

BEGINNING AGAIN

ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31 March 2022

Registered Charity Number 1185334

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ANNUAL REPORT OF BEGINNING AGAIN

For the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

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 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.

Efforts to strengthen the Board by the addition of specific finance, human resources and business skills are on-going.

The Trustees have met, mainly via video conferencing, on 8 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. From knowledge of the County, it had been identified that there was a gap in the provision of community help towards rehabilitation for those within the target group.

It was decided to form a new charity and Beginning Again was subsequently registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Those present at that first meeting agreed to be the first Trustees.

4.2 Underpinning Beliefs

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 Service Focus

From the start, the operational plan was to give service users the opportunity of preparing for work and for reintegration into their community, with support provided by mentoring and certificated work experience. A project maintaining a local churchyard remained as a legacy of a defunct charity and it was agreed that taking over this project, with the agreement and enthusiastic support of the Church authorities, would be a good starting point for the new charity's operations. Unfortunately, the advent of the Covid pandemic and consequent restrictions meant that the project could not be officially taken over until 1 April 2021.

4.4 Activities

The importance of relationships with key stakeholders, especially the Probation Service and the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, was recognised and early meetings took place with the Probation Service and their agent Achieve North West Connect (ANW), to establish the bona fides of the new charity and to investigate how the charity could work with those bodies to support their work on rehabilitation. A Memorandum of Understanding on how the organisations would work together was agreed with Probation.

Unfortunately, a combination of the inevitable delays caused by Government Covid restrictions, staff changes in ANW and the reorganisation of the Probation Service served to restrict the recruitment of eligible service users, and consequently the anticipated growth in activity since April 2021 has not taken place. Strenuous efforts have been made to re-activate the relationships and discussions are on-going as to how recruitment of more service users can be energised.

With all relevant policies and procedures in place, and having entered into an Agreement with the Torpenhow Church authorities, on 1 April 2021 Beginning Again began to employ as Operations Manager the person who had previously supervised the legacy project. The manager and service users have attended weekly during the report year to cut grass, clear leaves and debris and generally maintain the churchyard to a high standard. The District Church Council at its Annual Meeting has expressed its thanks, support and admiration for the efforts of those involved.

Similar work has been carried out at other sites and exploration of other possibilities continues, though that is dependent on receiving further referrals and funding.

Since the project began, a total of 6 ex-offenders have worked under the supervision of the manager who has, thanks to a grant from the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, been fully trained in the use of the various pieces of equipment used, ie mowers and strimmers. Of those 6 service users, 3 have received offers of employment. To assess the impact working on the project is having on the progress of those participating, Beginning Again uses a recognised measuring tool, Crime Pics II, with positive early indications. The next step is to have the Operations Manager qualified to accredit service users in the skills they have obtained.

Discussions with Probation resulted in accrediting hours spent by a service user against unpaid work hours mandated under a court order. It is hoped that this practice will be extended to other service users. In addition, it was identified that service users very often required assistance with handling money. Beginning Again has therefore developed a modular programme of training to be delivered to service users and others who find difficulty in budgeting on a limited income.

As part of work to make the charity efficient, effective and viable, the Trustees have drafted and implemented a Development Plan to underpin their efforts, and have commissioned a website to introduce the charity to funders and to the wider public and to record its progress.

Having considered the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees believe that their activities are contributing to the public benefit and that they have complied with that guidance.

5. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES

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 grants have been received from the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and the Hedley Foundation. The Trustees are grateful to all of our funders for their generous support. 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 still too early to have a realistic Reserves Policy. However this matter will be kept under regular review.

Signed on behalf of Beginning Again



Trustee



Trustee

Date: 15/6/2022

**Independent Examiner's Report to
The Trustees of Beginning Again**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022, 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:

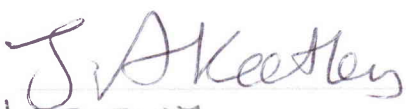
- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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:

Address:

Date:


MRS Joyce Keestley
Steneham, Tower Court, Warcop.
Appleby, CA16 6NL
8th June 2022.

BEGINNING AGAIN
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
Period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2021/22 Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>RECEIPTS</u> | | | |
| Grant from Hedley Foundation | 639.00 | | 639.00 |
| Re-charged expenses | 209.03 | | 209.03 |
| Donations | <u>8091.00</u> | | <u>8091.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL INCOME</u> | <u>8939.03</u> | | <u>8939.03</u> |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <u>PAYMENTS</u> | | | |
| Accountancy | 111.00 | | 111.00 |
| Bank charges | 96.00 | | 96.00 |
| Equipment hire | 1.00 | | 1.00 |
| Staff expenses | 1035.32 | | 1035.32 |
| Service user expenses | 356.40 | | 356.40 |
| Insurance | 331.15 | | 331.15 |
| Purchase of equipment | 571.69 | | 571.69 |
| Staff salaries | 5408.04 | | 5408.04 |
| Training | | 3340.00 | 3340.00 |
| Website design | <u>499.00</u> | <u> </u> | <u>499.00</u> |
| <u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> | <u>8409.60</u> | <u>3340.00</u> | <u>11749.60</u> |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)</u> | | | (2810.57) |
| Cash Funds brought forward | 5932.72 | 3500.00 | <u>9432.72</u> |
| Cash Funds at 31 March 2022 | <u>6462.15</u> | <u>160.00</u> | <u>6622.15</u> |

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Cash at Bank | 6622.15 |
| Cash Funds at 31 March 2022 | <u>6622.15</u> |

Approved by the Trustees on 15/6/2022 and signed on their behalf by

 C. J. Armstrong - Trustee