Awareness for their (entirely voluntary) hard work, resourcefulness and generosity.

Community Awareness Income less Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2020

Income	Year to December 2020	Year to December 2019
<u>Donations from firms,charities</u>		
North Cotswolds Rotary	5201	1569
Mid Counties Co-op	3964	2807
Gloucestershire CC	7000	
Covid 19 response	9300	
Cotswold DC	1000	
Susanne Peake CT	8000	
Edward Peake CT	1000	
Notgrove Trust	4000	
Bourton Old Peoples' Club	1195	
Kleinwort Sezincote	1000	
Other	<u>900</u>	<u>2066</u>
	42560	6442
Standing orders	4020	4170
Other personal donations	<u>13895</u>	<u>3995</u>
	17915	8165
Gift aid	1523	2317
School events	2070	680
Village events	595	2012
Dress sale	11000	7200
Total Income	75663	26816
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Christmas **	18878	9231
Furniture	7427	2105
Educational support	5575	4409
Clothing	2288	1144
House clearance	844	415
Debt relief	450	0
Family Covid Food Support	22286	0
Charity administration	<u>737</u>	<u>412</u>
Total expenditure	58485	17716
Excess of income over expenditure	0	0
Cash at start of year	29168	20068
Cash at end of year	29168	20068

** Christmas 2020 costs adjusted for January carry overs 20876 (2019-9743)



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

NORTH COTSWOLD COMMUNITY AWARENESS

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2020

Charity no
(if any)

1175482

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020

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:

Paul Robinson

Date:

15/10/2021

Name:

PAUL ROBINSON

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

REGULATED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

THE FURROWS
STRETTON ON FOSSE
GL56 9RX

Section B**Disclosure**

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.

NONE