

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 106793

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

COMPANY INFORMATION

Full Name of Charity: Samaritans of Ballymena

Company Number: NI645348

Charity Number: 106793

Company Registered Office: 45, Mount Street, Ballymena, BT43 6BP

Directors:
Cormac Duffin
Mandy Higgins
Jed Murray

Principal Banker:
Ulster Bank, Antrim Branch,
8 Market Square, Antrim BT41 4AT

Principal Solicitors:
McKervill Neilly,
1 Broadway Avenue, Ballymena, BT43 7AA

Independent Examiner:
William Parkinson FCCA ACMA CGMA
11 Parkmount Road, Ballymena, BT43 5HR

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENNA

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Directors hereby present their report and financial statements, together with the independent examiner's report, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Samaritans of Ballymena was incorporated on 21 April 2017 and is a Private Company, Limited by Guarantee.

Management, Internal Control and Risk Management

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

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

Public Benefit Statement

Samaritans of Ballymena offer 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. We make our support available in many ways, including by telephone, live chat, email, and letter.

Samaritans' service is open to people who are suicidal, despairing or in distress. The branch provides a service primarily intended for the benefit of persons in Ballymena and the surrounding area. However, it also works with all Samaritans branches to ensure 24-hour availability of the service across the UK.

The Directors confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Branch's aims and objectives in planning future activities.

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Charity are:

- (a) to enable persons in Ballymena and the surrounding area (but without specific limitations as to area) 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;
- (b) 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
- (c) to collaborate with and support the Samaritans Central Charity and its affiliated branches in fulfilling these objectives.

Mission and Values

Samaritans' **Vision** is that fewer people die by suicide. We work to achieve this by making it our **Mission** to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviour. We do this by:

- being available round the clock to provide emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide;
- reaching out to high-risk groups and communities to reduce the risk of suicide;
- working in partnership with other organisations, agencies and experts to achieve our Vision; and
- influencing public policy and raising awareness of the challenges of reducing suicide.

We are committed to the following **Values**:

Listening

Confidentiality

People making their own decisions

Being non-judgmental

Human Contact

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Outreach and Awareness Raising

Throughout the year Ballymena Samaritans provided outreach activities within the community, both to groups who may be at increased risk of suicide and to raise awareness of how to promote emotional wellbeing and good mental health. Our emphasis is on prevention, information giving and skills building.

In September and October 2023, we attended Freshers week in local colleges.

In November we were invited to a local grammar school where we gave a speech to a group of about 150, 6th formers. The speech dealt with problems associated with young people in today's society and how the Samaritans can provide non-judgmental support for everyone no matter what age.

In December we received an invitation to the Mayor's Parlour in recognition of the work we do raising awareness within the local community.

In February 2024 we spoke at the club for retired people and at a local U3A group.

Between February 22nd and 19th March, we were involved with the 'Small Talk Saves Lives' campaign where a group of volunteers went to Ballymena Train Station on a number of occasions to raise awareness among the community.

In March the Mid Antrim 150 club invited us to their 2 day annual show.

We were also asked back to participate in an event at one of the local colleges.

Financial Review

At the year-end, the charity had unrestricted funds of £173,841.

The principal sources of income were donations from the public. With the exception of the current building works, expenditure is focused on core service provision, together with property maintenance and running costs. Income and expenditure for the year were £18,744 and £33,275 respectively, resulting in a deficit of £14,531.

Principal Risks

The principal risks facing the branch are insufficient volunteers to keep the branch open and the possibility of breach of confidentiality.

- New volunteer recruitment is essential to ensure that we always have adequate cover. Through a comprehensive training programme, with the theory and role-play once again delivered face-to-face to 10 new volunteers, we have maintained 59 listening volunteers at the year end.
- Fundraising is also essential in order to meet running costs as well as to pay a contribution to the central charity towards the costs of the services and systems, without which branches could not operate.

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

- A corner-stone of Samaritans' service is that all those who contact us are guaranteed absolute confidentiality. Policies and procedures, including DBS checks for all volunteers, are in place to reduce the possibility of inadvertent breach of confidentiality.

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reserves policy

As branch income is heavily dependent on donations and fundraising activities it cannot be guaranteed. The directors consider that around 18 months of annual, non-capital, expenditure (£17,000) is an appropriate level of reserves to maintain in order to meet working capital needs. Expendable reserves, which excludes fixed assets, were £173,841 at the year-end (2023: £191,274).

Appointment of Directors

Directors are elected by the members of the Branch at the Annual General Meeting. Appointment of the Director is subject to approval by the Samaritans Central Charity.

Organisational Structure

The Branch Board, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity, meets on a monthly basis.

Samaritans of Ballymena is a recognised branch of Samaritans, a company limited by guarantee (No 757372), having its registered office at The Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AF.

The Branch operates entirely through its dedicated volunteers without whom the service could not be provided.

Induction and Training of Directors

Directors are inducted and trained in accordance with Samaritans' national policy.

Training and new recruits

Two training programmes were completed this year, with 10 new recruits completing their training and being registered on the Register of Members. Six new recruits were selected for the spring 2024 training programme.

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of responsibilities of members of the Board in respect of Financial Statements

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Samaritans of Ballymena for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to

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

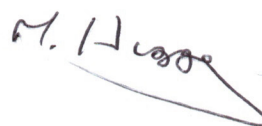
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved at a meeting on 30 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the Board.



C Duffin
Branch Director

M. Higgins
Secretary



SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

Income and Expenditure

for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2024			2023
		£	£	£	£
	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Total					
Income From:					
Donations	2	6,970	-	6,970	10,169
Charitable Activities	3	5,115	-	5,115	6,380
Other Income	4	<u>6,659</u>	-	<u>6,659</u>	<u>7,656</u>
		<u>18,744</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,744</u>	<u>24,205</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	<u>33,275</u>	-	<u>33,275</u>	<u>12,207</u>
Net (expenditure)/Income		(14,531)	-	(14,531)	11,998
Transfer between funds		<u>(2,902)</u>	<u>2,902</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(17,433)	2,902	(14,531)	11,998
Total funds brought forward		191,274	172,515	363,789	351,791
Total Funds carried forward		<u>£173,841</u>	<u>£175,417</u>	<u>£349,258</u>	<u>£363,789</u>

The above statement contains all gains and losses recognized during the year. The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these accounts.

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£ Unrestricted Funds	£ Restricted Funds	£ Total Funds	£ Total Funds
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	7	-	175,417	175,417	172,515
Currents Assets					
Cash at bank	8	173,841	-	173,841	191,274
Prepayments	9	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets		173,841	-	173,841	191,274
Current Liabilities					
Accruals	10	-	-	-	-
Net Current Assets		173,841	-	173,841	191,274
Total net assets		<u>£173,841</u>	<u>£175,417</u>	<u>£349,258</u>	<u>£363,789</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds		173,841	-	173,841	191,274
Restricted funds		-	-	-	-
Capitalisation of fixed assets		-	175,417	175,417	172,515
Total funds		<u>£173,841</u>	<u>£175,417</u>	<u>£349,258</u>	<u>£363,789</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these accounts.

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question, in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved on behalf of the Board on 30 May 2024.

C Duffin
Branch Director

Chris Duffin

M. Higgins
Secretary

M. Higgins

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 and Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS102)- (Charities SORP(FRS102)).

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the Charities accounting policies.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the company is responsible in law. The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS (remove space)102.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

Going Concern

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis.

Funding Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the objectives of the Charity and have not been designated for other 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 Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, normally on receipt.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets comprise the premises at 45, and 47, Mount Street, Ballymena. Details of historic costs of the building at 45, Mount Street are not available and as a result an independent valuation of £85,000, obtained in 2017, is included in the accounts. During 2022 47 Mount Street was purchased at a cost of £54,127. Land and Buildings were valued at £139,127 at 1st April 2022.

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ending 31 March 2024

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation (continued)

In the year ending 31 March 2023, £33,388 was spent on the installation of a lift and the valuation was increased to £172,515. In the year ending 31 March 2024 £2,902 was spent on fees related to the renovation of the property and the valuation was increased to £175,417.

During the year ending 31 March 2025 there are plans to further develop the premises. A builder's quotation of £85,000 plus VAT has been accepted. The work is anticipated to commence by 31/07/24 and will last for approximately 6 months. The additions will be capitalized and added to the 31st March 2024 valuation of £175,417.

By 31st March 2025 an independent valuation will be obtained and included in the accounts. The shortfall, if any, will be recorded as a deficit on revaluation.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for as incurred 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 Charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts, in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

Cash on hand

Cash consists of cash on hand and on deposit.

Taxation

The Charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

2. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Gifts	5,795	-	5,795	9,302
Gift Aid	1,175	-	1,175	867
Legacies and Bequests	-	-	-	-
	<u>£ 6,970</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£6,970</u>	<u>£10,169</u>

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ending 31 March 2024

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income from Charitable Activities	<u>£5,115</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£5,115</u>	<u>£6,380</u>

4. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	6,659	-	6,659	2,084
Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,572</u>
	<u>£6,659</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£6,659</u>	<u>£7,656</u>

5. EXPENDITURE on CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Housekeeping	2,752	-	2,752	401
Head Office Levies	21,684	-	21,684	-
Office Costs	8,139	-	8,139	10,050
Training	<u>700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>1,756</u>
	<u>£33,275</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£33,275</u>	<u>£12,499</u>

6. EMPLOYEES

There were no employees of the charity during the year 2024 (2023: none).

SAMARITANS of BALLYMENA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ending 31 March 2024

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land and Buildings	Total
	£	£
At 1 April 2023	172,515	172,515
Additions in year	2,902	2,902
At 31 March 2023	<u>£175,417</u>	<u>£175,417</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	<u>£175,417</u>	<u>£175,417</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>£172,515</u>	<u>£172,515</u>

The assets are used for direct charitable purposes.

8. Cash at Bank and on deposit

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank	88,831	-	88,831	17,588
Cash on deposit	<u>85,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,010</u>	<u>173,686</u>
	<u>£173,841</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£173,841</u>	<u>£191,274</u>

9. PAYMENTS TO DIRECTORS

No payments have been made to Board members in respect of remuneration during the year. Expense reimbursements to Directors totalled £3,576 for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023 £3,681).

10. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

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

Samaritans of Ballymena

Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31st March 2024

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on the attached account

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- 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.

My 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 63 of the Charities Act
- 2 That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- 3 That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- 4 That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

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.

Name:

William Parkinson FCCA ACMA CGMA



Address: 11 Parkmount Road, Ballymena, BT43 5HR, Northern Ireland

Date: 18TH JUNE 2024