

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in
Staffordshire**

(Registered charity, number 1187408)

**Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in
Staffordshire
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Full name Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire

Registered charity number 1187408

Principal address

62, Windermere Road,
Clayton,
Newcastle-Under-Lyme,
Staffordshire.
STS 3HN

Trustees

Lindsey Wilmer

Scott Buckley

(resigned June 2023)

Helen McNicol Buckley

(resigned June 2023)

Nicola Wrench

Emma Hine

(appointed July 2023)

Bankers

CAF

Independent examiner

Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST

The Dudson Centre

Hope Street

Hanley

Stoke on Trent

ST1 5DD

Governance and management

The charity is a CIO and operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 16th January 2020.

Aims and objectives

To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of children and young people when someone significant in their life is dying or has died by providing bespoke, focused and supportive acute bereavement care.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Windmills is a registered charity that provides direct specialist bereavement care and support for children and young people who are experiencing severe emotional distress at the impending death of a loved-one, or someone very close, or who are struggling to understand or manage their grieving after such a death.

This might be the sudden, often unexpected death of a sibling, parent, or friend, or of a limited-life diagnosis of a loved-one due to a terminal illness. There are no other specialist acute bereavement services available in the Staffordshire region (either charity or NHS) that provide the direct caring service and memory making therapies that are unique to Windmills.

Families can often feel uncomfortable talking about death with their children and the subject can become taboo, leaving the child even more confused and uninformed. This lack of communication with the child can be the opposite of what's best for them, not talking about important issues and events can be more harmful than talking about them. For sensitive, vulnerable, and confused children the impacts and emotional response to death can become even more devastating because of this lack of information, understanding and preparation.

Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire

Trustees' Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

When children are excluded from such difficult conversations they will begin to shape and imagine all manner of misinterpretations and unfounded thoughts as to why the death occurred or why it is happening - often these misconceptions can result in the child thinking that it was their fault because "they were" bad.

Facing the sudden reality or news of the death of such a loved one can be deeply traumatic and disorientating for the surviving child. Often the response is a cauldron of confusions and emotions; anger, disbelief, guilt, anguish, withdrawal, detachment and numbing fears for all that is yet to come. Without expert and trusted care and support such responses can irrevocably scar and derail a young person's life and outlook and negatively shape their relationships, not only with death itself, but with life and living, themselves, their family, and their friends and the wider community.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

Summary of the main achievements during the year

Since it started, demand for Windmills services has grown dramatically. In 2021 we supported 28 children, in 2022, 121 and by Dec 2023 we have already received 290 referrals. The local need for our unique service is demonstrated by ever increasing referral numbers from professionals recognising the value of our work.

The impact of the Windmills service and care will not negate death's devastation in the lives and minds of those children who become victim to it, but it can manage and calm and, through building strong new memories, begin to pave the positive, fond pathway away from it.

Our founding nurses see the impact of their work and approach with so many of their young, distressed charges. The gradual change from grieving despair to a new and managed fond remembrance and resilience of heart. It is a service of care that changes young lives. It also has a profound impact on the families of our young beneficiaries. As a father said, *'Windmills were there for Sienna and I at the most vulnerable time any parent or child of 4 can imagine. Windmills are the 'bridge'. They can't numb the pain; they can't make things 'go away'. They can't help with what has happened and they can't help you with the rest of your life and how to navigate being the author of what happens next. What they can do is offer someone at their most desperate time, a little bridge between the two. A way to step from despair to having a little structure back in your life to enable you to start the process to rebuild.'*

Case Study

Lily, Bobbie and Louis were introduced to Windmills following a referral from a local hospice. Their Mummy, Sarah, had recently received a terminal diagnosis of stage 4 metastatic cancer. Sarah's diagnosis came 21 weeks into her pregnancy with baby Louis. She managed to get to 30 weeks' gestation and then had to deliver Louis in order to start treatment. Sarah underwent both chemo and radiotherapy and then received the good news that she was cancer-free. Buall came crashing down when it was soon discovered her cancer had not gone away and had in fact spread.

The family faced the painful task of telling Lily (8) and Bobbie (10) that Mummy was going to die. Windmills Charity stepped in to support the family and help the children understand what was happening around them. Bobbie began to display anger towards Mum, hitting out and saying mean things to her. Both Lily and Bobbie were also shying away from Mum and were spending more and more time in their bedrooms. Their lives had changed so much and so quickly. Sarah moved back in with her mum -who was her main carer-and the children stayed with their stepdad at home. This left the children feeling resentful, sad, angry and confused.

They had suddenly been thrown into a world of adult emotions yet only had the cognitive ability of children their age to process these thoughts and feelings. Leeanne and Zara from Windmills

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for the year ended 31 March 2023**

began weekly sessions with Lily and Bobbie, building trust and getting to know each other. They explored their feelings and were able to break down why Mum was dying, what this meant for them and what was making them so angry at Mum. Windmills helped the children make galaxy glitter bottles to help them sleep at night and stress balls to use when they were angry. They had great fun doing this and made a big mess which the kiddies loved!!

After only 2-3 weeks Bobbie settled down and stopped hitting out at Mum. Leeanne and Zara had worked hard to help him make sense of Sarah's illness and to reassure him it wasn't his fault or his mum's fault (which is what he initially thought). It was lovely to see him happier and more confident around his mum too. The sessions were fun, interactive but short as Bobbie would get very easily distracted. We revisited themes regularly and positively reinforced how special the time they had left was going to be and we helped them make the most of that time building memories with Mum and the whole family.

Towards the end of Sarah's illness, Leeanne and Zara would spend time with the children around her bed, playing board games, top trumps and painting -such simple things but so heart-warming to see the smiles and hear the laughter of them altogether. Sarah was very confused at times and came out with some random comments which had the kids in hysterics!

Previously they had been scared of her outbursts but with our help they realised that this was "just Mum" now and it was nothing to be frightened about.

The week before Sarah died, Bobbie told us he was "ready for Mum to die now". He had made sense of things and could see she was suffering and in pain. Even though he was going to be heartbroken when Mum eventually passed away, this showed just how important it is to prepare children prior to death, helping them process information and emotions and allowing them to enjoy the time they get to spend with their loved one right up until the end.

The charities structure

Windmills Charity was founded by nurses Leeanne Clay and Zara Toussaint who currently provide services to children and families on a voluntary part-time basis as Acute Bereavement Practitioners. Both continue to work as nurses currently and it is their vision to transition full-time to the work of Windmills Charity in order to provide a 24-hour service as death does not occur within the confines of normal working hours.

Both are members of Support Staffordshire and The Childhood Bereavement Network and regulated through the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Leeanne and Zara are supported by a part-time administrator responsible for managing requests for support, scheduling bereavement support sessions, assisting with fundraising efforts and daily administrative tasks. This role is PAYE at national minimum wage and invaluable during the days where both co founders/ bereavement practitioners are unavailable due to fulfilling their employed nursing roles.

Most decisions are agreed by both founders and trustees, however some service delivery decisions are made by both co-founders only on a day to day basis as they arise. This is always explained and justified to all trustees through messaging platforms, verbally or at regularly planned meetings, either at the time or in retrospect.

Review of the financial position

Restricted funds used within time frame and for the purpose that it was granted. Use of unrestricted funds has directly benefited the service user for the purpose that which the charity was founded.

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in
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Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The charity's policy on reserves

Formal policy details yet to be finalised however a reserve amount would benefit the community in that service provision can continue given the unique support which Windmills provides.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed  Z Toussaint (Jan 26, 2024 17:13 GMT) Date Jan 26, 2024

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in
Staffordshire
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in Staffordshire as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting 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.

Signed  Date Jan 26, 2024
Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in
Staffordshire
Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2022 Total £
Receipts				
Donations	12,677	1,000	13,677	22,933
Fundraising	14,653	5,959	20,612	4,345
Grant	12,500	17,750	30,250	-
Bank Interest	40	-	40	-
Total receipts	39,870	24,709	64,579	27,278
Payments				
Accountancy	612	-	612	70
Bank fees	126	-	126	131
Car/Travel	12,285	-	12,285	-
Craft Supplies	259	1,209	1,468	709
Days Out Memory making	917	3,554	4,471	2,914
Fundraising	512	14,506	15,018	1,443
Insurance	350	-	350	-
Licences and memberships	120	-	120	-
Office costs	1,475	603	2,077	657
Phone & Internet	547	-	547	-
Professional costs	4,463	-	4,463	2,818
Promotion	332	-	332	-
Refreshments	219	-	219	-
Rent	5,100	-	5,100	4,200
Repayment	854	-	854	670
Sundries	193	29	222	-
Trustee meeting	98	-	98	-
Utilities	380	-	380	635
Volunteer costs	672	-	672	-
Wages	39,546	-	39,546	-
Total payments	69,060	19,900	88,960	14,247
Net receipts/(payments)	(29,190)	4,809	(24,381)	13,031
Cash funds at start of this period	29,274	3,220	32,494	-
Cash funds at end of this period	84	8,029	8,113	13,031

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in
Staffordshire
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 March 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash Assets		
Bank accounts	8,113	32,494
	<u>8,113</u>	<u>32,494</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Z Toussaint (Jan 26, 2024 17:13 GMT)

Dated Jan 26, 2024

**Windmills - Acute Bereavement Support For Children & Young People in
Staffordshire
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due. For the purposes of understanding a statement of assets and liabilities at the year-end has been included.

2. Trustees’ remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this year.










Windmills Accounts 2023

Final Audit Report

2024-01-26

Created:	2024-01-26
By:	VAST Accounts (accounts@vast.org.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAYoPdkMK4v9_r4poHmUac5sNBzcQ39dX-

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-  Document created by VAST Accounts (accounts@vast.org.uk)
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-  Signer windmills2019@gmail.com entered name at signing as Z Toussaint
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