

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022

Structure, Governance and Management

Love Southend is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), incorporated on 26 September 2018. It is registered with the Charity Commission. The CIO was established under its Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charity and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Trustees are appointed at Annual General Meetings, as set out in the Articles of Association, which provide for a minimum of three trustees. The Trustees are responsible for the appointment of new trustees.

New trustees undergo an induction to brief them on their legal obligations under charity law, the content of the Articles of Association and the decision-making processes and the recent performance of the charity. They meet key employees and the other trustees.

Risk Assessment Policy

The Risk Assessment and Health and Safety policy will be overseen by a designated trustee who reports back to trustees' meetings with appropriate recommendations.

Organisational Policy

The Trustees meet a minimum of four times a year. Sub-committees are formed as and when required. The Love Southend Servant Team oversee the operations of the charity.

Organisation

The Leadership Team structure and responsibilities are as follows:

Being a new and small charity, the organisation is simple.

The Love Southend Servant Team consists of eight individuals, four of whom are ministers of local churches and a further two are in leadership positions in local churches. These have responsibility for the direction and vision of the charity,

Trustees

i. The trustees are responsible for the legal and financial management of the charity; for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; make judgements that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in existence.

- ii. To advise the Love Southend Servant team on staffing, salaries and employment issues.
- iii. To manage the legal responsibilities of the charity.

Salaried staff

There were no salaried staff for the year 2022

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Objectives and Activities

The principal activities of the charity are the relief of those in need; the promotion of the spiritual welfare of the community and the advancement of religion in Southend-on-Sea and its environs.

Review of activities and achievements

Prayer and worship.

We consider prayer to be an indispensable part of the individual's, the church's, and therefore Love Southend's life. We hold monthly prayer and worship weekday morning meetings which are open to any member of the community. These meetings focus on issues of celebration or concern in the life and work of the city; the work and ministry of churches, Christian charities or individuals and their service in the community. Some of the City-wide themes we have focused prayer on during 2022 have included hospital and town chaplaincy; our nation with a new Prime Minister and cabinet; our local council with a new CEO / our elected members of council as well as staff working at the council; local churches with changes in leadership happening (retirement's).

Additionally, four of Love Southend's monthly Network Gatherings were planned around worship and intercession, focusing on the following city-wide issues / themes – aspirations for the well-being of Southend in 2022; policing, crime and safety in the community; sharing faith effectively and the cost of living crisis, including contributions from key players in the community to inform our praying.

The 'Loving Southend in Prayer' WhatsApp group continues and draws on contacts within the NHS, Police and Council for updated needs, concerns and encouragements which are quickly and easily communicated to the 41 people in the group. The WhatsApp prayer group have also continued to pray for schools, care homes, the setting up and establishing of a new YMCA children's home and other needs brought to our attention.

A County-wide Prayer Team Prayed Around Priory Park For Southend-on-Sea

A prayer team of 8 people from Transforming Essex came to Priory Park to pray for and bless Southend on 23 February 2022, a week before our City Status became official. They were met by a member of Love Southend and welcomed to the Park. This was the first of four prayer gatherings as part of their 'Four Corners of Essex' prayer strategy.

During July and August 2022 the 'Loving Southend in Prayer' WhatsApp group took on a challenge to think of an attribute and characteristic of God from A-Z to pray over our City. This proved to be inspiring and a resource of the comments that the group members posted was produced and shared on the website.

Southend Churches Community Support (SCCS)

SCCS is a Love Southend sponsored activity in collaboration with Southend City Council (SCC). This happened because the Churches' Winter Night Shelters (CWNS) were closed as a result of Covid and a council decision that they would not reopen. The CWNS was rebranded as Southend Churches Community Support (SCCS) and, when the pandemic restrictions were eased, SCCS was asked by SCC to set up a Befriending Service to support those moved from the local B&Bs into more permanent accommodation.

SCCS has continued to help those recently accommodated to live independently, sustain their tenancy and develop life skills. The Befriending Service offers a friendly listening ear, companionship, and basic practical help, to enable people to realise their full potential and assist them to participate in activities in the community in the same way that everyone else does. It also signposts to local support services, as necessary.

Each client is typically contacted weekly for a 1-hour session, on a one-to-one basis, doing activities of the client's choice.

Although 15 clients have now been referred to SCCS, there is still only one volunteer despite determined efforts to recruit more. This means that the manager has continued to do the majority of the befriending; nevertheless, the determination to help as many people as possible has remained.

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The vehicle purchased with the grant from the Morrisons Foundation has proved invaluable in transporting both clients and donated furniture, etc. A prime example of this was using it to pick up clients to take them to the Sands Restaurant where they enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch!

Network meetings

Love Southend holds a monthly evening network meeting for church leaders, people who pray regularly for the well-being of the residents, life and work of the city, and Christians who hold positions of responsibility within the community. In addition, any member of a Christian community interested in city wide issues is welcome to attend.

These meetings involve: raising awareness of city-wide issues by inviting community leaders or those leading city focussed Christian ministry to inform the network and create opportunities for churches and individuals to engage with the issues raised; to provide mutual support, encouragement and prayer for network members and their ministry. This year, for example, the Head of Service Children, Youth and Family Support of Southend Borough Council, those working in support individuals and families impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, and Southend's most senior police officer attended network meetings. All worship/prayer and network meetings became 'in person' after April.

Engagement with Community and Faith Leaders

Members of Love Southend have established strong connections with community leaders to better understand issues for celebration and the needs of the community, and to provide prayerful support and encouragement for those carrying significant responsibility within Southend. A member of the Servant Team had regular meetings with senior police officers. We kept in close contact with these links throughout the year to support and encourage them in the fulfilment of their responsibilities and to be aware of ways in which we could offer support in prayer for them, their staff and for the borough.

Two members of the Servant Team attended meetings of the Southend Faith and Belief Network which provides a very welcome communication conduit between the Council and faith communities in the city. Fortnightly Microsoft Teams calls requested by the Council enabled faith communities to:

- share initiatives that met the needs of the wider community
- be aware of initiatives and developments by the Council in response to key issues affecting the community and report these to their faith communities
- to hear from, and ask questions of, key officials in the Council.
- to support and engage with the 'Unite in Light' event

The designation of ring-fenced community fund within Love Southend accounts created last year to support Afghan guests was changed to allow the support of Ukrainian families displaced to Southend through the government supported and family visa schemes and any refugee seeker in Southend. A gift of £200 was made to 'Welcome UK' in Southend who provided a friendship meal at Christmas for Ukrainian families, and £150 in vouchers towards Ukrainian families. £150 was used to provide Primark vouchers for Afghan families still being housed in a hotel.

City centre chaplaincy

High Street Retail

As we started the 4th year of Love Southend being involved in the now 'City' Chaplaincy, Covid was becoming less of an issue for the majority, but for some it was still having a significant effect. During the year retail still suffered although there were no further main store closures, but also no re-opening of shuttered areas. This meant the time covered in the Royals by chaplaincy remained at 2-3 hours. The Methodist half of the team continued chaplaincy in the Victoria Plaza shopping centre at the other end of the high street. As the year wore on the war in the Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis started to be voiced in the one to ones with staff and customers. Prayer was shared, signposting and comfort was given. Continued links grew with both those of other faiths, especially the Muslim staff, and those with no faith commitment.

Conversations covered areas such as mental health, education, business, finances, physical health, assistance with end of life and mourning.

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Veterans

Chaplaincy links to veterans have continued with a new link to the SSAFA charity established. This is a weekly lunch meeting but chaplaincy attends slightly less often due to other commitments but is available to be contacted out of hours. The chaplain being on call is appreciated. One regularly makes us of it for a quick chat.

YMCA (The Y)

Chaplaincy has once again grown within areas of the YMCA. Cost of living for both residents, staff and the charity has had an impact leading to prayer covering all areas. A YMCA children's home has now been added to their portfolio. Staff training days included an explanation of the role of chaplaincy.

Weekly reflections and the breakfast club continued but moved to Wednesdays by YMCA request. The former unfortunately then dwindled and closed in the autumn. The breakfast club lost the member of staff assisting the Chaplain, though staff are available if required. The breakfast attendees, although small in number, reflected a wide range of needs. This led to prayers for similar issues as above but also addictions, relationships, identity and worth.

One to ones also continued taken up by both staff and residents in person. This even led to one member of staff who was commuting from Southend and thus could only work 2 days a week to find accommodation with the lead chaplain thus being able to live locally and do a full week of work. Also, some minimal work with The Y's housed refugees came to an end early on and did not restart before the end of the year.

Refugee support

Chaplaincy to refugees continued with volunteers of the Arab/English friendship group. The group assists both in the local authority but also abroad. The lead chaplain's befriending of one family of 5 came to a close just before the end of the year due to their assimilation into the neighbourhood. He hopes to adopt another in 2023. Love Southend offered to become a more spiritual support to the group going forward whilst Southend Vineyard provides an administrative base for them.

Project Southchurch

A new role requested by Project Southchurch, a community group covering an eastern section of the city, was the inclusion of a chaplain on their team. The project includes various community events and celebrations. The chaplain will be a faith connection amongst the businesses and residents in the area.

Chaplaincy Everywhere Course

No chaplaincy courses were organised for last year but it is on the agenda for the next 18 months.

The lead Love Southend Chaplain went on sabbatical at the beginning of December but is expected to be back in post March 2023.

Plans for 2023.

On the lead chaplain's return in March he will connect with the various groups and liaise with his opposite number from the Methodist Circuit to review new areas and to review / refresh any previous engagements that have become moribund. It is hoped to forge links with a community group 'Coffee and Chat' in Westcliff and the 'Ironworks' community hub in the high street.

Support for NHS and emergency services staff – continuing to boost morale

A member of the Love Southend Servant Team continues to stay in regular contact with hospital staff members and police officers via text messages, emails and letters and face to face meetings. A key worker in the hospital, ambulance service and the police force continued to distribute letters of thanks, sweets and biscuits on behalf of Love Southend through the year. The response has been that this has helped to raise the morale of workers often under immense pressure.

Other events

Unite in Light

The "Unite in Light" event, which was a celebration of hope and light for our City year, saw people gather from Southend's diverse faith communities at the Maritime Room, Cliffs Pavilion, to share their hopes for the City of

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Southend and explore what light symbolises in their faith. The event was supported by Southend City, Citizens Essex and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. Speakers at the event were drawn from the diversity of faith communities in the City.

Anna Firth, MP for Southend West, said: "Unite in Light was an inspirational afternoon which saw over 25 different faith groups coming together to celebrate the launch of City week and the life of Sir David Amess. Wonderful tributes were read out and there was huge enthusiasm for this to become an annual celebration of the founding of Southend City. As we look forward to formal City status arriving on 1 March, now is the time for us to embrace Southend as a City. The City of Southend will always stand as a beacon of light in its inclusivity and vision for the future".

Love Southend's contribution was focussed on the first public showing of the art work commissioned from Helen Yousaf last year and its significance for the memory of Sir David Amess and the theme of the event.

Presentation of Helen Yousaf artwork

Of the three pieces of artwork produced by Helen depicting the themes of faith and hope arising from a prayer evening initiated by Love Southend for the city immediately after the murder of Sir David in 2021, one, 'Suffering and Glory', was presented to the Facilities Manager of Leigh Road Baptist Church who made a community space available for the collaborative start to the art work. A second, 'Grief and Compassion', depicting prayers and grief rising from our then borough, and in response God's comfort and compassion as shards of light, was presented to the city at a full meeting of the Council on the occasion of the anniversary of Sir David's murder. It is planned to donate the third piece to Anna Firth, MP and the local Conservative Association.

Public Benefit

In planning the activities of the charity, the trustees have given consideration to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in particular to ensure that:

- There are identifiable benefits
- Benefits are to the public or a section of the public
- The benefits relate closely to the charitable objectives.

Plans for 2023

As a Christian CIO we intend to continue to reach out to the population in the Southend area with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Further work on the strategic development of LS;

A review of SCCS and Blaze.

To engage with other Chaplains in other fields and towns and cities to learn best practice.

To run a chaplaincy course.

Financial Review

Grants: £16,879.07 from Southend Borough Council

Donations over £1,000: None

Reserves Policy

At this stage in the charity's history we do not have a reserves policy

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Investment Policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investments which the trustees see fit.

Independent Examiner

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting that Caroline McGregor be appointed the Independent Examiner to Love Southend for the ensuing year.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the activities of the charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On Behalf Of The Trustees

Date:

9.8.23.



(Chairman)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Love Southend

1180977

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2022

To

Period end date
31/12/22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General	1,657	-	-	-	1,834
SCCS	-	17,019	-	-	10,718
SRS	-	256	-	-	3,230
YU	-	0	-	-	-
CC	-	60	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,657	17,335	-	-	15,832
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,657	17,335	-	-	15,232
A3 Payments					
General	1,978	-	-	-	1,451
SCCS	-	48,341	-	-	19,097
SRS	-	2150	-	-	1,252
YU	-	150	-	-	-
CC	-	240	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,978	50,881	-	-	21,800
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,978	50,881	-	-	21,800
Net of receipts/(payments)	-321	-33,546	-	-	-5,968
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,214	53,393	-	-	61,575
Cash funds this year end	1,893	19,847	-	-	55,607