

BEGINNING AGAIN

Accounts and Annual Report

For the period ended 31st March 2024

Registered charity Number: 1185334



CONTENTS

- Trustees Annual Report
- Independent Examiners Report
- Receipts and Payments Accounts
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities

ANNUAL REPORT OF BEGINNING AGAIN

For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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 has been carried out by one of the Trustees (Sharon Woollard) from her 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
- Hilary James Clarke (Reappointed from April 2023)
- Patricia Anne Rogers
- Alison Newcome – (Stepped down July 2023)
- Timothy John Sheldon (from 7 February 2023- 30th November 2023)
- Sharon Elizabeth Woollard (from 7 February 2023)

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 increase the number of trustees, and in particular to recruit new trustees with finance, human resources and business skills, are ongoing.

The Trustees have met, mainly via video conferencing, on 9 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

The focus for the Charity is to give service users the opportunity to prepare 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. That project remains the cornerstone of the Charity's activities. This year the charity has negotiated more paid groundwork in local church yards and vicarage gardens.

4.4 Activities

The year under review, 2023-2024, has been the fourth full year of planned operation. Recognising the fragility of existence in the Third Sector, with the need to develop contacts, establish a firm base and the inevitable reliance on the generosity of donors and other voluntary funders, the Trustees continue to adopt a “softly softly” approach.

In July 2023 Beginning Again became a member of Cumbria CVS and have been able to register opportunities for volunteers and trustees.

Thanks to both financial and moral support from Torpenhow District Church Council and the Team Rector, we were able to continue to employ a part-time Operations Manager to oversee the regular maintenance of a large churchyard. By common consent, the service users – ex-offenders – who have carried out the work have done so enthusiastically and to a high standard. Paid groundwork has also been negotiated and completed in vicarages which have become unoccupied. Further paid work has also been negotiated in West Cumbria following campaign of Direct mail as a strategy for fundraising and gaining work-placements.

Besides the regular work at Torpenhow, the project has carried out work at other sites and talks are in progress to secure regular contracts at other locations, Naturally, this will require addressing issues of transport, supervision and manpower. More equipment has been purchased to meet the increase in variety of groundwork.

The underlying purpose of the project included the provision of appropriate training for service users, with the aim of improving their employment prospects. Under guidance of the Operations Manager service users who demonstrate capability in the use of and maintenance of horticultural equipment, health and safety at work, will have their achievements recorded in certificates which can support their search for employment. Service users' motivation, reliability and commitment to the project are also key factors for accreditation.

However, helping attendees reach competence in the use of machinery is only part of the role of the Operations Manager who, with active support from Trustees, takes a personal interest in each participant, offering advice and support for them as they deal with the everyday issues that can arise in life. He is also responsible for liaison with the Probation Service to recruit appropriate service users.

To date, the project has benefitted 6 service users, of whom 1 has received offers of employment and the others are seeking interviews for employment. Only one has re-entered the criminal justice system, for an historic offence committed well before involvement with the project. The progress of each individual is measured by use of a widely recognised tool called CrimePics. Participants, who are risk-assessed before being referred to Beginning Again by the Probation Service or their agent Achieve Northwest Connect, are assessed on entry and then regularly thereafter. Even though the sample size remains small, it is possible to detect progress in the attitudes and thinking processes of individuals.

Trustees recognise the importance of relationships with key stakeholders, especially the Probation Service. Early meetings with the Probation Service and their agent Achieve North West Connect (ANW), established the bona fides of the new Charity and began the discussion into 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. That close liaison continues to be crucial to both Beginning Again and those referred to the project. It is of key importance that confidence in what Beginning Again can offer remains high,

because the project is nothing without referral of suitable candidates for participation.

In the past Probation has accepted 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 a further development, it was identified that service users very often required assistance with handling money. Beginning Again has therefore developed a modular programme of training tailored to service users and others who find difficulty in budgeting on a limited income.

As part of on-going work to make the Charity efficient, effective and viable, the Trustees have drafted a Development Plan to underpin their efforts, and have developed a website, containing contact details, along with a printed flier 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.

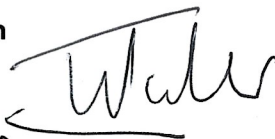
5. THE CHARITY'S FINANCES AND RESERVES

The 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. A generous grant has been received from the Charity Aspatia & District Community Charity Association. Donations have been received from churches in the Western Fells Methodist Circuit, personal donations and work completed in other locations has generated an addition income. The Trustees are grateful to all of our funders for their generous support and continue to seek other funding streams to further strengthen the Charity.

It is inevitable with Third Sector charitable organisations that there is a never-ending need to identify a variety of funding sources. Given that charities such as Beginning Again make a significant contribution to delivery of national priorities, it is important for government – national and local – to accept some responsibility for ensuring that such bodies do not perish through lack of financial support.

In view of the fact that the Charity is still very small, the Trustees have decided that it currently has sufficient funds to cover unavoidable costs if necessary but that it is too early to have a more formal Reserves Policy. However this matter will be kept under regular review.

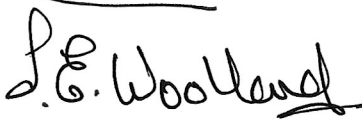
Signed on behalf of Beginning Again



Trustee

Date:

14th October '24



Trustee

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, 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 Joyce Keetley

Address: Stonehaven, Tower Court, Warcop, Appleby CA16 6NL

Date: 20th September 2024

BEGINNING AGAIN RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For The Period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Donations	7923.66	3000.00	10923.66
Re-charged expenses	184.16		184.16
Gift Aid	181.93		181.93
Bank interest	21.34		21.34
Contracted work	<u>400.00</u>		<u>400.00</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>8711.09</u>	<u>3000.00</u>	<u>11711.09</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Accountancy	71.50		71.50
Bank charges	60.00		60.00
Publicity	63.00		63.00
Trustee expenses	250.94		250.94
Staff expenses	1322.29		1322.29
Service user expenses	610.35		610.35
Insurance	1110.39		1110.39
Purchase of equipment	1417.00		1417.00
Staff salaries	5408.04		5408.04
Website	<u>113.39</u>		<u>113.39</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>10426.90</u>		<u>10426.90</u>
 <u>NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)</u>	 <u>(1715.81)</u>	 <u>3000.00</u>	 <u>1284.19</u>
Cash Funds brought forward	8721.89		8721.89
Cash Funds at 31 March 2024	<u>7006.08</u>	<u>3000.00</u>	<u>10006.08</u>