

ANNUAL REPORT

The Together Free Foundation

For the year ending 31 December 2024



Charitable Status

The Together Free Foundation is a registered charity in England. Charity Number 1185728

Registered Address

6 Clarence Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS11AN

Trustees Serving During 2024

Peter Dominey

Jackie Raja

Jodi Thompson
Retired Jan 2024

Gemma Cartwright
Commenced Jan 2024

The charity is established by means of a constitution with trustees appointed by the trustee body.

Summary of Objectives and Activities

The Together Free Foundation (TFF) helps local communities partner towards ending modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) within their locality. This is done through establishing Antislavery Partnerships and catalysing the assets within local communities to partner towards slavery-free communities.

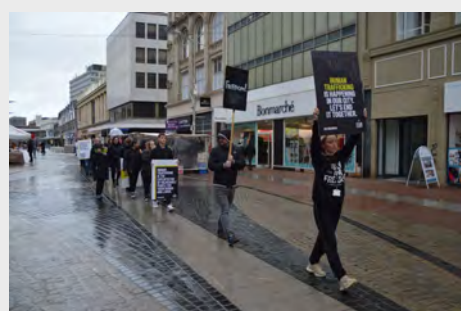
Within the last seven years, TFF has catalysed and is developing three Antislavery Partnerships: a) Southend Against Modern Slavery; b) Chelmsford Against Modern Slavery, and; c) Colchester Against Modern Slavery.

TFF mobilises local charities, community groups, local authorities and law enforcement to find local solutions for local problems of exploitation through: 1) partnership development and collaboration; 2) raising awareness within the community and among at-risk groups; 3) developing and delivering training to community groups and front-line responders; 4) developing referral pathways to ensure the effective safeguarding of victims and; 5) supporting victims and survivors of modern slavery through community-based survivor care.

During 2024 the charity employed four part-time staff in the equivalent of 1.5 full time roles. The charity relies on volunteer and community engagement, thereby offering excellent value for money for its output.



Life Drawing Awareness Event



Walk for Freedom Awareness Event

During 2024, Southend Against Modern Slavery (SAMS) Partnership collaborated with 75 professionals from 35 partner organisations towards a slavery free community. These organisations included Essex Police, Southend City Council and voluntary sector agencies working with vulnerable people in Southend on Sea. Three antislavery partnership meetings were held to develop best practice, collaboration and community based actions. Eight community leaders participate in the SAMS steering group, giving accountability and oversight.

SAMS delivered 13 training sessions were delivered and supported at two conferences, providing training for 405 professionals and volunteers in the community. SAMS also hosted two students on placement from South-Essex College Essex.

Six awareness raising events including a Walk for Freedom, a life drawing event and stalls in Southend High Street and Southend Victoria Train Station.

SAMS Survivor Care Project

The Survivor Care Project provides community-based support to survivors of modern slavery and trafficking in the City of Southend. The project provides regular long-term and bespoke wrap-around support in the form of befriending, mentoring, and practical help. Eight volunteers were trained to provide person-centred support to encourage community integration and well-being support for the survivors. They received a minimum of eight hours of training and have regular one-to-one support and group supervision.

In 2024 the Project provided support for eleven survivors of modern slavery, originating from nine different countries. Additionally, eight children indirectly benefited from the support given to their parents. 151 hours of befriending, mentoring, casework, and practical help were provided. Practical help for the survivors included: two bicycles, bedding, supermarket and clothing vouchers, Christmas hampers, birthday presents and more.

Survivor feedback (shared with permission): "After moving to Southend, SAMS Partnership has been there for me and has transformed my life immensely"

"I am very happy with Annika [Survivor Care Coordinator], she has been very helpful and easy to talk to. She checks-in on me and helps me understand things and processes."

Volunteer feedback: "I really love befriending and it is great volunteering with SAMS."

"I am very happy with the support I receive from Annika. The meetings are going well and I have all the support I need."

The Colchester Partnership (CAMS) has had a busy year. A new part-time local coordinator has stimulated increased collaboration with an increased interest in awareness training across the area. Events and conferences have been well attended with participants enthusiastic and interested in the issues.

Colchester has a vibrant voluntary sector, the City Council has strongly supported refugees and asylum seekers, multi-cultural groups and activities, and is working towards City of Sanctuary status. CAMS partnership meetings are always well attended with a variety of interesting guest speakers. During the year, labour exploitation has been one focus, particularly in the Care Sector, where many people affected by exploitation have been supported in Colchester. In numbers:

- 40 organisations participate in CAMS, including charities, faith groups, the police, law enforcement, and Essex University.
- 47 potential victims of modern slavery were identified and supported by CAMS partners.
- A steering group met four times participants from 8 organisations. It provides overall oversight and accountability for CAMS.
- 4 task and finish groups including: awareness raising, training, survivor care, and safeguarding, intelligence and disruption. 20 individuals participate from 14 organisations.
- 4 quarterly partnership meetings with 22 to 25 participants attending each
- 4 community engagement days have taken place including at the University fresher's fair and high street stalls to engage the public. 24 partners from 10 organisations took part
- 2 conferences have taken place for a total of 6 hours with a total of 143 participants
- 36 training workshops for 1185 attendees have been completed with charities, the local authority, education institutes, faith groups, the care sector, housing providers and the NHS.

'The training really was an eye opener, very interesting and informative and positive feedback received from the Team.'
Safeguarding Team, NHS Trust.


cams

Colchester Against Modern Slavery



Awareness Stall on Colchester High Street as part of the United Nations World Day Against Trafficking.

An initiative of the



cams

Colchester Against Modern Slavery

With an estimated 122,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK, CAMS is partnering towards a slavery-free Colchester.

Would your organisation or group like to join over twenty-five organisations within Colchester? Together we can explore resilience to exploitation.


To explore further contact dan.pratt@colchester.gov.uk

Free Modern Slavery Training

Workshops of between 1-2 hours include:

- Overview of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Types of Exploitation
- Signs of Exploitation
- Victim Barriers
- The National Referral Mechanism
- Reporting Concerns

The training can be on Teams or in-person and tailored to your organisation / group.
Contact: bob.fortt@essex.police.uk or dan.pratt@colchester.gov.uk





CHELMSFORD AGAINST SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

Since August 2022, The Together Free Foundation has been collaborating with Chelmsford City Council in establishing the Chelmsford Against Slavery Partnership. Quarterly CASP meetings have continued to be well attended with representatives from 45 participating organisations. Work streams have developed including awareness raising, training, developing survivor care and referral pathways, and intelligence and disruption. The intelligence and disruption group developed four multi-agency responses and intelligence gathering operations at high risk sights, including interviewing potential victims and perpetrators.

The Steering Group of nine community leaders from the Council, Police and voluntary sector, developed a three year strategy with the following priorities: 1) developing an agile and dynamic partnership; 2) developing survivor care for victims of modern slavery and; 3) developing a well sustained and resourced partnership. CASP co-organised two modern slavery conferences for Essex. These included a Migration and Modern Slavery Conference with 78 participants. Five specialist organisations including Migrant Help, Hestia, Hope for Justice and RAMA gave input.

CASP also hosted an Essex Antislavery Partnership Conference at Chelmsford Civic Centre. 65 participants the half day conference with six organisations giving presentations. Participants explored through workshops how increased collaboration between Antislavery Partnerships could occur, as a slavery-free community is pursued.

Public Benefit Statement Accounting Basis

The charity's trustees continue to have regard for both the charitable objects set out in the governing document and to ensuring that the activities of the charity, as described, meet the public benefit test. In so doing, they take account of the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when planning the charity's programme of activities. The trustees of the Together Free Foundation are confident that the activities of the charity demonstrate strong evidence of public benefit.

The accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Report prepared by D Pratt.

Together Free Appreciates Funding in 2024 from:

- The Eastern Baptist Association
- Essex Community Foundation
- Police, Fire and Crime Commission for Essex
- The National Lottery
- The Manek Foundation
- The Rosca Trust



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

THE TOGETHER FREE FOUNDATION

On accounts for the year ended

31/12/2024

Charity no (if any)

1185728

Set out on pages

7-10

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Christine Frances Warner

Date:

02/04/2025

Name:

CHRISTINE FRANCES WARNER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

MAAT

Address:

386 SOUTHBOURNE GROVE
NESTCUP ON SEA
ESSEX SS0 0AD.

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

THE TOGETHER FREE FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2024

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Incoming Resources</u>				
Voluntary income				
Donations	10	152	162	323
Grants	3,000	77,339	80,339	75,706
Other	9	1,718	1,727	1,099
Total Voluntary Income	3,019	79,209	82,228	77,127
Investment income				
Interest	1,034	-	1,034	616
Total Incoming Resources	4,053	79,209	83,262	77,743
<u>Resources Expended</u>				
Charitable activities				
Operational Costs	3,563	4,440	8,002	6,822
Staffing	6,091	45,558	51,649	54,837
Awareness resources	-	1,686	1,686	1,513
Survivor Care Support	-	1,742	1,742	2,112
Other	78	-	78	74
Total Resources Used	9,732	53,425	63,157	65,358
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(5,679)	25,784	20,105	12,385
Transfer between funds	8,637	(8,637)	-	-
Net movement in funds for year	2,958	17,147	20,105	12,385
Fund Balance at 31 December 2023	5,042	28,833	33,875	21,490
Fund Balance at 31 December 2024	7,999	45,981	53,980	33,875

THE TOGETHER FREE FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF ASSET AND LIABILITIES
FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2024

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
CASH FUNDS				
CAF Bank	7,999	45,981	53,980	33,875
Cash in hand	-	-	-	-
	<u>7,999</u>	<u>45,981</u>	<u>53,980</u>	<u>33,875</u>

REPRESENTED BY	2024	2023
Unrestricted		
General Fund	7,999	5,042
	<u>7,999</u>	<u>5,042</u>
Restricted		
SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lottery	24,244	11,410
Chelmsford (CASP)	7,148	14,638
Colchester (CAMS)	14,589	2,786
	<u>45,981</u>	<u>28,833</u>
Total reserves	<u>£ 53,980</u>	<u>£ 33,875</u>

Peter Dominey
Trustee



Jackie Raja
Trustee



14 April 2025

THE TOGETHER FREE FOUNDATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2024

1) Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

Receipts and Payment accounts have been prepared.

2) Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund			Total 2024	Total 2023
	General Fund	SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lottery	Chelmsford (CASP)	Colchester (CAMS)		
Donations	10	152	-	-	162	323
Grants	3,000	45,620	4,625	27,094	80,339	75,706
Books Sales	9	-	-	-	9	-
Other	-	1,718	-	-	1,718	1,099
	3,019	47,490	4,625	27,094	82,228	77,127

3) Resources Expended

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund			Total 2024	Total 2023
	General Fund	SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lottery	Chelmsford (CASP)	Colchester (CAMS)		
Operational Costs	3,563	3,013.23	777	649	8,002	6,822
Staffing	6,091	28,217	6,959	10,382	51,649	54,837
Awareness resources	-	716	485	485	1,686	1,513
Survivour Care Support	-	1,292	450	-	1,742	2,112
Other	78	-	-	-	78	74
	9,732	33,238	8,671	11,517	63,157	65,358

4) Movement of funds

2024

	31/12/2023	Incoming	Out goings	Transfers	31/12/2024
Unrestricted					
General Fund	5,042	4,053	9,732	8,637	7,999
Restricted					
SAMS & Survivor Care & National Lotter	11,410	47,490	33,238	(1,418)	24,244
Chelmsford (CASP)	14,638	4,625	8,671	(3,444)	7,148
Colchester (CAMS)	2,786	27,094	11,517	(3,775)	14,589
	33,875	83,262	63,157	-	53,980

THE TOGETHER FREE FOUNDATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2024

5) Trustee Remuneration and benefits

No Trustee received a salary or income from The Together Free Foundation in 2024.

6) <u>Staff Costs</u>	2024	2023
Wages and salaries	51,650	53,259

During the year the Charity employed between 4-5 members of staff. All staff are on part time basis and various hours depending on grant funding.

7) Reserves policy

Reserves will be maintained to ensure core activity can continue during any period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves will be maintained in a readily realisable form. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle. It considers:

- i. Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
- ii. Planned activity level
- iii. The charity's commitments

On this basis, and having reviewed the policy during the year, the Trustees believe that for 2024 a reserve equivalent to three months' running costs should be maintained. The reserves policy will be reviewed annually.