



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date: 01/09/2023

Period end date: 31/08/2024

Charity name: Alsager Community Support

Charity registration number: 1200173

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objects of the Alsager Community Support are,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in the town of Alsager and the surrounding area through the provision of practical help, support, information and advice.2 The prevention or relief of poverty in Alsager and the surrounding area by providing: items and services to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Alsager Community Support offers the following support to the community in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 'drop in' centre where visitors can obtain information about a range of issues and/or can be signposted to appropriate help• Confidential appointments in which guidance can be given on financial matters• A school uniform and shoe recycling scheme• Lost and found point of contact• A transport scheme which offers elderly people lifts to and from a local Lunch Club and to and from medical appointments• A Befriending scheme to support people in isolation• A Shopper scheme to support people who are unable to get out• A Helping Hands service that helps people with small DIY projects• Annual toy appeal
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the	Para 1.18	<p>The trustees have taken cognisance of the guidance issued by the Charities Commission and are confident that all of the charity's work is for the public benefit.</p>

Charity Commission on public benefit.		
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity has a small hardship fund. The Manager can decide whether a client should receive help from this fund up to the value of £30. Beyond this sum, agreement must be obtained from one of the trustees in line with the scheme of delegation.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The charity is not involved in social investments.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>At the end of the reporting year, the charity had 68 active volunteers contributing in 4 principal areas of activity. These are described in the summary of main achievements section.</p> <p>We would also like to say a huge and sincere 'Thank You' to all our hard-working volunteers, most of whom have been with us for many years, and without whom our work would not be possible.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><u>ACS Annual Report Sept/23 – Aug/24</u></p> <p>The past year has been a year of significant change for ACS. During 2023, the trustees were successful in securing a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund and Reaching Communities/Partnerships programme. In autumn 2023, recruitment processes were completed, leading to the appointment of a full-time Manager and a part-time Volunteer Coordinator and Project Development Officer. Although these positions were filled in 2023, both members of staff officially started in January 2024. The appointment of an Administrative Assistant followed later in 2024, further strengthening the ACS team.</p> <p>Inevitably, there was a great deal for the newly appointed staff to learn about the charity and a significant amount of time has, and continues to be spent, working to make ACS compliant with current best practice.</p> <p>In addition to the appointment of staff to manage the charity, ACS moved into new premises with the help of a local businessman and philanthropist. This was a necessary move,</p>

		<p>not least to accommodate the new employees, and it has taken a lot of time and energy to make the premises suitable for the charity's needs.</p> <p>Despite the many hours spent on back-office activities, ACS has continued to provide its usual range of services to the local community and, indeed, has increased its offer. Brief descriptions of the most frequently used services follow:</p> <p>Enquiries: 2700 contacts p.a. People contacted ACS by phone, email or by coming into our premises. Our volunteers deal with a very wide range of queries which vary from concerns about energy bills, to requests for help getting to appointments, to asking the whereabouts of the nearest doctor's surgery.</p> <p>Budgetary Advice: 90 contacts p.a. Our trained volunteers are able to help clients with budget planning and can advise and help with benefit applications. As they are not regulated they are not able to provide debt advice and clients who need such help are referred to other appropriately qualified agencies. We estimate that our help has enabled clients to apply for and be awarded over £70,000 in various benefits.</p> <p>School Uniform Recycling: 500+ families p.a. We estimate that this scheme has benefitted over 700 school pupils during the year. Parents can bring their children to ACS premises to try different items. If they can, we ask each parent to make a small donation towards our costs. This scheme encourages parents to recycle items in good condition and is a significant help to families who are struggling financially.</p> <p>Transport – Medical Trips: 130 p.a. Our volunteer drivers have taken over 100 individuals to hospital and doctor appointments. Hospital appointments can take several hours but our volunteers wait for the client and return them home.</p> <p>Transport – Lunch Club: 1200 p.a. The local Lunch Club is held every Tuesday and Thursday in the Civic building. The average age of the diners is 86 and, understandably, many of them cannot get to the Club under their own steam. Ten volunteers collect and return 3 diners, meaning that 30 diners are transported to this social occasion each week. Over the year, that's around 1200 passenger return journeys.</p> <p>Befriending / Shopping: 30 On average 15 people have benefitted from our befriending service. These people are mainly elderly and isolated. Our befrienders telephone them regularly and sometimes meet with them in person. When the client needs help, our befrienders do what they can to obtain the help they need by linking back to our services.</p>
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		<p>Shoppers help a wide range of people who, for whatever reason, are unable to get to the shops. Sometimes the shopper takes the client with them, but most shoppers do a 'top up shop' once a week.</p> <p>Finally, 5 people are paired with a volunteer who acts as a befriender and shopper.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity held £74,720 in its account at the year end.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	In 2022- 23 the charity employed one person on a half time temporary basis in the role as a Project Development Officer. This was the principal commitment. From January 2024, ACS employed a full-time Manager and a part time Volunteer Coordinator. These colleagues were joined by a part time administrator in May 2024. These three posts were funded by a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund from the Reaching Communities/Partnerships programme and will continue until December 2028. Rent and energy bills were the other main outgoings. The trustees have a policy to hold 3 months of outgoings in reserve. This policy is kept under review.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£11,505
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The charity had successfully submitted a bid to the National Lottery Community Fund and Reaching Communities/Partnerships programme. This was to appoint a full-time Manager, a part-time Volunteer Coordinator and a part-time Administrator. The funding is for five years and therefore the position of the charity is stable. The Project Development Officer role is currently funded by short term grants, ending December 2025. The trustees are working on a future strategy that will allow the charity to continue beyond 2028.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity's main source of funding came from the National Lottery Community Fund and Reaching Communities/Partnerships programme. Other sources of funding came from successful application of grants from various bodies, e.g. Cheshire East, these grants are the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flourish fund • Healthy Neighbourhood • Cost of living fund Small sums were also raised by charitable donations.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	None
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	To secure funding to cover ongoing core costs.

Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The charity's memorandum, articles of association and confidentiality agreements are based on a template taken from the Charities Commission web site.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Alsager Community Support is a CIO.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are largely recruited from our team of volunteers. Some trustees have been recruited based on their expertise, for example, the current chairperson worked at a senior level in the education sector. He brings much experience relevant to our development as a charity. When selecting new trustees, their skills and experience is taken into account. There are constitutional provisions in regard to the appointment of trustees and the length of time they serve on the board.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	We have a trustee induction pack. The trustees are offered training and can ask for a 'buddy'.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<div style="text-align: center;"> Trustee board Manager VCO AA PDO Volunteers </div> VCO – Volunteer Coordinator AA – Administrative Assistant PDO – Project Development Officer
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Partnership working with: Cheshire East Council Plus Dane Housing Disability Information Bureau Fedcap Age UK
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Alsager Community Support
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1200173

Charity's principal address	The Pinkney Centre 19-21 Crewe Rd Alsager S.o.T. ST7 2EW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	David Black	Chairperson		The ACS board of trustees
2	Liz Pinkney	Trustee	01/09/23 – 02/06/24	The ACS board of trustees
3	Lynne Gammon	Trustee	01/09/23 - 01/02/24 16/04/24 – 31/08/24	The ACS board of trustees
4	Sarah Fidal	Treasurer	31/07/24 – 31/08/24	The ACS board of trustees
5	Jayashri Lowe	Trustee		The ACS board of trustees
6	David Fidal	Trustee	21/02/24 – 31/08/24	The ACS board of trustees
7	Jean Shepherd	Trustee	21/02/24 – 31/08/24	The ACS board of trustees
8	Helen McCourt	Treasurer	26/08/2022-31/06/2024	The ACS board of trustees
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Alsager Community Support

On accounts for the year
ended

31/08/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1200173

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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:

Katie Southerton

Date:

14/03/2025

Name:

Katie Southerton

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

ICAEW

Address:

21 Highfield Avenue, Kidsgrave, Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire, ST7 4AT



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Alsager Community Support

No (if any)
1200173

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date Sep-23	To	Period end date Aug-24
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	6,066	14,645	-	20,711	-
Grants		97,042	-	97,042	-
Income from charitable activities	4,011	-	-	4,011	-
Fundraising	200	-	-	200	-
Investments / room hire	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Other income	196	-	-	196	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,974	111,687	-	123,661	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,974	111,687	-	123,661	-
A3 Payments					
Raising funds	101	-	-	101	-
Expenditure on charitable projects	1,032	1,992	-	3,024	-
Employment Costs	7,448	40,147	-	47,595	-
Running Costs	4,876	13,597	-	18,473	-
Governance	142	-	-	142	-
Other expenditure	870	-	-	870	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	14,468	55,737	-	70,205	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	135	2,634	-	2,769	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	135	2,634	-	2,769	-
Total payments	14,602	58,371	-	72,974	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,629	53,316	-	50,687	-
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,145	9,899	-	24,044	-
Cash funds this year end	11,517	63,215	-	74,732	-

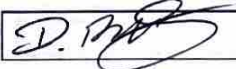
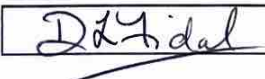
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Bank	11,313	63,215	-
	Petty Cash	192	-	-
	Money due from card payment	12	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,517	63,215	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Laptops for staff and advisor	NL Community Fund	-	-
	Printer	NL Community Fund	-	-
	Printer	General	-	-
	Phone for manager	General	-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	

Notes

- 1 There is no guarantee given by the CIO where any potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets and liabilities
- 2 There is no debt outstanding at the date the statement of assets and liabilities which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.
- 3 ACS acknowledges with thanks the grants from the National Lottery Community Fund, the Cheshire East Flourish Fund and the Cheshire East Healthy Neighbourhood Fund, as well as the donations from other organisations and individuals which have helped us carry out our work in the community.
- 4 No expenses were paid to trustees in that role.

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	DAVID BLACK	22-05/25
	DAVID FIDAN	22/05/25