

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2020

CIO Number 1171330

Central London Samaritans Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

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Legal Information

Year ended 31 March 2020

LEGAL INFORMATION

Founder

The late Prebendary Dr Chad Varah CH, CBE

Chair and Branch Director

Emma Randle, Trustee, Branch Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees ('Single Branch Leader')

The Trustees

Emma Randle, Trustee, Branch Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees

Chris Graham-Bell, Trustee and Treasurer - deceased August 2020

Catherine Bourne, Trustee and Secretary

Heather Barker, Trustee and Vice Branch Director

Peter Gibson, Trustee

Simon Denyer, Trustee - elected April 2019

Jessica Gane, Trustee - elected April 2019

Samuel Harrison, Trustee - elected April 2019

Charlotte Cook, Trustee - elected April 2019

Peter Ratcliffe - Trustee - co-opted May 2019, elected February 2020

Joshua Hepple, Trustee - elected February 2020

Caroline Fahy, Trustee - co-opted February 2020

Robert Lightfoot (previously Clarke), Trustee - resigned February 2020, co-opted February

2020

Cynthia Pearce, Trustee - resigned April 2019 but remains as a special Advisor to the Board of Trustees

Trustees who resigned at our AGM on 18 February 2020

Melissa Loddo, Trustee - resigned February 2020

Gavin Beattie, Trustee - co-opted May 2019, resigned February 2020

Centre Management

Geoff Harrison from April 2019

Registered Charity Number: 1171330

Constitution dated: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered 26 January 2017 - effective

from 1 April 2017

Registered Address and Telephone Number: 46 Marshall Street, London, W1F 9BF - 020 7758 0660

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Independent Financial Examiners

Moore Kingston Smith LLP, 4 Victoria Square, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3TF

Bankers

Lloyds Banking Group plc, Cheapside Branch, 125 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5AS

THE CHARITY

The charity, CENTRAL LONDON SAMARITANS ('CLS'), was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('CIO') on 26 January 2017 with Charity Number 1171330 and Registered Office at 46 Marshall Street, London W1F 9BF. The charity became operational on the full transition to CIO status on 01 April 2017. Prior to this the charity had operated and been registered with the Charity Commission as an unincorporated body known as "The Samaritans (London Branch)" with Charity Number 268293, at 46 Marshall Street, London, W1F 9BF.

CLS is a recognised Affiliate Branch of Samaritans, founded in 1953 by the late Prebendary Dr Chad Varah CH, CBE. Samaritans is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity based at The Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, KT17 2AF. CLS is a part of the Samaritans London Region and covers the seven inner London Boroughs of: City of Westminster, the City of London, Kensington & Chelsea, Camden, Islington, Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

During the year ended 31 March 2020, CLS was fully self-funding as it was in the prior year ended 31 March 2019. The majority of CLS's income during the year ended 31 March 2020 was generated through voluntary donations and grants which were raised independently by the branch. CLS does not receive grants or donations from the wider Samaritans organisation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees

Under the CIO constitution the charity is managed by the Board of Trustees comprising the Single Branch Leader, the Secretary, the Treasurer and up to eight elected members with the power to co-opt up to two additional members. Elected members can serve a maximum of six consecutive years, with annual elections taking place at the charity's Annual General Meeting (AGM). All trustees offer their services on a voluntary and unpaid basis.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring the charity delivers its charitable objectives; for the financial well-being of the charity; and for compliance with charity and relevant legal and statutory requirements.

In line with Charity Commission guidelines, training material is made available to newly appointed trustees on their roles and responsibilities to supplement an online training program created by Samaritans. Further ongoing training is arranged, for trustees individually or the Board of Trustees as a whole, when necessary.

During the year ended 31 March 2020 the Board of Trustees formally met eight times and together with specific working parties, discussed and planned in detail the strategic direction of CLS and oversaw the charity's effective and efficient operation.

The Branch Director

The Branch Director of the charity is selected through a consultative process involving all branch volunteers and representatives of the SAMARITANS CENTRAL CHARITY (SCC). A formal appointment is then made by the SCC Trustee Board on the recommendation of the Regional Director. The Branch Director then selects a number of Deputy Directors to support her or him during their three-year term of office. The posts of Branch Director and Deputy Directors are voluntary and unpaid. The Branch Director during the year was Emma Randle, who is also the Chair of the CLS Board of Trustees.

The role of the Branch Director is to ensure the provision of high quality and consistent care to all callers contacting the charity by whatever means and to support all the volunteers who provide this care, or who support the work of the charity in other ways.

During the year, the Branch Director was assisted by a small team of paid full-time staff who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the branch. The staff feam provide support for the volunteer rota, outreach in the community, recruitment, training and support of volunteers, fundraising, administrative functions and management of branch facilities and premises.

Deputy Director Team

The Branch Director is also supported by a team of deputy directors, all of whom are themselves volunteers. Each deputy director acts as a lead volunteer on their particular area of expertise covering the following operational areas: Caller Support, Communications, Emotional Support Outside the Branch (ESOB), Leaders, Mentoring, Ongoing Training, Peer Support, Prison Listener Scheme, Recruitment & Selection, Training and Volunteer Support. The Branch Director, Vice Branch Director and deputy director team meet monthly during the year (or more frequently as required) to monitor and discuss the operational performance of the branch. This team together with the Trustees form the Branch Leadership Team who meet every quarter.

OBJECTIVES AND VALUES

Samaritans' Vision, Mission and Values (which the charity fully supports) are set out in its document Samaritans' Strategy 2015-2021.

The Vision

Samaritans' Vision is that fewer people die by suicide.

The Mission

Samaritans work to achieve this Vision by making it our Mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and suicidal behaviour.

Samaritans do this by:

- Being available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year 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; and
- Influencing public policy and raising awareness of the challenges of reducing suicide.

The Values

Samaritans are committed to the following values:

- Listening, because exploring feelings alleviates distress and helps people to reach a better
 understanding of their situation and the options open to them;
- · Confidentiality, because if people feel safe, they are more likely to be open about their feelings;
- People making their own decisions wherever possible, because Samaritans believe that people
 have the right to find their own solution and telling people what to do takes responsibility away from
 them;
- Being non-judgmental, because Samaritans want people to be able to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection; and
- Human contact, because giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental
 emotional need and reduces distress and despair.

Fulfilling the Mission

The volunteers are available to provide support by telephone and written word 24 hours a day every day of the year, see callers wishing to visit the branch in person from 9am to 9pm every day of the year and offer emotional support outside of the branch by way of numerous outreach projects within the local community. We have provided uninterrupted support every hour of every day to our callers since establishing in 1953, never having closed our service.

REVIEW OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Our Work

We are available every hour of the year to provide non-judgmental, confidential emotional support for our callers who experience a range of feelings including loneliness, isolation, anxiety, fears about financial problems and relationship breakdowns. We know that the element of human interaction is important to callers: research has shown that Samaritans callers value having someone real to communicate with, listen to and be there for them.

The work of the charity is undertaken by around 400 volunteers - listening and support volunteers - who are recruited and trained in their specific roles. We are, and always have been, a volunteer led charity. Many volunteers take on extra responsibilities by helping with recruitment, selection, training, outreach, fundraising, awareness and publicity, administration and volunteer support. Being a Samaritans volunteer is time demanding and at times challenging yet can also be hugely rewarding.

Inside the Branch

In terms of output, during the year ended 31 March 2020, CLS volunteers responded to 74,359 calls for help through calls to our helpline (50,746), texts (7,984), emails (11,797) and visits to our branch (3,832). In total this represents an 11% decrease in calls for help across these services from the previous year which broadly reflects the national trend in telephone contacts across the Samaritans organisation and is the result of steps taken across the charity to reduce waiting times for our callers and to minimise the number of calls which are considered an abuse of service. However, it masks an increase in written word contacts year-on-year of 8% as the mix of routes to our service evolves.

Our Face to Face service, where people can simply knock on our doors between 9 am to 9 pm every day without appointment accounts for around 20% of the face to face visits across the Samaritans organisation. Being centrally located in London offers a convenient and accessible position both geographically and for Londoners struggling to cope.

Outside the Branch

Certain groups of people have heightened vulnerability to suicide which require a tailored range of interventions.

We proactively reach out to these high-risk communities, including the homeless, men in custody, people bereaved by suicide and the Lesbian, Gay and Transgender community (LGBTQ+). In 2019-20, our various Outreach projects provided emotional support to 1,988 people via programs for the homeless, men in custody and people bereaved by suicide and we reached many thousands more through targeted awareness raising initiatives.

As part of this work, volunteers continue to train prisoners to become 'Listeners' in a prison setting with Listeners supporting 345 calls for help (in a prison setting) from prisoners in Brixton this year. Our pioneering partnership with CRUSE Bereavement Care (Kensington & Chelsea) emotionally supported 72 individuals bereaved by suicide. We are incredibly proud that this partnership has developed from its inception at Central London Samaritans to become an organisation-wide Samaritans program called Facing the Future.

In addition, our schools team reached many young people to equip them with long-term emotional resilience, an ability to recognise mental health issues within themselves and others and raise awareness about the support service that is available from Samaritans. During the year we reached 2,446 young people through 20 emotional wellbeing talks in schools across Central London.

Our People

Our key strength, of course, lies in our volunteers. Over the year under review, we received over 2,600 enquires from those who wished to be considered as volunteers and recruited and trained116 new listening volunteers to help with the delivery of our service. We have run 5 general information sessions, 5 selection days and run 4 Samaritans Initial Training classes consisting of 9 x 3 hours modules each. Each new listening volunteer undertakes 72 hours of training to provide and equip them with the skills and support required to provide an empathic, listening ear for our highly vulnerable callers.

The training is delivered by our experienced volunteer training team (all volunteers) and prepares new volunteers to manage every eventuality. Our non-listening volunteers (Support Volunteers) who provide help in a variety of areas such as administration, fundraising and consultancy also receive that same first stage training to help them understand the roles of the listeners.

We run a 24/7 shift pattern to ensure that there is always someone here to support our callers. Last year the shift pattern was amended in response to volunteer feedback concerning the length of certain shifts. As a result, this year we managed to increase the overall instances of volunteers on-shift by 5%.

A focus on strategic development, financial sustainability and resilience for the charity has enabled us to accomplish many organisational and operational changes in order to continue to provide and improve our vital

services. We also take the views of our volunteers extremely seriously. During 2018-19 we carried out two 'volunteer temperature checks' to gain a better understanding of how our volunteers view our organisation, their journey into it and the support given to them. The second survey showed improvements versus the first 91% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were comfortable with how CLS operates when it comes to supporting our callers and volunteers - compared to 76% in the first survey.

In 2019-20 a third survey confirmed that the progress made in the second survey had been maintained. We will make further improvements and have committed to further regular surveys in order to measure on-going progress. We believe this engagement has been instrumental in the significant improvements seen year-on-year in late cancellations and no-shows regarding our shift rota – these two indicators have reduced by 22% and 14% respectively.

Our core aim for 2019-20 was to improve the ongoing training of, and internal support for, our existing volunteers with the goal of reducing volunteer turnover. We are pleased to report that, during the year ended 31 March 2020, we achieved a number of key goals in this regard including:

- Maintaining our team of active volunteers, averaging 353 during the year versus 355 for the prior 12 months:
- Reducing the number of volunteers on 'leave of absence' which averaged 62 this year versus 85 last year;
- Reducing the number of volunteers leaving the branch during the year to 11 versus 81 for the prior 12 months:
- Successfully launching our Peer Mentoring program whereby each volunteer is mentored by an experienced listening volunteer for at least one shift every 12 months. The program includes a full debrief along with a documented assessment against a Quality Framework. Within 10 months, 83% of our volunteer base successfully completed the requirement and all but 4 had fully completed it by the end of March 2020; and
- Successfully re-launching our Ongoing Training program whereby each volunteer is required to attend 5 hours of subject matter training each year. Examples of the subjects covered include Callers with Autism, Mental Health Service Provision and Unconscious Bias. This training often involves speakers who give their time for free. Within 10 months, 71% of our volunteer base were fully compliant, 19% were 50% compliant with a further 10% to address over the coming months.

Awareness Raising

Our awareness raising activities continue to be a key feature of our work. We focus our efforts in settings known to experience high numbers of suicide, such as main line rail stations, alongside a targeted talks program reaching out to vulnerable communities in central London. We also have a presence at large scale events such as the Pride in London parade every summer. An approximate 1 million people line the streets for the Pride in London parade and see our walking group as part of the parade. Our Network Rail team visits mainline stations at least once a month during the evening rush hour to raise awareness of the service and offer emotional support where necessary. There are also three organization-wide events every year that we take part in; 'Brew Monday' in January. The 'Big Listen' on 24 July (24/7) and a major Christmas event in December. We set up a stall in a central London mainline station for the entire day for each of these events and will be seen by well over 100,000 people each time.

During the year we had a presence at events in Camden, Kensington & Chelsea, the City of London, Hackney and the City of Westminster. We hold fundraising events, *Sing for Samaritans*, at Charing Cross, Kings Cross, London Bridge, Waterloo, Paddington and Marylebone stations. Awareness raising sessions include talks the OCD Action Conference in Camden, the Reform Judaism - Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference in Westminster, at Bloodwise in Camden, KCLSU Wellbeing Forum in Westminster, *Soho Speaks*. Out event in Westminster, NSPA Conference in Vauxhall, St Stephen's Walbrook in the City of London, the WOW Festival on the Southbank and talks for the Household Cavalry in Kensington & Chelsea.

We also use established events like Mental Health Awareness Week, Notting Hill Carnival, Suicide Prevention Day and World Mental Health Day to reach out to different audiences and give talks about the service we provide as well as offering emotional support in general. In this way we reach well over 1,000 people through our talks but many times more through the awareness raising that the larger events provide.

It is noticeable that, faced with increasing levels of stress among groups of employees and those with whom

employees have contact, organisations are looking for more than listening skills. They see a need for a greater understanding of mental health and suicide and suicidal behaviour with many recognising the importance of understanding the warning signs of suicide and ways to approach colleagues in distress.

Volunteers have developed and delivered training (Listening Skills, and Emotional and Suicide Awareness training) with organisations such as CitiBank, PWC, London Fire Brigade, Coq D'Argent, Amplifi, Jones Lang LaSalle, Deutsche Bank and Receipt Bank.

Our Building

46 Marshall Street has been our home for nearly 35 years. Our location in the heart of Soho is accessible to callers and volunteers alike. The accessible location and facilities allow us to recruit, train and support volunteers from across London; volunteers who enable us to continue to live our legacy in 2020 and beyond. It is vital that we ensure that the building is fit for purpose for the next generation.

The building has had little investment during the years it has been our home and has long shown signs of not being the best environment within which to offer our services and care for our volunteers. The Trustees agreed to undergo a program of building surveys through which we established the basis for a number of costed design options. We had anticipated being in a position to submit pre-planning documents by the summer of 2020 but have paused the progress of this project in light of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had and may continue to have, particularly with regard to the internal design and layout of a prospective refurbishment.

It remains our intention to undertake a major refurbishment of our existing building when we have more certainty over the change in requirements. We believe this is necessary to ensure we can continue to offer our vital service for generations to come.

COVID-19 Pandemic and its Impact

On the 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation officially announced COVID-19 to be a pandemic and on 24 March 2020 the British Government announced enforcement of lock-down measures. While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the year ended 31 March 2020 was minimal, its subsequent impact has been far-reaching.

CLS has provided non-judgemental, confidential emotional support to anyone in need, around the clock every single day of the year for 67 years without interruption. We are determined this continues throughout the current unprecedented crisis. Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Care, confirmed directly to Parliament that Samaritans is a viewed as an essential service thereby enabling our volunteers to continue to provide the support that our callers need. This was a wonderful endorsement of our service and gave us the confidence and ability to remain open.

The safety of our volunteers is crucial. We were able to negotiate free parking nearby to our branch so that our volunteers have safe travel options. The phone room at CLS is sufficiently large to enable us to enforce social distancing following a self-imposed reduction in the number of volunteers on each of our 6 shifts per day. We have made changes to the layout of our phone room and the flow of volunteers through the building to facilitate even greater protections and ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines.

We have secured adequate supplies of hand gel and wipes so that each volunteer can clean their work station before and after their shift and have increased the level of external cleaning provision across the entire building.

We know it will continue to be challenging to maintain the necessary number of available volunteers to stay open every hour. We are buoyed by the knowledge that we have remained open throughout and have every expectation that we will continue to do so.

Our staff team is working incredibly hard from home, keeping in close contact with each other and the wider branch leadership team. They continue to support the requirements of the branch, playing a vital role in its 24/7 operation.

Regrettably, in light of Government advice, we have had to suspend our face-to-face support at the branch for the time being. This has been met, on the whole, with understanding from our callers and we have successfully managed to re-direct many of them to our phone and email service. Similarly, we have had to suspend our Outreach programs for the time being. We will start these up again just as soon as possible.

In conjunction with the wider Samaritans organisation, we have introduced remote email capability so that our email support service can be performed from outside of the branch. This enables volunteers who are self-isolating at home to contribute their time and experience to those in need. We have also partnered with NHS England to create a dedicated phoneline for NHS frontline callers who are in need of emotional support. Finally,

through the use of dedicated confidential phone lines, our Prisons Team has been able to continue their support of the Listeners supporting the inmates of Brixton Prison.

We are adapting some of our Outreach and external training programs to be delivered online. To date the pilots have proved successful and we are looking forward to expanding what we can offer and to whom.

The Covid-19 pandemic emerged at the very end of the financial year and, whilst we have reported on the immediate impact this has had on the branch and our service, the longer term implications are as yet unknown; both on the service use by our callers and financially in terms of fundraising and income generation.

In the coming months CLS will play a vital role in supporting those affected by coronavirus and we are determined to remain open to ensure we are there for anyone who calls.

Expenditure

To ensure the charity's finances are being properly monitored and managed, the Board of Trustees receives regular financial reports from the Treasurer and lead of the Finance Working Group. These reports include details of the charity's income and expenditure compared with a pre-approved annual budget, monthly Management Accounts covering the operation of the branch, cash and reserve balances compared with pre-approved policy requirements and other financial analysis.

The overall operational expenditure incurred in the provision of the charity's services excluding expenditure on the building project and the value of pro-bono services provided has reduced by 7.2% year-on-year.

Risk Management

During the year, the Board of Trustees reviewed and updated the charity's Risk Register and regularly discussed matters relating to the following areas:

- Governance health and safety, management, staffing and organisation structure, reputational factors and compliance with legal requirements including data protection;
- Finances funding, financial policies and practices, cost control, external financial climate and the utilisation of reserves;
- Operations service delivery, caller and volunteer support, confidentiality and sensitive information;
 and
- On-going Volunteers training, staff development and employment policies,

In addition, the Board of Trustees carried out a benchmarking exercise of the charity's internal financial controls and fraud controls against industry best practice as set out by the Charity Commission. We are pleased to report that there were no material deviations noted as a result of that work.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a detailed risk assessment was completed to ensure the specific risks and guidance associated with this crisis were being adequately addressed. The Trustees are confident that the operation of the charity together with the safety of its volunteers, staff and callers have been addressed in accordance with best practice and government guidance and will keep compliance with such guidance under close review.

Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic poses potential risks regarding future fundraising activity the outcome of which remains uncertain. Fundraising activities based around public events and collections have been ceased and it is likely that they will not be possible for some time to come. Similarly, income from room hire to external counterparties and certain external training events has not been achievable following the implementation of lock-down conditions. However, as mentioned above, we are in the process of adapting the latter.

The Board of Trustees has reviewed forecast cash flows and budgets for the coming year taking into account the likely impact on fundraising activity as well as the prevailing level of free reserves. We are satisfied that the charity has sufficient resources to remain financially sustainable for the foreseeable future and will keep the financial risks associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic under review on a continuing basis.

Environmental Policy

The Branch continues its efforts to reduce its overall impact on the environment through the following initiatives:

- Using energy saving light bulbs where possible throughout the building;
- Recycling as much as possible, with recycling bins positioned around the building;
- Waste is recycled through the local authority;
- Paper is recycled and re-used within the branch wherever possible;
- Printer cartridges are recycled through the nationally organised collection;
- Purchasing 'green' catering and stationery supplies where possible;
- Purchasing bamboo toilet paper, tissues and hand towels; and
- Using a 'green' energy supplier.

The charity's approach to the environment is reviewed periodically by the Board of Trustees and the Director Team. In addition, the Centre Manager provides the Board of Trustees with periodic reviews of all matters relating to Health & Safety. It also formed part of the remit on the building refurbishment project.

Public Benefit

All our activities focus on the core work of offering emotional support to vulnerable people and are undertaken to further our charitable objectives for the public benefit. In planning and reviewing all the activities of the charity during the year the Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Our Impact

In challenging circumstances and by virtue of both our very strict confidentiality service policy and the anonymity of our callers, it is difficult to quantify with great accuracy the impact of the services that we provide. We obtain feedback where possible in relation to certain aspects of our Outreach projects, but this remains a challenging area. The SCC continue to examine more structured caller feedback mechanisms. However, we know from feedback from our callers (relayed to our volunteers) that our service has a beneficial impact on our callers - who often have no other means of support.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Funding

Improved income performance resulted in total income of £446,296 during 2019-2020 while tight control was maintained over our on-going operational cost base placing us in a strong position going forwards. We continue to seek opportunities to streamline our cost base to ensure we are using our finances most effectively and efficiently.

Various generous grants and donations have enabled us to maintain broadly the same level of emotional support both in-branch and through our outreach program whilst focusing on the training, support and satisfaction levels of our existing volunteers who are so vital to the quality of support that we offer. We endeavor to introduce and maintain diversity within our mix of funding sources across Trusts and Foundations, Legacies, Corporate Fundraising, Community Fundraising, Individual Donations and Commercial Operations such as room hire and workplace training.

The aim of the Board of Trustees is that the charity must be financially self-sustaining and resilient in order to develop our services in a way that best meets the ever-changing needs of Londoners. It is essential that we can grow our presence particularly our Outreach work, across our seven boroughs, for which we are responsible, and directly to the marginalised communities that are harder to reach. Being able to achieve our funding targets will enable CLS to respond to the increasing needs of our callers and visitors more effectively.

The Financial Statements

The financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ("The Charity SORP").

During the year ended 31 March 2020, the charity made an overall deficit of £92,099 (2019: deficit £10,914). This comprises a deficit of £163,890 on Unrestricted funds and a surplus of £71,791 on Restricted funds.

Total income for the year was £446,296 (2019: £419,260). £153,696 of this income was Restricted and £292,600 was Unrestricted. The Unrestricted income includes £25,499 relating to services generously provided free of charge (probono) to the charity during the year.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £538,395 (2019: £430,174), including depreciation of £48,826; an amount of £25,499 to balance the 'pro bono' income and £128,758 in respect of initial spend on a building refurbishment project funded separately through the utilisation of designated funds.

At 31 March 2020 the charity had cash balances totaling £637,061 (2019: £660,297). £352,789 of this balance was placed in a 32 day notice deposit account, the remainder being in instant access bank accounts.

At 31 March 2020, available Unrestricted Funds totaled £470,173 (excluding fixed assets and investments) and Restricted Funds totaled £120,769.

Restricted funds comprise recognisable funds that can only be spent in accordance with the donor's intentions. Unrestricted funds comprise all other funds, including the value of the freehold property and any funds which have been designated by the trustees for a specific use. Current assets held within unrestricted funds are available for the ordinary purposes of the charity.

CLS aims to retain sufficient unrestricted free reserves to ensure our financial sustainability over the medium and long-term. Our unrestricted reserves position (excluding fixed assets and investments) as at 31 March 2020 was £470,173 down from £585,692 as at 31 March 2019. These unrestricted reserves include £71,242 of designated reserve originally created last year to cover estimated relocation costs and the initial costs of consultants, surveyors and architects advising on our own building redevelopment and refurbishment. Hence, as at 31 March 2020 our unrestricted free reserves (excluding this designated reserve) totaled £398,931 representing approximately 12 months of projected operational expenditure.

During the year we initiated the planning and design phase for a major refurbishment of our build. The funding for this phase comprised a designated reserve of £200,000 which was set up at the end of our previous financial year. During 2019-2020 we incurred expenditure totaling £128,758 in relation to this project. We also raised additional restricted funds totaling £25,000 specifically for this project. As at 31 March 2020 the reserves set aside for this refurbishment project amounted to £96,242. Although we have had to pause the project in light of recent events, it remains our intention to undertake a major refurbishment of our existing building when we have more certainty over the change in long-term requirements which may be dictated by the COVID-19 pandemic social distancing guidelines.

Reserves Policy

The charity's reserves policy is that it will hold a general free reserve to cover unforeseen items of expenditure or shortfalls in income. As an employer of staff, the charity is concerned that the position of staff should be protected as far as possible and the level of reserves is intended to ensure, amongst other things, that contractual obligation to staff can be met. This general reserve will be maintained within the range of 4 to 8 months operating costs. For this purpose, the level of operating costs is taken as the highest audited annual expenditure figure over the previous three years of operation.

As at 31 March 2020 the unrestricted free reserve totaled £398,931. The audited total expenditure for the year totaled £538,395 and is the highest audited annual expenditure over the three years ended 31 March 2020. Hence, the general free reserve position represents 8.9 months of expenditure and is therefore marginally in excess of the stated policy. Given the significant uncertainties surrounding the coming months and in particular the potential impact on fundraising activity that the COVID-19 pandemic may have, the trustees anticipate that the free reserve balance will contribute materially towards our operating costs during 2020-21 but we remain confident that the reserve balance will continue to be maintained between 4 to 8 months of operating costs for the foreseeable future.

The Board of Trustees reviews its reserves policy at least annually or whenever required. The trustees monitor compliance with this policy as part of the monthly Management Accounts reporting.

Investment Powers and Policy

The charity's Constitution allows the trustees to invest in any way they consider appropriate. The charity's investment policy is a conservative one which prioritises capital preservation, reduced counterparty risk and liquidity ahead of yield. All cash balances must be placed with reputable UK banks, which are regulated by the PRA/FCA and members of the FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme).

The charity's policy is that it will hold all its liquidity as cash in instant access accounts with reputable UK banks sufficient to cover 5 months of operating expenditure. Cash balances in excess of this may be held on fixed term deposit or rolling term deposit (again with reputable UK banks) such that amounts in excess of 5 months but equal to or below 8 months of operating expenditure may be placed on no more than 3 months deposit. Balances in excess of the 8 months requirement may be placed on no more than 6 month deposit.

As at 31 March 2020 total cash balances amounted to £637,061 of which £284,263 was held in instant access accounts and £352,798 was held in a 32 day notice deposit account. Cash held on instant access was £57,500 over and above our policy requirement.

The deployment of cash is kept under review by the trustees in conjunction with advice from the Treasurer and professional advisors where relevant. The Board of Trustees reviews its investment policy at least annually or whenever required. The trustees monitor compliance with this policy as part of the monthly Management Accounts reporting.

Fixed Assets

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation. Assets with a value of more than £250 are capitalised.

THANK YOU

The charity has established a diverse program of fundraising activity which has resulted in generous support from new and existing supporters and donors. The response from donors, supporters and volunteers we receive is truly remarkable. So many individuals and organizations have offered their help and been incredibly generous in their support.

The charity would like to take this opportunity to especially thank: The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust, The Aird Charitable Trust, The Bank of England Sponsorship Fund, The Benjamin Barsby Fund, The Berni Charitable Trust, Byrne Dean Associates, Capital Group Company, The City of Westminster, The Co-Op, Edward Harvist Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Gilbert Edgar Trust, Hyde Park Place Estate Charity, The Lord Mayor of the City of London, PWC Foundation, Shaftesbury PLC, St James's Piccadilly Charity, St James's Place Charitable Foundation, Strand Parishes Trust, Smith & Williamson LLP, The Tudor Trust, TORI Global Ltd, The Westminster Foundation, Westminster Amalgamated Trusts, Westminster Almshouses, The Worshipful Company of Coopers.

The charity is also extremely grateful to: Abel & Cole, Charles Russel Speechlys LLP, City of London School, Kings College-University of London, Kingston Smith LLP, M&S, Mindfulness Training, NBC, Pizza Pilgrims, Pret a Manager, RADA, Signature Litigation LLP, Simmons & Simmons LLP and Smart Survey, The Ministry, Tesco (Scott Wellard), Tim Minchin, Ric Torres, Barbara Browse and Sarah Millican for their support and to all those others who have helped us so generously during the year.

Thank you also to all 'The Friends of CLS' (who give endless support and this year raised significant funds for the charity through a special Advent Celebration Service over Christmas time); the choirs who gave their time to our 'Sing-for-Samaritans' and all those who took part in fundraising collections and challenge events for CLS throughout the year.

The year ahead will present many significant challenges. We are determined to continue to work together with our funders to meet these challenges and build upon all the amazing support that they have shown us. We anticipate utilizing a material part of our unrestricted funds to ensure our financial sustainability over the current period of unprecedented uncertainty but remain confident that we will continue to be there for anyone who needs us, every hour of every day.

Statement of the Board of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Central London Samaritans Board of Trustees is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonably accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and for the preparation of the financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of the surplus (or deficit) of the charity 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 Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in existence.

It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities. To the best of our ability The Board of Trustees believe that it has discharged its responsibilities during this past year.

Post Balance Sheet Events

On the 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation officially announced COVID-19 to be a pandemic and on 24 March 2020 the British Government announced enforcement of lock-down measures. Hence the COVID-19 pandemic has been determined to be a current-period (year ended 31 March 2020) event by the Board of Trustees and the financial statements presented reflect this. There were no adjustments required to the financial statements specifically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report was signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

Emma Randle - Chair and Branch Director

19 August 2020

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31 March 2020

I report on the accounts of Central London Samaritans for the year ended 31 March 2020, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; 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 Commissioners. 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 explanation 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 accordance 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.

Silvia Vitiello

For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Chartered Accountants

4 Victoria Square St Albans AL1 3TF

Date: 26/08/20

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
income and endowment	s fron	n:					
Donations and legacies	2	267,204	152,400	419,604	268,195	107,500	375,695
Charitable activities		3 .	55 .	5€	-	·	-
Investments		2,865	*	2,865	275	<u>:2</u>	275
Other trading activities	3	22,531	1,296	23,827	41,244	2,046	43,290
Total		292,600	153,696_	446,296	309,714	109,546	419,260
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	(39,443)	(2,046)	(41,489)	(65,647)	(1,363)	(67,010)
Charitable activities	5	(406,233)	(79,859)	(486,092)	(268,809)	(78,483)	(347,292)
Other	6	(10,814)		(10,814)	(14,088)	(1,784)	(15,872)
Total		(456,490)	(81,905)	(538,395)	(348,544)	(81,630)	(430,174)
Net income/(expenditure	e)	(163,890)	71,791	(92,099)	(38,830)	27,916	(10,914)
						-	
Net movement in funds		(163,890)	71,791	(92,099)	(38,830)	27,916	(10,914)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward	15	1,722,286	48,978	1,771,264	1,761,116	21,062	1,782,178
Total funds carried forward	15	1,558,396	120,769	1,679,165	1,722,286	48,978	1,771,264_

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

31 March 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	10	1,087,223	1,135,594
Investments	11	1,000	1,000
Total fixed assets		1,088,223	1,136,594
Current assets:			
Debtors	12	6,477	11,610
Cash at bank and in hand		637,061	660,297
Total current assets		643,538	671,907
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one			
year	13	(52,596)	(37,237)
Net current assets		590,942	634,670
Total assets less current liabilities		1,679,165	1,771,264
Total net assets		1,679,165	1,771,264
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	15	120,769	48,978
Unrestricted funds	15	1,558,396	1,722,286
		1,679,165	1,771,264

These financial statements were approved and signed by the members of the Board of Trustees on

Data

Émma Randle

Chair

Simon Denyer Acting Treasurer

CIO Number 1171330

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities SORP FRS 102 (second edition - October 2019) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Central London Samaritans meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees have at the time of approving the financial statements a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include the freehold property.

Restricted funds comprise funds which are subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donor and which are available for the better performance of the charity in accordance with those specific restrictions.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income received by way of donations and gifts is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities ("the SOFA") when received.

Legacies are recognised when all the criteria have been met; entitlement when the Board of Trustees has been notified of distribution. The legacy is only formally recorded in the accounts when received.

Investment income is included when received.

Other income is included when received.

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it related:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It excludes governance costs and costs incurred exclusively in the raising of funds.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to governance and the strategic management of the charity.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

1.6 Fixed assets

Fixed assets (excluding investments) are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets held by the charity for its own use at the following rates

Buildings

2% on valuation

Improvements to buildings

2% on cost

Fixtures, fittings and equipment -

12.5% - 25% on cost

Assets with a value of more than £250 are capitalised.

1.7 Property revaluation

In accordance with the provisions of the SORP the Trustees have elected not to incorporate further revaluations of the property in the financial statements.

1.8 Investments

Investments are stated at valuation. Valuation is based on market value where securities are quoted or other valuation techniques approved by the Board of Trustees. Gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.9 Pension costs

Central London Samaritans has set up a defined contribution Personal Pension Scheme in respect of all its employees and contributes a fixed percentage of the employees' salaries to this scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity.

1.10 Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged as an expense against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

2 Donations and legacies

		2020			2019	
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Trust and foundation	£	£	£	£	£	£
funding Corporate and major	93,500	96,900	190,400	31,000	107,500	138,500
donor funding	49,689	55,500	105,189	48,791	S#8	48,791
Community and						
individual fundraising	87,544	-	87,544	64,434	549	64,434
Legacies	9,274	-	9,274	105,250	= 2	105,250
Gift Aid	1,698	-	1,698	2,620	: <u>=</u> :	2,620
Donated services	25,499		25,499	16,100		16,100
	267,204	152,400	419,604	268,195	107,500	375,695

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

3 Other trading activities

		2020			2019	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Other income	22,531	1,296	23,827	38,484	2,046	40,530
Lottery income		10%		2,760	-	2,760
	22,531	1,296	23,827	41,244	2,046	43,290

4 Expenditure on raising funds

	2020			2019		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising staff costs	36,726	-	36,726	43,703	=	43,703
Other fundraising costs	2,717	2,046	4,763	21,944	1,363	23,307
	39,443	2,046	41,489	65,647	1,363	67,010

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

		2020			2019	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	115,228	57,540	172,768	132,721	34,012	166,733
Telephones	5,088	1,083	6,171	4,855	1,110	5,965
Conference and training	1,974	-	1,974	1,560	*	1,560
Catering costs	2,332	547	2,879	333	2,267	2,600
Volunteer expenses	4,909	5,109	10,018	9,129	3,175	12,304
Printing postage stationery	2,778	451	3,229	2,847	463	3,310
Computer Costs	15,974	3,189	19,163	12,840	3,269	16,109
Maintenance	11,768	3,346	15,114	9,671	5,830	15,501
Bank charges	1,255	46	1,301	1,578	82	1,660
Utilities	9,837	1,335	11,172	1,799	5,536	7,335
Business Rate	3,745	971	4,716	592	4,025	4,617
Cleaning	14,263	3,037	17,300	4,391	12,597	16,988
Business Insurance	3,537	946	4,483	487	3,923	4,410
Professional fees and costs	164,719	2,259	166,978	37,118	2,194	39,312
Depreciation	48,826	-	48,826	48,888	983	48,888
	406,233	79,859	486,092	268,809	78,483	347,292

Professional fees and costs during the year ended 31 March 2020 include £128,758 of expenses related to the planned redevelopment of 46 Marshall Street.

6 Other expenditure

		2020			2019	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Governance costs:	£	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examination fee	3,720	-	3,720	3,640	-	3,640
Interim/Branch director costs	<u> </u>	8	8	943	-	943
Committee meeting costs	3,086	-	3,086	3,702	-	3,702
Overprovision of branch contribution	4,008	5	4,008	(2,413)	-	(2,413)
New branch contribution				8,216	1,784	10,000
	10,814	-	10,814	14,088	1,784	15,872

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

7	Staff costs	2020	2019
	Total staff costs were as follows:	£	£
	Wages and salaries	188,779	189,846
	Social security costs	15,457	15,261
	Pension costs	3,115	5,329
		207,351	210,436

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year by function was as follows:

	2020 Full Time Part Time	2019 Full Time Part Time
Employees	6 -	4 4

8 Management Committee Members' Remuneration and Expenses

No member of the Board of Trustees was remunerated for services as a Trustee.

Trustees, the Branch Director and the Advisory Directors only receive reimbursement of agreed expenses in accordance with the charity's expenses policy.

9 Indemnity Insurance

The Samaritans has centrally effected professional indemnity insurance to protect employees, Trustees, Directors and other volunteer members of all Samaritans Branches. This cost is recharged to the Branch.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

10 Fixed assets

	Freehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Freehold improvements	Total
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2019	1,050,000	171,018	692,232	1,913,250
Additions	<u> </u>	455	•	455
At 31 March 2020	1,050,000	171,473	692,232	1,913,705
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2019	441,000	146,138	190,518	777,656
Charge for the year	21,000	13,983	13,843	48,826
At 31 March 2020	462,000	160,121	204,361	826,482
Net book value				
At 31 March 2020	588,000	11,352	487,871	1,087,223
At 1 April 2019	609,000	24,880	501,714	1,135,594

The charity's freehold premises at 46 Marshall Street, London W1F 9BF were revalued as at 30th March 1998 by Messrs David Manzies Associates, Consultant Surveyors and Valuers, on an open market value basis in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Board of Trustees subsequently received an informal indication that the current value of the premises based on a rental yield was in the region of £2.5million.

The historic cost of the freehold property (shown above at £1,050,000) and excluding improvements is £777,649.

11	Investments	2020 £	2019 £
	Market value at 1 April 2019 & 31 March 2020	1,000	1,000
	Historical cost at 1 April 2019 & 31 March 2020	1,000	1,000

This comprises 1,800 shares of 1p each in Helpcards Holdings Limited, representing 0.31% of the share capital of the company. Helpcards Holdings Limited is a company incorporated in England.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

12	Deb	tors
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-	202.0.0	2020 £	2019 £
	Trade Debtors	447	÷
	Other debtors	2.	2,252
	Prepayments	6,030	9,358
		6,477	11,610
13	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
	•	2020	2019
		£	£
	Trade creditors	24,602	18,456
	Tax and social security	4,690	3,961
	Accruals and other creditors	23,304	14,820
		52,596	37,237

Accruals and other creditors at 31 March 2020 included £14,600 of refunds due on ticket sales for an event which was due to take place in March 2020 but was cancelled in response to Covid-19 pandemic.

14 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2020 the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below.

	2020 £	2019 £	
Operating leases which expire:			
Within 1 year	936	1,248	
Within 2 to 5 years		936	
	936	2,184	

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 Apr 2019	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transf ers, gains	Balance at 31 Mar 2020
	£	£	£	and £	£
Restricted funds:					
Ongoing activities	48,978	128,696	(81,905)	_	95,769
Building project		25,000	×		25,000
	48,978	153,696	(81,905)	-	120,769
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed assets	1,136,594	455	(48,826)	3. - 3	1,088,223
Free reserves	385,692	292,145	(278,906)		398,931
Designated funds	200,000	591	(128,758)	02	71,242
	1,722,286	292,600	(456,490)	V-#3	1,558,396
Total funds	1,771,264	446,296	(538,395)	Æ	1,679,165

Restricted funds comprise funds that can only be spent in accordance with the donor's intentions.

Unrestricted funds comprise all other funds, including the value of the freehold property. Current asset held within these funds are available for the ordinary purposes of the charity.

Designated funds relate to the estimated costs associated with the planned physical relocation of some of the charity's activities and building refurbishment work.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2020

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	
Tangible fixed assets	1,087,223	. 	1,087,223	
Investments	1,000	9 1	1,000	
Current assets	522,769	120,769	643,538	
Current liabilities	(52,596)	*	(52,596)	
Total Funds	1,558,396	120,769	1,679,165	