

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106780

Details

Status	Received
Company number	644431
Registered	2017-07-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	159A Belfast Road Bangor Bt20 3pp BT20 3PP
Phone	028 91624740
Email	bangornd.director@samaritans.org
Website	http://www.samaritans.org/branches/bangor-north-down

Activities

Purposes: To enable persons in Bangor and North Down and the surrounding area as well as elsewhere in [the United Kingdom] who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those who may be at risk of suicide, to receive confidential emotional support at any time of the day or night in order to improve their emotional health and to reduce the incidence of suicide; To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and To collaborate with and support the Combined Central Charity and its affiliated branches in fulfilling these objects.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives

How the charity works: Counselling/support, Education/training, Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£304,913	£51,162	£-7,160	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Claire Doherty		
Jillian Tipping		
Mr Andrew Mccartney		
Mr John Whitcroft		
Mr Wesley Wilson		
Mrs Ursula Rankin		
Ms Nuala Meier		
Peter Blair		

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106780

Accounts

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

(NI 644431; CCNI 106780)

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2025

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

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For the Year ended 31st March 2025

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BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Year ended 31st March 2025

COMPANY INFORMATION

1. Reference and administration

Full name of Charity:	Bangor and North Down Samaritans. (CCNI 106780) The Charity is an incorporated organisation (CLG NI 644431) and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation. The Organisation Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.	
Committee	The Committee of the Charity	
Organisation:	The Company limited by guarantee called Bangor and North Down Samaritans is affiliated to the wider Samaritan Organisation which was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.	
Company Registered office:	159A Belfast Road, Bangor BT20 3PP	
Charity address:	159A Belfast Road; Bangor BT20 3PP	
Trustees serving 2024/25:	Andrew McCartney Ursula Rankin Heather Hamilton (Chair) Michelle Anne Dunn (resigned 28/11/24)	John Whitcroft William Wesley Wilson Patricia Warke Nuala Meier
Treasurer/ Secretary	Nuala Meier	
Custodian Trustees:	Samaritans The Upper Mill Kingston Road Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF	
Principal Banker:	Danske Bank Donegall Sq West Belfast BT1 6JS	
Principal Solicitors:	Wilson Nesbitt 33 Hamilton Road Bangor BT20 4LF	
Independent Examiners:	AAB Group Accountants Limited 1-3 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GA	
Insurance Brokers:	PIB Insurance Brokers Poppleton Grange Low Poppleton Lane York YO26 6GZ	

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Year ended 31st March 2025

The Trustees hereby present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025

These documents are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, voluntarily, in accordance with international best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 effective 2019) as recommended by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustee's Annual Report under the Statements of Recommended Practice guidelines.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (CLG NI 644431; CCNI 106780) is, and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation.

The Organisation called Samaritans was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity registered number 219432) and in Scotland (Scottish charity number SC040604) ("the Central Charity").

The Organisation's Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (NI 644431; CCNI 106780) was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) in March 2017 and is affiliated to the Central Samaritans of United Kingdom and Ireland (the Organisation).

2. Management, Internal Control and Risk Management

The day to day management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees of the Charity who are responsible for the implementation of Samaritans strategy and to support the work of Samaritan volunteers in the Charity.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity including the safety of Charity assets and the integrity of the accounting procedures.

The Committee is comprised of:

- a) A minimum of three Trustees and a maximum of thirteen Trustees.
- b) The Branch Director is a Trustee.
- c) Trustees shall be elected as Treasurer and Secretary (these may be the same person).
- d) Up to eight additional Trustees may be appointed.
- e) Where necessary, there may be Trustees co-opted but this shall not exceed two in number.

At the AGM each year all Trustees except the Branch Director will stand down and fresh elections will take place.

In addition the Branch Director may appoint one of the Trustees as Vice Director.

The Committee shall meet as often as may be required but at least three times a year. Three members of the Committee shall be a quorum.

3. Public Benefit Statement

In planning our activities for the year Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Samaritans offers support to those at risk of suicide by being there to listen and encourage the recognition and exploration of their options. By doing so we aim to help people find ways of coping with their distress without choosing to die by suicide. We also seek to support those whose distress is less acute, in the hope that they will not reach the point of feeling that they wish to end their lives.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Year ended 31st March 2025

4. Objectives and Activities

4.1 Objectives

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' main objects are:

- To provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair including those that may lead to suicide;
- To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and
- To support the Organisation, Samaritans, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, registered charity number 219432.

4.2 Principal Activities

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' principal activities include the following:

- Providing confidential emotional support via telephone and on-line chat;
- Raising awareness and understanding of Samaritans;
- Developing partnerships with related agencies, voluntary groups and statutory bodies to better implement Samaritans strategic objectives and improve our service for 'callers';
- Supporting prisoners in prisons;
- Liaising with statutory bodies on behalf of the charity; and
- Implementing the research policy and best practice standards generated by Samaritans.

5. Vision and Mission

Our Vision

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make sure there's someone there for anyone who needs someone, to give people ways to cope and the skills to be there for others, and to campaign to make suicide prevention a national and local priority. Together we can make change that saves lives.

6. Volunteers

The Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch could not operate without the dedication, skill and commitment of its volunteers. We currently have 79 volunteers, all of whom fully recognise the importance of being available, and providing a safe place, where people can be themselves when they need us most.

We are committed to ensuring that all volunteers develop and maintain the necessary skills and knowledge, in order to provide the best service to those who contact us. We invest substantially in both initial training for new volunteers, and on-going continuous development for all volunteers, to facilitate the delivery of consistently high-quality, effective and safe services within the Branch. In addition, all new listening volunteers are required to clear Samaritans safeguarding procedures before commencing emotional support duties.

The following steps have been taken to make our Branch welcoming and accessible to everyone:

- ensure that we recruit and retain the very best volunteers from a wide variety of sources;

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Year ended 31st March 2025

- value our volunteers and the differences between them;
- harness those differences to improve our service to callers;
- promote equity, diversity and inclusion in a proactive way to underpin our service to the callers; and
- ensure that all our policies, procedures and working practices are free from any form of unlawful or unfair discrimination.

As a consequence, we are committed to eliminating any harassment or unjustifiable discrimination against anyone for any reason, including their race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion, sex or sexual orientation, working pattern, marital status, gender reassignment, disability, age, political opinion or family status.

Our volunteers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things, and we could do nothing without them. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

7. Helpline

Samaritans branches collectively operate a 24-hour, free telephone, on-line chat and email helpline service. During the year, as part of the Digital Transformation project futureproofing our listening service, a new digital platform (Listening Centre) was successfully introduced for the UK, replacing the previous Samaritans *Link*.

Samaritans is also signposted to by other service providers, and many other helplines, which are not in a position to offer a 24-hour service.

8. Awareness raising and outreach

Volunteers within the Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch have continued to deliver an extensive range of awareness raising sessions in the community, during the year. These include the following:

- Delivery of Samaritans emotional awareness presentations in a number of schools and further education colleges in the Bangor and North Down area, including provision of information on mental health and wellbeing;
- Providing talks on the role of Samaritans to various local community, sports and mental health groups;
- Having a regular presence in local shopping centre cafes;
- Provision of emotional support to young offenders and women prisoners in the Hydebank Wood, Young Offenders Centre and Prison, in conjunction with Belfast Branch;
- Hosting an Open Day for local politicians to highlight the work of Samaritans and the challenges faced;
- Assisting in the promotion and delivery of Samaritans Mental Health Awareness Training in the workplace; and
- Continuing to develop a relationship with North Down Community Network, Bangor, and Ards and North Down Borough Council, to improve our network of contacts and spread the Samaritans word.

9. Achievements, performance and plans for the future

During the year, the Branch was in receipt of a very generous legacy from the estate of the late John McAlorum, amounting to in excess of £284,000. This significant sum of money, coupled with the sale proceeds from our previous property at 92 Dufferin Avenue, has enabled the Branch to purchase and refurbish new premises at 159A Belfast Road. The move to our new premises was achieved within the agreed timescales, within budget, and without any break in our service delivery. This welcome development represents a new and exciting chapter in the history of our Branch and we are extremely grateful for the funding provided.

In the 12-month period to the end of March 2025, the Branch volunteers provided emotional support to 12,920 callers. There were 12,605 callers supported by telephone and 315 callers supported by Online Chat. All were provided with confidential, non-judgemental, emotional support, with our selfless volunteers giving up 2,607 hours of their time in the process.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Year ended 31st March 2025

The Branch Recruitment Team ran two campaigns to attract new volunteers, up to the end of March 2025. This resulted in 16 new Listening Volunteers being appointed. Currently a further 6 potential volunteers are undergoing training. Applications to join our Branch can now be made online through the Samaritans Website www.samaritans.org

The Training Team continued with the revised format of initial training for new volunteers, involving a blend of both face-to-face tutoring and online training. Current volunteers are required to undergo 5 hours continuous development each year, with the emphasis, this year, on peer mentoring, the role of the Branch Hub Liaison Officer and continuing to ensure self-care of all our volunteers. Ongoing training was also provided at various levels for those involved in managing the Branch, including for Day Leaders. We are grateful for the collective effort, resilience and dedication of all those volunteers who have helped in the roll-out of training across the Branch.

Fundraising is the cornerstone of our continued existence, and we must thank the community in Bangor and North Down, for their continued support, financially and otherwise, particularly given the current cost of living crisis. Those volunteers who take on the extra duties in relation to fundraising are essential and much appreciated. We must also express our gratitude to those members of the community who help us in different ways with our fundraising, including ex volunteers and their friends and relatives, and a number of the local supermarket chains who allowed us to do collections on their premises. Donations were received from a variety of sources including Holywood Golf Club, Friends of Columbanus Bangor, Dufferin Arms Killyleagh, Groomsport Presbyterian Church, Bangor Golf Club and Methodist Women Ireland. We are also very grateful for the ongoing support given to our Branch arising from the Black Santa Appeal, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

Members of the local community remember us in their wills and leave legacies for our continued work, and we are very grateful for the contributions received from them.

10. Financial Review

10.1 Results for the year

Financial results for the year ended 31 March 2025 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 9.

10.2 Income Generation

Bangor and North Down Samaritans raised total income of £304,913 in the year to 31st March 2025 (2024 – £43,527).

10.3 Resources Expended

Total resources expended by Bangor and North Down Samaritans amounted to £51,162 for the year to 31 March 2025 (2024 – £55,076). Of the Charity's expenditure 95% was spent on direct charitable activities and 5% on governance.

10.4 Reserve Policy

In accordance with recommended best practice, the Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which is concerned with how much 'free' (or unallocated) reserves the charity retains.

This excludes the following:

- Restricted funds
- Designated funds
- Income funds that could only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate Reserve Policy. Having reviewed the reserves of the charity, the policy of the Trustees is to retain sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of operations and to absorb periodic setbacks, while committing the maximum amount available for the provision of services.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the Year ended 31st March 2025

The Trustees have agreed that the most appropriate level of reserves should be kept at the level representing 12-24 months expenditure. In light of the Covid pandemic it was deemed prudent and appropriate to exceed this level of reserves in the short to medium term.

11. Statement of responsibilities of members of the Board in respect of the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with UK Law and regulation.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including SORP Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Charity financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- 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 ensuring that the Charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with legislation. 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.


On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Nuala Meier
Trustee



Date: 9/7/25.

Heather Hamilton
Trustee


9/7/25

Date

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

For the Year ended 31st March 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 19.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. Independent examiner's statement Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Chartered Accountants Ireland which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Teresa Campbell 9 July 2025
Teresa Campbell

For, and on behalf of,
AAB Group Accountants Limited
1-3 Arthur St
Belfast
BT1 4GA

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
 For the year to 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments					
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>	2	300,913	4,000	304,913	29,038
<i>Conference Income</i>		-	-	-	14,489
Total income and Endowments		<u>300,913</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>304,913</u>	<u>43,527</u>
Expenditure					
<i>Expenditure on raising funds: Fundraising and Publicity</i>		477	-	477	1,118
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>		45,879	4,806	50,685	53,958
Total Expenditure	3/4	<u>46,356</u>	<u>4,806</u>	<u>51,162</u>	<u>55,076</u>
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		254,557	(806)	253,751	(11,549)
Revaluation Reserve		-	-	-	16,104
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		<u>254,557</u>	<u>(806)</u>	<u>253,751</u>	<u>4,555</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward		<u>208,417</u>	<u>4,806</u>	<u>213,223</u>	<u>208,668</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>462,974</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>466,974</u>	<u>213,223</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under Companies Act 2006.

The surplus for the period was £253,751 (2024: Deficit £11,549).

On behalf of the Trustees

Heather Hamilton
Trustee



Date:

9/7/25

Nuala Meier
Trustee



Date:

9/7/25

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

BALANCE SHEET

For the year to 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets.	7	439,020	144,806
		<u>439,020</u>	<u>144,806</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	540
Cash at bank and short term deposits		35,114	71,645
		<u>35,114</u>	<u>72,185</u>
Creditors: due within one year	9	(7,160)	(3,768)
Deferred income		-	-
		<u>27,954</u>	<u>68,417</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>466,974</u>	<u>213,223</u>
Total net assets			
		<u>466,974</u>	<u>213,223</u>
Funds			
General funds	10,11 & 13	457,974	187,313
Restricted funds		4,000	4,806
Revaluation Reserve		-	16,104
Designated funds		5,000	5,000
		<u>466,974</u>	<u>213,223</u>
Total funds		<u>466,974</u>	<u>213,223</u>

For the year ended 31st March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

On behalf of the Trustees

Company Number: NI644431

Heather Hamilton
Trustee

Nuala Meier
Trustee

Date:

Date:




9/7/25

9/7/25

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

STATEMENT IN CHANGES IN RESERVES

For the year to 31 March 2025

RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES *for the year ended 31 March 2024*

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources for the year		253,751	4,555
Total recognised gains (losses) for the year		253,751	4,555
Reserves at the beginning of the year		213,223	208,668
Reserves at the end of the year	10,11 & 13	466,974	213,223

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS 102) and UK statute comprising of the Companies Act 2006.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the Company's accounting policies.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

Funding accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for specific purposes. Costs relating to such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income, there is probable certainty of receipt and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to categories of income:

Donations

Accounted for when received.

Legacies

Entitlement is the earlier of the charity receiving final estate accounts (or other similar evidence) which provides sufficient certainty of receipt and reliability of value, or the legacy actually being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party.

Grants and Contracts

Where contracts are related to specific deliverables income is recognised to the extent that those deliverables have been achieved. Where income through contract or grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Other Income

Income generated from other activities is recognised as earned.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the assets to their estimated residual values over the course of their anticipated working lives.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The rate of depreciation used is as follows:-

- Furniture, fittings and equipment - 25% straight line
- Computer Equipment - 25% straight line
- Buildings - 2% straight line
- Land - Not depreciated

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. Support costs have been allocated on the basis of spend to programme areas and to Fundraising and Governance activities. The following specific policies apply to categories of expenditure:

i) Grants

Grants are charged to the statement of financial activities when there is a liability to pay.

ii) Fundraising Costs

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

iii) Governance Costs

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity to distinguish from those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents income received in advance.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Fundraising activities</i>				
Individual donations	16,481	-	16,481	17,038
Legacies and covenants	284,432	-	284,432	1,000
Conference Income	-	-	-	14,489
Total fundraising activities	300,913	-	300,913	32,527
<i>Trusts and Foundations</i>				
Grant Income	-	4,000	4,000	11,000
Total Trusts and Foundations	-	4,000	4,000	11,000
Total Voluntary Income	300,913	4,000	304,913	43,527

The 2024 total of £43,527 was split between £18,038 unrestricted and £25,489 restricted.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

3. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<i>Services</i>				
Property & Maintenance	17,589	-	17,589	8,610
Telephony	3,339	-	3,339	3,130
Volunteer travel & subsistence	1,548	-	1,548	2,960
Training and seminars	2,038	-	2,038	26,073
Public Awareness	1,141	-	1,141	939
Samaritan & Other Levies	8,121	-	8,121	4,088
Fundraising & Recruitment	478	-	478	179
Direct costs	34,254	-	34,254	45,979
Support Costs	9,541	4,806	14,347	7,723
Governance	2,561	-	2,561	1,374
Total charitable expenditure	46,356	4,806	51,162	55,076

The 2024 total of £55,076 was split between £24,780 unrestricted and £ £30,296 restricted.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

The charity identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Governance costs and other support costs are apportioned separately between the charitable activities undertaken in the period. Refer to the table below for the basis for apportionment and analysis of support and governance costs.

	General		Support		Governance		Function		Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	£	£		
Postage & Stationery	902	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	902	865
Housekeeping	826	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	826	693
Insurance	832	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	832	797
Bank Charges	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	214
Independent Examination fees	-	-	-	-	811	-	-	-	811	780
Subs; Legal; AGM	-	-	-	-	1,750	-	-	-	1,750	594
Depreciation	9,467	4,806	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,273	5,153
Profit on sale of Fixed Assets	(2,567)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,567)	-
	9,541	4,806	2,561	-	-	-	-	-	16,908	9,096

5. STAFF COSTS

Number of employees

	2025	2024
Administration support	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-

Bangor & North Down Samaritans is entirely volunteer led and as such has no employees.

6. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Result for the year is arrived at after charging:		
Depreciation	14,273	5,153
Accountancy fees	811	780

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2025

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
	Land and Buildings	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1st April 2024	140,000	29,019	169,019
Additions	429,011	19,476	448,487
Disposal	142,567	29,019	171,586
At 31 March 2025	426,444	19,476	445,920
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2024	-	24,213	24,213
Charge for the year		14,273	14,273
Disposals	2,567	29,019	31,586
At 31 March 2025	2,567	9,467	12,034
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	429,011	10,009	439,020
At 31 March 2024	140,000	4,806	144,806

The assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

8. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	-	540
Accrued Income	-	-
Debtors falling due within one year	-	540

9. CREDITORS: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	7,160	3,768
Deferred Income	-	-
	7,160	3,768

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

10. STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT ON FUNDS

	General fund	Restricted fund	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at beginning of year	208,417	4,806	213,223
Net incoming resources, before transfers and recognised gains	254,557	(806)	253,751
Transfers	-	-	-
Balance at end of year	462,974	4,000	466,974

11. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total
	£	£	£
Opening balance	208,417	4,806	213,223
Income	300,913	4,000	304,913
Charitable activities costs	(34,253)		(34,253)
Governance costs	(2,562)	-	(2,562)
Support Costs	(9,541)	(4,806)	(14,347)
Closing Balance Before Transfers	462,974	4,000	466,974

12. PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

No payments have been made to board members in respect of remuneration during the year.

Expense reimbursements to Trustees totalled £1,548 for the year ended 31st March 2025 (2024- £477).

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

13. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 01-Apr 24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Revaluation £	Balance at 31-Mar-25 £
Unrestricted: Accumulated	208,417	300,913	(46,356)		462,974
Total Unrestricted Funds	208,417	300,913	(46,356)		462,974
Restricted Funds	4,806	4,000	(4,806)	-	4,000
Total Restricted funds	4,806	4,000	(4,806)	-	4,000
Total accumulated funds	213,223	304,913	(51,162)	-	466,974

14. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the balance sheet date.

15. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees approved the financial statements on 9th July 2025.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106780

Accounts

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

(NI 644431; CCNI 106780)

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

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For the Year ended 31st March 2024

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BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year to 31st March 2024

COMPANY INFORMATION

1. Reference and administration

Full name of Charity:	Bangor and North Down Samaritans. (CCNI 106780) The Charity is an incorporated organisation (CLG NI 644431) and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation. The Organisation Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.
Committee	The Committee of the Charity
Organisation:	The Company limited by guarantee called Bangor and North Down Samaritans is affiliated to the wider Samaritan Organisation which was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.
Company Registered office:	92 Dufferin Avenue, Bangor BT20 3AD
Charity address:	92 Dufferin Avenue; Bangor BT20 3AD
Trustees serving 2022/23:	Margaret Turner resigned 10 th January 2024 Irene Davidson resigned 2 nd September 2023 Andrew McCartney John Whitcroft Jan Kruger Ursula Rankin Heather Hamilton (Chair) Patricia Warke Nuala Meier
Treasurer/ Secretary	Nuala Meier
Custodian Trustees:	Samaritans The Upper Mill Kingston Road Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF
Principal Banker:	Danske Bank Donegall Sq West Belfast BT1 6JS
Principal Solicitors:	Wilson & Nesbitt 33 Hamilton Road Bangor BT20 4LF
Independent Examiners:	AAB Group Accountants Limited 1-3 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GA
Insurance Brokers:	PIB Insurance Brokers Poppleton Grange Low Poppleton Lane York YO26 6GZ

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

The Trustees hereby present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2024

These documents are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, voluntarily, in accordance with international best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 effective 2019) as recommended by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustee's Annual Report under the Statements of Recommended Practice guidelines.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (CLG NI 644431; CCNI 106780) is, and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation.

The Organisation called Samaritans was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity registered number 219432) and in Scotland (Scottish charity number SC040604) ("the Central Charity").

The Organisation's Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (NI 644431; CCNI 106780) was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) in March 2017 and is affiliated to the Central Samaritans of United Kingdom and Ireland (the Organisation)

2. Management, Internal Control and Risk Management

The day to day management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees of the Charity who are responsible for the implementation of Samaritans strategy and to support the work of Samaritan volunteers in the Charity.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity including the safety of Charity assets and the integrity of the accounting procedures.

The Committee is comprised of:

- a) A minimum of three Trustees and a maximum of thirteen Trustees.
- b) The Branch Director is a Trustee.
- c) Trustees shall be elected as Treasurer and Secretary (these may be the same person).
- d) Up to eight additional Trustees may be appointed.
- e) Where necessary, there may be Trustees co-opted but this shall not exceed two in number.

At the AGM each year all Trustees except the Branch Director will stand down and fresh elections will take place.

In addition the Branch Director may appoint one of the Trustees as Vice Director.

The Committee shall meet as often as may be required but at least three times a year. Three members of the Committee shall be a quorum.

3. Public Benefit Statement

In planning our activities for the year Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Samaritans offers support to those at risk of suicide by being there to listen and encourage the recognition and exploration of their options. By doing so we aim to help people find ways of coping with their distress without choosing to die by suicide. We also seek to support those whose distress is less acute, in the hope that they will not reach the point of feeling that they wish to end their lives.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

4. Objectives and Activities

4.1 Objectives

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' main objects are:

- To provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair including those that may lead to suicide;
- To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and
- To support the Organisation, Samaritans, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, registered charity number 219432.

4.2 Principal Activities

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' principal activities include the following:

- Providing confidential emotional support via telephone and on-line chat;
- Raising awareness and understanding of Samaritans;
- Developing partnerships with related agencies, voluntary groups and statutory bodies to better implement Samaritans strategic objectives and improve our service for 'callers';
- Supporting prisoners in prisons;
- Liaising with statutory bodies on behalf of the charity; and
- Implementing the research policy and best practice standards generated by Samaritans.

5. Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make sure there's someone there for anyone who needs someone, to give people ways to cope and the skills to be there for others, and to campaign to make suicide prevention a national and local priority. Together we can make change that saves lives.

Our Values

Our support services adapt to the changing environment, but the values at the core of our listening service remain constant:

- **Listening**
Exploring feelings alleviates distress and helps people to reach a better understanding of their situation and the options open to them.
- **Confidentiality**
If people feel safe, they are more likely to be open about their feelings.
- **Non-judgemental**
We want people to be able to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

- **People making their own decisions**

We believe that people have the right to find their own solution and that telling people what to do takes responsibility away from them.

- **Human contact**

Giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental emotional need and reduces distress and despair.

6. Volunteers

The Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch could not operate without the dedication, skill and commitment of its volunteers. We currently have 75 volunteers, all of whom fully recognise the importance of being available, and providing a safe place, where people can be themselves when they need us most.

We are committed to ensuring that all volunteers develop and maintain the necessary skills and knowledge, in order to provide the best service to those who contact us. We invest substantially in both initial training for new volunteers, and on-going continuous development for all volunteers, to facilitate the delivery of consistently high-quality, effective and safe services within the Branch. In addition, all new listening volunteers are required to clear Samaritans safeguarding procedures before commencing emotional support duties.

Our volunteers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things, and we could do nothing without them. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

7. Helpline

Samaritans branches collectively operate a 24-hour, free telephone and email helpline service. In addition, the new Online Chat facility has continued to operate on a pilot basis, with its availability and opening hours having recently been extended to include Fridays. As a result, our Branch has now increased the provision of this service to two evenings per week (previously it was one).

Bangor and North Down Samaritans is one of the eight branches in Northern Ireland connected to the UK telephony network, *Link*. The *Link* system is a digital platform which ensures that callers are connected to the service as quickly as possible and that capacity can be monitored to ensure that the service offers optimal capacity. Samaritans is also signposted to by other service providers, and many other helplines, which are not in a position to offer a 24-hour service.

8. Awareness raising, outreach and face to face

Volunteers within the Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch have continued to deliver an extensive range of awareness raising sessions in the community, during the year. These include the following:

- Delivery of Samaritans emotional awareness presentations in a number of schools in the Bangor and North Down area, including provision of information on mental health and wellbeing, and reaching out to over 1500 teenagers in the process;
- Engaging with commuters at Bangor Train and Bus Stations on Brew Monday, in conjunction with Translink;
- Providing talks on the role of Samaritans to various local community and mental health groups;
- Assisting at the Ards Cycling Club annual sportive;
- Provision of emotional support to young offenders and women prisoners in the Hydebank Wood, Young Offenders Centre and Prison, in conjunction with Belfast Branch;

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

-
- Assisting in the promotion and delivery of Samaritans Mental Health Awareness Training in the workplace; and
 - Continuing to develop a relationship with North Down Community Network, Bangor, and Ards and North Down Borough Council, to improve our network of contacts and spread the Samaritans word.

The Branch has not yet been able to re-introduce the drop-in service at our premises whereby people can call into the Branch to avail of face-to-face emotional support. This is being kept under review, in line with guidance from Samaritans Central Office.

9. Achievements, performance and plans for the future

In 1973, the Bangor and North Down Branch of Samaritans first opened its doors, at 92 Dufferin Avenue, Bangor. Over 50 years later, volunteers from the Branch have continued to provide emotional support to those members of the local and wider community, who are experiencing emotional distress or despair. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Branch, a number of events took place over the weekend of 22-24 September 2023, commencing with a reception at the City Hall, for all its current Samaritans volunteers, hosted by the Deputy Mayor for the Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Hannah Irwin. The reception presented an opportunity for the Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the Council, to thank the current volunteers, and to acknowledge that without them, the Branch could do nothing.

Over the same weekend, the Branch hosted the prestigious annual Samaritans Ireland Conference, at the Old Inn, Crawfordsburn. Samaritans volunteers from all over the island of Ireland, together with a number of eminent professionals from a diverse arena of mental health and wellbeing backgrounds, were in attendance. The theme of the Conference was Building Resilience Together.

In the 12-month period to the end of March 2024, the Branch volunteers provided emotional support to 13,529 callers. There were 13,289 callers supported by telephone and 260 callers supported by Online Chat. All were provided with confidential, non-judgemental, emotional support, with our selfless volunteers giving up 2,877 hours of their time in the process.

The Branch Recruitment Team ran two campaigns to attract new volunteers, up to the end of March 2024. This resulted in 9 new Listening Volunteers being appointed. Currently a further 9 potential volunteers are undergoing training. Applications to join our Branch can now be made online through the Samaritans Website (www.samaritans.org).

Following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, the Training Team continued with the revised format of initial training for new volunteers, involving a blend of both face-to-face tutoring and online training. Current volunteers are required to undergo 5 hours continuous development each year, with the emphasis, this year, being on making prison calls better, the role of the Branch Hub Liaison Officer and continuing to ensure self-care of all our volunteers. Ongoing training was also provided at various levels for those involved in managing the Branch, including for Day Leaders. We are grateful for the collective effort, resilience and dedication of all those volunteers who have helped in the roll-out of training across the Branch.

Fundraising is the cornerstone of our continued existence and we must thank the community in Bangor and North Down, for their continued support, financially and otherwise, particularly given the current cost of living crisis. Those volunteers who take on the extra duties in relation to fundraising are essential and much appreciated. We must also express our gratitude to those members of the community who help us in different ways with our fundraising, including ex volunteers and their friends and relatives, and a number of the local supermarket chains who allowed us to do collections on their premises. Donations were received from a variety of sources including Ards Cycling Club, St Galls, Groomsport Presbyterian Church, U3A Holywood, Donaghadee Rotary, Grosvenor Choral Society, Bangor Golf Club and Carnalea Methodist Church. We were also in receipt of funds collected from attendees at the Sarah Millican concert, in December 2023, Waterfront Hall Belfast, as part of her recent sell-out UK and Ireland tour. We are very grateful for the ongoing support given to the Samaritans organisation by Sarah Millican, and for the welcome opportunity to collect funds, after her concert, directly for the Branch.

Members of the local community remember us in their wills and leave legacies for our continued work, and we are very grateful for the contributions received from them.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT *for the year to 31st March 2024*

10. Financial Review

10.1 Results for the year

Financial results for the year ended 31 March 2024 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 10.

10.2 Income Generation

Bangor and North Down Samaritans raised total income of £43,527 in the year to 31st March 2024 (2023 – £27,903).

10.3 Resources Expended

Total resources expended by Bangor and North Down Samaritans amounted to £55,076 for the year to 31 March 2024 (2023 – £29,993). Of the Charity's expenditure 97% was spent on direct charitable activities and 3% on governance.

10.4 Reserve Policy

In accordance with recommended best practice, the Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which is concerned with how much 'free' (or unallocated) reserves the charity retains.

This excludes the following:

- Restricted funds
- Designated funds
- Income funds that could only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate Reserve Policy. Having reviewed the reserves of the charity, the policy of the Trustees is to retain sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of operations and to absorb periodic setbacks, while committing the maximum amount available for the provision of services.

The Trustees have agreed that the most appropriate level of reserves should be kept at the level representing 12-24 months expenditure. In light of the recent pandemic it was deemed prudent and appropriate to exceed this level of reserves in the short to medium term.

11. Statement of responsibilities of members of the Board in respect of the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with UK Law and regulation.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including SORP Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Charity financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with legislation. 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.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Nuala Meier
Trustee



Date: 3/9/24

Heather Hamilton
Trustee



Date: 3/9/24

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT for the year to 31st March 2024

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 20.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bangor and North Down Samaritans for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008; ; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Teresa Campbell
For, and on behalf of,
AAB Group Accountants Limited
1-3 Arthur St
Belfast
BT1 4GA

Teresa Campbell

03/09/2024

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) For the year to 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments					
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>	2	18,038	11,000	29,038	27,903
<i>Conference Income</i>		-	14,489	14,489	-
Total income and Endowments		18,038	25,489	43,527	27,903
Expenditure					
<i>Expenditure on raising funds: Fundraising and Publicity</i>		1,118	-	1,118	5,809
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>		23,662	30,296	53,958	24,184
Total Expenditure	3/4	24,780	30,296	55,076	29,993
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		(6,742)	(4,807)	(11,549)	(2,090)
Revaluation Reserve		16,104	-	16,104	-
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		9,362	(4,807)	4,555	(2,090)
Total Funds Brought Forward		199,055	9,613	208,668	210,758
Total Funds Carried Forward		208,417	4,806	213,223	208,668

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.


The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under Companies Act 2006.

The deficit for the period was £11,549 (2023: Deficit £2,090).

On behalf of the Trustees


Heather Hamilton
Trustee

Date:


3/9/24

Nuala Meier
Trustee

Date:


3/9/24

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

BALANCE SHEET

For the year to 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets.	7	144,806	133,855
		<u>144,806</u>	<u>133,855</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	540	1,867
Cash at bank and short term deposits		71,645	97,775
		<u>72,185</u>	<u>99,642</u>
Creditors: due within one year	9	(3,768)	(3,761)
Deferred Income		-	(21,068)
		<u>68,417</u>	<u>74,813</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>213,223</u>	<u>208,668</u>
Total net assets		<u>213,223</u>	<u>208,668</u>
Funds			
General funds	10,11 & 13	187,313	194,056
Restricted funds		4,806	9,612
Revaluation Reserve		16,104	-
Designated funds		5,000	5,000
		<u>213,223</u>	<u>208,668</u>
Total funds		<u>213,223</u>	<u>208,668</u>

For the year ended 31st March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the company.


The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

On behalf of the Trustees

Company Number: NI644431

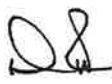
Heather Hamilton
Trustee

Date:


3/9/24

Nuala Meier
Trustee

Date:


3/9/24

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

BALANCE SHEET

For the year to 31 March 2024

RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources for the year		4,555	(2,090)
Total recognised gains (losses) for the year		<u>4,555</u>	<u>(2,090)</u>
Reserves at the beginning of the year		208,668	210,758
Reserves at the end of the year	10,11 & 13	<u><u>213,223</u></u>	<u><u>208,668</u></u>

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS 102) and UK statute comprising of the Companies Act 2006.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the Company's accounting policies.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

Funding accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for specific purposes. Costs relating to such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income, there is probable certainty of receipt and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to categories of income:

Donations

Accounted for when received.

Legacies

Entitlement is the earlier of the charity receiving final estate accounts (or other similar evidence) which provides sufficient certainty of receipt and reliability of value, or the legacy actually being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party.

Grants and Contracts

Where contracts are related to specific deliverables income is recognised to the extent that those deliverables have been achieved. Where income through contract or grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Other Income

Income generated from other activities is recognised as earned.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the assets to their estimated residual values over the course of their anticipated working lives.

The rate of depreciation used is as follows:-

- Furniture, fittings and equipment - 25% straight line
- Computer Equipment - 25% straight line

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. Support costs have been allocated on the basis of spend to programme areas and to Fundraising and Governance activities. The following specific policies apply to categories of expenditure:

i) Grants

Grants are charged to the statement of financial activities when there is a liability to pay.

ii) Fundraising Costs

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

iii) Governance Costs

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity to distinguish from those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents income received in advance.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Fundraising activities</i>				
Individual donations	17,038	-	17,038	22,903
Legacies and covenants	1,000	-	1,000	-
Conference Income	-	14,489	14,489	-
Total fundraising activities	18,038	14,489	32,527	22,903
<i>Trusts and Foundations</i>				
Grant Income	-	11,000	11,000	5,000
Total Trusts and Foundations	-	11,000	11,000	5,000
Total Voluntary Income	18,038	25,489	43,527	27,903

The 2023 total of £27,903 was split between £22,903 unrestricted and £5,000 restricted.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<i>Services</i>				
Property & Maintenance	8,610	-	8,610	7,076
Telephony	3,130	-	3,130	3,072
Volunteer travel & subsistence	2,960	-	2,960	1,407
Training and seminars	584	25,489	26,073	749
Public Awareness	939	-	939	5,481
Samaritan & Other Levies	4,088	-	4,088	1,596
Fundraising & Recruitment	179	-	179	473
Direct costs	20,490	25,489	45,979	19,854
Support Costs	2,916	4,807	7,723	9,252
Governance	1,374	-	1,374	887
Total charitable expenditure	24,780	30,296	55,076	29,993

The 2023 total of £29,993 was split between £20,187 unrestricted and £ £9,806 restricted.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

4. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

The charity identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Governance costs and other support costs are apportioned separately between the charitable activities undertaken in the period. Refer to the table below for the basis for apportionment and analysis of support and governance costs.

	General	Support	Governance	Function	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	£	£
Postage & Stationery	865	-	-	-	865	1,536
Housekeeping	693	-	-	-	693	289
Insurance	797	-	-	-	797	767
Bank Charges	214	-	-	-	214	129
Independent Examination fees	-	-	780	-	780	720
Subscriptions	-	-	594	-	594	167
Depreciation	346	4,807	-	-	5,153	6,531
	2,915	4,807	1,374	-	9,096	10,139

5. STAFF COSTS

Number of employees

	2024	2023
Administration support	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-

Bangor & North Down Samaritans is entirely volunteer led and as such has no employees.

6. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Result for the year is arrived at after charging:		
Depreciation	5,153	6,531
Accountancy fees	780	720

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2024

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
	Land and Buildings	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1st April 2023	123,896	29,019	152,915
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals			
Revaluation	16,104	-	16,104
At 31 March 2024	140,000	29,019	169,019
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2023	-	19,060	19,060
Charge for the year	-	5,153	5,153
Disposals			
At 31 March 2024	-	24,213	24,213
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	140,000	4,806	144,806
At 31 March 2023	123,896	9,959	133,855

The assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

8. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	540	1,867
Accrued Income	-	-
Debtors falling due within one year	540	1,867

9. CREDITORS: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	3,768	3,761
Deferred Income	-	21,068
	3,768	24,829

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

10. STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT ON FUNDS

	General fund	Restricted fund	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at beginning of year	199,055	9,613	208,668
Net incoming resources, before transfers and recognised gains	(6,742)	(4,807)	(11,549)
Transfers	-	-	-
Revaluation Reserve	16,104		16,104
Balance at end of year	208,417	4,806	213,223

11. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total
	£	£	£
Opening balance	199,055	9,613	208,668
Income	18,038	25,489	43,527
Charitable activities costs	(20,490)	(25,489)	(45,979)
Governance costs	(1,374)	-	(1,374)
Support Costs	(2,916)	(4,807)	(7,723)
Revaluation Reserve	16,104	-	16,104
Closing Balance Before Transfers	208,417	4,806	213,223

12. PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

No payments have been made to board members in respect of remuneration during the year.

Expense reimbursements to Trustees totalled £477 for the year ended 31st March 2024 (2023- £40).

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2024

13. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 01-Apr 23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Revaluation £	Balance at 31-Mar-24 £
Unrestricted: Accumulated	199,055	18,038	(24,780)	16,104	208,417
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>199,055</u>	<u>18,038</u>	<u>(24,780)</u>	<u>16,104</u>	<u>208,417</u>
Restricted Funds	9,613	25,489	(30,296)	-	4,806
Total Restricted funds	<u>9,613</u>	<u>25,489</u>	<u>(30,296)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,806</u>
Total accumulated funds	<u><u>208,668</u></u>	<u><u>43,527</u></u>	<u><u>(55,076)</u></u>	<u><u>16,104</u></u>	<u><u>213,223</u></u>

14. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the balance sheet date.

15. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees approved the financial statements on 4th September 2024.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106780

Annual report

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

COMPANY INFORMATION

1. Reference and administration

Full name of Charity:

Bangor and North Down Samaritans. (CCNI 106780)

The Charity is an incorporated organisation (CLG NI 644431) and is

recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation. The Organisation Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.

Committee

The Committee of the Charity

Organisation:

The Company limited by guarantee called Bangor and North Down Samaritans is affiliated to the wider Samaritan Organisation which was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Company Registered office:

92 Dufferin Avenue, Bangor BT20 3AD

Charity address:

92 Dufferin Avenue, Bangor BT20 3AD

Trustees serving 2022/23:

Margaret Turner resigned 10th January 2024
Irene Davidson resigned 2nd September 2023

Andrew McCartney

John Whitcroft
Ursula Rankin
Patricia Warke

Nuala Meier

Heather Hamilton (Chair)

Jan Kruger

Jan Kruger

Andrew McCartney

Irene Davidson resigned 2nd September 2023

Margaret Turner resigned 10th January 2024

Treasurer/ Secretary

Nuala Meier

Custodian Trustees:

Samaritans

The Upper Mill

Kingston Road

Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF

Danske Bank

Donegall Sq West

Belfast BT1 6JS

Principal Solicitors:

Wilson & Nesbitt

33 Hamilton Road

Bangor BT20 4LF

Independent Examiners:

AAB Group Accountants Limited

1-3 Arthur Street

Belfast BT1 4GA

Insurance Brokers:

PIB Insurance Brokers

Poppleton Grange

Low Poppleton Lane

York YO26 6GZ

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

The Trustees hereby present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2024

These documents are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, voluntarily, in accordance with international best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 effective 2019) as recommended by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustee's Annual Report under the Statements of Recommended Practice guidelines.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (CLG NI 644431; CCNI 106780) is, and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation.

The Organisation called Samaritans was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity registered number 219432) and in Scotland (Scottish charity number SC040604) ("the Central Charity").

The Organisation's Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (NI 644431; CCNI 106780) was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) in March 2017 and is affiliated to the Central Samaritans of United Kingdom and Ireland (the Organisation)

2. Management, Internal Control and Risk Management

The day to day management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees of the Charity who are responsible for the implementation of Samaritans strategy and to support the work of Samaritan volunteers in the Charity.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity including the safety of Charity assets and the integrity of the accounting procedures.

The Committee is comprised of:

- a) A minimum of three Trustees and a maximum of thirteen Trustees.
- b) The Branch Director is a Trustee.
- c) Trustees shall be elected as Treasurer and Secretary (these may be the same person).
- d) Up to eight additional Trustees may be appointed.
- e) Where necessary, there may be Trustees co-opted but this shall not exceed two in number.

At the AGM each year all Trustees except the Branch Director will stand down and fresh elections will take place.

In addition the Branch Director may appoint one of the Trustees as Vice Director.

The Committee shall meet as often as may be required but at least three times a year. Three members of the Committee shall be a quorum.

3. Public Benefit Statement

In planning our activities for the year Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Samaritans offers support to those at risk of suicide by being there to listen and encourage the recognition and exploration of their options. By doing so we aim to help people find ways of coping with their distress without choosing to die by suicide. We also seek to support those whose distress is less acute, in the hope that they will not reach the point of feeling that they wish to end their lives.

4. Objectives and Activities

4.1 Objectives

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' main objects are:

- To provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair including those that may lead to suicide;
- To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and
- To support the Organisation, Samaritans, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, registered charity number 219432.

4.2 Principal Activities

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' principal activities include the following:

- Providing confidential emotional support via telephone and on-line chat;
- Raising awareness and understanding of Samaritans;
- Developing partnerships with related agencies, voluntary groups and statutory bodies to better implement Samaritans strategic objectives and improve our service for 'callers';
- Supporting prisoners in prisons;
- Laising with statutory bodies on behalf of the charity; and
- Implementing the research policy and best practice standards generated by Samaritans.

5. Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make sure there's someone there for anyone who needs someone, to give people ways to cope and the skills to be there for others, and to campaign to make suicide prevention a national and local priority. Together we can make change that saves lives.

Our Values

Our support services adapt to the changing environment, but the values at the core of our listening service remain constant:

- **Listening**
Exploring feelings alleviates distress and helps people to reach a better understanding of their situation and the options open to them.
- **Confidentiality**
If people feel safe, they are more likely to be open about their feelings.
- **Non-judgemental**
We want people to be able to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection.

- **People making their own decisions**
We believe that people have the right to find their own solution and that telling people what to do takes responsibility away from them.

- **Human contact**
Giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental emotional need and reduces distress and despair.

6. Volunteers

The Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch could not operate without the dedication, skill and commitment of its volunteers. We currently have 75 volunteers, all of whom fully recognise the importance of being available, and providing a safe place, where people can be themselves when they need us most.

We are committed to ensuring that all volunteers develop and maintain the necessary skills and knowledge, in order to provide the best service to those who contact us. We invest substantially in both initial training for new volunteers, and on-going continuous development for all volunteers, to facilitate the delivery of consistently high-quality, effective and safe services within the Branch. In addition, all new listening volunteers are required to clear Samaritans safeguarding procedures before commencing emotional support duties.

Our volunteers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things, and we could do nothing without them. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

7. Helpline

Samaritans branches collectively operate a 24-hour, free telephone and email helpline service. In addition, the new Online Chat facility has continued to operate on a pilot basis, with its availability and opening hours having recently been extended to include Fridays. As a result, our Branch has now increased the provision of this service to two evenings per week (previously it was one).

Bangor and North Down Samaritans is one of the eight branches in Northern Ireland connected to the UK telephony network, *Link*. The *Link* system is a digital platform which ensures that callers are connected to the service as quickly as possible and that capacity can be monitored to ensure that the service offers optimal capacity. Samaritans is also signposted to by other service providers, and many other helplines, which are not in a position to offer a 24-hour service.

8. Awareness raising, outreach and face to face

Volunteers within the Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch have continued to deliver an extensive range of awareness raising sessions in the community, during the year. These include the following:

- Delivery of Samaritans emotional awareness presentations in a number of schools in the Bangor and North Down area, including provision of information on mental health and wellbeing, and reaching out to over 1500 teenagers in the process;
- Engaging with commuters at Bangor Train and Bus Stations on Brew Monday, in conjunction with Translink;
- Providing talks on the role of Samaritans to various local community and mental health groups;
- Assisting at the Ards Cycling Club annual sportive;
- Provision of emotional support to young offenders and women prisoners in the Hydebank Wood, Young Offenders Centre and Prison, in conjunction with Belfast Branch;

- Assisting in the promotion and delivery of Samaritans Mental Health Awareness Training in the workplace; and
- Continuing to develop a relationship with North Down Community Network, Bangor, and Ards and North Down Borough Council, to improve our network of contacts and spread the Samaritans word.

The Branch has not yet been able to re-introduce the drop-in service at our premises whereby people can call into the Branch to avail of face-to-face emotional support. This is being kept under review, in line with guidance from Samaritans Central Office.

9. Achievements, performance and plans for the future

In 1973, the Bangor and North Down Branch of Samaritans first opened its doors, at 92 Dufferin Avenue, Bangor. Over 50 years later, volunteers from the Branch have continued to provide emotional support to those members of the local and wider community, who are experiencing emotional distress or despair. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Branch, a number of events took place over the weekend of 22-24 September 2023, commencing with a reception at the City Hall, for all its current Samaritans volunteers, hosted by the Deputy Mayor for the Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Hannah Irwin. The reception presented an opportunity for the Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the Council, to thank the current volunteers, and to acknowledge that without them, the Branch could do nothing.

Over the same weekend, the Branch hosted the prestigious annual Samaritans Ireland Conference, at the Old Inn, Crawfordsburn. Samaritans volunteers from all over the island of Ireland, together with a number of eminent professionals from a diverse arena of mental health and wellbeing backgrounds, were in attendance. The theme of the Conference was Building Resilience Together.

In the 12-month period to the end of March 2024, the Branch volunteers provided emotional support to 13,529 callers. There were 13,289 callers supported by telephone and 260 callers supported by Online Chat. All were provided with confidential, non-judgemental, emotional support, with our selfless volunteers giving up 2,877 hours of their time in the process.

The Branch Recruitment Team ran two campaigns to attract new volunteers, up to the end of March 2024. This resulted in 9 new Listening Volunteers being appointed. Currently a further 9 potential volunteers are undergoing training. Applications to join our Branch can now be made online through the Samaritans Website (www.samaritans.org).

Following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, the Training Team continued with the revised format of initial training for new volunteers, involving a blend of both face-to-face tutoring and online training. Current volunteers are required to undergo 5 hours continuous development each year, with the emphasis, this year, being on making prison calls better, the role of the Branch Hub Liaison Officer and continuing to ensure self-care of all our volunteers. Ongoing training was also provided at various levels for those involved in managing the Branch, including for Day Leaders. We are grateful for the collective effort, resilience and dedication of all those volunteers who have helped in the roll-out of training across the Branch.

Fundraising is the cornerstone of our continued existence and we must thank the community in Bangor and North Down, for their continued support, financially and otherwise, particularly given the current cost of living crisis. Those volunteers who take on the extra duties in relation to fundraising are essential and much appreciated. We must also express our gratitude to those members of the community who help us in different ways with our fundraising, including ex volunteers and their friends and relatives, and a number of the local supermarket chains who allowed us to do collections on their premises. Donations were received from a variety of sources including Ards Cycling Club, St Galls, Groomsport Presbyterian Church, USA Holywood, Donaghadee Rotary, Grosvenor Choral Society, Bangor Golf Club and Carnalea Methodist Church. We were also in receipt of funds collected from attendees at the Sarah Milligan concert, in December 2023, Waterfront Hall Belfast, as part of her recent sell-out UK and Ireland tour. We are very grateful for the ongoing support given to the Samaritans organisation by Sarah Milligan, and for the welcome opportunity to collect funds, after her concert, directly for the Branch.

Members of the local community remember us in their wills and leave legacies for our continued work, and we are very grateful for the contributions received from them.

10. Financial Review

10.1 Results for the year

Financial results for the year ended 31 March 2024 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 10.

10.2 Income Generation

Bangor and North Down Samaritans raised total income of £43,527 in the year to 31st March 2024 (2023 – £27,903).

10.3 Resources Expended

Total resources expended by Bangor and North Down Samaritans amounted to £55,076 for the year to 31 March 2024 (2023 – £29,993). Of the Charity's expenditure 97% was spent on direct charitable activities and 3% on governance.

10.4 Reserve Policy

In accordance with recommended best practice, the Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which is concerned with how much 'free' (or unallocated) reserves the charity retains.

This excludes the following:

- Restricted funds
- Designated funds
- Income funds that could only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate Reserve Policy. Having reviewed the reserves of the charity, the policy of the Trustees is to retain sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of operations and to absorb periodic setbacks, while committing the maximum amount available for the provision of services. The Trustees have agreed that the most appropriate level of reserves should be kept at the level representing 12-24 months expenditure. In light of the recent pandemic it was deemed prudent and appropriate to exceed this level of reserves in the short to medium term.

11. Statement of responsibilities of members of the Board in respect of the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with UK Law and regulation.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including SORP Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Charity financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, and identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2024

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with legislation. 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.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Nuala Meier
Trustee

Date: 3/9/24

Heather Hamilton
Trustee

Date: 3/9/24

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106780

Annual return

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
for the year to 31st March 2024

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 20.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bangor and North Down Samaritans for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Teresa Campbell
For, and on behalf of,
AAB Group Accountants Limited
1-3 Arthur St
Belfast
BT1 4GA

Teresa Campbell

03/09/2024

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106780

Accounts

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

(NI 644431; CCNI 106780)

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2023

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

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For the Year ended 31st March 2023

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BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

COMPANY INFORMATION

1. Reference and administration

Full name of Charity:	Bangor and North Down Samaritans. (CCNI 106780) The Charity is an incorporated organisation (CLG NI 644431) and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation. The Organisation Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.
Committee	The Committee of the Charity
Organisation:	The Company limited by guarantee called Bangor and North Down Samaritans is affiliated to the wider Samaritan Organisation which was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.
Company Registered office:	92 Dufferin Avenue, Bangor. BT20 3AD
Charity address:	92 Dufferin Avenue; Bangor. BT20 3AD
Trustees serving 2022/23:	Wesley Wilson resigned 3/9/22 David McChesney resigned 3/9/22 Stephen Robinson resigned 2/7/22 Margaret Turner Patricia Warke Irene Davidson Nuala Meier Andrew McCartney John Whitcroft Jan Kruger Ursula Rankin Heather Hamilton (Chair)
Treasurer/ Secretary	Nuala Meier
Custodian Trustees:	Samaritans The Upper Mill Kingston Road Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF
Principal Banker:	Danske Bank Donegall Sq West Belfast BT1 6JS
Principal Solicitors:	Wilson & Nesbitt 33 Hamilton Road Bangor BT20 4LF
Independent Examiners:	FPM Accountants Limited 1-3 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GA
Insurance Brokers:	PIB Insurance Brokers Poppleton Grange Low Poppleton Lane York YO26 6GZ

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

The Trustees hereby present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023

These documents are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, voluntarily, in accordance with international best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 effective 2019) as recommended by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustee's Annual Report under the Statements of Recommended Practice guidelines.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (CLG NI 644431; CCNI 106780) is, and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation.

The Organisation called Samaritans was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity registered number 219432) and in Scotland (Scottish charity number SC040604) ("the Central Charity").

The Organisation's Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (NI 644431; CCNI 106780) was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) in March 2017 and is affiliated to the Central Samaritans of United Kingdom and Ireland (the Organisation)

2. Management, Internal Control and Risk Management

The day to day management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees of the Charity who are responsible for the implementation of Samaritans strategy and to support the work of Samaritan volunteers in the Charity.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity including the safety of Charity assets and the integrity of the accounting procedures.

The Committee is comprised of:

- a) A minimum of three Trustees and a maximum of thirteen Trustees
- b) The Branch Director is a Trustee
- c) Trustees shall be elected as Treasurer and Secretary (these may be the same person).
- d) Up to eight additional Trustees may be appointed.
- e) Where necessary, there may be Trustees co-opted but this shall not exceed two in number.

At the AGM each year all Trustees except the Branch Director will stand down and fresh elections will take place.

In addition the Branch Director may appoint one of the Trustees as Vice Director.

The Committee shall meet as often as may be required but at least three times a year. Three members of the Committee shall be a quorum.

3. Public Benefit Statement

In planning our activities for the year Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Samaritans offers support to those at risk of suicide by being there to listen and encourage the recognition and exploration of their options. By doing so we aim to help people find ways of coping with their distress without choosing to die by

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

suicide. We also seek to support those whose distress is less acute, in the hope that they will not reach the point of feeling that they wish to end their lives.

4. Objectives and Activities

4.1 Objectives

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' main objects are:

- To provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair including those that may lead to suicide;
- To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and
- To support the Organisation, Samaritans, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, registered charity number 219432.

4.2 Principal Activities

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' principal activities include the following:

- Providing confidential emotional support via telephone, on-line chat and through face to face contacts.
- Raising awareness and understanding of Samaritans;
- Developing partnerships with related agencies, voluntary groups and statutory bodies to better implement Samaritans strategic objectives and improve our service for 'callers';
- Supporting prisoners in prisons;
- Liaising with statutory bodies on behalf of the charity; and
- Implementing the research policy and best practice standards generated by Samaritans.

5. Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

To achieve this, we believe Samaritans has a crucial role to play in:

- Reducing the risk factors that make some people more likely to take their own lives.
- Ensuring that people who are at increased risk of suicide are supported.
- Making it less likely that people who do experience suicidal thoughts act on them.
- Reducing the likelihood that people will develop suicidal thoughts.

Our Mission

We're here every day and night of the year for anyone struggling to cope. We make sure people have somewhere to turn and support when they need it most. We work with communities to let people know we're here for them and we campaign to make suicide prevention a priority.

Our Values

Our support services adapt to the changing environment, but the values at the core of our listening service remain constant:

- **Listening**
Exploring feelings alleviates distress and helps people to reach a better understanding of their situation and the options open to them.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year to 31st March 2023

- **Confidentiality**
If people feel safe, they are more likely to be open about their feelings.
- **Non-judgemental**
We want people to be able to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection.
- **People making their own decisions**
We believe that people have the right to find their own solution and that telling people what to do takes responsibility away from them.
- **Human contact**
Giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental emotional need and reduces distress and despair.

6. Volunteers

The Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch could not operate without the dedication, skill and commitment of its volunteers. We currently have 73 volunteers, all of whom fully recognise the importance of being available, and providing a safe place, where people can be themselves when they need us most.

We are committed to ensuring that all volunteers develop and maintain the necessary skills and knowledge, in order to provide the best service to those who contact us. We invest substantially in both initial training for new volunteers, and on-going continuous development for all volunteers, to facilitate the delivery of consistently high-quality, effective and safe services within the Branch. In addition, all new listening volunteers are required to clear Samaritans safeguarding procedures before commencing emotional support duties.

Our volunteers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things, and we could do nothing without them. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

7. Helpline

Samaritans branches collectively operate a 24-hour, free telephone and email helpline service. In addition, the new Online Chat facility has continued to operate on a pilot basis, with the intention being to expand its availability and opening hours in the future. Currently our Branch provides the service on one evening per week, although this will expand over the next twelve months.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans is one of the eight branches in Northern Ireland connected to the UK telephony network, *Link*. The *Link* system is a digital platform which ensures that callers are connected to the service as quickly as possible and that capacity can be monitored to ensure that the service offers optimal capacity. Samaritans is also signposted to by other service providers, and many other helplines, which are not in a position to offer a 24-hour service.

8. Awareness raising, outreach and face to face

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions has enabled volunteers within the Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch to deliver an extensive range of awareness raising sessions in the community, during the year.

Activity during the period of this report includes:

- Delivery of Samaritans emotional awareness presentations in a number of schools in the Bangor and North Down area, including provision of information on mental health and wellbeing, and reaching out to over 250 teenagers in the process.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

-
- Presenting to students at the South Eastern Regional College
 - Providing talks on the role of Samaritans to various local community and mental health groups
 - Assisting at the Ards Cycling Club annual sportive
 - Provision of emotional support to young offenders and women prisoners in the Hydebank Wood, Young Offenders Centre and Prison, in conjunction with Belfast Branch;
 - Continuing to develop a relationship with North Down Community Network, Bangor, and Ards and North Down Borough Council, to improve our network of contacts and spread the Samaritans word;

The Branch has not yet been able to re-introduce the drop-in service at our premises whereby people can call into the Branch to avail of face-to-face emotional support. This is being kept under review, in line with guidance from Samaritans Central Office.

9. Achievements, performance and plans for the future

In the 12-month period to the end of March 2023, the Branch volunteers provided emotional support to 15,275 callers. There were 14,642 callers supported by telephone, 332 callers supported by email and 301 callers supported by Online Chat. All were provided with confidential, non-judgemental, emotional support, with our selfless volunteers giving up 3,300 hours of their time in the process.

The Branch Recruitment Team ran one campaign to attract new volunteers, up to the end of March 2023. This resulted in 5 new Listening Volunteers being appointed. Currently a further 4 potential volunteers are undergoing training. Applications to join our Branch can now be made online through the Samaritans Website (www.samaritans.org)

Following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, the Training Team continued with the revised format of initial training for new volunteers, involving a blend of both face-to-face tutoring and online training. Current volunteers are required to undergo 5 hours continuous development each year, with the emphasis, this year, being on safeguarding and our own self-care. Ongoing training was also provided at various levels for those involved in managing the Branch, including for Day Leaders. We are grateful for the collective effort, resilience and dedication of all those volunteers who have helped in the roll-out of training across the Branch.

Fundraising is the cornerstone of our continued existence and we must thank the community in Bangor and North Down, for their continued support, financially and otherwise, particularly given the current cost of living crisis. Those volunteers who take on the extra duties in relation to fundraising are essential and much appreciated. We must also express our gratitude to those members of the community who help us in different ways with our fundraising, including ex volunteers and their friends and relatives, and a number of the local supermarket chains who allowed us to do collections on their premises. Donations were received from a variety of sources including Ards Cycling Club, St Galls, Auld Bangor Historical and Cultural Society, SupermotoNI, Bangor Ukes and Sacred Heart Missionaries. We were also in receipt of funds collected from attendees at the Sarah Millican concert, in December 2022, Waterfront Hall Belfast, as part of her recent sell-out UK and Ireland tour. We are very grateful for the ongoing support given to the Samaritans organisation by Sarah Millican, and for the welcome opportunity to collect funds, after her concert, directly for the Branch.

The Branch made a number of successful applications to Funding Bodies to provide funding for Social Media Campaigns, and to make provisions for the continued operation of the Branch. We would like to thank those Funding Bodies for their support, including Click Energy, Ards and North Down Borough Council and the Community Foundation Northern Ireland.

Members of the local community remember us in their wills and leave legacies for our continued work, and we are very grateful for the contributions received from them.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

Social Media Campaign

To improve the Samaritans ability to reach out to those 'hard-to-reach' members of our community, it was decided to continue to run Social Media campaigns across Northern Ireland, managed by the Bangor and North Down Branch. In this respect, funding was received from the Community Foundation to target young people across Northern Ireland and to make them more aware of Samaritans.

These campaigns have continued to show excellent results and have been well supported by selected Influencers who displayed their support for Samaritans and those in distress. The results show an overall audience Reach of 370,396, gaining 937,551 Impressions, along with 1549 clicks across Facebook and Twitter. These campaigns have been made possible by Ardmore Advertising, in Holywood, who devised and managed the campaign for Samaritans, free of charge. We are extremely grateful for their support.

10. Financial Review

10.1 Results for the year

Financial results for the year ended 31 March 2023 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 10.

10.2 Income Generation

Bangor and North Down Samaritans raised total income of £27,903 in the year to 31st March 2023 (2022 – £17,880)

An additional £21,068 of deferred income was received in the year to fund the annual Samaritans conference for Ireland which is being hosted by Bangor and North Down Samaritans in September 2023 as part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

10.3 Resources Expended

Total resources expended by Bangor and North Down Samaritans amounted to £29,993 for the year to 31 March 2023 (2022 – £25,958). Of the Charity's expenditure 87% was spent on direct charitable activities and 5% on governance.

10.4 Reserve Policy

In accordance with recommended best practice, the Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which is concerned with how much 'free' (or unallocated) reserves the charity retains.

This excludes the following:

- Restricted funds
- Designated funds
- Income funds that could only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate Reserve Policy. Having reviewed the reserves of the charity, the policy of the Trustees is to retain sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of operations and to absorb periodic setbacks, while committing the maximum amount available for the provision of services.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

The Trustees have agreed that the most appropriate level of reserves should be kept at the level representing 12-24 months expenditure. In light of the recent pandemic it was deemed prudent and appropriate to exceed this level of reserves in the short-term.

11. Statement of responsibilities of members of the Board in respect of the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with UK Law and regulation.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including SORP Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK.

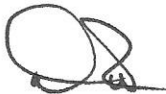
In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Charity financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- 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 ensuring that the Charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with legislation. 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.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Nuala Meier
Trustee



Date:

28/7/23

Heather Hamilton
Trustee



Date:

28/7/23

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT for the year to 31st March 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 19.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bangor and North Down Samaritans for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008; ; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

JLG/FGM

Lowry Grant FCCA
For, and on behalf of,
FPM Accountants Limited
1-3 Arthur St
Belfast
BT1 4GA

02/08/2023

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) For the year to 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments					
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>	2	22,903	5,000	27,903	17,880
Total income and Endowments		22,903	5,000	27,903	17,880
Expenditure					
<i>Expenditure on raising funds: Fundraising and Publicity</i>		809	5,000	5,809	476
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>		19,378	4,806	24,184	25,482
Total Expenditure	3/4	20,187	9,806	29,993	25,958
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		2,716	(4,806)	(2,090)	(8,078)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		2,716	(4,806)	(2,090)	(8,078)
Total Funds Brought Forward		196,339	14,419	210,758	210,758
Total Funds Carried Forward		199,055	9,613	208,668	210,758

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.


The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under Companies Act 2006.

The deficit for the period was £2,090 (2022: Deficit £8,078).

On behalf of the Trustees

Heather Hamilton
Trustee

Date:


28/7/23

Nuala Meier
Trustee

Date:


28/7/23

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

BALANCE SHEET

For the year to 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets.	7	133,855	140,386
		<u>133,855</u>	<u>140,386</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	1,867	3,070
Cash at bank and short term deposits		97,775	72,022
		<u>99,642</u>	<u>75,092</u>
Creditors: due within one year	9	(3,761)	(4,720)
Deferred Income		(21,068)	-
		<u>74,813</u>	<u>70,372</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>208,668</u>	<u>210,758</u>
Total net assets			
		<u>208,668</u>	<u>210,758</u>
Funds			
General funds	10,11 & 13	194,056	191,339
Restricted funds		9,612	14,419
Designated funds		5,000	5,000
		<u>208,668</u>	<u>210,758</u>
Total funds			
		<u>208,668</u>	<u>210,758</u>

For the year ended 31st March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

On behalf of the Trustees

Heather Hamilton
Trustee

Date:

28/7/23

Nuala Meier
Trustee

Date:

28/7/23

Company Number: NI644431

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

BALANCE SHEET

For the year to 31 March 2023

RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN RESERVES *for the year ended 31 March 2023*

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Net incoming (outgoing) resources for the year		(2,090)	(8,078)
Total recognised gains (losses) for the year		(2,090)	(8,078)
Reserves at the beginning of the year		210,758	218,836
Reserves at the end of the year	10,11 & 13	208,668	210,758

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2023

I. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 United Kingdom (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS 102) and UK statute comprising of the Companies Act 2006.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the Company's accounting policies.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

Funding accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for specific purposes. Costs relating to such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income, there is probable certainty of receipt and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to categories of income:

Donations

Accounted for when received.

Legacies

Entitlement is the earlier of the charity receiving final estate accounts (or other similar evidence) which provides sufficient certainty of receipt and reliability of value, or the legacy actually being received. No value is included where the legacy is subject to a life interest held by another party.

Grants and Contracts

Where contracts are related to specific deliverables income is recognised to the extent that those deliverables have been achieved. Where income through contract or grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Other Income

Income generated from other activities is recognised as earned.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the assets to their estimated residual values over the course of their anticipated working lives.

The rate of depreciation used is as follows:-

- Furniture, fittings and equipment - 25% straight line
- Computer Equipment - 25% straight line

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *for the year ended 31 March 2023*

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. Support costs have been allocated on the basis of spend to programme areas and to Fundraising and Governance activities. The following specific policies apply to categories of expenditure:

i) Grants

Grants are charged to the statement of financial activities when there is a liability to pay.

ii) Fundraising Costs

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

iii) Governance Costs

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity to distinguish from those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents income received in advance.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Going Concern

The Trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2023

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Fundraising activities</i>				
Individual donations	22,903		22,903	5,880
Legacies and covenants	-	-	-	-
Total fundraising activities	22,903	-	22,903	5,880
<i>Trusts and Foundations</i>				
Grant Income	-	5,000	5,000	12,000
Total Trusts and Foundations	-	5,000	5,000	12,000
Total Voluntary Income	22,903	5,000	27,903	17,880

The 2022 total of £17,880 was split between £5,880 unrestricted and £12,000 restricted.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2023

3. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<i>Services</i>				
Property & Maintenance	7,076	-	7,076	7,564
Telephony	3,072	-	3,072	2,597
Volunteer travel & subsistence	1,407	-	1,407	1,382
Training and seminars	749	-	749	647
Public Awareness	481	5,000	5,481	420
Samaritan Levy	1,596	-	1,596	3,997
Fundraising & Recruitment	473	-	473	506
Direct costs	14,854	5,000	19,854	17,113
Support Costs	4,446	4,806	9,252	7,840
Governance	887	-	887	1,005
Total charitable expenditure	20,187	9,806	29,993	25,958

The 2022 total of £25,958 was split between £19,151 unrestricted and £ £6,807 restricted.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2023

4. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

The charity identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Governance costs and other support costs are apportioned separately between the charitable activities undertaken in the period. Refer to the table below for the basis for apportionment and analysis of support and governance costs.

	General	Support	Governance	Function	Total	Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	2023	2022
					£	£
Postage & Stationery	1,536	-	-	-	1,536	543
Housekeeping	289	-	-	-	289	171
Insurance	767	-	-	-	767	530
Bank Charges	129	-	-	-	129	65
Independent Examination fees	-	-	720	-	720	720
Subscriptions	-	-	167	-	167	285
Depreciation	1,725	4,806	-	-	6,531	6,531
	4,446	4,806	887	-	10,139	8,845

5. STAFF COSTS

Number of employees

	2023	2022
Administration support	-	-
Charitable Activities	-	-

Bangor & North Down Samaritans is entirely volunteer led and as such has no employees.

6. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Result for the year is arrived at after charging:		
Depreciation	6,531	6,531
Accountancy fees	720	720

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2023

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Land and Buildings	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1st April 2022	123,896	29,019	152,915
Additions	-		
Disposals			
At 31 March 2023	123,896	29,019	152,915
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2022	-	12,529	12,529
Charge for the year	-	6,531	6,531
Disposals			
At 31 March 2023	-	19,060	19,060
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	123,896	16,490	140,386
At 31 March 2023	123,896	9,959	133,855

The assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

8. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments	1,867	1,070
Accrued Income	-	2,000
Debtors falling due within one year	1,867	3,070

9. CREDITORS: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	3,761	4,720
Deferred Income	21,068	-
	24,829	4,720

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2023

10. STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT ON FUNDS

	General fund	Restricted fund	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at beginning of year	196,339	14,419	210,758
Net incoming resources, before transfers and recognised gains	2,716	(4,806)	(2,090)
Transfers	-	-	-
Balance at end of year	199,055	9,613	208,668

11. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total
	£	£	£
Opening balance	196,339	14,419	210,758
Income	22,903	5,000	27,903
Charitable activities costs	14,854	5,000	19,854
Governance costs	887	-	887
Support Costs	4,446	4,806	9,252
Closing Balance Before Transfers	199,055	9,613	208,668

12. PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES

No payments have been made to board members in respect of remuneration during the year.

Expense reimbursements to Trustees totalled £40 for the year ended 31st March 2023 (2022- £Nil).

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2023

13. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 01-Apr 22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance at 31-Mar-23 £
Unrestricted: Accumulated	196,339	22,903	20,187	-	199,055
Total Unrestricted Funds	196,339	22,903	20,187	-	199,055
Restricted Funds	14,419	5,000	9,806	-	9,613
Total Restricted funds	14,419	5,000	9,806	-	9,613
Total accumulated funds	210,758	27,903	29,993	-	208,668

14. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the balance sheet date.

15. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees approved the financial statements on 28th July 2023.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106780

Annual report

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

The Trustees hereby present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023

These documents are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, voluntarily, in accordance with international best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 effective 2019) as recommended by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustee's Annual Report under the Statements of Recommended Practice guidelines.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (CLG NI 644431; CCNI 106780) is, and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation.

The Organisation called Samaritans was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity registered number 219432) and in Scotland (Scottish charity number SC040604) ("the Central Charity").

The Organisation's Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans (NI 644431; CCNI 106780) was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) in March 2017 and is affiliated to the Central Samaritans of United Kingdom and Ireland (the Organisation)

2. Management, Internal Control and Risk Management

The day to day management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees of the Charity who are responsible for the implementation of Samaritans strategy and to support the work of Samaritan volunteers in the Charity.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity including the safety of Charity assets and the integrity of the accounting procedures.

The Committee is comprised of:

- a) A minimum of three Trustees and a maximum of thirteen Trustees
- b) The Branch Director is a Trustee
- c) Trustees shall be elected as Treasurer and Secretary (these may be the same person).
- d) Up to eight additional Trustees may be appointed.
- e) Where necessary, there may be Trustees co-opted but this shall not exceed two in number.

At the AGM each year all Trustees except the Branch Director will stand down and fresh elections will take place.

In addition the Branch Director may appoint one of the Trustees as Vice Director.

The Committee shall meet as often as may be required but at least three times a year. Three members of the Committee shall be a quorum.

3. Public Benefit Statement

In planning our activities for the year Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Samaritans offers support to those at risk of suicide by being there to listen and encourage the recognition and exploration of their options. By doing so we aim to help people find ways of coping with their distress without choosing to die by

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

suicide. We also seek to support those whose distress is less acute, in the hope that they will not reach the point of feeling that they wish to end their lives.

4. Objectives and Activities

4.1 Objectives

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' main objects are:

- To provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair including those that may lead to suicide;
- To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and
- To support the Organisation, Samaritans, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, registered charity number 219432.

4.2 Principal Activities

Bangor and North Down Samaritans' principal activities include the following:

- Providing confidential emotional support via telephone, on-line chat and through face to face contacts.
- Raising awareness and understanding of Samaritans;
- Developing partnerships with related agencies, voluntary groups and statutory bodies to better implement Samaritans strategic objectives and improve our service for 'callers';
- Supporting prisoners in prisons;
- Liaising with statutory bodies on behalf of the charity; and
- Implementing the research policy and best practice standards generated by Samaritans.

5. Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

To achieve this, we believe Samaritans has a crucial role to play in:

- Reducing the risk factors that make some people more likely to take their own lives.
- Ensuring that people who are at increased risk of suicide are supported.
- Making it less likely that people who do experience suicidal thoughts act on them.
- Reducing the likelihood that people will develop suicidal thoughts.

Our Mission

We're here every day and night of the year for anyone struggling to cope. We make sure people have somewhere to turn and support when they need it most. We work with communities to let people know we're here for them and we campaign to make suicide prevention a priority.

Our Values

Our support services adapt to the changing environment, but the values at the core of our listening service remain constant:

- **Listening**
Exploring feelings alleviates distress and helps people to reach a better understanding of their situation and the options open to them.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year to 31st March 2023

- **Confidentiality**
If people feel safe, they are more likely to be open about their feelings.
- **Non-judgemental**
We want people to be able to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection.
- **People making their own decisions**
We believe that people have the right to find their own solution and that telling people what to do takes responsibility away from them.
- **Human contact**
Giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental emotional need and reduces distress and despair.

6. Volunteers

The Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch could not operate without the dedication, skill and commitment of its volunteers. We currently have 73 volunteers, all of whom fully recognise the importance of being available, and providing a safe place, where people can be themselves when they need us most.

We are committed to ensuring that all volunteers develop and maintain the necessary skills and knowledge, in order to provide the best service to those who contact us. We invest substantially in both initial training for new volunteers, and on-going continuous development for all volunteers, to facilitate the delivery of consistently high-quality, effective and safe services within the Branch. In addition, all new listening volunteers are required to clear Samaritans safeguarding procedures before commencing emotional support duties.

Our volunteers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things, and we could do nothing without them. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

7. Helpline

Samaritans branches collectively operate a 24-hour, free telephone and email helpline service. In addition, the new Online Chat facility has continued to operate on a pilot basis, with the intention being to expand its availability and opening hours in the future. Currently our Branch provides the service on one evening per week, although this will expand over the next twelve months.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans is one of the eight branches in Northern Ireland connected to the UK telephony network, *Link*. The *Link* system is a digital platform which ensures that callers are connected to the service as quickly as possible and that capacity can be monitored to ensure that the service offers optimal capacity. Samaritans is also signposted to by other service providers, and many other helplines, which are not in a position to offer a 24-hour service.

8. Awareness raising, outreach and face to face

The relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions has enabled volunteers within the Bangor and North Down Samaritans Branch to deliver an extensive range of awareness raising sessions in the community, during the year.

Activity during the period of this report includes:

- Delivery of Samaritans emotional awareness presentations in a number of schools in the Bangor and North Down area, including provision of information on mental health and wellbeing, and reaching out to over 250 teenagers in the process.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

-
- Presenting to students at the South Eastern Regional College
 - Providing talks on the role of Samaritans to various local community and mental health groups
 - Assisting at the Ards Cycling Club annual sportive
 - Provision of emotional support to young offenders and women prisoners in the Hydebank Wood, Young Offenders Centre and Prison, in conjunction with Belfast Branch;
 - Continuing to develop a relationship with North Down Community Network, Bangor, and Ards and North Down Borough Council, to improve our network of contacts and spread the Samaritans word;

The Branch has not yet been able to re-introduce the drop-in service at our premises whereby people can call into the Branch to avail of face-to-face emotional support. This is being kept under review, in line with guidance from Samaritans Central Office.

9. Achievements, performance and plans for the future

In the 12-month period to the end of March 2023, the Branch volunteers provided emotional support to 15,275 callers. There were 14,642 callers supported by telephone, 332 callers supported by email and 301 callers supported by Online Chat. All were provided with confidential, non-judgemental, emotional support, with our selfless volunteers giving up 3,300 hours of their time in the process.

The Branch Recruitment Team ran one campaign to attract new volunteers, up to the end of March 2023. This resulted in 5 new Listening Volunteers being appointed. Currently a further 4 potential volunteers are undergoing training. Applications to join our Branch can now be made online through the Samaritans Website (www.samaritans.org)

Following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, the Training Team continued with the revised format of initial training for new volunteers, involving a blend of both face-to-face tutoring and online training. Current volunteers are required to undergo 5 hours continuous development each year, with the emphasis, this year, being on safeguarding and our own self-care. Ongoing training was also provided at various levels for those involved in managing the Branch, including for Day Leaders. We are grateful for the collective effort, resilience and dedication of all those volunteers who have helped in the roll-out of training across the Branch.

Fundraising is the cornerstone of our continued existence and we must thank the community in Bangor and North Down, for their continued support, financially and otherwise, particularly given the current cost of living crisis. Those volunteers who take on the extra duties in relation to fundraising are essential and much appreciated. We must also express our gratitude to those members of the community who help us in different ways with our fundraising, including ex volunteers and their friends and relatives, and a number of the local supermarket chains who allowed us to do collections on their premises. Donations were received from a variety of sources including Ards Cycling Club, St Galls, Auld Bangor Historical and Cultural Society, SupermotoNI, Bangor Ukes and Sacred Heart Missionaries. We were also in receipt of funds collected from attendees at the Sarah Millican concert, in December 2022, Waterfront Hall Belfast, as part of her recent sell-out UK and Ireland tour. We are very grateful for the ongoing support given to the Samaritans organisation by Sarah Millican, and for the welcome opportunity to collect funds, after her concert, directly for the Branch.

The Branch made a number of successful applications to Funding Bodies to provide funding for Social Media Campaigns, and to make provisions for the continued operation of the Branch. We would like to thank those Funding Bodies for their support, including Click Energy, Ards and North Down Borough Council and the Community Foundation Northern Ireland.

Members of the local community remember us in their wills and leave legacies for our continued work, and we are very grateful for the contributions received from them.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

Social Media Campaign

To improve the Samaritans ability to reach out to those 'hard-to-reach' members of our community, it was decided to continue to run Social Media campaigns across Northern Ireland, managed by the Bangor and North Down Branch. In this respect, funding was received from the Community Foundation to target young people across Northern Ireland and to make them more aware of Samaritans.

These campaigns have continued to show excellent results and have been well supported by selected Influencers who displayed their support for Samaritans and those in distress. The results show an overall audience Reach of 370,396, gaining 937,551 Impressions, along with 1549 clicks across Facebook and Twitter. These campaigns have been made possible by Ardmore Advertising, in Holywood, who devised and managed the campaign for Samaritans, free of charge. We are extremely grateful for their support.

10. Financial Review

10.1 Results for the year

Financial results for the year ended 31 March 2023 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 10.

10.2 Income Generation

Bangor and North Down Samaritans raised total income of £27,903 in the year to 31st March 2023 (2022 – £17,880)

An additional £21,068 of deferred income was received in the year to fund the annual Samaritans conference for Ireland which is being hosted by Bangor and North Down Samaritans in September 2023 as part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

10.3 Resources Expended

Total resources expended by Bangor and North Down Samaritans amounted to £29,993 for the year to 31 March 2023 (2022 – £25,958). Of the Charity's expenditure 87% was spent on direct charitable activities and 5% on governance.

10.4 Reserve Policy

In accordance with recommended best practice, the Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which is concerned with how much 'free' (or unallocated) reserves the charity retains.

This excludes the following:

- Restricted funds
- Designated funds
- Income funds that could only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use.

Bangor and North Down Samaritans has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate Reserve Policy. Having reviewed the reserves of the charity, the policy of the Trustees is to retain sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of operations and to absorb periodic setbacks, while committing the maximum amount available for the provision of services.

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year to 31st March 2023

The Trustees have agreed that the most appropriate level of reserves should be kept at the level representing 12-24 months expenditure. In light of the recent pandemic it was deemed prudent and appropriate to exceed this level of reserves in the short-term.

11. Statement of responsibilities of members of the Board in respect of the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with UK Law and regulation.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including SORP Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Charity financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- 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 ensuring that the Charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with legislation. 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.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Nuala Meier
Trustee



Date:

28/7/23

Heather Hamilton
Trustee



Date:

28/7/23

Bangor and North Down Samaritans

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106780

Annual return

BANGOR AND NORTH DOWN SAMARITANS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT for the year to 31st March 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 19.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bangor and North Down Samaritans for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008; ; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

JLG/FGM

Lowry Grant FCCA
For, and on behalf of,
FPM Accountants Limited
1-3 Arthur St
Belfast
BT1 4GA

02/08/2023