



Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Homelessness Action Collaborative

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Annual Report: 31st March 2022

REGISTERED OFFICE at End of Financial Year

c/o CITIZENS ADVICE, BCP Council Civic Centre
BOURNE AVENUE, BOURNEMOUTH
BH2 6DX

Charity number 1182745

Report of the Trustees for the year to March 31st, 2022

Our Aims and objectives

The BCP Homelessness Action Collaborative (“the Collaborative”) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed on 2nd 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 develops and promotes on-line **sources 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 and partnership actions:

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) continue to be 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.

As Covid restrictions eased, the Council sought to continue to house as many verifiable people sleeping rough as possible in emergency hotel accommodation.

The Partnership agreed a new [Strategy](#) in May 2021 with 3 focuses:

- Core aim 1 - early and effective upstream prevention: reducing homelessness by intervening and educating prior to occurrence

- Core aim 2 - reducing and stopping the cycle of homelessness: where this does occur, work at making it a one-off event
- Core aim 3 - ongoing improvement, development and sustainability: ensuring that progress is sustained

Over the course of the last year, the partnership action groups worked to deliver against this plan including

- Gathering Lived Experience feedback through the new “Oracle Group”
- Developing and promoting a prospectus of all the Training, education and employability support in the BCP area for those escaping crisis
- Putting together and sending out 20,000 copies of a “Worrying About Money” leaflet based on the Independent Food Action Network (IFAN) national model

Key projects involving the Collaborative:

1. Contactless giving

The Change for Good contactless giving fund continued to develop. By the end of March 2022, there were 10 points across the local area including 2 counter-top devices in local hotels, 2 podium points, one in a bank in Christchurch and one in the Dolphin shopping centre (which had been based at the skate park in the Winter Wonderland in Bournemouth town centre over December), and 6 other window giving points in churches, banks, libraires and homelessness projects.

The points generated £1000 over the course of the year, and the total Change for Good fund continued to benefit from direct gifts including a one-off £5000. This enabled Dorset Community foundation, our local independent partner to manage another funding round: members of the partnership were able to bid for up to £500 to help individuals either furnish new accommodation, get essential items such as power banks for phones, or provide resources for activities for women traumatised by homelessness.

2. Replacing Street support

Following the review of www.streetsupport.net/bcp last year, the partnership engaged local company, V88 to develop a new web portal that will provide local information and links for those at risk of homelessness and those experiencing homelessness. This would enable us to take advantage of existing links such as the BCP Access to Food map, the volunteering hub at CAN, and the Worrying About Money leaflet. It also meant that we were not relying on individual partners to update their information. The portal will be based on a very simple 4-5 steps to help approach, so that it is easy for individuals to find the help they need, or get to see what is needed (including a link to Change for Good).

The new portal (<https://homelessnesspartnershipbcp.org/>) will be launched at the Homelessness Conference in September 2022.

3. Communications strategy and plan

It became increasingly clear to the Collaborative that the partnership needed a team dedicated to communicating the key messages of our local work. A comms plan was developed including a range of events, a conference in 2022, regular social media messages, good news story videos etc.

Thanks to BCP Council identifying £30k for 2022-23 to put into additional capacity, BCHA (as a key member of the partnership) offered to host a comms lead; a recruitment exercise was undertaken, but no suitable candidate could be found. So the chair of the collaborative in conjunction with a senior Council officer asked BCHA if they would provide this service from within their team. This was agreed and the team started in May 2022.

Further funding will be sought through the Collaborative to ensure this capacity can continue.

At the end of 2021, it was agreed that Claire Devaney who had provided project admin support to the Collaborative since its inception, would finish with the charity. We are very grateful for her dedication to this cause over the challenging Covid period.

Financial Review

In 2021-22, the Collaborative were grateful for the following grants:

- Bournemouth University contributed £4500 towards the development of the new partnership web portal
- Bournemouth Town Centre BID gave £2450 to help with paying for and installing Contactless giving points.

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

- The costs of Street Support – £475 per month – final payment made in Dec 2021
- The costs of our project officer who works 6hrs/week – final payment in Dec 2021
- The purchase, lease, installation and promotion of the Contactless points

At the end of March 2022, the Collaborative had £4,242 in their accounts, nearly all in restricted funds ahead of future projects including the development of the web portal.

The trustees agreed that to maintain at least 3 months reserves in unrestricted funds, they had to seek immediate additional grant funding which they achieved in April 2022 with a £5000 grant from Valentine trust.

Governance & internal Controls

Trustee team

Jane Joy moved YMCA resigned during the year, leaving 5 trustees from Business, University, Charitable and Faith sectors. A representative from the Voluntary sector umbrella body, CAN, has been asked to join the trustees at the next AGM.

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

- Banking systems and book-keeping (now 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 Partnership manager has been invited to attend the trustee meetings to cement links, and enhance communications across the partnership.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

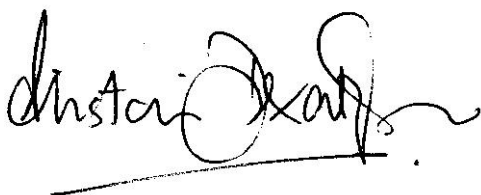
Company law and charity law require the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required 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 November 7th, 2022.



Signed:

(Alistair Doxat-Purser, Chair of Trustees)

Dated: 7 November 2022

Appendix 1: Trustees

The following are trustees of the CIO on 31st March 2021:

- Alistair Doxat-Purser, CEO, Faithworks Wessex (Chair)
- Zoe Bradley, CEO, BCP Citizens Advice (Treasurer)
- Ian Jones, Head of Engagement, Bournemouth University
- Richard Marshall, Manager, Premium Event Productions Ltd
- Kate Parker, Manager, Shelter Dorset

Appendix 2: Annual Accounts

BCP Homelessness Action Collaborative				
Receipts and payments			Year ended 31-Mar-22 Total	Year ended 31-Mar-21
	Unrestricted	Restricted		
Receipts:				
Member donations	0		0	50
Contactless donations	0	962	962	0
Other donations	326		326	98
Grants	0	6950	6950	4320
Other income	0	0	0	950
	326	7912	8238	5418
Payments:				
Bank/contactless charges	154		154	69
Contactless donations	0	939	939	0
Promotional costs	0	1858	1858	0
Staff costs	2366		2366	3660
Street support system	3800		3800	3800
Support work costs (Shoe vouchers)	0		0	2450
Website and app development	0	1400	1400	0
Subscription	0		0	0
Insurance	434		434	293
Equipment lease, installation & service fees	0	4463	4463	5713
Other expenses	0		0	950
Accounts	280		280	250
	7034	8660	15693	17185
Excess of receipts over payments	-6708	-748	-7455	-11767
Transfers between funds				
Funds brought forward 31/3/20	6690	5007	11697	23464
Funds carried forward	-18	4259	4242	11696

BCP – Homelessness Action Collaborative
Charity ref: 1183745

Independent Examiner's Report for the Year to 31st March 2021

05th September 2022

BCP – Homelessness Action Collaborative
Charity ref: 1183745

Independent Examiner's Report for the Year to 31st March 2022

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

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 05th September 2022

...N Jeffery...

Natalie Jeffery

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Poole
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