

# **Trustee's Report to the Charity Commission**

## **Loving Hands Outreach Team – Year 3 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, 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% of deprived areas within the local authority. 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, including mental health charities or helplines, other food banks, baby banks, and 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 within the local community.

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

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, the beneficiaries may have to prove they are in receipt of 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 One Community, Kirklees Third Sector Leaders, Aviva Community Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund, Locala Community Fund and Asda 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 the 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 from the Aviva Community Fund 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\*. During Spring Summer 2024 we used funds from the Aviva Community Grant to run a new project, Love To Grow, helping people to increase their health and well-being through a combination of growing their own produce and cooking cheap simple and nutritious meals. This took place in a local community allotment with the support of Grow to School, Kirklees Third Sector Leaders and Juniper Foodwise. We provided compost growbags and a choice of vegetables, herbs and fruit for participants to use their newly acquired skills and grow their own produce at home with their family. As with our cookery classes our participants completed a questionnaire at the end of our course. This feedback confirmed that those participating saw a noticeable improvement in their mental health and indicated an increased confidence in cooking with fresh produce. This led to them being able to make better, healthier ingredient choices for family mealtimes.

\* [mind.org.uk](https://mind.org.uk) study: Fighting for the MH of people living in poverty - final\_poverty-scoping-research-report.pdf ([mind.org.uk](https://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, local churches, other local food banks and self-referrals via our Facebook page. A £16K Critical Costs grant from The National Lottery enabled us to cover our basic food support costs, plus increase our capacity by 25-30% for a four-month period in early 2024.

Data for the reporting period year ending September 2024 versus 2023 indicates that we regularly supported 574 adults (up 9% year-on-year), 592 children (up 10% year-on-year) and 278 families (up 18% year-on-year), plus 187 smaller households without children (up 1% year-on-year).

Food costs at the period ending September 2023 were approximately £1500 per calendar month, at the end of the current reporting period this monthly expenditure had increased by 53% to £2300. This cost increase was a function of the increase in number of households requesting support, plus the extra support provided during the first quarter of 2024. There were also significant increased costs associated with food and fuel inflation.

## LOVING HANDS OUTREACH TEAM

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 1st OCTOBER 2023 – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

The balance of unrestricted funds carried forward into the next financial year is £36,645.01

## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

### LOVING HANDS OUTREACH TEAM (CIO)

#### Year 3 accounts

#### TRANSACTIONS 1st October 2023 - 30th September 2024

REGISTERED 17TH JUN 2021

Charity No. 1194837

TRANSACTION TYPE	IN	OUT	Unrestricted Income TOTAL	Restricted Income TOTAL	Direct COSTS	Indirect COSTS	BALANCE
<b>1st October 2023 - OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>28,272.19</b>						<b>28,272.19</b>
GRANTS, DONATIONS, LEGACIES	39,293.73		39,293.73				
FUND RAISING EVENTS e.g. RAFFLES, COLLECTIONS	5,558.77		5,558.77				
STANDING ORDER	354.00		354.00				
MISCELLANEOUS	-		-				
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>	<b>45,206.50</b>		<b>45,206.50</b>	<b>-</b>			
FOOD		26,327.95			26,327.95	-	
PACKAGING		453.77			453.77	-	
CLOTHING, SCHOOL CLOTHES, TOYS, FAMILY EQUIPMENT		1,309.92			1,309.92	-	
FUNDRAISING COSTS		2,868.65			2,868.65	-	
COST OF PROVIDING OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		2,961.27			2,961.27	-	
OFFICE COSTS, LEGAL, TRAVEL AND INSURANCE		2,912.12				2,912.12	
MISCELLANEOUS		-				-	
<b>TOTAL CASH PAID OUT</b>		<b>36,833.68</b>			<b>33,921.56</b>	<b>2,912.12</b>	
<b>CLOSING BALANCE - verified from bank balance at end of period</b>							<b>36,645.01</b>

## **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 £9,300, 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 enable the charity to support so many people in need within the Kirklees community. Volunteers typically help with the collection, packing and delivery of the food parcels, 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 located 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 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:

*22/07/2025*

Name:

*ROGER TOLSON*

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

*N/A*

Address:

*25 THIRLMERE ROAD*

*DEWSBURY, WEST YORKSHIRE*

*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).