

SAMARITANS OF FALKIRK AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND SCIO

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024



Samaritans' Vision is that fewer people die by suicide



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

BRANCH DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I am pleased to present our annual report and financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2024.

This has been a challenging but productive year, as we work towards resuming full listening volunteer numbers within the branch, our training/recruitment team have worked extremely hard with countless amount of training sessions, allowing potential volunteers to receive training at a time that suits them.

Thanks, must also go to fellow volunteers, who have in addition to their listening commitment, also contributed in roles to lead and support the running of the branch in various capacities.

It is my privilege to support the branch in the coming year as director. I look forward to working with all volunteers to deliver our listening services, and to support and work towards our objectives as we take our branch forward together.



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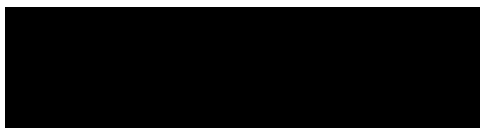
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name Samaritans of Falkirk & Central Scotland SCIO

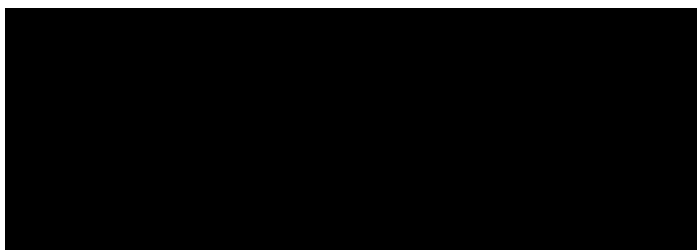
Charity Number SC047635

Principal Address



Website Address www.samaritans.org/branches/falkirk

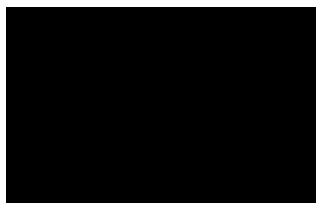
Current Trustees



Other Trustees Who Served During The Year <None>

Bankers CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner



STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation that was registered on the 10th of August 2017 and governed by its constitution. It is the successor to the charity to Samaritans of Falkirk and Central Scotland which was an unincorporated association (Charity No SC006695), established in 1974.

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Appointment of trustees

The board of trustees consists of the branch director (whose appointment is subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Samaritans Charity), a secretary, a treasurer and up to eight trustees elected by the members of the branch. The trustee may co-opt two further trustees.

The Branch Director serves for three years (four years in exceptional circumstances). All other trustees retire at the AGM, but are eligible for re-election if they have not served for six or more consecutive years.

Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees are inducted and trained in accordance with Samaritans national policy.

Organisational structure

The Board of trustees, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity, normally meets monthly.

Day-to-day management of the Branch is delegated to the Branch Leadership Team ("BLT") which normally meets on a monthly basis.

Sub-sections of the Branch Leadership Team ("BLT"), meet at regular intervals in the furtherance of operational activity.

Volunteers

Our Branch is run entirely by unpaid volunteers. Without them, our Branch would not exist. In addition to their core role of being available for our callers, many of our volunteers give generously of their time to undertake:

- Management and leadership of the Branch
- Fundraising
- Serving on the prison team
- Recruitment, selection, training and mentoring of new Samaritans
- Building maintenance and housekeeping
- Giving talks and reaching out to schools
- Community Engagement and Presence

We are very grateful for the considerable time, enthusiasm and expertise with which these activities are undertaken.

Our support volunteers are also immensely valuable to us, giving us their expertise in finance, IT, compliance and office organisation.

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Risk assessment

The trustees and branch leadership team regularly review the risks, including the health and safety of its volunteers, to which the charity is exposed. They do not believe there are any substantial risks beyond the liabilities disclosed in the Balance Sheet. The trustees accept that the Samaritans' reputation could be at risk through misuse of confidential information but has policies and procedures in place, including safeguarding and Protection of Vulnerable Groups checks on all volunteers, to mitigate this risk.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are:

- To enable persons in Falkirk and Central Scotland and the surrounding area as well as elsewhere 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 Samaritans Central Charity and its affiliated branches in fulfilling these Objects.

Samaritans vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We work to achieve this by making our mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feeling and suicidal behaviour.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary

This year has been extremely rewarding, we have carried out numerous training sessions and have achieved our goal set last year, number of listening volunteers has increase to a more stable number. We have also transitioned our phone service to the national VoIP service provided by Central Charity. We as a branch still have an increasing amount of work to carry out in our public engagement, this is due to the increasing demand from outside organisations, reaching out for mental health awareness materials/talks.

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Volunteer capacity

At the end of this financial year, we have 56 volunteers actively supporting and undertaking listening duties. In addition to this we have 2 support Samaritans who contribute to the running of the branch in various capacities.

Across this financial year we received several resignations, from our existing volunteer base. This has been a significant loss to the branch in terms of knowledge, skills and community contribution. The reasons for resignations are varied, however, we have seen several volunteers explain that their personal circumstances have changed or retirement from volunteering.

As a board, we are supportive and respectful of everyone, and their decision to volunteer. It's our wish to share a heartfelt appreciation for the contribution and efforts of each volunteer during their time with the branch.

Volunteer Recruitment & Training

The branch has recruited various intakes of potential new volunteers, who have settled within the branch, as above our training team have worked extremely hard this year to increase the numbers of volunteers.

We have also carried out a huge number of interviews, this has resulted a reduction in the backlog of potential volunteers from Covid restrictions.

Over the next year we will continue with the same pace as we have, this will enable the branch to keep with demand of applications being received.

All mandatory training has been completed by listening and support volunteers as directed by Central Charity across the year.

Service delivery

Across this financial year, the branch has delivered 1212 shifts from listening volunteers. This total is made of up of:

Out of Hours Shifts:256
Day Shifts: 956

The branch has remained closed for face-to-face calls.

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Prisons

Historically this branch would support both the Cornton Vale women's prison in Stirling, and the Polmont Young Offenders Institution.

Since the newly opened HMP Stirling opened this year, our branch has bi-weekly visits to the ladies that have moved there from Corton Vale, the increasing demand on our services within HMP Stirling has allowed potential new Listener volunteers to be trained.

We have also carried out various training days/information sessions with both prisoners and staff, we will continue to work with both HMP Striling and HMP Polmont, throughout the year we will support both prisons through face to face visits.

Outreach, Schools

As a branch we are continuing to support various schools within the community, notably Dollar Academy, we have carried out bi weekly talks with pupils, the school team are continuing to work hard, regularly reaching out to schools/colleges looking to provide material for awareness.

Partnership Working & National Campaigns

The branch maintains relationships with local partnerships, which support the visibility and awareness of Samaritans and our services. The partnerships have been specifically cultivated to reach key demographics who have historically found it more difficult to reach out for help and support in times of crisis.

Falkirk Football Club, The branch have a presence at the Falkirk Football Club, in the form of various banners which are visible at pitch side, the hope is to work with the football club to explore ways to work together to meet our objectives across the coming year.

Police Scotland (Forth Valley), As restrictions have eased, the branch have held events to drive awareness in the community in conjunction with Police Scotland of Forth Valley. This has consisted of town centre presence, discussing the service and making contact details available to the public.

Network Rail, In conjunction with network rail, the branch has hosted community awareness events at high traffic train stations across our region. Stations reached include - Stirling, Bridge of Allen, Falkirk High & Falkirk Grahamston. These events supported national Samaritans campaigns such as 'Brew Monday', and general awareness across key local dates.

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Fundraising Activities

We rely on income from a variety of sectors; some independent people do provide donations and larger groups / companies we appeal to for funds.

Face to face collections and informal fundraising activity has largely been our main income this year, throughout the next financial term we will continue to fundraise the same way and also try for grant funding to assist with branch equipment.

Any funds which are received by the branch are used to help run our branch with every day running costs. We advertise at football grounds, schools, colleges, use posters to support awareness across the region, in addition to delivering talks. Our aim is to share the message that it is OK to talk to Samaritans at any time of the day or night.

FUTURE PLANS

In the immediate future, there are several activities which we will continue to focus on:

- Encourage volunteers to help with running the branch as there are still numerous roles that require filling.
- Recruitment and Training – Continue our current training/recruitment drive and keep volunteers engaged.
- Build up the branch awareness in the local community, driving awareness of the services we offer and how these are relevant to our area.



Director

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Samaritans of Falkirk and Central Scotland SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

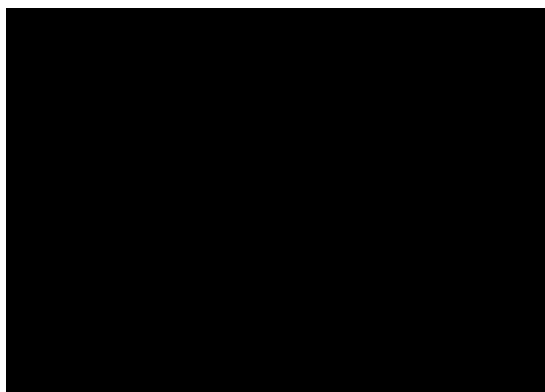
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. 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 seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination, no matter came 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 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations 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.



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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations		6,217		6,217	8,170
Gift Aid		1,238		1,238	220
Prison support grant		2,514		2,514	2,384
Other grants			691	691	1,232
Fund Raising		825		825	107
Bank interest		80		80	68
		10,873	691	11,564	12,181
Payments					
Fund raising costs		236		236	327
Charitable activities					
Branch costs	7	12,521		12,521	14,031
Service delivery	8	3,658	1,393	5,051	5,569
Central charity dues		1,517		1,517	4,373
Governance costs					
Annual accounts				0	0
Data Protection registration		35		35	35
		17,966	1,393	19,360	24,335
Deficit for the year		-7,094	-702	-7,796	-12,154

The Notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these accounts.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Cash at Bank					
Balance as at 01 April 2023		43,213	-622	42,591	54,745
Surplus/(Deficit) for period		-8,487	691	-7,796	-12,154
Balance as at 31 March 2024		34,726	69	34,795	42,591
Other Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	9	716,956		716,956	703,411
Debtors & prepayments	11	2,035	702	2,737	2,826
		718,991	702	719,693	706,237
Liabilities					
Central charity dues		1,138		1,138	1,517
Other creditors	12	39		39	201
		1,177	0	1,177	1,718

The Notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, were approved by the trustees on 11th December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Director

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH
2024

- 1

Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:

(a)

The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as

(b)

amended)

There has been no change to the basis of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.
- 2

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees

(a)

in the
furtherance of the objects of the
charity.

Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions

(b)

arise when
specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

(c)

The purposes of the fund are shown in Note 12.

3

Taxation

The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable

(a)

activities.

The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT

(b)

charged.

4

Trustee remuneration

No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year or in the previous

(a)

year.

The charity's insurance policy includes trustees indemnity insurance cover for all of

(b)

its trustees.

5

Trustee expenses

Expenses were reimbursed to trustees as follows:

	2024		2023	
	No	£	No	£
Travelling expenses	0	0	1	49

- 6

Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the year or in the previous year.

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7 Branch costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Cleaning & housekeeping	4,576		4,576	4,358
Heating & lighting	5,286		5,286	4,557
Insurance	1,557		1,557	1,545
Office equipment	117		117	0
Property Maintenance	985		985	3,571
Rent	0		0	0
	12,521	0	12,521	14,031

8 Service delivery costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Advertising & publicity	1,850		1,850	3,175
Print Postage & Stationery	187		187	975
Telephone		1,393	1,393	1,240
Travel expenses	918		918	102
Prison expenses	511		0	102
Sundries	192		192	77
	3,658	1,393	4,540	5,671

9 Fixed assets

The charity owns the property at 19 Orchard Street, Falkirk, which has been refurbished over time. No reliable market value is available, but current insurance cover is as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Buildings	686,549	669,804
Contents	30,407	33,607
	716,956	703,411

10 Movements in funds

	As at 31/03/23	Receipts	Payments	As at 31/03/ 24
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Unrestricted Funds		£	£	£	£
General fund		43,213	10,872	17,966	36,119
Restricted Funds					
CFSLA lottery		-622	691	1,393	-1,324
Total Funds		42,591	11,563	19,359	34,795
11	Debtors & Prepayments				
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
	Debtors			0	203
	Prepayments	1,557		1,557	1,545
	Accrued income	479		479	455
			702	702	622
		2,035	702	2,737	2,826
12	Creditors	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
	Creditors				
	Travel Expenses	39		39	39
	Office Equipment			0	162
	Contribution to central charity	1,138		1,138	1,517
		1,177	0	1,177	1,718
13	Purpose of funds				
	General Fund	An unrestricted fund that may be expanded at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.			
	CFSLA Lottery	Grant funding from the CFSLA lottery to cover internet and telephone costs. Claims are submitted to CFSLA after bills have been paid which results in a negative balance until the funds are received.			

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Samaritans of Falkirk and Central Scotland are very grateful for all the support that we receive throughout the year and, in particular, would like to thank the following:-

The Dawson Trust
HW Coats

