

15 JAN 2025



FAITH IN PEOPLE CHARITY

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1176000

**Trustees' Annual Report and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended
31st March 2024
for the
Faith in People Charity (FIP)**

Faith in People Charity is Registered Charity in England and Wales No.1176000
Registered Office: 3 Woodrush Close, London SE14 6DJ. Tel 07404 908 303

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Faith in People Charity

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2024

The following Trustee Annual Report gives a true and fair view of the current state of the *Faith in People Charity* affairs and its accounts for the period stated. It focuses on the main activities undertaken by the organization to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit.

We would like to thank all our Trustees and volunteers for their commitment to ensuring that this Charity is properly, lawfully, and prudently run, both now and in the future.

Structure, governance and management

Faith in People Charity was established on 29th November 2017 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); it is registered in England and Wales. It is governed by a Trust Deed controlled by the Trustees. Our Trustees receive no remuneration from Faith in People Charity. Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting.

Objectives

The object of the charity is designed to provide relief for those in need anywhere in the UK, by reason of homelessness, drug or alcohol addiction and social or economic disadvantage. In particular, but not exclusively, by coordinating and developing services such as the provision of bedding, clothing, food, some finance and similar services as determined by the trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees serving during the year 2023- 2024 were as follows: -

Bibiana Timpanaro Crosier: Chair until 27th January 2024

Corina Julia Poore: Secretary

Maria Eugene Pires: Treasurer

Joan Alicia Shenton (appointed on 15th November 2023)

Sandra Regina Coelho (appointed 25th November 2023 and Chair from 27th January 2024)



GENERAL OUTLOOK

The period of April 2023 to March 2024 saw Faith in People grow in strength, having managed with courage and determination the difficult time subsequent to the death of the previous Chair, Angela Masuko.

We had to deal with some significant challenges, including attracting more Charity Trustees; obtaining access to the Charity's bank account for the new Trustees; dealing with the social media accounts; and fulfilling new training and safety requirements.

These are some of the changes that have taken place:

- 1. We have been successful in obtaining access to the FIP Metro Bank account, and have set up online banking.*
- 2. We have a Safeguarding Lead, who has completed Level 3 Adult Safeguarding training, and a named deputy.*
- 3. Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated.*
- 4. We have a Safe Recruitment policy.*
- 5. We have attracted new volunteers and updated the skills of existing ones.*
- 6. New Trustees: Sandra Coelho (25.11.2023); Joan Alicia Shenton (15.11.2023)*
- 7. All volunteers have a clear DBS and have undergone training – Level one Adult Safeguarding, and Level Two Food Hygiene and Safety for Catering.*
- 8. New volunteers have to submit the details of two referees as part of the application process.*
- 9. All volunteers are kept up to date with the Charity's policies.*
- 10. Efforts are made to consult with volunteers, wherever appropriate.*
- 11. At the AGM on 27th January 2024 a new Chair, Sandra Coelho, was elected. Also, the former Chair, Bibiana Timpanaro Crosier, was elected Treasurer.*
- 12. As a result, the contact details of Faith in People have been changed to those of the new Chair. Address: 3 Woodrush Close, London SE14 6DJ. Tel 07404908303 Email:faithip@proton.me*
- 13. The old social media accounts were closed, as was the old website. We are planning to launch new, updated ones. It will be necessary to have a Social Media Policy, as per the Charity Commission's guidelines on Charities Social Media use of 23rd September 2023.*



14. *We are now members of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.*

15. *We have instituted a system whereby the majority of our Charity's records are kept in a Dropbox account, to which the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary have access. We are investigating the possibility of also digitalising some of the historical documents for extra safekeeping.*

We are proud to say that we have been able to continue carrying out our activities, distributing food, drinks, toiletries and clothes on the Strand, in spite of the challenges of that transitional period, and we only suspended activities from 31st October 2023 for a few weeks, while our volunteers trained to comply with the new training requirements instigated by our insurers. We resumed our activities on 5th December 2023.

The Christmas Party was a great success, with 60 gift parcels containing socks, hats, gloves and scarves being distributed and gratefully received by homeless people on the Strand. 30 of the scarves were handknitted by the 93 year old mother of one of the volunteers! We also distributed some other items of clothing that had been donated such as jogging trousers, jumpers and T-shirts.

The Charity has also been reflecting on its activities, and how to best fulfil our aims and objectives. We have considered creating subcommittees for fundraising and to create a fresh online presence, which we hope to do once we have a greater number of Trustees who could take on these tasks.

We have been investigating the possibility of finding premises from where to carry out our work, possibly working in partnership with other Charities, or sharing the use of their premises. This has not borne fruit yet. From previous experience, our client group is reluctant to travel to access services. Also, having premises from which to serve the food and drink would bring up a host of issues such as how to maintain security and safety and to prevent damage to the premises. If we did have premises, we might be able to expand our remit to include the offer of medical and advisory support, but again this would require much greater levels of expertise and we simply don't have the manpower to explore the possibility of planning such a project at present.

We looked at the feasibility of acquiring a van for the distribution of food on the Strand, but apart from the cost involved in its rental or acquisition, there would be obstacles such as, who would drive it and where it would be parked. Insurance and congestion charge costs would add to the running expenses.

We also considered whether another location, rather than the Strand, might be better for our food distribution, but there is the element of continuity to be taken into consideration, as historically the Strand is where a lot of homeless and disadvantaged



people congregate. The fact that other organisations also distribute food nearby might actually be beneficial, in terms of complementarity of what is on offer, and in terms of different time slots being available for people to turn up and receive assistance. The added advantage of remaining in the same area is the fact that there is a police station very close by, which adds extra security.

We have reflected on the issue of security during the distribution of food, how to deal with aggressive behaviour and how to protect the personal space of volunteers. Some of the resolutions were to seek more sources of training on this topic; to start wearing high visibility vests; to recruit more volunteers; to ensure that any incidents are recorded; and to identify current risks and preventative strategies. We investigated the possibility of offering more training to at least some of our volunteers, for example in conflict de-escalation.

Future outlook

We look forward to continuing to make our contribution to the wellbeing of homeless and disadvantaged people, with care, confidence and a positive outlook.

Financial review

We rely on donations and fundraising. The charity received donations of £2,550 in the year and spent £2,982, giving rise to a small deficit of £432. The Bank balance therefore reduced to £14,076

In conclusion: The Board of Trustees of Faith in People Charity would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our volunteers, our friends, our donors because it is their help, hard work, dedication and the free giving of their time that enables us to carry out our work.

Trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to small charities. The Trustees have, therefore, prepared financial statements for the last twelve months financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees have:-

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently*
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent*
- Prepared the financial statement on the going concern basis*

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps for the detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities

This report has been approved by the Trustees of the Faith in People Charity and is signed on their behalf by: -



Chairperson

Sandra R Coelho



Secretary

Corina J Poore

Dated: 13 January 2024



Faith in People Charity

Receipts and payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2024
and Statement of Assets and liabilities at 31st March 2024

Bank balance at 1st April 2023		14508.21
Receipts	Receipts	
Donations Received	2550.00	
Gift Aid Received	<u>0.00</u>	
		2550.00
Payments		
Food and related expenses	631.87	
Insurance	107.91	
Accountancy	618.00	
Gifts	372.00	
Clothes	202.40	
Training	852.48	
Other expenses	<u>197.28</u>	
		<u>2981.94</u>
Bank balance at 31st March 2024		<u><u>14076.27</u></u>

All funds were unrestricted.

There were no other assets or liabilities at 31st March 2024.

