

Hand of Solace

Scottish Charity No — SC048192

Annual Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 May 2024

Trustees' Annual Report For the year ended 31 May 2024.

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 May, 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name:

Hand of Solace

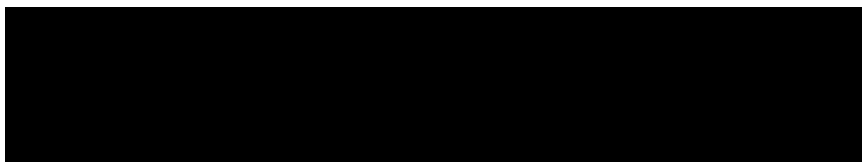
Charity no:

SC048192

Address:

41 Regent Quay
AB11 5BE, Aberdeen,
Scotland.

Current Trustees



1.0 Structure, Governance and Management Constitution

Hand of Solace is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO) based in Aberdeen Scotland. The charity has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are the members of the charity management board which continues to meet as and when required. Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting which is held in June every year. Trustees who resign as per this policy may be re-elected.

There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of 4 trustees.

2.0 Objectives and Activities Charitable purposes

We will empower people with the skills, knowledge, self-confidence/esteem and experience to overcome the barriers that hinder them from living a fulfilling life. We are doing this in order that they can sustain positive mental and physical health and well-being. Through supporting young /older people to become more social, independent and self-confident, discriminating factors such as mental ill-health; physical ill-health and disability, poverty etc will be overcome. Through our Drug and Alcohol project, we aim to support members of BME who are affected by drug/alcohol use to become more self-confident and aware of community resources/support available to them and supporting them to overcome associated barriers. Through volunteering with us, volunteers gain a sense of belonging within their community and are able to gain self-confidence/esteem, skills and experience which may help them to access proper employment.

2.1 Activities:

Our current activities are aimed to reduce isolation and loneliness among disadvantaged /marginalized young people (aged 5-16) and the elderly (aged 60 and above) in Aberdeen through activities that will promote social integration, diversity, good health and well-being. This year, we continued the 'We Move Project' which now ended in March 2024 and our Children and Families Drug and Alcohol Support Service is ongoing. The current projects we run have helped us to bridge existing gaps of our support to our service users to enable us to offer our service users a more holistic support.

Our Organizational Mission:

Our Organization Mission is: To give a hand of support and Empowerment.

What we have done:

- We have completed the 6th year of our befriending services: (Young People's Service -ages 5-16 years) and (Elderly Support Service – for ages 60 and above).
- We continued our "Children and Families Drug and Alcohol Support (CAFDAAS)" Service.
- We ended our young rangers service in March 2024.
- Our "We Move Project ended in March 2024 however there is ongoing plan for the service to be extended to further 2 years.

3.0 Our befriending service for young people (Young People's Service):

This service support young people aged 5-16 in Aberdeen from poor and deprived background who have experienced disadvantaged situations and challenges.

The Befriending Service is aimed to enable young people feel included and confident by involving and supporting them to access local activities.

95 percent of the young people we support this year are from the Black and Minority Ethnic group.

90% of our young people reported improved emotional, psychological, and physical wellbeing. We also saw clear improvement in our young people engaging and maintaining positive relationship with their befrienders. 9 young people we supported who were 14-16 years old became more independent.

This service continues to experience increase in number of referrals beyond the target for the year which is 24 young people. Within the last one year, the service has supported a total of 30 young people in Aberdeen.

4.0 Our befriending service for Older People (Elderly Support Service):

This service is aimed at older people (60 years and above) who

- have no close family or friends
- lost contact with family/ friends or they live far away
- have recently experienced bereavement
- are experiencing discrimination/inequality/stigmatization
- lack the ability to use local transport
- experience language or cultural barriers

Hand of Solace befriending service aims to provide companionship to older people

All older people we support experience mental health issues. 80 percent of older people we support through the 'Elderly Support Service' are over 75 years and all the older people we currently support live on their own. 60 percent of older people we are currently supporting are from BME and the majority do not understand the local language. Majority of the older people we support have underlying health conditions and 20 percent are disabled, normally limited in movement hence the benefit of having befriender come in from time to time to reduce loneliness.

Since April 2020, this service has been operating at its maximum limit (should not be more than 35 service users at any point in time). The service currently supports 37 older people in Aberdeen. In the past 12 months, it has supported 42 older people in Aberdeen.

Referrals:

Our Service user incorporates members of the local community from diverse background. Older people continue to be referred to the service through Self-Referral, Aberdeen City Council Social Work (Care Managers), our local GP Surgeries, Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH), and other relevant third sector organizations.

5.0 Our “We Move Project”-

Within the past year, Hand of Solace ‘We Move project’ supported children and young people from Black Ethnic Community in Aberdeen, to engage in a social action to address issues that matters to them.

The project supported 19 young Black Children in Aberdeen. The service is currently ended but aimed to restart in Summer.

6.0 Our “CAFDAAS”-

Hand of Solace CAFDAAS work with children and their families in Aberdeen City especially those from Black and Minority Ethnic communities and those on asylum to identify and tackle issues causing indulgence in drug and alcohol misuse. The service offers support to help children and their relevant family members manage their well-being and also access the support they need. Hand of Solace CAFDAAS currently support 16 children (12 Families) in Aberdeen.

7.0 Volunteers:

The service started in March 2018 with 7 Volunteers of which 4 were Trustees. We currently have 69 Volunteers working across our services.

8.0 Staffing

All the charity management work is being carried out by members of the management board (who are unpaid volunteers).

The organisation currently has 4 part time staff , 2 sessional staff and one full time Service Lead.

9.0 Office Space:

Hand of Solace continue to be based at 41 Regent Quay Aberdeen. This is a city centre location which is accessible to our service users and multidisciplinary teams we work with.

10.0 Learnings:

Our befriending services has been getting on well and currently still progressing where the young/older people are actively engaged with their matched befrienders. The charity has also supported young people by helping them to acquire resources that will enable them to access the support they need from the Young People's Service.

Over these 6 years of existence, the charity continues to improve in its method of documentation, flexibility, resilience, organizing and running of the activities of its services.

Our young people's service continues to be inclusive of young people's family. This is a step the organisation management took in response to our service feedback in the past few years which had shown that working alongside our young people and their family may be more beneficial to the young people we support. In light of working with families, we started our CAFDAAS which helps the charity to non-judgementally further support our young people/their family members who experience drug/alcohol issue.

Hand of Solace have recently been pledged funding towards a new service: 'Black Women Support Service' in Aberdeen. Management planning for the new service is currently ongoing as we aim to begin the service in late summer 2024.

11.0 Challenges:

As the need for the services of the organization continues to grow in Aberdeen (which is evident by the amount of referral our services get every year where we are therefore keeping a waiting list), it becomes more challenging as we now offer places based on place on the waiting list and need assessment rather than meeting minimum requirement for the service. The management believes that there may be room for HOS to accept more service users to our services if we may be able to access additional funding to expand the services -which may mean employing additional staff, recruiting more volunteers (volunteers' expenses and Volunteers training cost) and other management/organizational cost.

In the absence of this additional funding, organization will therefore continue to operate at our current limit to ensure the services runs smoothly.

12.0 Plans for future:

Hand of Solace shall be proceeding into the 7th year of its service. The need for all our projects is still very high and hence all our services are sustainable. The across board feedback our services received from our service users- including parents in January 2024 was positive (by 94%). We continue to thank our volunteers, management, and staff for all their effort to ensuring the smooth running of our services through the year especially for being resilient and coping through changes to ensure great service provision. We thank our service users who always offer their time to provide service feedbacks as it is a great support towards the organisation continued planning and review of the services.

Funding for the organisation charitable activities shall continue to be via local fundraising and charitable grants from government and organisation.

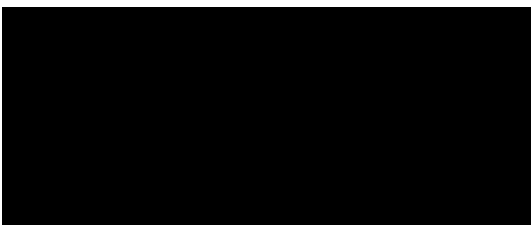
13.0 Training for Volunteers:

The core trainings are as follow; however, we continue to offer few other trainings to our volunteers which is based on identified need:

- The Organizational Induction
- Child Protection Training
- Adult Support and Protection Training
- Core Befriending Training.
- Drug Awareness

14.0 Reserve Policy:


The Management Committee continues to examine the charity's requirements for reserves considering the main risks to the organisation. Considering that the organisation now uses 4 part-time staff to help effectively run our services, the management has reviewed our reserve policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested should not fall below £25000.00. The reserves are needed to meet the minimum of one full month's service expenses and contracted staff cost. The management committee are confident that at this level they would be able to have a space to initiate the current service ending in the event of a significant drop in funding. The present level of free reserves available to the charity is £51004 which is a reasonably above this target level. Although the strategy is to continue to build reserves through planned operating surpluses, the Management Committee is well aware that we are at a threshold where the reserve may easily drop below the target level. In the short term the Management Committee has also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure could be curtailed, should such circumstances arise. Currently our restricted fund is well suited to run the services we offer. We currently have in place-secured multiyear funding towards majority of our services.



On behalf of Hand of Solace Board of Trustees

3rd of June, 2024

15.0 Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 May 2024

	Enter charity name below					Enter SC No. below	
	Hand of Solace					48192	
	Receipts and payments accounts						
	For the period from	Period start date		to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	31	June	2023		31	May	2024

Section A Statement of receipts and payments						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	43,000					1,000
Legacies					-	
Grants	2,280	89,095			91,375	116,550
Receipts from fundraising activities	1,700				1,700	3,500
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	31,355				31,355	
					-	
A1 Sub total	78,335	89,095	-	-	167,430	121,050
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	78,335	89,095	-	-	167,430	121,050
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	50	-			50	420
Gross trading payments					-	-
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	42,840	123,392			166,232	79,548
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	300				300	250
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	43,190	123,392	-	-	166,582	80,218
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	43,190	123,392	-	-	166,582	80,218
Net receipts / (payments)	35,145	(34,297)	-	-	848	40,832
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	35,145	(34,297)	-	-	848	40,832

16.0 Statement of Balances

		Hand of Solace				48,192	
Section B Statement of balances							
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	15,859	45,591			61,450	
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	35,145	(34,297)			848	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	51,004	11,294	-	-	62,298	
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	40,832

17.0 Expenditures 2023/2024

Expenditures as at 31 May 2024				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total current period	Total last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Rent		5,000	5,000	6,800
Insurance		320	320	250
Rates and water		170	170	130
Phone Subscription		1,260	1,260	1,200
Lights and Heat		1,560	1,560	1,440
Website and broadband	1,000	2,200	3,200	3,200
Staff Cost	6,415	79,486	85,901	29,150
Accountancy/ Independent Examiner Cost	300		300	250
Office Supplies	920		920	920
Postage and Printing and supplies	470		470	300
Office Furniture and Fitting	170		170	1,760
Cleaning and Waste Disposal	70		70	70
Professional Membership Fee	150		150	120
Sundry Expenses	70		70	160
Volunteers Expenses		6,400	6,400	8,600
Repairs	480		480	370
Bank charges	40		40	-
Fundraising Expenses	50		50	420
Volunteers Training		9,400	9,400	9,270
Project Service Cost	33,055	17,596	50,651	13,208
Group Field Trip Cost				2,600
Total	43,190	123,392	166,582	80,218

18.0 Grants: 2023/2024

Grants as at 31 May 2024				
Sources	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total current period	Total last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Corra Foundation Local Support Fund	-	26,913	26,913	26,104
Trusthouse Charitable Trust	-	8,582	8,582	8,850
Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organizations(ACVO)	-	11,600	11,600	8,690
Shell Community Grant	-	-	-	1,000
BBC Children in Need We Move Fund	-	-	-	25,325
The Becon Lodge Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,402
The Albert Hunt Charitable Trust	-	-	-	2,000
The British Science Association fund	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Corra Foundation Hardship Fund				5,040
The Grocer Charity Fund				3,022
Garfield Weston Foundation				2,000
Hugh Fraser Foundation				3,000
Robertson Trust	780	-	780	9,300
Charles Hayward Foundation				3,000
National Lottery Award For All Scotland				9,817
Souter Charitable Trust		3,000	3,000	3,000
Bank of Scotland Foundation	1,500	10,000	11,500	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	28,000	28,000	-
Total	2,280	89,095	91,375	116,550

	Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name Hand of Solace						
Registered charity number	SC048192						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	June	2023	to	31	May	2024
Set out on pages	7 -10						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
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 Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 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 Accounts 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention						
	1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, andto prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or						
Signed:					d.		
Name:					te:	June 14, 2024	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):							
Address:							

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

None