

Worcestershire Churches Supporting Adoption and Fostering

Also known as Home for Good Worcestershire

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1177902

Trustees Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Worcestershire Churches Supporting Adoption and Fostering, which operates as Home for Good Worcestershire (abbreviated in this report to HfGW) was established on 11th April 2018 and is registered at Lindisfarne House, 4 Barbourne Terrace, Worcester, WR1 3JS.

HfGW is a small Worcestershire based charity. It is affiliated to the national Home for Good Charity. All the trustees are local people, having a broad range of relevant professional knowledge and expertise. Care is taken to ensure that the board of trustees has a breadth of skills to meet HfGW's responsibilities as a charity and to provide guidance, advice and support to volunteers and those who are supported by HfGW.

Trustees during the year were:

Stuart Watkins (chair of trustees)

Richard Procter (resigned as at 31/3/2024)

Rose Parker

Joy Pollock

Sharon Price

Lee Curtis

Objectives

HfGW is a charity that seeks to ensure that every child in care can thrive in a safe and loving foster or adoptive family that is right for them. HfGW's vision and belief is that the Church in Worcestershire can, and should, be part of the solution. HfGW works to put vulnerable children on the Church's agenda, inspire Christians to step up to foster or adopt, and equip churches and local groups to offer much-needed support to families who are fostering or have adopted.

HfGW seeks to do this by coordinating and resourcing a network of people, churches and local champions across Worcestershire to raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable children and young people, inspiring individuals to explore fostering and adoption and equipping churches to understand and support them.

The Board's own objectives for the year 2023 - 2024 were to ensure continuation and growth of the activities already undertaken by volunteers and to establish the necessary governance requirements as a charity.

HfGW's operational priorities are:

- Extending the number of churches and individuals reached to encourage them to engage with fostering and adoption across the whole of Worcestershire
- Strengthening the existing family support group and exploring the possibilities of starting new groups outside Worcester city.
- Maintaining the availability of practical support for carer and adoptive families
- Maintaining strong relationships with the local children's services and voluntary organisations.

- Governance priorities were to create and implement key policies regarding safeguarding, volunteer management, information management and financial processing

Activities

Much of the year's focus was to re-establish and re-energise our Support Groups and recruit more volunteers. This agenda remains very much our primary focus.

During the year HfGW undertook the following activities:

- Focused on re-establishing links with volunteers, local churches, and carers. This included sending out regular newsletters, 'drop in' mornings, sending small 'thank you' gifts to carers, and ensuring that requests for help were met quickly. In addition, we were able to support a family in need with support towards the cost of respite childcare and with a food gift.
- Held 4 Support Groups on 17/6/2023, 14/10/2023, 20/1/2024, and 16/3/2024. Each of these was attended by approximately 45 people (carers and children)
- Prepared and circulated 318 Christmas Stockings to Care Leavers in Worcestershire. This was enabled through Church giving and other local support. Feedback from the young people and their workers was overwhelmingly positive. One care leaver wrote *I received a stocking when I was recently out of prison and living in a caravan. I had no heating and it was a pretty miserable existence. The fluffy socks were a Godsend – it's hard to explain just how grateful I was for having warm feet.*
- Continued to extend links with local churches and champions. We have good links with the Baptist Union, the Diocese of Worcester, the Methodist Church and a number of Free Churches. We have established links with champions in Malvern, Upton, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, and Redditch
- Have a support WhatsApp group
- Had a stall at the Worcester Show on 13/8/2023
- Employ a part-time Development Worker and Administrator
- The trustees approved and updated a comprehensive suite of updated policies and procedures to ensure that the trust is compliant with all of its legal and ethical obligations

Planning Ahead

The trustees' priorities for 2024-2025 will continue to be:

- Grow the number of Support Groups and Summer Activities
- Develop stronger links with churches across the county
- Continue to fund raise for our core activities and development work

Financial

Our total income for 2023 – 2024 was £4,959.80 and our Expenditure was £5,875.63, resulting in a small deficit for the year of -£915.83, which was covered by our reserves. Expenditure was very similar to the previous year, but income was slightly reduced.

Unrestricted funds are held to provide for general running expenses, such as a part-time paid administrator (10 hours per month), annual insurance, DBS registration and checks. As at 31/3/2024 we had unrestricted funds of £2,086.16.

Thanks

HfGW could not operate without the immense personal commitment of trustees and volunteers who willingly give of their time and great skills. The trustees wish to place on record their recognition and thanks to all those who work with HfGW for the benefit of carers and their children in Worcestershire.

Particular thanks is due to Richard Procter, who resigned at the end of his term of office. Richard was very instrumental in setting up the local Home for Good movement. We are very grateful for his inspirational leadership, wisdom and guidance.

Signed:



STUART WATKINS

Chair of Trustees



ROSE PARKER

Trustee

Date: 18/11/24

Worcestershire Churches Supporting Adoption and Fostering

Charity Number 1177902

Operating as Home for Good: Worcestershire

Income Statement

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	2022/23		2023/24	
	£	P	£	P
Income*	6364.	59	4,959.	80
Expenditure*	5847.	79	5,875.	63
Surplus for the Year	516.	80	-915.	83

* See Notes 1 and 2

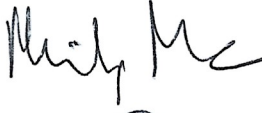
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Statement of Financial Affairs as at 31st March 2024

	31-03-2023		31-03-2024	
	£	p	£	P
Current Assets				
Balance as per Bank Statement	9302.	46	8386.	63
Represented by				
Accumulated General Fund	2451.	83	2,083.	16
Accumulated Restricted Funds	6333.	83	7,219.	30
Surplus for the Year (General Funds)	-368.	67	-397.	51
Surplus for the Year (Restricted Funds)	885.	47	-518.	32

Audited by: PHILIP MOORE
acma Signed:  Date: 25/09/2024

Chairperson: STUART WATKINS Signed:  Date: 3/11/24

Trustee: ROSEMARY PARKER Signed:  Date: 18/11/24

Worcestershire Churches Supporting Adoption and Fostering

Operating as Home for Good: Worcestershire

Note 1

These accounts have been drawn up on a receipts and payments basis. They are based on the bank statements and information supplied by the treasurer.

Note 2

1.0 Income

	2022/23		2023/24	
(a) Gifts	£	p	£	P
Personal Donations	1370.	00	1,710.	00
Church & Organisation Donations	4048.	39	2,501.	00
	5418.	39	4,211.	00
(b) Gift Aid Reclaim	255.	00		
(c) Restricted Donations (Christmas Stockings Project)	677.	80	730.	26
(d) Restricted Donations (Development Worker)				
(e) Bank Interest	13.	40	18.	54
TOTAL INCOME	6364.	59	4,959.	80

2.0 Expenditure

	2022/23		2023/24	
	£	p	£	P
Donations to Home for Good (National)			828.	98
Administrative Services bought in	1208.	17	810.	00
Bank Charges	72.	00	60.	00
Insurance	239.	30	241.	72
Support Group (Worcester)				
Craft	398.30		212.84	
Food	217.44		340.37	
Venues and Entertainment	1099.75		393.70	
Administration	510.00		585.00	
Other support group expenses	2225.	49	1,531.	91
Individual Support to Beneficiaries				
Gifts to Carers & Social Workers	89.	08	175.	35
Publicity	156.	00	98.	11
Storage	15.	89		
Champions' Events	137.	90		
Safeguarding				
Thirtyone:Eight Membership Fee	145.00		145.00	
DBS Processing	145.	00	145.	00
Stockings Project (from restricted donations)				
Purchases	1217.95		329.56	
Administration	341.01	1558.	315.00	644.
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5847.	79	5875.	63

Note 3 Assets and Liabilities

A value of £432.79 was due for services provided and expenses incurred before the end of the year by Esther Loveridge, the charity's part time administrator. These were invoiced and paid in April 2024.

Gift Aid was due to be claimed against donations in 2023/24 to the value of £316.32 and this was claimed at the start of the 2024/25 financial year.

The trustees commit to pay 25% of unrestricted gifts to the national charity, Home for Good. An outstanding of £192.50 was due at the end of the financial year, which will be paid during the 2024/25 year.

Note 4 – Funds Analysis

Fund Name	B/f	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Increase / Decrease	Balance
Stockings Fund - Restricted	452.67	730.26	644.56		85.70	538.37
Development Worker - Restricted	5,050.00	0.00	1,040.00		-1,040.00	4,010.00
Worcester Support Groups - Restricted	1,716.63	0.00	1,565.02		-1,565.02	151.61
County-wide Support Groups - Restricted	0.00	2,001.00	0.00		2,001.00	2,001.00
Total Restricted & Designated Funds	7,219.30	2,731.26	3,249.58	0.00	-518.32	6,700.98
General Funds	2,083.16					1,685.65
Of which:						
Stockings Fund - Designated	459.00			-459.00	-459.00	0.00
Total Funds at Bank	9,302.46					8386.63

Restricted donations within the year to the Stockings Fund for Christmas gifts to care leavers were sufficient to cover costs. Therefore, the trustees reversed the designation of £459 of general funds for this project.

At the end of 2023/24, the charity held restricted funds for a Development Worker. It was again not possible to add to this fund and the donor agreed to the use of £3,400 of the funds to employ a part time worker. Following consideration of the context and options, the trustees appointed Joy Pollock, herself a trustee, to the role. See note below on payments made to trustees.

A fund was established for the purpose of providing support groups to adoptive parents and carers across the whole county. £2,001.00 was received that will be used in 2024/25.

Payments totalling £161.00 were made to Trustees for reimbursement of expenses incurred:

	£	P
Lee Curtis	105.	25
Joy Pollock	111.	00
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS TO TRUSTEES	161.	00

Joy Pollock also received £1,340 in return for services provided to the charity as the Development Worker. This was authorised by trustees during the year in line with the governing documents and funded through a restricted fund.

Audited by: PHILIP MOORE *acma* Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 24/10/2024
Chairperson: STUART WATKINS Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 3/11/24
Trustee: ROSEMARY PARKER Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 13/11/24