

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
FOR
ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND**

Goldwyns Limited
Chartered Accountants
Rutland House
90-92 Baxter Avenue
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS2 6HZ

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. 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 Essex Police Force Benevolent Fund has continued to support not only members of the Force but also pensioners, widows and orphans and other dependants who the committee has decided will be eligible for assistance.

The Fund achieves its objectives by the means of providing cash grants or by other such means as the General Committee shall determine from time to time.

The Fund has also continued with its financial assistance towards those listed above who have developed the need for convalescent care. This support has been by way of the official police convalescent home or by provision of alternative arrangements as considered appropriate by the committee.

The Fund has continued to advertise itself by way of articles and photographs almost exclusively within Essex Police. The Fund has published a set of guidelines on the Essex Police intranet site which can be accessed by all serving officers. This gives a brief description of the type of applications which are considered to be eligible for financial assistance bearing in mind the Fund's charitable status.

The income and the Fund from investments and donations is augmented by voluntary subscriptions by members. Voluntary subscriptions are fixed from time to time by the Committee of the Combined Welfare Fund having regard to the necessary allocation from this Fund to the associated charities.

Significant activities

The Trustees consider that its grant making activities and the management of the Fund's investment portfolio are its significant activities.

Public benefit

The Fund provides assistance and continued support for current serving and retired members of the Force as well as their dependants which assists and promotes the efficiency of the Force as described under the scope of the Charity Commission's guidance.

Grantmaking

The amounts of grants or other dispensations is at the discretion of the General Committee having regard to the funds available including expected commitments.

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Trustees report

The Trustees continue to focus closely upon the governance of the Fund to ensure that decision making is in accordance with the Fund's purpose, that it meets statutory requirements and, where applicable, is compliant with Charity Commission best practice.

There have been changes to the Trustee Board in the year with I Logan stepping down as Chair having served from 2013 to 2022. The Trustees are grateful for the leadership and guidance he brought to the Fund throughout this period. Also thanks to M Davies who stepped in as interim Chair until a permanent replacement was found.

The Trustees acknowledge the support of G Wood (Honorary Treasurer), J McCarthy (Honorary Secretary) and all serving and retired members of the General Committee. Without their continued efforts, carried out either in their own time or in addition to their day to day duties, the Fund would be unable to continue to provide excellent support to serving and retired members. Their efforts and commitment represent the best values of Essex Police.

During this reporting period the Trustees have;

- continued to monitor the Fund's compliance with Charity Commission Guidance relating to Internal Financial Controls (CC8) and ensured that action has been taken to achieve compliance with statutory requirements and, where applicable, best practice guidance;
- provided support and guidance to the General Committee as it considers a broader range of funding initiatives consistent with the aims, objectives and charitable purpose of the Fund;
- agreed an expenditure budget;
- adopted a proactive approach to risk management;
- increased the robustness of the monitoring of investment performance.

Charitable activities

A total of 53 (2022 - 82) applications for assistance to individuals were approved and paid in the year. Grants paid amounted to £109,863 (2022 - £153,594). The majority of grants were made to support individuals who were experiencing financial difficulties. A further 20 claims were declined following careful consideration. Of the 53 supported applications, all were made to serving officers or staff.

The Fund has made monies available to support health and wellbeing initiatives at police stations in the county. In the year three police stations have received funding totalling £950 (2022 - £1,130). These grants benefit all police officers.

The Fund also maintained the tradition of making a Festive Season payment to those widows and widowers in receipt of comparatively low annual pensions. Donations and gifts that were accepted by the recipients amounted to £11,200 (2022 - £12,600).

As at the year end the market value of the investments was £673,129 (2022 - £813,297).

The results for the year, with comparative information are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

As detailed in the Fund rules, such monies as shall not be required for immediate use shall, with the consent of the General Committee, be invested in any investment in which the trustees are authorised to invest by law.

The Trustees seek a balanced total return approach from a diversified portfolio. The overriding desire of the trustees is to keep the income from the portfolio at a reasonable level, but being cognisant with market conditions, in order to support the beneficiaries of the fund.

The Trustees wish to adopt a low risk approach. This will be met by the construction of a multi asset class portfolio.

The Fund's investment advisors are Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management.

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Essex Police Force Benevolent Fund requires minimum reserves of £400,000 to protect its current activities and provide funding for long term projects to progress them to completion, in order to allow the Trustees to meet their responsibilities and ensure that the Fund can continue to operate on a going concern basis.

Reserves are used to finance any situation that might arise in accordance with the stated objectives of the Fund. There are no plans to diversify and invest in any other assets other than current investments.

At the year ended 31 March 2023, total reserves were £778,407 (2022 - £923,172) and were considered adequate for the Fund to continue to achieve its objectives.

FUTURE PLANS

Like many charities the Fund has seen significant demand in the past few years which has impacted on the level of reserves held. With the support of the General Committee it is crucial that the Trustees have a forward looking plan to enhance the income of the Fund as well as ensuring that best practise is employed in supporting the General Committee when issuing grants and other forms of support.

Looking forward the Trustees will;

- continue to support the efforts of the General Committee to increase the number of serving officers who contribute voluntarily to the Fund;
- review the skill profile of the Trustee Board to ensure it is fit to meet the future challenges;
- review current and projected income and examine alternative fund raising opportunities in addition to donations received from members and external sources;
- provide guidance to the General Committee as it considers a broader range of funding initiatives consistent with the aims, objectives and charitable purpose of the fund.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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

The Fund was established by a charitable trust deed on 1 January 1986. The Fund's objects are to provide for the relief of poverty, suffering and distress of members and pensioners of The Essex Police Force, members on retirement or unable to work on medical grounds and for the widows, orphans and other dependants of the aforesaid.

Organisational structure

The general committee consists of the Officers of the Fund, the Welfare Officer, one representative from each of the Local Policing Areas and from the Executive Sub-committee, one superintendent nominated by the Superintendent's Association and three persons nominated by the Joint Branch Board of the Police Federation.

The General Committee meets quarterly and is responsible for the general control and management of the Fund.

Trustees are appointed by approval at General Committee meeting.

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Identified risks are:

- cessation of donation income;
- potential future demand associated with increasing life expectancy;
- potential future demand associated with increasing living costs;
- reduction in the number of donors;
- reduction in investment income; and
- regulatory compliance.

Of these risks the most significant is reduction in number of donors. It is this significant risk area that will form the focus of Trustee efforts during 2023-24. In respect of other identified risks, the Trustees have assessed these and are satisfied that appropriate control measures have been adopted. The Trustees will continue to monitor risks and will initiate action as appropriate.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

258273

Principal address

Police Headquarters
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 6DA

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees

W Kennedy (Chair)	Appointed September 2023
M Davies	Appointed September 2022, Resigned September 2023
I Logan	Resigned September 2022
R Nolan	
D Williams	
I Box	
D Yarnall	
D Tompkins	

Patron

BJ Harrington (Chief Constable)

General Committee

G Pavelin (Chair)	
A Mariner	Resigned September 2022
G Wood (Hon. Treasurer)	
A Mitchell	Resigned September 2022
J Collins (Deputy Hon. Treasurer)	
J McCarthy	
G Fryatt (Secretary)	Appointed September 2023
C Cronin (Deputy Hon. Secretary)	
G Furnival (Narpo)	
C Wheeler	
M Waters	
S Parry	
L Heggie	
H Langmead	
J Howell	
K Turner	
M Baker	
V Bond	
A Alcock	
A Blakesley	Appointed September 2022
J Barnett	Appointed September 2022
K Knibbs	Appointed September 2022
K Blackwell	Appointed September 2022
M Kennedy	Appointed September 2022
T Todd	Appointed September 2022
T Balding	Appointed September 2022

Independent Examiner

Robert Howe BEng FCA
Goldwyns Limited
Chartered Accountants
Rutland House
90-92 Baxter Avenue
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS2 6HZ

Investment Advisers

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management
41 Lothbury
London
EC2R 7AE

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

.....
M Davies - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Essex Police Force Benevolent Fund

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Essex Police Force Benevolent Fund (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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.

Robert Howe BEng FCA

Goldwyns Limited
Chartered Accountants
Rutland House
90-92 Baxter Avenue
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS2 6HZ

Date:

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	2	32,639	27,861
Investment income	3	9,419	11,251
Total		<u>42,058</u>	<u>39,112</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	4	11,139	14,797
Charitable activities	5		
Donations and gifts		11,200	12,600
Grants payable		110,813	154,724
Support costs		4,366	3,798
Total		<u>137,518</u>	<u>185,919</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>(49,305)</u>	<u>2,569</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		<u>(144,765)</u>	<u>(144,238)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		923,172	1,067,410
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>778,407</u></u>	<u><u>923,172</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	9	673,129	813,297
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	6,376	8,429
Investments	11	17,119	68,055
Cash at bank		85,383	36,931
		<u>108,878</u>	<u>113,415</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(3,600)	(3,540)
		<u>105,278</u>	<u>109,875</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>778,407</u>	<u>923,172</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>778,407</u>	<u>923,172</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>778,407</u>	<u>923,172</u>
FUNDS	13		
Unrestricted funds		<u>778,407</u>	<u>923,172</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>778,407</u>	<u>923,172</u>

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

.....
M Davies - Trustee

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

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.

Subscriptions are accounted for in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt.

Cash donations, gifts and cash collected at fund raising events are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as they are received.

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt.

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.

Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure. Grants payable are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as they are approved.

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.

Fixed asset investments

Investments are stated at market value less provisions as at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the period.

Investment gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the carrying value at the period end and the opening market value (or purchase date if later). Realised and unrealised gains and losses are not separated in the Statement of Financial Activities.

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	7,019	2,052
Subscriptions	25,620	25,809
	<u>32,639</u>	<u>27,861</u>

The collection and allocation of subscriptions is controlled by the Charities Aid Foundation.

The amount shown for subscriptions represents only the amounts allocated directly to the Fund. Amounts collected and allocated to the Convalescent Home, the Gurney Fund for Police Orphans and the Police Dependants Trust, which are settled directly by the Charities Aid Foundation, are not reflected in these financial statements.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from listed investments	9,113	11,251
Bank interest received	306	-
	<u>9,419</u>	<u>11,251</u>

4. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Portfolio management	<u>11,139</u>	<u>14,797</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6) £	Grant funding of activities (see note 7) £	Support costs £	Totals £
Donations and gifts	11,200	-	-	11,200
Grants payable	-	110,813	-	110,813
Support costs	-	-	4,366	4,366
	<u>11,200</u>	<u>110,813</u>	<u>4,366</u>	<u>126,379</u>

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Donations and gifts of £11,200 (2022 - £12,600) were made to widows in the year.

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2023 £	2022 £
Grants payable	<u>110,813</u>	<u>154,724</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Health and wellbeing grants	<u>950</u>	<u>1,130</u>

Three health and wellbeing grants have been made to police stations in the county. These grants are used to make a difference to people's health and wellbeing at work, so benefit all police officers.

The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Police officers	109,863	135,844
Non serving officers	<u>-</u>	<u>17,750</u>
	<u>109,863</u>	<u>153,594</u>

A total of 53 (2022 - 82) grants were made to individuals in the year.

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2022	813,297
Additions	448,889
Disposals	(539,752)
Revaluations	<u>(49,305)</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>673,129</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	<u>673,129</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>813,297</u>

Investments held at the balance sheet date comprised of the following:

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued

	Cost £	Market value £
Debt and fixed interest	221,281	216,791
Equities	393,977	402,982
Alternative	31,147	31,706
Other	37,136	21,650
	<u>683,541</u>	<u>673,129</u>

The fair value of fixed asset investments at the year end was £673,129 (2022 - £813,297).

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Owed by Charities Aid Foundation	<u>6,376</u>	<u>8,429</u>

11. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Deposits held with stockbrokers	<u>17,119</u>	<u>68,055</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,540</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	923,172	(144,765)	778,407
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>923,172</u>	<u>(144,765)</u>	<u>778,407</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	42,058	(137,518)	(49,305)	(144,765)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>42,058</u>	<u>(137,518)</u>	<u>(49,305)</u>	<u>(144,765)</u>

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,067,410	(144,238)	923,172
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,067,410</u>	<u>(144,238)</u>	<u>923,172</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	39,112	(185,919)	2,569	(144,238)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>39,112</u>	<u>(185,919)</u>	<u>2,569</u>	<u>(144,238)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,067,410	(289,003)	778,407
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,067,410</u>	<u>(289,003)</u>	<u>778,407</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	81,170	(323,437)	(46,736)	(289,003)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>81,170</u>	<u>(323,437)</u>	<u>(46,736)</u>	<u>(289,003)</u>

ESSEX POLICE FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

14. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

In March 2023, the Fund committed to paying a number of grants in instalments. The commitments not accrued as expenditure at the year end totalled £1,500 (2022 - £5,500)

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Subscription income is the Fund's share of voluntary contributions made by serving officers of Essex Police. It is not uncommon for a Police officer in receipt of grant support to have made or still be making voluntary contributions to the Fund. Any grant support to serving Police officers is made at the discretion of the General Committee, whether voluntary contributions are being made or not.