

ANNUAL REPORT OF BEGINNING AGAIN

For the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

1. THE CHARITY

- Beginning Again (BA) was registered on 16 September 2019 by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered number 1185334.
- Administration is carried out by one of the Trustees (Christopher Armstrong) from his home address, which has been registered with the Charity Commission as the Charity's base.

2. THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The charitable objectives of Beginning Again are:

To promote the resettlement and rehabilitation of offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending in order to reduce rates of re-offending and to contribute to the creation of safer communities through, but not exclusively, the provision of mentoring, advice and opportunities for work experience.

The Trustees believe that the activities of the Charity during the report period have supported these objectives.

3. THE TRUSTEES

During the report period, the Trustees of Beginning Again were:

Ian William Lewis Parker

Christopher John Armstrong

Hilary James Clarke

Alison Margaret Newcome

Patricia Anne Rogers

The Charity's governing document provides that new Trustees are to be appointed by the existing Trustees. To promote continuity, it has been agreed that each Trustee would serve for a limited period of time prior to seeking re-appointment. No Trustee may serve for a period exceeding 3 years without re-appointment. A Trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be re-appointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be re-appointed after an interval of at least one year.

The Trustees have met via video conferencing on 11 occasions during the reporting year to discuss progress and make decisions.

4. THE CHARITY'S ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 The Background

On 25 March 2019, a group of people met to consider the setting up of a new charity aimed at providing support for offenders and ex-offenders in Cumbria. The impetus for doing so was the demise of a recently-defunct charity which had been doing valuable work with the target group, leaving a gap in the provision of community help towards rehabilitation.

It was decided to form a new charity and seek registration with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Those present agreed to be the first Trustees and discussions took place on the formal objectives of the new charity and its name, and on practical issues such as banking, insurance, funding streams and administration.

4.2 Underpinning Beliefs

Although it was not necessary to include it in the constitution, it was agreed that the charity would be underpinned by the following statement of Beliefs:

“ Inspired by the Christian values of social concern, our beliefs are:

- Every individual is of value,
- Change in attitudes and values can be brought about,
- Local community involvement has the potential to make a positive contribution to resettlement and rehabilitative processes,
- Social diversity is a positive.”

4.3 Stakeholders

It was considered of vital importance that key stakeholders, especially the Probation Service and the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, should be made aware of the intentions. During its first year, representative Trustees met with the Probation Service in Cumbria and its delivery partners. A Memorandum of Understanding on how the two organisations would work together was agreed with Probation.

4.4 Preparation for action

Despite frustrating delays, essential requirements such as registration with the Charity Commission, the opening of a bank account with CAF Bank, and public liability insurance were all secured, and Trustees approved various policies and procedures in anticipation of the commencement of operations. This process has continued, to ensure that the charity complies with accepted business norms. In particular, a Development Plan has been produced, with an agreed, timed Action Plan to underpin its delivery.

4.5 Service Focus

It was agreed from the beginning that giving service users the opportunity of preparing for work and for reintegration into their community, with support provided by mentoring and certificated work experience, was the appropriate way forward. A project maintaining a local churchyard remained as a legacy of the defunct charity and it was agreed that taking over this project, which had been agreed in principle with Church authorities, would be a good starting point for the new charity's operations. This would involve employing the person presently in charge and therefore funding applications were submitted. A grant was obtained from the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund training and certification.

4.6 The COVID-19 Epidemic

Just as the Trustees were anticipating finally beginning operations, the requirements of social isolation, mandated by the Government as a result of the COVID-19 virus, served to halt any further progress, with involvement on the legacy project halted and the charity unable to recruit new service users or volunteers.

4.7 Year-end Position

Trustees continued to keep in touch electronically but, in terms of the desire to take over the existing project and engage service users in physical activity, during the report year the charity was effectively in a state of suspended animation. However, the time was not totally wasted as planning for training of both prospective staff and service users, and preparations for employment of an Operations Officer, continued.

As the success of the Covid-19 vaccination programme became apparent, and restrictions began to be lifted, the decision was taken to proceed with the plan to employ a member of staff and to take over the legacy project with effect from 1 April 2021. A formal agreement was entered into for upkeep of the churchyard at Torpenhow, one other site is ready to commission and others are being sought. Discussions are on-going with Probation about accrediting hours spent by service users on projects against unpaid work hours mandated under court orders. A basic professional payroll service has been commissioned and the charity has been registered as an employer with HMRC.

The Trustees have, of necessity, focused their activities on making the charity ready to begin delivery of its objects. Having considered the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees believe that, in this sense, their activities will contribute to the public benefit and that they have complied with that guidance.

5. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES

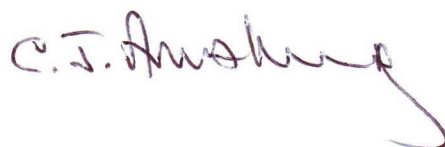
Despite the frustrations of the year brought about by the pandemic restrictions, the focus for Trustees during the year continued to be on making sure that, once restrictions eased, delivery of the charity's objects could begin. An application to the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner for a grant towards training of staff and service users was successful, but experience showed that the focus for funders was on supporting recovery from Covid-19 rather than on funding new initiatives. An agreement with Torpenhow Church Council for the upkeep of the churchyard has secured a regular donation, enabling the employment of a member of staff to supervise service users, and other funding applications are either drafted and ready for submission, or are awaiting a decision by funders.

In view of the fact that the charity is still in its infancy, the Trustees have decided that it is not yet appropriate to have a Reserves Policy. However, now that the charity is an employer and has, from 1 April 2021, begun limited operations, this matter will be kept under regular review.

Signed on behalf of Beginning Again



Trustee



Trustee

Date: 15/6/21

Independent Examiner's Report to The Trustees of Beginning Again

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for 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 commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- 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 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 accounts.

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 requirements of the 2011 Acthave not 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.

Signed:



Name in Full: Mrs J.A. Keetley

Address: Stonehaven, Tower Court, Warrick, Appleby

Date: CA16 GNL

29th May 2021

BEGINNING AGAIN

Period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	20/21 Total
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Grant from PCC		3500.00	3500.00
Donations	<u>311.85</u>		<u>311.85</u>
	<u>311.85</u>	<u>3500.00</u>	<u>3811.85</u>
Payments			
Volunteer expenses	185.11		185.11
Website domain	11.99		11.99
Bank charges	<u>69.00</u>		69.00
	<u>266.10</u>		<u>266.10</u>
Net receipts	45.75	3500.00	3545.75
Cash Funds brought forward	<u>5886.97</u>		<u>5886.97</u>
Cash Funds at 31 March 2021	<u>5932.72</u>	<u>3500.00</u>	<u>9432.72</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Cash at Bank	9432.72
Cash Funds at 31 March 2021	<u>9432.72</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 15/6/21 and signed on their behalf by

C. J. Armstrong - Trustee