

BILLY'S LIFELINE

England & Wales · Charity number 1205627

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-11-08

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Unit 13 Cookson House
South Shields
NE33 1TL

Phone 01917169555

Email info@billyslifeline.org

Website www.billyslifeline.org

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF NEED OF THOSE AFFECTED BY THE SUICIDE OF A CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER OR LOVED ONE IN THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND BY ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN COUNSELLING AND BEREAVEMENT SERVICES AND TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUES CAUSED BY THE IMPACT OF SUICIDE THROUGH EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS, WORKSHOPS, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES, PROMOTING OPEN DISCUSSIONS AND REDUCING THE STIGMA SURROUNDING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES.

Activities: Billys lifeline is dedicated to supporting families and loved ones who have lost someone to suicide. Based in the Northeast of England, our primary focus is on establishing a secure and compassionate environment where individuals impacted by suicide can access immediate practical and emotional support. Our goal is to alleviate the stigma associated with suicide loss and actively promote

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£112,770	£97,366	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Trevor Shingler	Chair	2024-08-20
DIONNE THOMPSON		2025-06-20
Marcie Briggs		2024-08-20

Accounts

BILLY'S LIFELINE

IMPACT REPORT 2023-2025



JUNE 2025

Billy's Lifeline is a Registered Charity - 1205627. Registered in England & Wales.
Registered office: Unit 13 Cookson House, River Drive, South Shields, NE33 1TL.

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WHO WE ARE

Billy's Lifeline is a registered charity (1205627) dedicated to supporting families and loved ones who have lost someone or have been affected by suicide.

Based in the Northeast of England, we provide a safe, compassionate space for those affected, offering immediate emotional and practical support.

Our mission is to break the stigma surrounding suicide loss and promote mental well-being within the community.

The charity was founded in memory of Billy, Natalie's much-loved brother, who tragically passed away in 2019.

Billy was more than a brother – he was a son, a father, an uncle, and a loyal friend known for his humour, kindness, and deep compassion. His loss left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

In the aftermath of his death, Billy's family and friends found themselves without the guidance, resources, or support they so desperately needed. The stigma around suicide made it difficult to talk openly or find help, leaving many feeling isolated and overwhelmed by grief.

Struggling to cope, they were left with unanswered questions and a sense of helplessness that made healing seem out of reach. This painful experience led to the creation of Billy's Lifeline.

OUR TEAM

Chief Executive Officer:	Natalie Kirk
Chief Operations Officer:	Natalie Carr
Chair Trustee:	Trevor Shingler
Trustee:	Ashlee Cummings
Trustee:	Marcie Briggs

Our team of managers and trustees is enhanced by dedicated trained support workers. As well as this, we have a small team of volunteers, who generously give their own time to the charity. The team's commitment and passion are at the heart of everything we do.

OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to supporting families and loved ones who have lost someone to suicide. Evidence suggests that family, friends and acquaintances who are bereaved by suicide may have a risk of dying by suicide that is up to a 3 times higher than the general population. Compassionate, effective and timely support for people bereaved by suicide is essential - known as Postvention.

With the **Policy Paper: Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy** in mind, our charity aims are:

- Make initial contact with clients within 72 hours
- Provide 1-to-1 emotional support by phone and in person
- Offer early and practical support to those in need
- Deliver training, supervision, and ongoing support to staff
- Maintain continuous assessment of staff and service delivery
- Foster awareness and understanding of local services for effective signposting
- Empower clients to share feedback and shape the service they receive
- Conduct risk assessments, reporting, and governance responsibly
- Continuously evaluate the service and associated risks for improvement
- Provide compassionate and effective bereavement support
- Make suicide prevention everyone's responsibility
- Actively work to reduce the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health

OUR VALUES

The Ripple Effect - Picture a sudden death as a pebble dropped in a pond. While the first and biggest waves hit the family and those closest to the deceased, the impact spreads outwards to others exposed to the death such as friends, witnesses, first responders, treatment providers and colleagues – potentially up to 135 people.

These principles guide how we serve our mission, how people can expect to be treated and how we build trust with our clients. We feel honoured to be able to support people to navigate their grieving journey through the lived experience of our team.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As we reflect on our first year at Billy's Lifeline, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride for what we've accomplished together. Supporting over 200 individuals through some of the most painful and complex moments of their lives has been both humbling and deeply moving. What matters most to us isn't just the number – it's the trust we've earned and the impact we've made. We are truly honoured to walk alongside those navigating the devastating path of suicide loss, offering a safe, compassionate, and understanding space where they are never alone.

One of our most meaningful achievements has been building a strong peer support network – people with lived experience who are courageously using their stories to support others. Their willingness to listen, to empathise, and to speak openly is breaking down the silence and stigma that too often surround suicide loss. We've also taken important steps to shift the conversation within our broader community. By encouraging open, honest dialogue around suicide and grief, we're helping to foster greater understanding, compassion, and connection – all of which are so critically needed.

None of this would be possible without our incredible team. Their dedication goes far beyond expectations. They give their time, their hearts, and their strength to this work, and they are the soul of our organisation. I'm proud of every life we've touched, every bond we've built, and every step we've taken forward. This is just the beginning. We remain firmly committed to continuing this vital work – for every person who needs us, and for every life lost that we honour with love and purpose.

N. Kirk
.....

NATALIE KIRK
FOUNDER AND CEO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR TRUSTEE

As we approach our second year of supporting individuals who have sadly lost a loved one to suicide, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to every single member of staff who has played a part in helping this incredible charity grow and make such a meaningful impact.

Your dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment have truly made a difference in the lives of so many.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the board for entrusting me with the role of Chair Trustee. It is both a great honour and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. Stepping into this role has been a significant decision, and I am humbled to be given the opportunity to lead and support our mission at such an important level.

I am absolutely thrilled by the nominations we have received this year and immensely proud of what we've achieved together. Among the many highlights, one particularly stands out: receiving The President's Award from the Society of Bereavement Practitioners. This prestigious recognition is a testament to the collective effort, care, and excellence we bring to supporting our clients to the highest standards.

Thank you all once again—for your passion, your hard work, and your belief in the mission we serve.



TREVOR SHINGLER
CHAIR TRUSTEE



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

193

The total number of clients supported.

97%

The percentage of clients that are from the North East of England. We have also supported clients in Devon, London, Nottingham, Lincoln, Cheshire and Liverpool

52

The number of children and young people supported

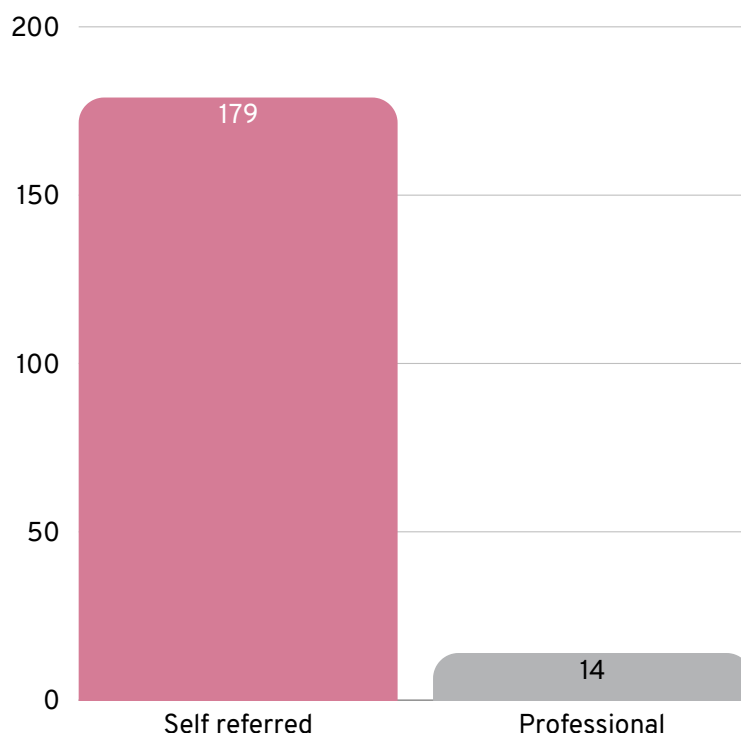
48

The number of clients that have successfully completed or currently undergoing therapeutic counselling including children and young people

28

The number of people that have received a therapeutic respite break

How our clients were referred



The people who self referred heard about our services through awareness events, social media and word of mouth/recommendations.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

CHARITY LAUNCH EVENT

Billy's Lifeline was established in Nov 2023 and the official launch took place in February 2024.

An article was published in the Shields Gazette, and you can listen to our charity founder's story as to why she felt the service was needed for our community of those bereaved to suicide.

Natalie said: "It is bittersweet to have set it up [the charity] especially as the reason behind it is such a heartfelt one, but I've been out there in the community and this service is needed.

So far, we've had really positive support and feedback from the people that we've been helping."



PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Our first weekly peer support group took place on 16 May 2024. We were kindly offered the use of the new Conservation Centre at the National Trust's Souter Lighthouse.

This marked the beginning of something special, bringing together individuals who truly understood one another and could offer meaningful support. Friendships and connections formed quickly, with many feeling comfortable enough to open up and share their experiences.

The support groups continued at Souter Lighthouse for a while, featuring mindful activities, quizzes, and open, honest conversations that foster a strong sense of community.

"The group support sessions have been a lifeline for me. Being around others on similar journeys has made me realize I'm not alone. Sharing my story in a safe space has helped ease the shame and stigma I once felt about suicide. Talking openly with others who understand makes all the difference."



MOVING TO FIT FOR PURPOSE PREMISES

Initially we secured a small office space to allow us to operate from administratively; a very small room with limited space to work and house our equipment and fundraising collateral.

Our Team worked to secure fit for purpose premises in June 2024. It was important to us to have a base which was accessible, had good transport links and would be a warm welcoming space for our clients. Cookson House was perfect!

The team pulled together and worked hard to get this ready for opening. We were also supported by small local businesses who very kindly offered their services such as decorating, carpet cleaning and electrical/IT work.



Cookson house quickly became our home and all who visit feel it is comfortable, welcoming and safe space. This allowed us to offer more onsite and in person services and quickly we developed a timetable of events.

MINDFUL ART THERAPY

This group was established by a volunteer arts and wellbeing practitioner with a passion for supporting health and wellbeing through creative expression.

Having experienced the complex grief that can follow suicide loss, combining a background in the arts and nursing with a strong appreciation of the healing power of creativity,

Rachel offered a safe space where individuals could explore their emotions, connect with others, and find solace through various artistic activities.



'MAMS TOGETHER' SPECIALIST SUPPORT GROUP

Held on the last Tuesday every month, this dedicated support group is strictly for mothers who have lost a child to suicide.

This group provides a compassionate, understanding space to share experiences, find strength, and support one another through grief. Led by Edna Widdrington, Billy's mam, the group is rooted in lived experience and a deep commitment to helping others navigate this profound loss.



MAMS TOGETHER SUPPORT GROUP

Join us for support, understanding, and connection with others who truly understand.

This group will be led by our Volunteer Edna



NEXT SESSION: -----

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Cookson House

A SAFE AND COMPASSIONATE SPACE FOR
MOTHERS WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD TO SUICIDE

“The compassionate support from Natalie and the entire team at Billy’s Lifeline has been a lifeline for me, helping me navigate each day and focus more on my younger children. They even provided us with a much-needed respite break, allowing us to heal together as a family.”

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES FOR ADULTS

We can quickly access professional therapists for people with more complicated grief who can help with unanswered questions, guilt, shame, anger, rejection, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or risk-taking behaviours.



COUNSELLING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We very gratefully received a grant from BBC Children in Need specifically to offer counselling for children and young people aged between 5 – 18 years. This can benefit them by helping them process their thoughts and feelings around their loss by suicide.

Anne Armstrong from Colours of Life Counselling is an experienced person-centred counsellor, integrating different models appropriate to the client's needs. Anne is passionate about supporting children and young people to reach their full potential, to overcome the challenges they face and to find balance in their lives.

Anne's approach is relaxed, friendly, informal and child-led; her work is personalised to the client - whether they need a space to talk, play or use creative tools to help explore their thoughts and feelings.

"I honestly don't know where my son and I would be without the support from Billy's Lifeline. Natalie came into our lives at just the right time. My son, who is 12, has been struggling since we lost his big brother to suicide a few years ago.

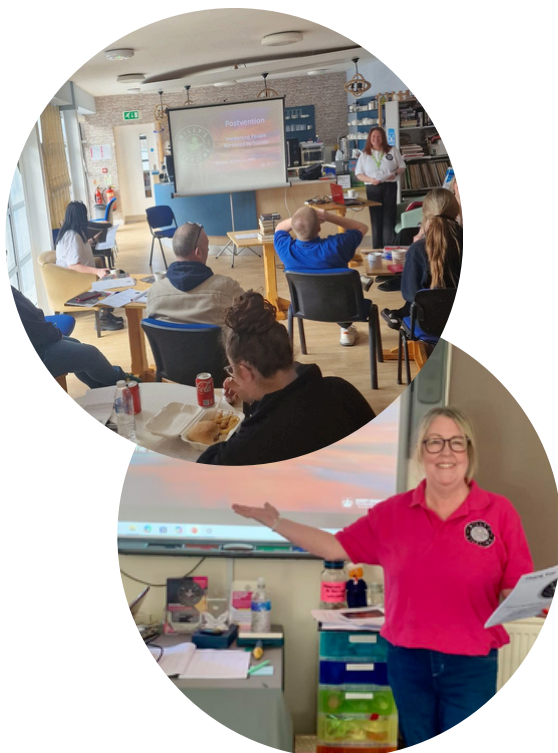
They helped him set small goals, and he really listened and stuck to them. Now he has been going out to South Shields for the past three weeks, and I can finally see some light at the end of the tunnel."



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

We are dedicated to raising awareness about the mental and physical health challenges from the impact of suicide through educational workshops. Our workshop is designed for anyone who would like to be able to confidently offer support to those bereaved by suicide.

We foster open discussions to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health challenges, we strive to create a more supportive and understanding environment for individuals affected by suicide.



Postvention Training

Supporting those Bereaved by Suicide

Designed for anyone who would like to be able to confidently support those bereaved or affected by suicide. It will empower you to provide compassionate support while also prioritising your own well-being.

- ✓ Understanding Grief and Loss
- ✓ Common Feelings and Reactions
- ✓ How to Offer Meaningful Support
- ✓ Recognise When More Help is Needed
- ✓ Self-care Strategies
- ✓ Practice Scenarios



"I really liked how we kept the group light-hearted, even when suicide is a sad and serious thing. All three staff are lovely and so real. Also, that it is real life situations and hearing about WHY the charity started and about Billy. Thank you!"

WALK AND TALK GROUP

The charity gratefully received funding from **Sport England** to set up a Walk and Talk Group. This involved creating a community-based physical activity program aimed at improving mental and physical wellbeing through regular walks combined with social interaction. We are lucky enough to be based in a coastal town with accessible walks for all, making this inclusive for those with limited mobility, those who may be less active than they would like and for those that may be isolated.

Purpose of the Walk and Talk Group

- Promote physical activity in a gentle, inclusive way.
- Provide a space for social connection to support mental health.
- Help participants build confidence, reduce loneliness, and improve community engagement.



Let's Walk With Grief Together

WALKING GROUP

**Talking**
Talking with others can boost confidence and self-esteem.

**Supporting**
Sense of being a part of a supportive community.

**Walking**
Produces Endorphins which makes you feel good.

NEXT WALK

Remember, your mental health matters. Don't hesitate to reach out and seek the support you deserve. Together, we can overcome challenges, build resilience, and foster a positive mental well-being.

Contact us today to learn more about our services and how we can support you on your grief journey. We will provide you with a safe space and work together to learn how to process the loss of your loved one. Please remember you are not alone.

CONTACT US

01494 344444
01494 344444
01494 344444



OUR FIRST YEAR CELEBRATION AWARDS NIGHT

To celebrate our first year of operation, we held an Awards Night to recognise and acknowledge just some of the people who have played such a huge part in our success. Firstly, a huge thank you to our event sponsors, Ability Consultants. This night would not have been possible without their generosity.

Our volunteer Helen hosted the night and delivered a short presentation for those who didn't already know, of how the charity came about; which was in memory of the wonderful Billy Knott, and the fantastic achievements within our first year.

A big thank you to Natalie Kirk our CEO and Natalie Carr our COO for working so hard to get the charity off the ground. They both said that the thing that they were most proud of was securing new, fit-for-purpose premises which allowed them to provide the services exactly as they envisioned for our clients.

We were then delighted to welcome the stunningly beautiful and charismatic Miss Bunty Del Mar who then kindly presented our awards.

This was a light-hearted, fun event, but with a heartfelt message; we meant every word of the reasons why our award winners were so deserving.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our event, we had a wonderful time celebrating the charity and all we have achieved so far.

Special thanks go to:

- Ability Consultants
- Beverley Watling
- Trevor Shingler
- Miss Bunty Del Mar
- The Little Haven Hotel



OUR FIRST FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

We were delighted that Santa could make it to our first family Christmas Party to celebrate with our clients, staff and supporters.

The Mayor and Mayoress of South Tyneside joined us and we very gratefully received donations from local supermarkets and businesses to provide our children with some lovely surprises and gifts.

Our party DJ played some fabulous tunes and some crazy party games, which we all loved!

Thank you Santa, and to the Little Haven Hotel for hosting us.



COLLABORATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Billy's Lifeline collaborates with several key local initiatives that share its mission of fostering mental well-being and community resilience.

One such partner is **Pledge South Tyneside**, a campaign encouraging individuals and organisations to commit to simple actions that can

- boost local economic activity
- reduce health inequalities
- reduce carbon emissions
- enhance civic pride

Another valuable partner is **Inspire South Tyneside**, which supports the voluntary and community sector. Through Inspire, Billy's Lifeline gains access to networking opportunities, resources, and collaborative platforms that enhance its capacity to reach those in need. These partnerships play a vital role in helping the charity extend its impact and embed suicide prevention into the fabric of the wider community.

The Mayor and Mayoress of South Tyneside for 2024-2025 have become firm friends of the charity, as Mayor Fay Cunningham warmly put it. We've had the pleasure of being invited to South Tyneside Town Hall on two occasions, and in return, the Mayor and Mayoress, Stella Matthewson, have generously attended many of our events in support of the charity.

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, a shore-based volunteer search-and-rescue group, welcomed Billy's Lifeline to its Watch House, highlighting mutual respect between life-saving services. The team are dedicated to saving lives, however, can also be impacted by the loss of life to suicide.



Kyle Scott at Affinity Radio invited us to chat with Angie Comerford live on her show! Angie's passion for the community shone through as she made us feel completely at ease. We hope the interview helped raise awareness of our services and encourages anyone affected by suicide loss to reach out.



Sunderland College student, Sareen, took part in work placements at the charity, enriching cultural awareness and contributing to community outreach initiatives.

Karbon Homes New Start is an initiative funded by UK Government and supported by South Tyneside Council to create life changing employment pathways for local residents, giving them a chance to shine.

Billy's Lifeline was thrilled to welcome Donna and Keith to the team, who both overcame significant challenges in securing employment to land their career-starting roles. Donna and Keith have truly risen to the occasion, going above and beyond in their training to become dedicated support workers.



Kevin Reay, proprietor of **The Canny Chocolate Company** and **Adam Allinson** from **Choirmaster**, are huge advocates of the charity, and we are extremely grateful for everything they have done to support us. Choirmaster celebrated their 5th Anniversary and Christmas with fundraising concerts and Kevin created a giant edible Santa from a whopping 10 kilograms of the finest Belgian chocolate in a specially made mould.

He very kindly offered this as one of the top prizes in their Christmas Raffle and invited along some of our clients and volunteers to help put the finishing touches to the Santa with some of the finest edible lustre dust, bringing our chocolate Santa to life with a beautiful sheen.





NECA Community Garden spans across a range of allotment plots, creating a beautiful open plan space in South Tyneside.

They invited us along and hosted a lovely Christmas Wreath Making Workshop for our support group members and staff.

As with any significant occasion, Christmas can be even more difficult than usual for those who are grieving. Being together and enjoying this activity gave us time to talk about our loved ones fondly and how they would be missed over the festivities.



Barratt Homes has been a standout collaborator – volunteering at our family-fundraising days at Souter Lighthouse in July 2024. We wanted to give something back to our community and the wonderful team from Barratts, led by Natalie Donnelly, took on the huge task of painting Souter Lighthouse garden perimeter wall.

They also generously donated around £1,500 in October to fund our Children's Christmas Party and ongoing services.



National Trust Souter Lighthouse has partnered with the charity since its earliest days, providing the iconic setting for our first peer support groups, volunteer events and fundraising efforts

Through these partnerships, Billy's Lifeline strengthens its capacity to deliver vital practical help, therapy, respite, workshops, one-to-one and group support. More importantly, these collaborations help reduce the stigma around suicide in our region—creating a community that truly listens, supports, and heals—together.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Billy's Lifeline is proud to be supported by a range of generous funders who provide grants and funding to help us deliver vital services to individuals and families affected by suicide and emotional crisis. This funding allows us to offer tailored support, develop our team, and grow our reach within the community.

We are deeply grateful to the following partners for believing in our mission and investing in our work:

- Inspire South Tyneside
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Finn Family Fund
- Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust
- T & G Direct Funerals
- Karbon Homes
- The Barratt Foundation
- Hadrian Trust
- Sport England
- The Albert Hunt Trust
- The Allen Lane Foundation
- The Rothley Trust
- The William Leech Trust
- BBC Children in Need

Each of these funders plays a crucial role in helping us deliver emotional and practical support, reduce stigma, and ensure that suicide prevention remains everybody's business.



At Billy's Lifeline, our vital work is made possible through the **incredible generosity and dedication of our community**. We are proud to be a grassroots charity, and much of our funding comes from local fundraising efforts which we really depend on.

With the support of **local businesses, volunteers, clients, and generous individuals**, we are able to raise the funds needed to deliver our services. From community events, charity runs, and sponsored challenges to donation drives, raffles, coffee mornings and bake sales, every contribution makes a real difference.

Local businesses often lend their support through **sponsorships, donations, and in-kind services**, while many of our clients and their families also choose to give back by raising awareness and funds for the charity.

We are especially grateful to our volunteer fundraisers and **event participants—runners, walkers, wild sea dippers, knitters and supporters of all kinds**—who go the extra mile to help sustain our work. Together, this collective effort ensures we can continue to offer essential emotional and practical support to those who need us most.





RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

In just a few short years, Billy's Lifeline has grown from a heartfelt tribute into a powerful force for change—and the community has taken notice.

Winner - Billy's Lifeline



About the winner - Billy's Lifeline



The judges received several nominations, all of which noted the incredible support of the team, including the following very poignant nomination... "Billy's lifeline has helped my family no end, supporting us with the loss of a young family member to suicide. We cannot thank them enough for their kindness and compassion at this difficult time. They are a (sadly) much needed service and I feel they deserve utmost recognition for this and that is why I'm nominating them in these awards."



In 2024, the organisation was honoured with **Team of the Year** at the Love South Tyneside Awards, a recognition of the tireless work its volunteers and staff dedicate to supporting those affected by suicide loss.

The award celebrated the charity's **compassionate outreach, life-changing peer support, and powerful community events** that continue to break the silence around mental health.

Natalie was also nominated for an individual 'Heart of the Community' Award for her contributions to the community.



Shortly after, charity founder Natalie Kirk of Billy's Lifeline was nominated and a finalist for the **Best of South Tyneside 2025 Unsung Hero Award**. Although she didn't take home the win, being recognised in such a fabulous and inspiring category—alongside so many outstanding nominees—was a true honour. The nomination itself reflected Natalie's deep dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to supporting those affected by suicide loss in the community.



Adding to an already inspiring year, the charity was also named Runner-Up in the **Business Unite - Third Sector Hero Award by Far North** - a further testament to its resilience, integrity, and impact in the voluntary sector.

Though the award came with no fanfare, it symbolised something greater: that real change happens when communities unite, speak up, and support each other through their darkest days.

Billy's Lifeline continues to be that beacon for many—proof that even in loss, hope and healing can grow.



Billy's Lifeline Honoured with the President's Award of Merit by the Society of Bereavement Practitioners

In June 2025 the charity was awarded the prestigious President's Award of Merit—the Society's highest honour—for its outstanding dedication, compassion, and contribution to bereavement care.

Presented during the Society's 20th anniversary year, this rare and distinguished award recognises individuals or organisations that demonstrate exceptional commitment to those affected by grief and loss, and who embody the core values of the Society: professionalism, compassion, and service.

"Billy's Lifeline has shown an extraordinary commitment to supporting those in the most vulnerable moments of their lives," said President George Callander FRSA FSAScot. **"Their work exemplifies the very best of bereavement practice—offering not only skilled guidance, but a deeply human presence that brings comfort, dignity, and hope."**

The Society of Bereavement Practitioners, established in 2005, is a UK-based professional body dedicated to promoting best practices in bereavement care. Through accreditation, training, and community support, the Society advances compassionate care across the full spectrum of loss—from personal bereavement to professional grief services.

The President's Award of Merit is conferred only in exceptional circumstances and reflects the Society's deep appreciation for Billy's Lifeline's lasting and transformative impact on individuals, families, and communities navigating grief.



Edna Widdrington Awarded Diploma of Merit by the Society of Bereavement Practitioners – A Heartfelt Surprise Honour

In a deeply moving and unexpected moment, Edna Widdrington, co-founder and volunteer at Billy's Lifeline, was presented with the Diploma of Merit by the Society of Bereavement Practitioners—one of the highest recognitions in the field of bereavement support.

The award was conferred as a **complete surprise to Edna** during a commemorative event marking the Society's 20th anniversary. The President, Council, and Patrons of the Society expressed admiration not only for her professionalism and commitment to those in grief, but also for the warmth and compassion she brings to every life she touches.

"It is the **comfort that your loving, gentle presence** brings to so many which led to public nomination for this award," read the official citation.

IMPACT

The impact of **Billy's Lifeline** is nothing short of profound. It has become a vital resource for individuals navigating the darkest moments following bereavement by suicide. Its presence in the community offers more than just support—it offers hope, connection, and, in some cases, a reason to keep living.

At least **three lives have been directly saved** as a result of the intervention and care provided by the service. These are not just statistics – they are people who openly stated they wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the timely, compassionate support they received. That alone speaks volumes about the depth of the service's reach and the critical need it fulfills.



Through crisis intervention, one-to-one emotional support, and a non-judgmental listening ear, Billy's Lifeline has filled a gap where traditional services often fall short. Survivors of suicide loss are often left feeling isolated, misunderstood, or overwhelmed. This service steps in where few others do, providing **life-affirming reassurance** and helping people process their grief in a safe, understanding environment.

The ripple effects go far beyond the individuals directly helped. Families are held together. Friends become better equipped to support each other. Communities learn that it's okay to talk about loss, trauma, and healing. **In short, Billy's Lifeline doesn't just support people—it saves them.**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
BILLY'S LIFELINE**

BK Plus Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
13 Windsor Terrace
Jesmond
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4HE

BILLY'S LIFELINE

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BILLY'S LIFELINE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 8 November 2023 to 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The relief of need of those affected by the suicide of a close family member or loved one in the North-East of England by assistance to obtain counselling and bereavement services and to raise awareness about mental and physical health issues caused by the impact of suicide through educational campaigns, workshops, and community outreach programmes, promoting open discussions and reducing the stigma surrounding mental health challenges.

Our mission is to save the lives of those who have lost a loved one through suicide, offer comfort, and empower individuals to seek help and support during their most challenging moments, ensuring that no one faces the aftermath of suicide alone.

We will support families and individuals affected by suicide for the public benefit across the North East of England. We will provide of a safe and understanding space where those impacted by suicide can find immediate practical, mental, respite and emotional support following the loss of a loved one through suicide. We will relieve stigma surrounding mental health and suicide, while fostering resilience and promoting mental well-being.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Billy's Lifeline is primarily funded by donations and grants. The total income for the year was £112,770, of which £50,090 was restricted. This income is allocated across respective funds on the Statement of Financial Activities in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice.

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025, shows a net surplus across all funds of £15,404.

The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025 shows a total fund carried forward of £15,404 of which there are £33,179 of restricted funds and a shortfall due to an overspend on unrestricted funds of £17,775.

Reserves policy

Billy's Lifeline has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets held by the charity should be between three and six months of annual expenditure. The charity has a substantial shortfall in this figure at the 31 March 2025.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Foundation Model - whereby the only voting members are the charity Trustees. We have adopted the Charity Commissions Model Constitution to ensure we comply with the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and the General Regulations. This helps us to ensure we:

- > Reflect recommended best practice; and
- > Are legally compliant

BILLY'S LIFELINE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

Any appointment must be made at a meeting held according to the ordinary practice of the appointing body.

Organisational structure

The members of the CIO shall be its charity trustees for the time being. The only persons eligible to be members of the CIO are its charity trustees. Membership of the CIO cannot be transferred to anyone else.

Any member and charity trustee who ceases to be a charity trustee automatically ceases to be a member of the CIO.

The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of the CIO and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO.

If the CIO is wound up, each member of the CIO is liable to contribute to the assets of the CIO such amount (but not more than £1.00 as may be required for payment of the debts and liabilities of the CIO contracted before that person ceases to be a member, for payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for adjustment of the rights of the contributing members among themselves.

The charity trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and, if they do, they shall determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The charity trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1205627

Principal address

Unit 13 Cookson House

South Shields

Tyne and Wear

NE33 1TL

BILLY'S LIFELINE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees

T Shingler (appointed 20/8/2024)

Ms M Briggs (appointed 20/8/2024)

Ms A Cummings (appointed 20/11/2023)

Independent Examiner

BK Plus Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

13 Windsor Terrace

Jesmond

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE2 4HE

Bankers

Yorkshire Bank

91 Gresham Street

London

EC2V 7WZ

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under charity law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and The Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



T Shingler - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BILLY'S LIFELINE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Billy's Lifeline

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Billy's Lifeline (the Trust) for the period 8 November 2023 to 31 March 2025.

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').

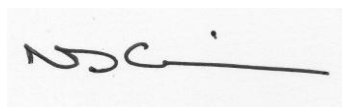
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Nicholas J Liley, FCA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

BK Plus Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
13 Windsor Terrace
Jesmond
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4HE

26 January 2026

BILLY'S LIFELINE**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	2	21,187	260	21,447
Charitable activities	5			
Grant income		35,598	49,830	85,428
Other trading activities	3	4,741	-	4,741
Investment income	4	114	-	114
Other income		<u>1,040</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,040</u>
Total		<u>62,680</u>	<u>50,090</u>	<u>112,770</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds		2,279	21	2,300
Charitable activities	6			
Staff costs		26,093	6,431	32,524
Activity expenses		26,886	8,938	35,824
Training		1,981	32	2,013
Premises and overheads		<u>23,216</u>	<u>1,489</u>	<u>24,705</u>
Total		<u>80,455</u>	<u>16,911</u>	<u>97,366</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>(17,775)</u>	<u>33,179</u>	<u>15,404</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>(17,775)</u></u>	<u><u>33,179</u></u>	<u><u>15,404</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BILLY'S LIFELINE

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	10	160
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>22,884</u>
		23,044
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(7,640)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>15,404</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>15,404</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>15,404</u>
FUNDS	13	
Unrestricted funds		(17,775)
Restricted funds		<u>33,179</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>15,404</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 January 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:



T Shingler - Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Going concern

At the date of approval of these financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue for the foreseeable future and as such the financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial instruments

All financial assets and financial liabilities of the charity qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value

BILLY'S LIFELINE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	£
Donations	<u>21,447</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	£
Fundraising events	<u>4,741</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	£
Deposit account interest	<u>114</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	£
Grants	Grant income	<u>85,428</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	£
The Albert Hunt Trust	4,000
The Allen Lane Foundation	6,600
The Barbour Foundation	2,000
Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust	1,000
Doggers Bank	1,000
The Elsie Davis Trust	5,000
Finn Family Fund	1,000
Hadrian Trust	1,000
Inspire South Tyneside	998
Karbon Homes	1,500
Neighbourly fund	500
The Rothley Trust	750
The Roy and Pixie Baker Trust	2,000
W A Handley Trust	2,000
William Leech Charity	5,000
New Start Employer	750
The Arnold Clark Community Fund	500
National Lottery Community Fund	28,090
Sport England	9,740
BBC Children in Need	<u>12,000</u>
	<u>85,428</u>

BILLY'S LIFELINE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Staff costs	32,524	-	32,524
Activity expenses	35,824	-	35,824
Training	2,013	-	2,013
Premises and overheads	-	24,705	24,705
	<u>70,361</u>	<u>24,705</u>	<u>95,066</u>

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	£
Staff freelancers	32,163
Staff travel	361
Beneficiary activities	4,235
Counselling services	4,105
Support group	1,385
Publicity	2,172
Volunteer expenses	822
Venue hire	3,355
Equipment	79
Staff training	2,013
Professional services	19,671
	<u>70,361</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Premises and overheads	<u>23,265</u>	<u>1,440</u>	<u>24,705</u>

BILLY'S LIFELINE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

8. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	Premises and overheads £
Trustees' remuneration etc	227
Rent rates and water	11,426
Insurance	977
Light and heat	815
Telephone and internet	783
Postage and stationery	1,310
IT and computer costs	5,114
Subscriptions	566
Professional fees	500
Repairs and maintenance	1,237
Bank charges	19
Cleaning and sundries	291
Accountancy fees	<u>1,440</u>
	<u>24,705</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees' expenses

	£
Trustees' expenses	<u>227</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	£
Trade debtors	<u>160</u>

BILLY'S LIFELINE**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025****11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	£
Trade creditors	6,200
Other creditors	<u>1,440</u>
	<u>7,640</u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	-	23,044	23,044
Current liabilities	<u>(17,775)</u>	<u>10,135</u>	<u>(7,640)</u>
	<u>(17,775)</u>	<u>33,179</u>	<u>15,404</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	(17,775)	(17,775)
Restricted funds		
National Lottery Community Fund	520	520
Sport England - 'Lifeline Striders'	2,902	2,902
BBC Children in Need - Bereavement Support	11,667	11,667
National Lottery Community Fund - 'Healing Hearts'	<u>18,090</u>	<u>18,090</u>
	<u>33,179</u>	<u>33,179</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>15,404</u>	<u>15,404</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025****13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	62,680	(80,455)	(17,775)
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	10,260	(9,740)	520
Sport England - 'Lifeline Striders'	9,740	(6,838)	2,902
BBC Children in Need - Bereavement Support	12,000	(333)	11,667
National Lottery Community Fund - 'Healing Hearts'	<u>18,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,090</u>
	<u>50,090</u>	<u>(16,911)</u>	<u>33,179</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>112,770</u></u>	<u><u>(97,366)</u></u>	<u><u>15,404</u></u>

National Lottery Community Fund

The National Lottery has provided two grants to the charity during this period.

The first was for £10,000, £5,000 for people to attend timely counselling and £5,000 to send people for respite where they could have time out to process their grief.

The second was for £18,090 for the 'Healing Hearts' project, supporting families through bereavement after suicide.

Sport England

Sport England provided a grant of £9,740 for delivering a support walking group 'The Lifeline Striders'

BBC Children in Need

This is a 3 year project providing £12,000 a year for bereavement support to children and young people to cope with the emotional impact of suicide loss.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025**

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 31 March 2025.

BILLY'S LIFELINE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

£

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Donations and legacies

Donations 21,447

Other trading activities

Fundraising events 4,741

Investment income

Deposit account interest 114

Charitable activities

Grants 85,428

Other income

Other income 1,040

Total incoming resources 112,770

EXPENDITURE

Raising donations and legacies

Fundraising costs 2,300

Charitable activities

Staff freelancers 32,163

Staff travel 361

Beneficiary activities 4,235

Counselling services 4,105

Support group 1,385

Publicity 2,172

Volunteer expenses 822

Venue hire 3,355

Equipment 79

Staff training 2,013

Professional services 19,671

70,361

Support costs

Management

Trustees' expenses 227

Rent rates and water 11,426

Insurance 977

Carried forward 12,630

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

BILLY'S LIFELINE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 8 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2025

	£
Management	
Brought forward	12,630
Light and heat	815
Telephone and internet	783
Postage and stationery	1,310
IT and computer costs	5,114
Subscriptions	566
Professional fees	500
Repairs and maintenance	1,237
Bank charges	19
Cleaning and sundries	<u>291</u>
	23,265
 Governance costs	
Accountancy fees	<u>1,440</u>
 Total resources expended	<u>97,366</u>
 Net income	<u><u>15,404</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements