

Trustee's Report to the Charity Commission

Loving Hands Outreach Team – Year 2 of Charitable Status

Aims and Purposes

Loving Hands Outreach Team was established to relieve poverty for those living in the community of the Metropolitan area of Kirklees.

Objectives and Activities

The group was established during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, to deliver essential food and household items to vulnerable people and families. Charitable status was awarded in June 2021 and our work continues within the current uncertain economic climate. Data from the Kirklees Observatory, 2024 indicates a severe level of poverty in the Kirklees area. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods) in England, indicates that 42% of neighbourhoods within Kirklees fall into the top 30% deprived areas within the local authority and within North Kirklees, where the majority of our service users reside, this number increases to 57%.

Food parcels are delivered by a team of volunteers to the beneficiary's home address. These packages typically contain essential foods and household items such as tinned and packaged foods, cereal, bread milk and eggs. Most importantly, to support health and well-being, fresh fruit, vegetables, and dairy products such as cheese and yoghurts are now included. Wherever possible items such as toiletries, nappies and other baby items are also supplied.

Additional support is provided via the signposting of other services, such as mental health charities or helplines, other food banks, baby banks, or other charities working to reduce poverty. Families who require small items of second-hand furniture and other household items, such as bedding, kitchen equipment and clothing are supported on an ad hoc basis, where items can be donated from the local community.

All of the support provided is funded through grants, fundraising activities, and the collection of donations from local retailers and the community.

When planning activities for the year the trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, guidance for charities specifically set up for the relief of poverty. Appropriate criteria are used for guidance in selecting beneficiaries requiring support, ensuring that the assistance given to individuals is no more than is required to relieve their immediate need. For example, those who receive universal credit, or other relevant state benefits (working with consent under GDPR). It should be noted that those in poverty, or at risk of being in poverty typically means households who go short in some unacceptable way. This includes people who, despite working, still fall into this category and people who may qualify for assistance from a poverty charity whether or not they are eligible for state benefits.

Achievements and Performance

Food Bank Service Development

We have continued to provide a basic selection of tinned and packaged foods alongside a range of fresh fruit and vegetables and dairy products. This has been facilitated by increasing success in applying for and receiving funding through grant applications during the reporting period. This includes funding from the Asda Foundation, Kirklees Third sector Leaders, COOP Community Fund, One Community, Locala and Huddersfield Town Foundation. We have continued to supplement our fresh food offering via a subscription to Fare-Share Yorkshire, for surplus food sourced from major retailers and food manufacturers.

Education

Regular discussions with other charities and services in the community confirms that provision of food alone will not solve the long-term poverty and health crisis in the community. Education is needed for those within the community who would like to help themselves but need inspiration and support to do so. We have continued to be successful in applying to Locala Health Visitor Service for funding for our Cookery course which teaches the preparation of basic, cheap, and healthy recipes. We have been fortunate to secured further funding to continue the cookery programme into 2024-25. Locala health visitors have provided further support by attending our monthly coffee clubs as guest speakers, providing invaluable information on childcare topics. All participants complete a questionnaire at the end of the course, thereby allowing us to continue to monitor the outcomes of our classes and address areas for improvement. This feedback also confirmed that those participating are now less reliant on food support from us and other services.

Further analysis of the questionnaire results revealed that many of the parents we support suffer with poor mental health and anxiety, which directly impacts upon their ability to support themselves financially. This finding was backed up with evidence from a study commissioned by the mental health charity Mind which concluded that there is a direct correlation between poverty and poor mental health. We successfully applied for funding to run an Art and Crafts programme to help boost the mental health of those attending. We distributed a questionnaire at the end of the course and the results showed a positive uplift in mental health, general well-being, and confidence for most attending the course.

* [mind.org.uk study: Fighting for the MH of people living in poverty - final_poverty-scoping-research-report.pdf](https://mind.org.uk/study/fighting-for-the-mh-of-people-living-in-poverty-final-poverty-scoping-research-report.pdf) (mind.org.uk)

Financial Review

The current cost-of-living crisis has continued to impact low-income households and the number of households requesting support has continued to increase. Referrals have been made through schools, health visitors, social workers, domestic violence charities, other local food banks and self-referrals via our Facebook page.

Data for the reporting period year ending September 2023 versus 2022 indicates that we regularly supported 529 adults (up 33% year-on-year), 536 children (up 37% year-on-year) and 235 families (up 42% year-on-year), plus 188 smaller households without children (up 22% year-on-year).

In the period year end September 2022 food costs were approximately £1000 per calendar month, at the end of the reporting period this monthly expenditure had increased by 33%. This was a function of the increase in number of households requesting support, plus there were increased costs associated with food and fuel inflation.

LOVING HANDS OUTREACH TEAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 1st OCTOBER 2022 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The balance of unrestricted funds carried forward into the next financial year is £28,272.19

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

LOVING HANDS OUTREACH TEAM (CIO)

Year 2 accounts

TRANSACTIONS 1st October 2022 - 30th September 2023

REGISTERED 17TH JUN 2021

Charity No. 1194837

TRANSACTION TYPE	IN	OUT	Unrestricted Income TOTAL	Restricted Income TOTAL	Direct COSTS	Indirect COSTS	BALANCE
1st October 2022 - OPENING BALANCE	16,066.57						16,066.57
GRANTS, DONATIONS, LEGACIES	33,981.47		33,981.47				
FUND RAISING EVENTS e.g. RAFFLES, COLLECTIONS	958.50		958.50				
STANDING ORDER	962.00		962.00				
FEES FOR CHARITABLE SERVICES (NHS)	508.10		508.10				
MISCELLANEOUS	-		-				
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	36,410.07		36,410.07	-			
FOOD		17,513.20			17,513.20	-	
PACKAGING		221.74			221.74	-	
CLOTHING, SCHOOL CLOTHES, TOYS, FAMILY EQUIPMENT		675.18			675.18	-	
FUNDRAISING COSTS		50.00			50.00	-	
COST OF PROVIDING OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		2,826.23			2,826.23	-	
OFFICE COSTS, LEGAL, TRAVEL AND INSURANCE		2,918.10				2,918.10	
MISCELLANEOUS		-				-	
TOTAL CASH PAID OUT		24,204.45			21,286.35	2,918.10	
CLOSING BALANCE - verified from bank balance at end of period							28,272.19

Reserves policy

It is Loving Hands Outreach Team's policy to aim to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, which equates to at least three months unrestricted income, equivalent to £6000, to cover food and running costs for the provision of food parcels.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make the charity able to support so many people in need within the Kirklees community. Volunteers typically help with the

collection, packing and delivery of the food parcels and other household items and clothing. Volunteers also assist at cookery classes, providing on-site help with childcare for those attending the classes.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of trustees is set out in our governing document. This is based on the Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees.

Management is carried out by the Trustees and the Treasurer. These members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the day-to-day running of the charity, including deciding on how the funds of the charity are to be spent.

The Board of Trustees met five times during the reporting period with attendance of all trustees, including some participating online due to work commitments. Additional committees were established during this reporting period, allowing the participation of non-trustee volunteers in specific project activities.

Administrative Information

Loving Hands Outreach Team is situated in Batley, West Yorkshire, the correspondence address is The Old Vicarage, 150 High Street, WF17 6DW.

- **Trustees:**

Managing Trustee and Chairperson – Louisa Margaret Weir

Trustee and Secretary - Dr Karen Margaret Wilson (from 27th July 2022 – present)

Trustee - Paula Cutler (from July 2023 - present)

Trustee - Helen Louise Poole (from July 2023 to present)

Treasurer - Wendy Nuttall

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Loving Hands Outreach Team Batley, West Yorkshire

I report to the trustees on the accounts for the period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023 which are set out on page 3 of this report.

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 (~~other than that disclosed below*~~) 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Roger Tolson

Date:

21st JUNE 2024

Name:

ROGER TOLSON

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

N/A

Address:

25 THIRLMERE ROAD

DENSBURY

WF12 7ED

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).