

# BEGINNING AGAIN

**Accounts and Annual Report**

**For the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**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<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

## **1. THE CHARITY**

- Beginning Again (BA) was registered on 16<sup>th</sup> 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 2024)
- Patricia Anne Rogers
- Sharon Elizabeth Woollard (Appointed 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, 2024-2025, has been the fifth 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.

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. Following a campaign of Direct mail as a strategy for fundraising and gaining work-placements paid work was secured in West Cumbria in the Seaton and Camerton areas. The contracted work was satisfactorily completed but we decided not to bid for the work in 25/26 as this activity provided little therapeutic benefit to our service users

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. Their individual success was celebrated in a gathering of parents, relatives and trustees in November when certificates of achievements were awarded. The social event was well received and successful.

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.

In the last year, the project has benefitted 5 service users, of whom one has received an offer of employment. Another service user has been able to secure interviews for employment. The progress of each individual's behaviour is monitored. They have ongoing training in the safe use of horticultural equipment with an understanding of the potential hazards. e.g. Ride on mower, pedestrian mowers and strimmers. The service users also complete maintenance and the servicing of equipment.

Close liaison with the Probation Service continues to be crucial to Beginning Again and those referred to the project. That liaison had been carried out at management level by two trustees, the operations manager, and in March a meeting was held at Workington Probation office to try and strengthen those links with the continuing trustees. The Probation Service was initially interested in referring offenders sentenced to unpaid work in the community to Beginning Again, but unfortunately on follow up it was discovered that the churchyard where the main work takes place was unsuitable on the sole grounds of there being no toilet facilities.

It was also agreed at that meeting that the memorandum of agreement needed to be revised in the light of Probation Service reorganisation, but as yet that has not happened, no doubt because of the pressures of reorganisation on senior management. Good links were however maintained between Beginning Again's Operations Manager and local supervisors at Achieve Northwest or its successor.

The Trustees have maintained the website, containing contact details, and have produced higher quality printed fliers 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. 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.

**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

*Waher*  
*Harriet Woodland*

Trustee

Trustee

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025.

# BEGINNING AGAIN RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Grants	750.00		750.00
Re-charged expenses	92.83		92.83
Gift Aid	300.00		300.00
Bank Interest	20.69		20.69
Contracted work	10,475.00		10,475.00
Donations	0.00	1.00	1.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>11,638.52</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>11,639.52</b>

## PAYMENTS

Accountancy	74.75		74.75
Bank Charges	60.00		60.00
Equipment Hire	0.00		0.00
Staff expenses	1654.85		1654.85
Staff expenses - trustees	615.95		615.95
Misc overheads	600.59		600.59
Service user expenses	570.15		570.15
Insurance	1162.93	1.00	1163.93
Purchase of equipment	288.00		288.00
Staff salaries	6500.04		6500.04
Training	0.00		0.00
Website	99.00		99.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>11626.26</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>11627.26</b>

## NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)

Cash Funds brought forward	<u>7006.08</u>	<u>3000.00</u>	<u>10006.08</u>
<b>Cash Funds at 31 March 2025</b>	<u><b>7018.34</b></u>	<u><b>3000.00</b></u>	<u><b>10018.34</b></u>

Approved by the Trustees on

and signed on their behalf by

S E Woollard, Trustee

Examined by Joyce Keetley 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025.  
J.A. Keetley

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

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, 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: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025**