



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 Dec 2023 To 30 November 2024

Charity name: Comfort C.A.F.E.

Charity registration number: 1188833

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>1) For the public benefit, the prevention or relief of poverty in the Blackpool Borough Council area by the provision of food, items, advice, information and support to people aged 18 and over who are living in poverty as a result of homelessness, being at risk of homelessness (by virtue of being vulnerably housed) and financial hardship.</p> <p>2) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people who are aged 18 in the Blackpool Borough Council area from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.</p> <p>For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or part of society, as a result of being a member of a socially and economically deprived community.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Comfort C.A.F.E. runs a weekly public drop-in session at St.Thomas's Church Hall in Counce Street, Blackpool. Those attending are befriended and served with a hot meal, a drink and takeaway sandwiches and snacks. We have known for a long time that many of our community struggle to feed themselves properly between payment of wages or benefits. In particular there are no soup kitchens available mid-week, and this is a particularly lean time. The situation has got worse with the current economic situation and shows no signs of improving. To address this, we set up the 'Food Tomorrow' project, supported by grants from Blackpool Council, the Cheshire Community Foundation and the D.J. Sidebottom/Glasdon Charitable Programme. The project provides parcels of non-perishable foodstuffs over the Winter period.</p>

		<p>The weekly attendance is around 78-95 people of various ages, gender, family situation and employment status.</p> <p>During the year we saw a steady rise in the number of people attending our sessions who had no permanent residence. This includes rough sleepers, people 'sofa-surfing', and those in B&B and hostel accommodation. Where funds allow, we provide sleeping bags, warm clothing, personal hygiene supplies and clean underclothes.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The charity has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity does not make grants but provides items of food and clothing etc. in kind.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All activities of the charity are performed by unpaid volunteers.
Other		<p>Comfort C.A.F.E. has facilitated the attendance of NHS teams to provide Covid and Influenza vaccinations to people who might otherwise not have received it.</p> <p>Comfort C.A.F.E. has facilitated the attendance of a Wellbeing Councillor at weekly sessions funded by the charity ASHAR (Bringing Hope).</p> <p>We have facilitated the attendance of members of the Hep C trust who have tested clients and referred them for treatment when appropriate.</p> <p>We have also welcomed representatives of the Horizon service which is funded by Blackpool Council to provide support to people with alcohol and drug dependency problems. We also have monthly visits by representatives of the Empowerment Charity who support clients in various ways.</p>

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Comfort C.A.F.E. has run the weekly sessions described above, helped people on low incomes to feed themselves and provided friendship and, via our Wellbeing counsellor, wellbeing advice. We also refer people to other organisations for help and advice as appropriate.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	We have met all objectives for the year.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	We have raised more than sufficient funds to meet our objectives during the year from a mixture of regular donations, one-off donations from local churches and organisations, and grants.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	The charity has made no specific investments and operates with a basic bank account to handle donations and pay for operational expenses.
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the start of the year Comfort C.A.F.E. had funds of £19,522. The bank balance of the charity at the end of the year was £15,801 which was carried forward to the 2024/2025 financial year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity trustees review the accounts at each meeting and aim to retain reserves sufficient to pay for our rent and core services for a period of at least 6 months.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£5,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity has a number of supporters who make regular monthly donations with many others making one-off donations. Fund-raising events have been held by a number of local churches and we have received grants from the D.J. Sidebottom/Glasdon Charitable Programme and St. Thomas's Church.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	All funds are kept in a Cooperative Bank charity account. There are no other investments and no plans to make any.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	No specific risks but we are dependent on our supporters and volunteers.
Other		As a provider of food, Comfort C.A.F.E. is inspected by the Local Authority and was awarded a Five Star food hygiene rating in November 2024. Food is prepared and labelled in accordance with Food Allergy and Intolerance guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency, including labelling pre-prepared items like sandwiches for the presence of allergens.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution approved by the Charity Commission
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.</p> <p>(2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.</p> <p>(3) Eligibility for trusteeship</p> <p>(a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.</p> <p>(b) No individual may be appointed as a charity trustee of the CIO: if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause [12(1)(e)] of the Constitution.</p> <p>(c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee.</p> <p>(d) At least one of the trustees of the CIO must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining trustees may only act to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	New volunteers are provided with copies of all policies and procedures and their duties are explained to them.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The charity is managed by the Board of Trustees. A Kitchen Manager, who has a Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety for Catering certificate, is appointed to supervise all matters relating to food preparation and storage.

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Comfort C.A.F.E. works closely with the Blackpool Food Bank, St. Thomas's Church and attends forums organised by Blackpool Council
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Comfort C.A.F.E.
Other name the charity uses	New Comfort Zone (being phased out)
Registered charity number	1188833
Charity's principal address	C/O Brian Watson 19 Ulverston Crescent Lytham St. Annes FY8 3RZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gwen Cross	Secretary		
2	Brian Watson	Treasurer		
3	Sian Livesey			
4	Justin DeRizzio-George			
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of
adviser

Name

Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

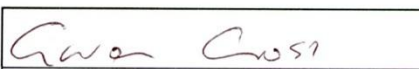

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Gwen Cross	Brian Watson
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Treasurer

Date

22 April 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Comfort C.A.F.E.

44 (if any)

1188833

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01-Dec-23	To	Period end date 30/11/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
One-off Donations	9,653	-	-	9,653	7,503
Regular Donations	2,921	-	-	2,921	4,229
Miscellaneous	396	-	-	396	265
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	12,970	-	-	12,970	11,997
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,970	-	-	12,970	11,997
A3 Payments					
Food purchase	9,229	-	-	9,229	14,799
Clothing purchase	278	-	-	278	311
Office Expenses and postage	674	-	-	674	285
Sleeping bags, blankets etc	571	-	-	571	355
Toiletries	30	-	-	30	124
Rent and Insurance	2,880	-	-	2,880	3,264
Food Prep and storage	1,408	-	-	1,408	1,174
Misc. Expenses	1,620	-	-	1,620	1,159
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	16,690	-	-	16,690	21,469
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	16,690	-	-	16,690	21,469
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,721	-	-	- 3,721	- 9,472
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,522	-	-	19,522	-
Cash funds this year end	15,801	-	-	15,801	- 9,472

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	15,801	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,801	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

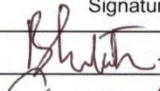
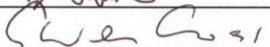
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	BRIAN WATSON	30/6/25
	GWEN CROSS	30/6/25