



**Trustees Annual Report 2021-22**  
**BEST, Befriending and Support Team for Foreign Nationals in HMP Wandsworth**  
**Registered Charity No: 1177625**

### **Foreword**

As the restrictions imposed throughout the pandemic receded, the year brought fresh challenges for HMP Wandsworth, particularly as a result of the high number of staff departures, worryingly including some of the best and most experienced uniformed officers. For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year BEST maintained its full-time unpaid presence in the prison 5 days a week, assisting staff on the Wings, colleagues in Healthcare, and partner organisations and making a vital contribution to the combined efforts that keep this under-resourced prison as safe, decent and humane as possible - working especially closely with Wing staff, Healthcare and Mental Health, and, of course, our colleagues in Chaplaincy who kindly allow BEST to share their resources and operate from the Chaplaincy office. Although our main focus is and will remain the prison's foreign national population, who throughout the year typically comprised 45% of the prison population, equivalent to some 680 men, over the past 12 months we started working with a higher number of British nationals, especially those deemed particularly vulnerable, notably including young prisoners, those suffering depression, ones who never receive Social Visits from friend or family - with British prisoners currently accounting for about 25% of the Social Visits our volunteers made in the year.

Although fund-raising improved, with income reaching an unprecedented high of £17,000, finances remain a cause for concern and, potentially, a threat to BEST's survival. Despite recognition as an integral and vitally important part of life at HMP Wandsworth, we receive no financial support from the prison or any other official body, and continue to rely on the generosity of private donors, local churches and larger charitable organisations, notably the AB Charitable Trust, the Quakers, and the 1485 Trust. As BEST is the only organisation in the prison providing emergency funds to prisoners, this represents the lion's share of our outgoings and in 2022 amounted to just over £12,000.

### **The year in summary**

BEST's impact in 2022:

- Saw over 1,800 prisoners, with over 3,250 separate interactions
- Inducted over 500 new inmates
- Supported over 400 men with immigration issues and helped over 70 make an asylum claim
- Supported over 300 men facing extradition
- Provided emergency funds to over 1,000 prisoners and immigrants in detention
- Helped over 60 men detained under immigration powers apply for immigration bail, successfully in about 33% of cases
- Involved in over 325 SASH cases (SASH = Suicide and Self Harm)

- Conducted regular BEST surgeries on the Substance Abuse Wing: Wednesdays 14:00 – 16:30, typically attended by 12-15 men
- 20 BEST volunteers regularly conducted Social Visits to prisoners throughout the year.

*"As BEST operates from the Chaplaincy office I have had the pleasure of seeing at first hand why BEST has established its reputation as one of the most highly respected and valued organisations operating in the prison, and why it is held in such high regard by prisoners and staff alike for its excellent service standards, commitment to prison welfare, and contribution to prison morale. As Chaplaincy is also a front-line service, we are in a good position to see the impact your charity has on the lives of the men in our care. I have personally worked in HMP Wandsworth since 2018 and had nothing but positive feedback from staff and prisoners. We in Chaplaincy derive great enjoyment from having BEST as a working partner and I truly hope your charity goes from strength to strength and can realise its brilliant and hugely beneficial potential."* **Ibrahim Lewis, Head of Chaplaincy HMP Wandsworth, February 2023**

### **The Year Ahead**

In the year ahead our main focus will be to raise the funds needed to strengthen our infrastructure and start paying full-time workers who can grow BEST's charitable impact and help us achieve our true potential as one of the most beneficent, effective and respected charities working in the criminal justice sector.

### **Thanks to our donors**

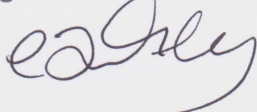
We would like to thank all those who have supported BEST with generous donations, most notably including the Quakers, St. Luke's Church, Battersea, the AB Charitable Trust, the 1485 Charitable Trust and the growing number of private donors who have been so generous in supporting BEST.

### **BEST Trustees:**

Isobel Smallacombe  
Christine Julian-Huxley  
Clare Howarth  
Caroline Ayerst

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees.



Christine Julian-Huxley, Trustee

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1177625**

Independent Examiner's Report  
Financial Statements for the Year Ended  
5 April 2022  
for  
BEST Befriending and Support Team for Foreign Nationals in HMP Wandsworth

## **CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2022**

	Page
Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	6

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BEST BEFRIENDING AND SUPPORT TEAM FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS IN HMP WANDSWORTH**

In accordance with the Charities Act 2011 Chapters 1 and 3, I report on the charity's financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2022, set out on pages 5 and 6.

### **The respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

Section 130 (1) The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounting records kept in respect of the charity, which are sufficient to show and explain all the charity's transactions, and which are such as to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time.

In applying Section 133, the charity's gross income for the financial year ended 5 April 2022 did not exceed £250,000, therefore the charity trustees, in respect of that year, elected to prepare a receipts and payments account, instead of a statement of accounts under section 132(1).

In applying the Section 133 (b) the charity's gross income in for the year ended 5 April 2021 did not exceed the accounts threshold as specified in section 133 (account and statement an option for lower-income charities), in accordance the charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year ended 5 April 2022 under section 144 (2).

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under section 145,
- to follow the procedures set out 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 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 Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



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Emma Ekwegh  
88 Abbotts Road  
Mitcham  
CR4 1JW

24 October 2022

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2022**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 Total funds	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 Total funds
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary income	17,644	-	17,644	4,900
Investment income	-	-	-	-
	<u>17,644</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,644</u>	<u>4,900</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Resources Expended on Charitable Activities	10,146	-	10,146	1,030
Support costs	4,189	-	4,189	441
Governance costs	-	-	-	-
	<u>14,335</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,335</u>	<u>1,471</u>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>	3,309	-	3,309	3,429
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
Total funds brought forward	<u>4,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,016</u>	<u>587</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>7,325</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,325</u></u>	<u><u>4,016</u></u>

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2022**

	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 £	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Voluntary income</b>		
Donations	16,843	4,870
Gift aid	60	30
Sundry	741	-
	<u>17,644</u>	<u>4,900</u>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest on savings	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>17,644</b>	<b>4,900</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Help to Detainees and Mentees	9,591	529
Post-release support	448	469
Prison Visitor Expenses	77	2
Membership fees	30	30
	<u>10,146</u>	<u>1,030</u>
<b>Support costs</b>		
Bank charges	-	-
Salaries	2,500	-
Website fees	234	225
Printing	333	108
Postage and stationery	97	60
Office expenses	269	-
Sundry	756	48
	<u>4,189</u>	<u>441</u>
<b>Governance</b>		
Accountancy fee	-	-
Other professional fees	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>14,335</b>	<b>1,471</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>3,429</b>