

Gateway into Life



(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number 1184557

Annual Report
Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

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Gateway into Life Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Administrative Information

Charity Name: Gateway into Life
Charity registration number: 1184557
Charity Registration: 23rd July 2019

Registered Office and operational address:

Ryehill Farmhouse
Thropton
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 7NG

Trustees

Mr Paul Allen	Chair	Initial appointment 23/07/19 until 22/07/2023
Dr Joss Bray	Friendship and Support Group link trustee	Initial appointment 01/03/2021 until 01/03/2024
Mr David Harbertson	DBS recruiter and Safeguarding Officer	Initial appointment 23/07/19 renewed until 22/07/2024
Mr Steve Hardwick		Initial appointment 24/04/22 until 23/04/2025
Mrs Susan Pearsons	Treasurer	Initial appointment 24/01/2022 until 23/01/2025

Resignations

Mr Robert Burston Resigned 10/01/23

Independent Examiner of Accounts

Mr J Archer ACA, Chartered Accountant,
4 Willoughby Park, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1ET

Bankers – Current Account: Lloyds Bank (TSB)
Deposit Account: Kingdom Bank

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered as a charity on 23rd July 2019. The charity was established with a constitution with charity trustees as the only voting members.

The constitution allows for between 3 and 12 trustees, a maximum of 7 of these may be appointed by Gateway Church Northumberland. There have been no changes in 2023 to the constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Trustees

Under the requirements of the Constitution, except for the initial Trustees, every Trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees.

There shall be a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve Trustees.

Any person retiring as a Trustee is eligible for reappointment.

All member of the Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity is true to the objectives, fulfils all legal requirements, account for all giving to the charity and ensures that funds are used appropriately. To this end the treasurer prepares financial statements for each Trustee's meeting which give a true and accurate view of the state of the finances of the charitable company.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose accurately at any time the financial position of the CIO and to enable the trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In addition to the above responsibilities the trustees recognise their legal responsibility to safeguard all vulnerable people who are beneficiaries, volunteers or paid workers.

As the CIO's Trustees, we certify that so far as we know, there is no relevant financial information of which the charity's reviewer of accounts is unaware. We have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's reviewer also knows that information.

Treasurer

Our treasurer, Mrs Susan Pearsons, was appointed as a Trustee early in 2022 and took over full responsibility for the charity accounts at the start of 2023.

Purposes and Objectives

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the CIO's constitution:

The Objects of the CIO are, for the public benefit:

- 1. The advancement of the Christian religion in the United Kingdom in accordance with the statement of faith produced by the Evangelical Alliance
- 2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind, including the provision of accommodation, in Northumberland and other such parts of the United Kingdom as the Trustees from time to time may think fit
- 3. To advance the rehabilitation of vulnerable adults including ex-offenders, people with addiction problems and the homeless, in such ways that the trustees think fit, including through the provision of mentoring, advice and supervision to assist them to break the cycle of reoffending, relapse and homelessness by developing their capacity, skills and experience in such a way that they are better able to identify and meet their needs and to participate more fully in society.

Hope into Action UK

Since the registration of Gateway into Life (G2L) as a charity on 23rd July 2019, the Trustees have worked to fulfil the Charity Objectives by establishing a franchise with Hope into Action UK (HiA). HiA is a national housing charity with a similar Christian ethos to G2L. We are indebted to HiA for the excellent support they have given to us. Our franchise gave us access to a model that enabled us to quickly establish our first house and also policies, guidance and regular support both remotely and through face to face meetings. As part of the franchise agreement, HiA routinely assesses the quality of our work, every 6 months, using a Quality Assurance Matrix (QAM). One check is carried out remotely to ensure that our records and compliance are up to date. The other check is an in person visit when different partners and users are interviewed. The resulting QAM provides a clear picture of what we are doing well and if necessary action points to improve our operation. We have received positive feedback from our QAM's .

Houses

The Alnwick house that opened in March 2020 continues to provide supported accommodation for ex-offenders. During 2023 there have been 2 long term tenants in the house. Support has been given by our professional worker and by the Gateway Northumberland Church's Friendship and Support Group.

Empowerment Worker (EW)

The Empowerment Worker provides professional support to tenants. In July 2023 we appointed a new EW following the resignation of the existing EW.

Volunteers

In addition to the work that the Trustees are undertaking, in 2023 a Hope into Action Northumberland (HiAN) Management Team comprising a trustee, our Empowerment Worker and Church Friendship and Support Group representatives was operating. This Team took responsibility for the day to day running of the Alnwick house and supporting both the tenants and the EW. A new Chair of this group was appointed by the church who has been instrumental in giving the group a clear focus on roles and responsibilities.

Safeguarding

The charity takes safeguarding seriously although technically the adults that we work with are not classed as vulnerable. Nevertheless, all trustees, workers and volunteers are recruited using recognised safer recruitment procedures. All are formally vetted and DBS checked. Safeguarding training is undertaken on a regular basis.

Finances

The charity has a number of individuals who generously give to G2L each month with much of this being gift aided. We receive housing benefit payments direct from Northumberland County Council. Tenants also pay a personal charge. This helps to pay for TV licence, internet connection and water charges. Some additional support has come from HiA UK as a result of their national appeals.

Reserves

In keeping with Charity Commission recommendations, the trustees have agreed to aim for a 6 month running cost reserve. At the end of 2023 we held £11,273 in a Kingdom Bank deposit account.

Plans for the future

Now that the first Alnwick based house is running smoothly, the Trustees are looking to expand the provision by finding other Northumberland churches that want to support new houses. It can take up to 12 months from finding a church to getting a house ready for occupancy. During 2023 2 new churches have agreed to support a HiAN house. Alnwick Baptist Church wish to support a refugee family house. Armstrong Hall Christian Fellowship wish to support a family house and are open to where a family referral comes from. Both churches have signed an agreement with G2L. An investor has been identified for a family house in Rothbury and a suitable property is in the process of being purchased. Work continues to find an investor to purchase a house that Alnwick Baptist Church can support.

Independent Examiner of Accounts

Mr J Archer ACA, Chartered Accountant, has examined our accounts and these are attached as an appendix.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 06/09/24 and signed on its behalf by



Mr Paul Allen
(Chair)

APPENDIX 1: G2L Annual Accounts 2023 & Examiners Report

02 March 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GATEWAY INTO LIFE

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

As members (trustees) with responsibility for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that an audit is not required this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as members (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 next statement.

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 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting regulations contained within the 2011 Act.have 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.



Jon Archer ACA
Chartered Accountant
4 Willoughby Park
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1ET

GATEWAY INTO LIFE			
Accounts 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023			
	Income		Expenditure
Gift Aid Donations	3310.00	Access Insurance	702.30
Donations	4376.00	Zoom subscription	143.88
Gift Aid refund 2019-2021	2210.32	Thirtyoneeight	195.25
Gift Aid refund 2022	1131.50	ICO ZA 844647	35.00
		Wix Web	93.60
		Word Press Domain	15.00
		Milk Media	400.00
		Council Tax	1105.23
		BT Group	450.88
		Northumbrian Water	297.02
		Investor's Return	2618.40
NCC Housing Benefit	10360.04	Hope into Action monthly fee	720.00
T1 Rent & Personal Charges	105.00	PAT	75.00
T2 Personal Charges	240.00	Pipe & Wire	90.00
T3 Personal charges	40.00	House keys	116.65
		EDF & Gas top up	399.94
		TV Annual licence	159.00
		EW1 phone	30.00
		EW household items	100.00
		ID badges	18.39
		EW2 mileage	308.70
		EW2 postage & mouse	15.79
		EW2 DBS update service	13.00
		Repairs & Maintenance	262.60
		EW1 Wages & PAYE	2886.99
		EW2 Wages & oncosts	8843.93
		Payroll Annual Fee	120.00
		Hall Hire	54.00
		Interview day fuel CI	40.00
		HIAQAM lunch	33.10
	21772.86		20343.65
		Opening balance per bank statement 01/01/23	11358.30
		plus income	21772.86
		less expenditure	20343.65
		less Adjustment for deposit to Kingdom Bank	4000.00
		Closing balance per bank statemt 31/12/23	8787.51
Kingdom Bank opened Nov 2022		Kingdom Bank	11273.57
opening balance	7016.01	End of Year Balance	20061.08
deposit	4000.00		
interest	257.56		
Closing balance per bank statemt	11273.57		