

ROUTE2FREEDOM

Charity number 1190159

Report of the Trustees, the accounts and the independent examiner's report for the period 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024 for Route2Freedom

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ROUTE2FREEDOM

FOR THE PERIOD: 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024

Charity name and number

Route2Freedom, 1190159

Trustees

Stephen Fenning (Appointed 29/06/2020) (Chair)

Christopher Bedford (Appointed 29/06/2020)

Christopher Hewson (Appointed 29/06/2020 / Stepped down 05/12/2023)

Janet Watson (Appointed 02/05/2023)

Abigail Falola was appointed as trustee on 5th December 2023

Employees

Nathan Denniston

Liam Rutter

Esme Kennedy (employed in October 2024)

Helen Clarke (employed in October 2024)

Governing Document

CIO registered 29 June 2020

Principal Address

80 Seaton Road Felixstowe

IP11 9BP

Independent examiner

Mr Peter Matthews CPFA, MCMI; Chartered Public Finance Accountant (retired)

Capel St. Mary, Suffolk

ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF ROUTE2FREEDOM 1190159 FOR THE PERIOD

1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024

The objects of the CIO are:

1. To advance the Christian faith for the public benefit in Suffolk and the rest of the UK in accordance with the statement of beliefs and practices appearing in the Schedule of the CIO.
2. To relieve financial hardship and relieve the charitable needs of people in Suffolk and the rest of the UK, in particular those experiencing addiction, homelessness and financial hardship, in particular but not exclusively by:
 - a. providing grants, items, services to individuals in financial hardship, and advice and information on housing and welfare benefits.
 - b. providing advice and information directed to the preservation and protection of good physical and mental health.

Structure, Management and Governance Arrangements:

The structure of the trust and the trustees who held office in the year and up to the date of this report are listed in the charity information on page 2.

The powers of appointment or removal of a trustee rests with the existing trustees.

The Trustees met monthly to discuss the business of the CIO.

Nathan Denniston and Liam Rutter have been employed by the CIO since April 2022.

Emse Kennedy and Helen Clarke have been employed since October 2024

During the period there were 4 Trustees, with Abigail Falola being appointed in December 2023

The Trustees' main duty is to ensure that the income and property is applied for the purposes set out in the Scheme. At their meetings, they also consider employer responsibilities, health and safety matters, insurance, the current position of named clients, the overall position of the finances and organisations that partner with the CIO.

Relationships

Route2Freedom have strong ties with a number of local Churches, namely:

Hope Church, Ipswich (1137936), Burlington Baptist Church, Ipswich (1126207), Ipswich International Church, Ipswich, Greenfinch Church, Ipswich (1079252), The Forge Community Church, Debenham (1101080), Capel St Mary Community Church, Ashcroft Church, Nansen Road Baptist Church, Ipswich, St. Augustine's and MIE, Ipswich.

The CIO also liaises on an ad hoc basis with a number of other charities in the Ipswich and Suffolk area, particularly regarding addiction help and emergency housing.

REVIEW OF PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

The Charity exists to help those who are caught in addiction and problems associated with addiction. Particularly it helps those with alcohol and drug abuse problems. It operates primarily in Ipswich, Suffolk and would look to walk alongside clients, to get to know them and point them in the right direction to help with the addiction. This may be towards recovery programmes, local churches, sometimes helping with housing issues, working with other agencies, all on a one-to-one basis.

Outreach

During this period the CIO has consistently had 2 outreach workers active on the streets of Ipswich, each working 10 hours a week. Both outreach workers interact with regular clients, getting to know them, their stories and their current circumstances.

In addition, the CIO has from time to time benefitted from other volunteers who were variously involved in outreach work, one-to-one and face to face sessions with specific clients. These sessions allow us to delve further into issues and offer better, more focused help and encouragement.

Typically, clients have drug related and / or alcohol issues. Often there are housing issues associated too. In getting to know the clients better the Outreach Workers will signpost them towards avenues of help and will endeavour to link each person with a local Church, who can come alongside and provide practical as well as spiritual support.

The outreach workers, whilst interacting with many are typically working with 8-10 people consistently. This allows us to better help individuals, rather than go for a “scatter gun” approach. During this time, we estimate that we have had a significant effect on at least 20 individuals, both male and female.

Through this process we have been able to help some clients enter into rehab, help others with learning skills, finding accommodation, help with alcohol and drug problems and seen several undertake an Alpha Course (an exploration of the Christian faith). Sadly, we have even had to take a funeral service for two individuals.

We all appointed a volunteer General Line Manager, Andrew Croft, in March 2024 to oversee the day to day outreach activities of the charity. Andrew has a background in both Social Care and church leadership.

Policies

The Trustees worked diligently during this time to ensure all relevant policies were written, in place and reviewed.

A volunteer at the charity raised a grievance against an outreach worker, in December 2023, upon initial investigation the trustees felt to aid in impartiality and resolution of concerns raised it would be prudent to undergo an external investigation. There was no evidence of harm to individuals involved in the grievance or clients. During the time of the external investigation the charity paused outreach work and focussed on building relationships with churches.

The outcome of the investigation was made available to all volunteers, trustees and outreach workers. The charity followed recommendations from the external investigator to improve working practices and reduce the risk of further discord within the charity. The complainant was pleased with the outcome and still has a good relationship with the CIO.

Trustees

Three of the five Trustees in place during this year were appointed at the inception of the CIO. One of those trustees, Christopher Hewson, stepped down in December 2023 and Abigail Falola was appointed in December 2023.

Interaction with donors

The CIO has strong personal ties with many of the individual and Church donors (each Trustee and Outreach Worker is strongly involved with a supporting Church).

As well as this, the CIO produce a monthly news and prayer sheet, updating supporters with information about individuals that are being helped, as well as ongoing future plans.

In 2023/24 the CIO produced a new website to help promote the CIO and to encourage further financial giving from the Ipswich community.

Finances

The cost involved in running Route2Freedom is largely met by a number of Churches who give a regular monthly donation, as well as a number of individuals giving regularly. Originally 5 local churches contributed to the CIO and we now have 10 supporting churches. We are constantly working to increase the number of supporting churches, hoping to add several more in the next financial year.

The charity also received funds from Lightwave Community, and a number of individuals wanting to support the work. Additionally, we received £1500.00 on the winding up of Faraday Road Hall Trust Fund after the congregation merged with Ashcroft Church.

The Trustees consider the financial position of the CIO is strong

Reserves policy

The minimum level of reserves set by the Trustees is £3000 (the equivalent of 2 months of essential running and employment costs), this has been further reviewed prior to this report being published, to £6000.

Plans for 2024/25

It is our ambition and intention to be able to increase the working hours of our female outreach staff team.

We will continue to engage with specific individuals, struggling with addiction. We fully intend to place as many as possible in a rehabilitation facility, as well as helping with education, counselling, housing etc.

Public Benefit Statement

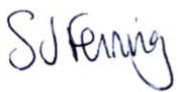
When planning the CIO's activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits. The Trustees consider that the work undertaken is of direct benefit not only to clients, but also to the wider Ipswich community.

The Trustees are therefore happy that the CIO demonstrates a good delivery of public benefit.

Independent Examiner

The Trustees re- appointed Peter Matthews to independently examine the financial books of the CIO.

This report signed on behalf of the trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SJ Fenning'.

Stephen Fenning – chair of trustees

5th August 2025

ROUTE2FREEDOM - CHARITABLE**INCORPORATED ORGANISATION NO: 1190159****RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR the year ended 31 OCTOBER 2024**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	£
Church giving	15,863.00
Individual giving	8,040.00
Rehab/Funeral donations	223.71
Gift Aid claims	1,891.97

Total Receipts	<u>£26,018.68</u>
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PAYMENTS

Wages	13,924.20
Rehab Costs	360.00
Expenses - Clients and Meetings	1,384.95
Travelling and Parking Expenses	320.20
Insurance	249.52
Professional Fees	450.00
Conferences & Training	196.00
Equipment	383.70

Total Payments	<u>£17,268.57</u>
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Excess of Receipts over Payments for the year	<u>8,750.11</u>
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2024

	<u>£</u>
Current Assets - Cash at Bank	12,972.54
Cash Floats	200.00
Total Assets	<u>13,172.54</u>
Represented by:	<u>£</u>
General Reserve	3,000.00
Balance b/f	1,422.43
Surplus for the year	8,750.11
Balance c/f	<u>13,172.54</u>

ROUTE2FREEDOM - CHARITABLE**INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION NO: 1190159****RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR the year ended 31 OCTOBER 2024****RECEIPTS:**

	£.p
Church giving	15,863.00
Individual giving	8,040.00
Gift Aid Reclaimed	1,891.97
Other	223.71

Total Receipts **£26,018.68**

PAYMENTS

Wages including Employer's Conts	13,924.20
Rehab Costs	671.00
Expenses - Clients and Meetings	1,275.94
Team Meeting Expenses	109.01
Travelling and Parking Expenses	9.20
Insurance	249.52
Professional Fees	450.00
Equipment	383.70
Conferences & Training	196.00

Total Payments **£17,268.57**

**Excess of Receipts over
Payments for year** **£8,750.11**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2024

Current Assets - Cash at Bank	12,972.54
- Cash Floats	<u>200.00</u>

Total Assets **£13,172.54**

Represented by:

General Reserve 3,000.00

General Fund -

Balance b/f	1,422.43
Surplus for Year	<u>8,750.11</u>

Balance c/f **£13,172.54**

Independent Examiner's Report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 the charity as required by Section 396 of the Companies Act 2006: or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records: or
3. The financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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: or
4. The financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

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 financial statements to be reached.



Peter G Matthews CPFA, MCIM, Chartered Public Finance Accountant (retired)

23-Aug-25