



TouchPoint
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 5 April 2023

Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill
Stansted
CM24 8AQ

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registration No: 1194098

Touchpoint
Annual Report of the Chair of Trustees
For the year ended 5 April 2023



**“TouchPoint is much bigger than just the services they provide
– it’s a network, a lifeline and a lifesaver” – Parent with two children**

TouchPoint is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in April 2021

We are a rapidly growing community well-being initiative based at Crafton Green in Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, serving communities in West Essex and East Herts.

Our objective is to facilitate an array of connected community services which address issues around social isolation, mental and physical health and well-being, food waste and food education, 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 actively listening to our community. We believe in harnessing the skills and experience that already exist to build a self-sustaining, innovative and forward-looking entity.

Amongst the specialist organisations and agencies who form part of our network we are particularly grateful to Peabody Trust, Mind in West Essex, Uttlesford Foodbank and St Clare Hospice for their continued support and partnership. TouchPoint is a volunteer led organisation and we have been delighted by the outstanding contribution of our highly committed volunteers, a team which is now 150-strong. Our volunteers are invaluable to us, giving countless hours to our shared cause, and enabling us to deliver great value and return on investment. The trustees offer our sincere thanks for their commitment and the enthusiasm they bring in delivering our projects and services, with our shared core values of inclusiveness, tolerance, dignity, and respect.

The rapid early growth and high levels of community engagement that characterised our first year of operation continued throughout our second year. Significant achievements in 2022/23 include the launch and development of key initiatives, highlighted below:



TouchPoint Community Foodshare

This project has experienced remarkable and rapid growth since it began in April 2022. Created as a food waste reduction initiative, we collect fresh food surplus from retailers and redistribute it in local communities, free of charge, through regular 'Foodshares'. At the time of writing, we have collected more than 140 tonnes of food, redistributed the equivalent of 250,000 free meals, and are directly impacting more than 1,500 people per week. This is achieved thanks to the extraordinary contribution of a small army of volunteers.

She's Ready

The She's Ready project is run by women for women, delivered free of charge, empowering them to build confidence through physical activity, healthy lifestyles, pathways to volunteering and greater social connection. Free activity sessions include yoga, running groups and bootcamps. Sessions are often followed by free tea, coffee and pastries. She's Ready participants have gone on to be supported by TouchPoint with professional training courses, and a number have become TouchPoint volunteers. At the time of writing this inspirational project now has 90 active participants.

Refugees/migrants and asylum seekers

This year we significantly expanded the services we offer to refugees and migrants whilst they are resident in our communities. This includes a weekly community cooking project, physical wellbeing sessions, singing groups, and activities for pre-school age children. All sessions are led by experts in their field.

Winter warmth and social isolation

In response to the cost-of-living crisis, we launched a weekly 'Teatime' for children and carers, offering a free healthy meal and crafts and activities for up to 45 people per session. In addition, our free 'Friday Breakfast Club' has been a great success, offering a free hot meal to as many as 50 people per session. Our Sunday 'Afternoon Movie Club', where people can join us for a few hours in the warm for entertainment and a hot snack, has become a very important event for those who find Sunday to be a quiet, difficult day. In delivering all our projects we have seen at first hand the social benefit to so many of our participants. Supportive friendship groups are formed, and we see many examples of the growth in social confidence.



Emergency Payments Fund

We have now created an emergency payments fund, enabling us to offer short term financial support for food and energy costs. Referrals can be made to us by local support agencies such as Citizens Advice, Uttlesford Foodbank, and Social Prescribing Link Workers.

Kids Christmas Gift Appeal

December 2022 saw the launch of our first Christmas Appeal for children and families. With the enthusiastic support of our community, we raised more than £5,000, enabling us to distribute gift vouchers to families in need in our area. We worked in partnership with Uttlesford Foodbank and local schools.

Feedback from our community

Our Community Food Share project directly impacts more than 1,500 people every week, and our other projects consistently reach around 500 people a week. We are very proud of the high levels of engagement with our local community, and we are increasingly gathering powerful and humbling feedback.

"If I didn't come to TouchPoint I don't know what I'd do" - Parent of two

"Without TouchPoint Food Share, I don't know how I would survive every week" -Single parent with four children.

"Touchpoint is a wonderful organisation, supporting the community and the people who work and volunteer with them. It's a great place to meet new people and make friends. Everyone is friendly and really cares about their community and is always ready to help others." – TouchPoint volunteer

"TouchPoint really has changed my life. It helped me get my confidence back and I've made so many new friends. It also opened my eyes to what is available and made me realise what I can do – if I put my mind to it!" – TouchPoint volunteer, She's Ready participant, and stroke survivor.

The trustees would like to thank all in our community who have contributed so much to help us build this project together. We remain committed to being a volunteer driven, forward looking, community led initiative, with a clear focus on delivery and engagement.



Our funding

Touchpoint receives funds from a number of Local Authorities and national charitable organisations as well as very funding from numerous individuals. The Trustees would like to thank all our funders for the very generous donations that enable us to continue and grow our essential activities.

Reserves Policy

Touchpoint has a reserves policy of retaining at least three months overheads and non-discretionary costs based on the previous year's expenditure.

Trustees & Trustee Recruitment

The Trustees are Paul Chambers (Chair), Shirley Johnson (Secretary), Keith Brown (Treasurer) and Elissa Burgoigne (Re-appointed 15 April 2023). Franqui Wilson's term of office ended on 15 April 2023. Fiona Venus and Richard Jones were appointed as Trustees on 20 November 2023.

Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustee Board.

Signed

Paul Chambers

Chair

Dated 23.1.2024.

Touchpoint
Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ended 5 April 2023



		Year to 5 April 2023			11.5 months to 5 April 2022
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts					
Grants and specific collections	1	2,350	57,214	59,564	56,299
Corporate and personal donations		5,912	-	5,912	4,403
Café income		15,657	-	15,657	7,908
		23,919	57,214	81,133	68,610
Payments					
Cost of charitable activities	1	-	51,459	51,459	6,138
Small furniture & equipment		21	-	21	768
Cost of café services and overheads		11,933	-	11,933	9,015
Garden costs		133	-	133	76
Promotional costs		1,832	-	1,832	320
Registration & associated costs		90	-	90	133
Website & IT charges		3,751	-	3,751	2,728
Insurance		716	-	716	716
Bank and donation charges		133	-	133	62
		18,609	51,459	70,068	19,956
Net movement in funds		5,310	5,755	11,065	48,654
Transfer between funds		-715	715	-	-
Cash funds last year end		18,822	29,832	48,654	-
Cash Funds this year end		23,417	36,302	59,719	48,654

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

		Year to 5 April 2023			11.5 months to 5 April 2022
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Cash Funds					
Bank Current Account		23,357	35,502	58,859	48,594
Funds held at Charis			800	800	-
Cash		60	-	60	60
Total Cash Funds		23,417	36,302	59,719	48,654
Liabilities					
Creditors	1	-	2,745	2,745	-

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Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ended 5 April 2023



Note 1 Grants and Specific Collections

	Receipts					
	£					
<u>Unrestricted Grants</u>						
Uttlesford District Council	1,637					
Other Grants	549					
Fundraising activities	164					
	<u>2,350</u>					
	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance before Liabilities	Carried Forward
		£	£	£	£	£
<u>Restricted Grants / Specific Collections</u>						
UDC Councillors New Homes Fund	825		825		-	-
CVSU / Essex Association Winter Fund	570	1,000	933		637	637
National Lottery	9,750	-	7,005		2,745	(2,745)
EALC Microgrant	158	-	158		-	-
EALC Food Support Grant	-	2,000	2,000		-	-
UDC Bereavement Café	961	-	225		736	736
UDC Singing for All/Dementia Support	816	-	754		62	62
UDC Yoga classes	-	1,370	680		690	690
Community Covid Safe Buildings	12,852	-	12,070		782	782
RCCE Covid Safe Buildings window grant	-	5,075	5,075		-	-
Community Foodshare	3,000	100	1,782		1,318	1,318
Men In Sheds	900		900		-	-
She's Ready initiative	-	4,150	4,429	279	-	-
Stansted Parish Council Garden refurb.	-	1,150	1,586	436	-	-
HUBBUB Foundation Community Cooking	-	6,800	4,164		2,636	2,636
Xmas Kids Gift Appeal	-	6,296	5,000		1,296	1,296
Stansted Community Trust Hardship fund	-	1,000	100		900	900
ECC Locality Fund	-	3,773	3,773		-	-
UDC Refrigerated Van for Food Share	-	24,500	-		24,500	24,500
	<u>29,832</u>	<u>57,214</u>	<u>51,459</u>	<u>715</u>	<u>36,302</u>	<u>(2,745)</u>
						<u>33,557</u>

The Liability due from the National Lottery Fund represents an outstanding payment for Items purchased but not paid for as at the year end and the requirement to repay any funds unspent at the end of the financial year.

Signed

Keith Brown
Treasurer

Dated

23/01/24

Paul Chambers
Chair

Dated

23.1.2024.

Touchpoint
Independent Examiner's Report
For the year ended 5 April 2023



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 (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

23/01/2024