



TouchPoint Stansted

Annual Report for the Period Ending 5 April 2022



TouchPoint Stansted – Annual Report of the Chair of Trustees

For the period ending 5 April 2022

TOUCHPOINT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, reg no 1194098. We have established a community hub and well-being initiative based in Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex. Our objective is to facilitate an array of connected community services which address issues around mental health & well-being, social isolation, digital exclusion, employability and economic recovery, as well as financial stress and debt management.

The TouchPoint model is collaborative and is driven by a recognition of the value and efficiency in working with specialist partners while also harnessing the skills & experience that already exist in our community to build a self-sustaining, innovative and forward-looking entity.

We registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in April 2021 and enjoyed rapid growth and high levels of community engagement. Using the community owned former Day Centre and its gardens as our base The TouchPoint Community Cafe opened its doors in July 2021. Initially the cafe was open on one day a week and by March 2022 demand had led to it being two days a week. We have created a welcoming, inclusive, safe place to act as our initial hub.

Mindful of the need to remove barriers to engagement, the first tea or coffee is always free of charge at our cafe. Hot food and snacks are very reasonably priced and are offered free to those who are experiencing financial hardship.

We soon began to use the cafe to support specialist groups, often on other days of the week. Working in partnership with **St Clare Hospice** we started a regular bereavement cafe. A dementia friendly singing group and digital skills training sessions were also launched.

Alongside the cafe we also arranged regular visits and outreach from support services and community interest groups such as **Citizens Advice**, **Peabody Trust** (Homelessness prevention), **Mind in West Essex**, **Social Prescribing Link Workers**, and **Ace Hounds Friendship Dogs** amongst others. Helping to make these services easier to access has been particularly satisfying.

In August we worked with **British Red Cross** to coordinate public donations in our area for their Afghan refugee appeal. This was an outstanding effort by our growing volunteer team, who worked tirelessly to manage an almost overwhelming surge of donations. In 2022 we also worked closely with the **Council for Voluntary Services Uttlesford** in providing support to recently arrived Ukrainian refugees, particularly during their first few days in the United Kingdom.

Throughout our first year the trustees have been determined to ensure that consultation, collaboration and inclusiveness have been at the heart of what we do. It has been a year of rapid growth and we are proud of the highly effective working relationships we have in place with specialist partners who can add real value to our community. We are even more proud of the fantastic local support and encouragement at ground level. Our **Parish Council** have proved to be enthusiastic and helpful, we greatly value their practical assistance and trust.

The trustees have paid close attention to our finances, and we aim as much as possible to be self-sustaining whilst applying for grants for specific projects. Funding highlights in our first year include: **Uttlesford District Council** provided initial seed funding, **The National Lottery** supported us through their “Awards For All” scheme, and the **Rural Community Council of Essex** provided significant funding support via their Covid Safe Buildings fund. We had a number of smaller donations from regional organisations, councillors, pubs, clubs and our very generous local community.

We are very dependent on the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers. At the end of our first year as a registered charity we had 35 active volunteers, with that number increasing on a weekly basis. The importance of their work in helping TouchPoint become so well received cannot be overstated.

We look forward to our next year with high expectations. Planned launches include a **Community Foodshare** initiative, designed to address issues around supermarket surplus and food waste by collecting and sharing fresh produce with our community at a time of increasing financial hardship. **She's Ready**, an empowerment project for women, run by women will be delivered free of charge with focus on physical activity, healthy lifestyles and volunteering. We are planning to host a weekly sanctuary, offering support to those in crisis, run by the team at **Mind in West Essex**. We continue to listen to our community and invite their ideas and participation.

Trustees & Trustee Recruitment:

Upon incorporation our founding trustees were Paul Chambers (Chair), Shirley Johnson (Secretary) Keith Brown (Treasurer) Elissa Burgoine, and Franqui Wilson.

In considering future Trustee appointments TouchPoint will follow Charities Commission guidance.

Receipts and Payments Account

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Receipts- café		7,907.95	-	7,907.95
Payments - café		(9,015.21)	-	(9,015.21)
Café - net		(1,107.26)	-	(1,107.26)
Grants/specific collections	Note 1	20,560.36	35,738.39	56,298.75
Various corporate and personal donations		4,403.11	-	4,403.11
Payments	Note 1	-	(6,137.81)	(6,137.81)
Overheads				
Small furniture & equipment	767.98			
Promotional	319.90			
Website & IT charges	2,727.66			
Insurance	716.40			
Bank & donation charges	61.71			
Registration & associated costs	133.05			
Garden costs	75.94	(4,802.64)	-	(4,802.64)
		19,053.57	29,600.58	48,654.15
Transfer between funds		(231.10)	231.10	-
		<u>18,822.47</u>	<u>29,831.68</u>	<u>48,654.15</u>

Statement of Assets

Bank account	18,762.47	29,831.68	48,594.15
Cash float	60.00	-	60.00
	<u>18,822.47</u>	<u>29,831.68</u>	<u>48,654.15</u>

Note 1

Unrestricted Grants

UDC/SPC Communities

Day Centre

9,300.00

11,260.36

20,560.36

Restricted funds

	Receipts	Payments	Transfer in	Balance
UDC Councillors New Homes Fund	825.00	-	-	825.00
CVSU Winter Fund	1,500.00	930.47	-	569.53
National Lottery	9,750.00	-	-	9,750.00
EALC Microgrant	350.00	191.50	-	158.50
UDC Bereavement Cafe	1,120.00	158.92	-	961.08
UDC Singing for All / Dementia support	900.00	84.00	-	816.00
Community Covid Safe Buildings	14,985.58	2,365.11	231.10	12,851.57
Community Foodshare	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00
Men in Sheds	2,444.99	1,544.99	-	900.00
Ukraine DEC Appeal	862.82	862.82	-	-
	<u>35,738.39</u>	<u>6,137.81</u>	<u>231.10</u>	<u>29,831.68</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Touchpoint

On accounts for the
period ended

5 April 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1194098

Set out on pages

1 to 6

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 5 April 2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date: 19 Jan 2023

Name:

Stephen Pounder

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

Address:

33 Cambridge Road

Stansted

CM24 8BX

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

Not applicable