



**Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Homelessness Action Collaborative**

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Annual Report: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

REGISTERED OFFICE at End of Financial Year

c/o CITIZENS ADVICE, THE WEST WING  
BOURNE AVENUE, BOURNEMOUTH  
BH2 6DX

Charity number 1182745

## Report of the Trustees for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### Our Aims and objectives

The BCP Homelessness Action Collaborative ("the Collaborative") is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019; it has the following object in its constitution:

"...to relieve hardship, need and distress among those in Dorset and surrounding areas who are homeless or threatened with homelessness"

### Background and current role:

The Collaborative was set up to bring together agencies, charities and businesses to find ways to "do more by doing it together" and thus reduce homelessness in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. It worked informally prior to and after its formal CIO formation, to encourage strong partnerships and provide excellent information to all those working with the vulnerably housed and rough sleepers in the area.

It played a key role in the development of the Homelessness partnership (BCP) which now has a senior-level cross sector Homelessness Reduction Board, a Homelessness Forum, and a range of Action Groups working on specific tasks. Since the formation of the Partnership, the Collaborative has taken on new specific roles:

- It is the **membership** body: as it is a legal entity, organisations can become members (on signing the partnership charter).
- It will provide the primary means of **communicating** with partnership members; there will be a regular Forum meeting to feedback on the actions and plans from the HRB and partnership action groups.
- It maintains, updates and promotes [www.streetsupport.net/bournemouth](http://www.streetsupport.net/bournemouth) as the partnership's on-line **source of help** and information for the whole conurbation
- It will be a key source of **ideas** to feed into the rest of the partnership; ie. membership is about 2-way communication, allowing proposals from all sectors that will then be considered at HRB and in action groups
- It will provide a **funding route** for non-statutory sources of money that are needed across the rest of the partnership

### Covid impact:

The Collaborative's influence in terms of driving the homelessness partnership has been key to the extraordinary level of partnership working over the pandemic. For example, the regular monthly forums (chaired by the HAC chair) are attended by 40-50 people from over 30 organisations every month making sure that partners know what is happening, and as importantly, what is fact and what is rumour.

Over the course of the last year, over 400 people got into temporary accommodation out of precarious or street sleeping arrangements, the official numbers street sleeping reduced by 65% and more than 200 people have already moved on into more secure shelter. There is a new lived experience partnership group (one of at least 8 action groups), there is multi-partner working on a new health hub in a town centre church hall, and there is a centralised clothes provision. The Collaborative was one of the main catalysts for this.



Inevitably some projects such as Contactless giving have been delayed by the lockdowns, but are now moving forward as people emerge back on to the streets.

#### Key projects:

##### **1. Contactless giving**

One of the main projects we have focused on this year has been Contactless giving; our aim has been to provide giving points across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, where members of the public could “tap” to give £3 into the “Change for Good” central fund – charities and agencies can then put in applications to use these funds to help individuals move on from homelessness (it is independently managed by Dorset Community Foundation).

Working with other members of the local Homelessness Partnership, including BCP Council, the Town Centre BID and Bournemouth University, we have secured at least 6 locations across the 3 towns for giving points; and we are hopeful for other sites that can use counter-top giving points. The locations will also have information on how the money will be used and the overall aim of “ending homelessness in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole”.

The project was delayed of course when lockdowns meant the streets were emptied of the public. But, we are hopeful that the initial sites will be the catalyst for businesses and groups across the conurbation to want a giving point in their community.

Change for Good has given out over £5000 already this year, even before the contactless giving points (<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/changeforgoodBournemouth>), with monies going to 1 to 1 coaching with a trauma support worker, equipment for day-time support activities, phone power-banks, and replacing identification: anything to help a person make a new start.

##### **2. Future of Street support**

Several months ago we had a conversation with the national Street Support team about the “BCP” site, saying that we were interested in making it more customised for our local area. To that end, we started talking to our local (well-developed) digital community about what they could provide in this arena.

At the same time as we have seen more people joining the homelessness partnership, so the digital community have come together and shown a very practical desire to play their part in reducing homelessness. A local collaboration called “We the Media” ran an audit of Street Support and how people perceived the work through the website – they challenged us to think about the name in the light of so much homelessness now being off the street; they also noted that there were new initiatives like the local Access to Food partnership’s food map that needed to be the main way of showing food support. And above all, they offered to take on developing and maintaining a local partnership website for free, that not only had a clear BCP focus, but demonstrated that local digital businesses were on board with the partnership agenda.

The trustees of the Collaborative were very supportive of this approach, as it will link in even more businesses, increase the impact of the partnership work, as well as significantly reducing costs.

The new site will be developed and take the place of Street Support BCP in 2021-22.

### 3. Shoe vouchers

With help from Bournemouth University and Hope Housing, we decided to run a project that would address the issue of access to appropriate, well fitting and good quality footwear. This was highlighted as an issue for many people, particularly those who find themselves street homeless who require shoes that are sturdy enough to protect against the elements of the outdoors. The Collaborative and Bournemouth University joined together to purchase some vouchers via a site called [www.shoe vouchers.co.uk](http://www.shoe vouchers.co.uk) which were then passed to Hope Housing's new clothing shop, "Hope And More", so they could be distributed to any agency working with an individual in need of some new footwear.

£3000 of vouchers were purchased, and will start to be used as the lockdowns allow people to go shopping again.

### Financial Review

In 2020-21, the Collaborative were grateful for the following grants:

- BCP Council Community infrastructure Levy funds: £4,320 (Contactless giving)
- Bournemouth University: £950 (Shoe Vouchers)

Other funds from the Town Centre BID were expected to help with installing Contactless giving points.

The costs shown in the accounts are largely from 3 sources:

- The costs of Street Support – £475 per month
- The costs of our project officer who works 6hrs/week
- Project costs incl. purchase of contactless giving points from Goodbox (£5.7k), and Shoe Vouchers from [www.shoe vouchers.co.uk](http://www.shoe vouchers.co.uk) (£2.45k)

At the end of March 2021, the Collaborative had £11,696 in their accounts, ahead of future projects (including the development of contactless giving)

Note that the trustees have taken the decision to maintain at least 3 months reserves which in this case means approximately £2,500 in the account.

### Governance & internal Controls

#### Trustee team

The 7 original trustees represent some of the founding partners of the Collaborative and cover several sectors: Education (B'mouth University); Business (TM-audio video); Social Housing (Hope Housing); Community (Citizens Advice, Shelter); Faith (Faithworks Wessex, Boscombe Salvation Army). Ruth Mattingley from Boscombe Salvation Army left for a new role during the year, and Jane Joy moved from Hope Housing to the YMCA.

The trustees meet at least every quarter; they continue to ensure that there is sound governance in place:

- Banking systems and book-keeping (this has now been outsourced to Oak Accounting)
- Policies especially around Safeguarding, volunteer management etc.
- Communications with members (the wider Partnership forum provides this)



As part of the ongoing development of the Homelessness Partnership (BCP), the Council Portfolio holder has been invited to attend the trustee meetings to cement links, and enhance communications across the partnership.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Company law and charity law require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then 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 company will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provision of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

This report was approved by the trustees on <sup>29 SEP 2021</sup> ~~XXXXXX~~, 2021.

Signed: (Alistair Doxat-Purser, Chair of Trustees)

Dated:

  
29/9/21

Appendix 1: Trustees

The following are trustees of the CIO on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021:

- Alistair Doxat-Purser, CEO, Faithworks Wessex (Chair)
- Zoe Bradley, CEO, BCP Citizens Advice (Treasurer)
- Ian Jones, Head of Engagement, Bournemouth University
- Jane Joy, Head of Comms, YMCA
- Richard Marshall, Manager, TM-Audio Visual
- Kate Parker, Manager, Shelter Dorset

# BCP Homelessness Action Collaborative

				Year ended 31-Mar-21	Year ended 31-Mar-20	
Receipts and payments		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		
<b>Receipts:</b>						
Member donations		50		50	1000	
Other donations		98		98	6072	
Grants			4320	4320	22000	
Other income	(Bournemouth Uni)	950		950	100	
		<u>1098</u>	<u>4320</u>	<u>5418</u>	<u>29172</u>	
<b>Payments:</b>						
Bank Charges		69		69	35	
Staff costs		3660		3660	3660	
Street support system		3800		3800	3750	
Support work costs	(Shoe vouchers)	2450		2450	0	
Subscription		0		0	115	
Insurance		293		293	287	
Equipment lease		0	5713	5713	325	
Other expenses	(Dorset Community Foundation)	950		950	0	
Accounts		250		250	0	
		<u>11471</u>	<u>5713</u>	<u>17185</u>	<u>8172</u>	
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<u><b>-10374</b></u>	<u><b>-1393</b></u>	<u><b>-11767</b></u>	<u><b>21000</b></u>	
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>-6400</b>	<b>6400</b>			
Funds brought forward 31/3/20		<u>23464</u>		<u>23464</u>	<u>2464</u>	
Funds carried forward		<u><b>6690</b></u>	<u><b>5007</b></u>	<u><b>11696</b></u>	<u><b>23464</b></u>	
<b>Restricted funds:</b>		<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
<b>Contactless Donations Scheme</b>		0	4320	-5713	6400	5007
<b>Shoe Vouchers</b>		0	0	0	0	0
		<u><b>0</b></u>	<u><b>4320</b></u>	<u><b>-5713</b></u>	<u><b>6400</b></u>	<u><b>5007</b></u>

08th September 2021

**BCP – Homelessness Action Colaborative**  
**Charity ref: 1183745**

**Independent Examiner's Report for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;

have not been met or; or

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

Date 08<sup>th</sup> September 2021

...NJeffery...

Natalie Jeffery

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