

Dewsbury Community Outreach Annual Report 2020-2021

Registered Charity 1188158

Introduction

Dewsbury Community Outreach (DCO) was formally recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 24 February 2020 but had been operating for some months prior to that date out of 74 Daisy Hill, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF13 1LS. Our aims are to create a community where everyone is welcome, valued as individuals, and supported with their needs. Where people can meet to share their skills or learn new ones, and where there's always the chance to talk about the important things in life. The focus had been to give support for those who were experiencing loneliness by creating an organised meeting point and to provide assistance to those who were homeless or in need.

Almost immediately after the formal recognition as a charity the Covid19 pandemic started; lockdown was imposed and most of the other churches and charities that were assisting people who were homeless or in need closed down. The team at DCO chose to fill in the gap and teamed up with Sensory World CIC to provide daily meals on the street outside the building and to provide clothing and household goods free to those in need. This work has continued throughout the pandemic.

Activities

Prior to the pandemic DCO was providing free of charge a Friday lunch time meal in association with Dewsbury Elim Church and a Sunday night tea independently. There was a successful writers club meeting in the building once per week and individuals were helping on a daily basis with the maintenance and upkeep of the building. Both activities were beneficial in assisting people who were long-term unemployed to make friends, gain confidence and self-esteem whilst engaged in a worthwhile project.

Following lockdown the clubs and groups meeting in the building had to close but an Acting Club was established that met, socially distanced, in the grounds of Dewsbury Elim Church. This group assisted Kirklees Council by providing actors to augment the tours of the town on Heritage Open Day (12 September 2020). Subsequent to this a grant was received to pay for actors to assist with the Christmas lights switch on. This event was cancelled but the money was used to produce a video, filmed one actor at a time in green screen for the safety of the actor and crew. The resulting production 'A Dewsbury Christmas Carol' has been well received in the town. It is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVOLPKXUPdQ>.

DCO has a Gardening Club, which in addition to maintaining the church grounds, also goes out to help householders with garden maintenance. The club has established a compost facility within the Elim Church yard and seedlings have been planted ready for use in 2021.

DCO is a Christian charity and a Bible Study group was established in the summer of 2020 that met outside in the grounds of Dewsbury Elim Church. Due to lockdown rules this group has not been able to meet once the weather became colder but will resume in 2021.

Assistance

Meals Programme. Since March 2020 meals have been provided out on the street either in front of 74 Daisy Hill, or outside Sensory World, a café and disabled centre located about 100m down the road from DCO and temporarily closed to the public due to Covid restrictions. The meals have been prepared by the Sensory World team using their commercial kitchen. In the summer of 2020 further links were made with the charities 'Gift of Giving' and 'Magic Wishing Well' and they now also assist by providing take-away meals on some days thereby relieving the work for the Sensory World team. Throughout the year various different patterns of timings and days for meal provision were tried but at the end of this reporting period DCO and its partners were providing lunch time meals on 5 days a week. Most days between 30 and 50 meals were provided free of charge.

A grant was obtained to purchase two freezers and these are used to store raw provisions and prepared meals. The prepared meals are available free to those in need to microwave at home on days when they are not able to receive a meal on the street.

Food Assistance. Tesco Fare Share and Fusion Housing regularly provide DCO with large quantities of surplus food and food approaching its sell-by date. Some of this is used to prepare the meals but much of it is placed on tables outside Sensory World for those in need to take away. At Christmas DCO was able to use this food to make up 50 food hampers for delivery to those who were lonely or housebound as a result of the Covid pandemic.

Personal Advice. DCO does not offer a full advice service but being on the front line with those in need has allowed some of the DCO team to gain experience in helping refer individuals to the correct agencies to solve their problems. DCO volunteers have also been able to help individuals to gain internet connections to access items like Universal Credit portfolios. Many people on low income do not have internet access at home and rely upon public facilities at the job centre or library – places that have been closed during lockdown.

Clothing and Goods. DCO has received regular donations of second hand clothing, kitchenware, furniture, children's toys, books, bags and other items like PAT tested electrical goods, which have been given away free to those in need. Some items have also been sold to raise funds. In addition some of the grant money received has been earmarked to purchase new items of clothing (especially underwear), health care products and pay as you go mobile phones.

Heating Assistance. DCO has helped individuals with heating bills by making small gifts of up to £20 onto a utility account. In addition a grant awarded in December 2020 allowed the

purchase of heated throws; these low energy usage electric blankets allow an individual to keep warm without having to heat the whole house.

Laundry. Sensory World obtained a grant to provide white goods to people in need. Some of this was used to purchase a washing machine and tumble dryer which were donated to DCO. These have been set up in a utility room in 74 Daisy Hill to provide a free clothes washing facility for those in need.

74 Daisy Hill

During the year an agreement was reached with the owners of 74 Daisy Hill that the charity would use the building rent free but take on responsibility for all reasonable upkeep, utilities and maintenance. One of the boilers has been replaced using a Spacehive crowd funding grant.

In addition to the meeting rooms 74 Daisy Hill currently has a single habitable flat which has been used by a tenant seeking to recover from problems of addiction. The remainder of the building is used as storage space by DCO for things like furniture and by a local artist to store his canvasses and materials.

An Architectural Heritage Foundation grant was obtained to investigate the best way of using the building. Dewsbury architect Martin Walsh was appointed to produce a feasibility study and planning documents. This work is ongoing.

Publicity

A logo has been prepared and this is used on all publicity. Business cards, with details about the charity, have been printed and these have been extensively issued to supporters and benefactors.

DCO has set up a web site, www.dewsburyco.org.uk. It also has a presence on Facebook as DewsburyCO. In addition to the main Facebook page some of the support team have established a group page where they can share pictures, information and activities.

Governance

Day to day management of the charity is carried out by the Chair of the Trustees. Trustees seek advice and inform each other of any critical developments via e-mail, telephone and a WhatsApp group. The trustees have also met formally about once every six weeks to receive an update on activities and issues and to plan for the coming weeks. During the lockdown these meetings have been on Zoom.

Finance

In addition to establishing a bank account with Lloyds Bank the charity has set up an account with Give.net to facilitate on-line giving.

The first year has been financially successful and the trustees of DCO are grateful to the various organisations and individuals who have financially contributed, especially towards the programme to provide meals. In addition there have been enormous contributions of free food and second hand items. The accounts are presented separate to this report but the financial summary for the first year of operation is: income £30,502.31; expenditure £18,342.54; surplus for the year £12,159.77. Some of this is grant money that is earmarked for activities in March 2021 and the trustees propose to use much of the remainder for improvements to 74 Daisy Hill.

DEWSBURY COMMUNITY OUTREACH (Charity No. 1188158)
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	£	£
OPENING BALANCES		
Lloyds Bank & Petty Cash		0.00
RECEIPTS		
General Income		
Donations	8463.46	
74 Daisy Hill		
Rent	2810.40	
Utilities	687.58	3497.98
Sale of Items		602.07
Refunds		138.78
		12702.29
Grants		
One Communities	11,755.00	
Spacehive (for Boiler)	2,305.02	
Third Sector Leaders (Heating Assistance)	1,000.00	
Gift of Giving	960.00	
Third Sector Leaders (Acting Club)	500.00	
Big Sleep Out	500.00	
Poor & Sick Fund	500.00	
Luke & Markus Trust	200.00	
Tesco	80.00	
		17800.02
TOTAL RECEIPTS		30,502.31
PAYMENTS		
74 Daisy Hill		
Utilities	1515.33	
Repairs	326.50	
Consumables	36.45	
Boiler Replacement	2200.00	
		4,078.28
Activities		
Writing & Drama Club	464.46	
Gardening Club	34.49	
Pre Alpha Meetings	26.4	
		525.35
Assistance		
Food distribution	9460.87	
Furniture & Goods	909.80	
Heating	305.00	
Clothing	268.21	
Health	161.98	
Phone	66.00	
Personal	13.00	
Travel	5.00	
		11,189.86

Capital		
Freezers	858.00	
Portable Strimmer	28.00	
		886.00
Administration		
Volunteer Expenses	1573.75	
Publicity	54.57	
Administration	34.73	
		1,663.05

TOTAL PAYMENTS	18,342.54
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NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	12,159.77
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CLOSING BALANCES

Lloyds Current Account	12081.75
Petty cash	78.02
	12159.77

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date
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	RAY BAKER	10/3/21
	ROWAN TAYLOR	10/3/21

DEWSBURY COMMUNITY OUTREACH (Charity No. 1188158)

**ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT THE 28 FEBRUARY 2021**

	£	£
Lloyds Current account	12081.75	
Petty cash	78.02	
		12159.77

OTHER ASSETS

Hotpoint Freezer	429.00
Hotpoint Freezer	429.00
Washing Machine *	250.00
Tumble Dryer *	150.00
Portable Strimmer	28.00

* gift from Sensory World

LIABILITIES

Nil

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dewsbury Community Outreach
Charity No. 1188158**

I report on the accounts of Dewsbury Community Outreach for the year ended 28 February 2021, which are set out on pages one and two.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission
- to 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

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 accurate accounting records has not been met.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to ensure a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Audited by *Amanda Reast*

Signed *[Signature]*

Date *10.3.2021*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dewsbury Community Outreach
Charity No. 1188158**

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Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission
- to 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

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 accurate accounting records has not been met.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to ensure a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Audited by *Amanda Reast*

Signed *[Signature]*

Date *10.3.2021*