

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

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The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2019

Structure, Governance and Management

Love Southend is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), incorporated on 26 September 2018. It is registered with the Charity Commission. The company was established under its Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Trustees are appointed at Annual General Meetings, as set out in the Articles of Association, which provide for a minimum of three trustees. The Trustees are directors of the company. The Trustees are also responsible for the appointment of new members.

New trustees undergo an induction to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Articles of Association and the decision-making processes and the recent performance of the charity. They meet key employees and the other trustees.

Risk Assessment Policy

The Risk Assessment and Health and Safety policy will be overseen by a designated trustee who reports back to trustees meetings with appropriate recommendations.

Organisational Policy

The Trustees meet a minimum of four times a year. Sub-committees are formed as and when required. The Love Southend Servant Team oversee the operations of the charity.

Organisation

Being a new and small charity the organisation is simple. The Love Southend Servant Team consists of eight individuals, most of whom are ministers of local churches. These have responsibility for the direction and vision of the charity,

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

4. The Leadership Team structure and responsibilities are as follows:

a. Trustees/Directors

- i. The Directors are responsible for the legal and financial management of the charity; for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In preparing the financial statements the Directors are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; make judgements that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in existence.
- ii. To advise the Love Southend Servant team on staffing, salaries and employment issues.
- iii. To manage the legal responsibilities of the charity.

5. Salaried staff – there were no salaried staff for the year 2019

Objectives and Activities

The principal activity of the charity is the relief of those in need; the promotion of the spiritual welfare of the community and the advancement of religion in Southend-on-sea and its environs.

Review of activities and achievements

Churches Winter Night Shelter

The night shelters always covering the winter months means that the first set of figures below are for the second part of the 2018/19 season and then covers the first part of the 2019/20 season.

From 01/01/19 – 24/03/19 we were open for 83 nights which at 20 beds/night provided 1660 beds in total

During the 2018/19 period our volunteers gave 7,800 hours of their time which, if we had paid them at the Adult Living Wage (£7.50ph at that time), would have cost £58,500.

At the end of the season Southend Homeless Action Resource Project (HARP) reported that 80 guests were "off the streets".

From just before the start of the season until just after the end of the season the coordinator attended the Complex Needs Panel. This is chaired by the Council and seeks to help those with multiple and complex needs (e.g. mental and physical health issues and/or substance abuse) off the streets into suitable accommodation – some of these are guests of the shelters. Over the season, we saw some of those discussed make good progress on several fronts and a number were housed.

The co-ordinator attended:

- the BID's Retail Against Crime meetings (every other month all year round);
- Complex Needs Panel. This is chaired by the Council and seeks to help those with multiple and complex needs (e.g. mental and physical health issues and/or substance abuse) off the streets into suitable accommodation.
- the Housing Justice's Church and Community Night Shelter Forums (every other month from October to April);
- the Southend Homelessness Action Network (SHAN) meetings (every other month all year round); and
- numerous other meetings with the Council, HARP and Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) as well as making presentations to various groups who were interested in the Shelters and/or were offering donations.

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

The Coordinator has been in post since the 2011/12 season, hence it was agreed that Love Southend should recruit a Deputy Coordinator who could be "taught" during the 2019/20 season and who would take over as the Coordinator for the 2020/21 season (with the current Coordinator available as their mentor) and then be on their own for the 2021/22 season, thus allowing the current coordinator to step down. To that end, a job description was drawn up and the vacancy was advertised in late summer 2019. Three applications were received, all 3 applicants were interviewed and Nina Alleyne Stewart was appointed.

At the launch of the 2019/20 season on 4th Dec no church (or any other venue) was available to host on Tuesdays.

However, the Council did provide 20 beds (and 2 shelter managers each evening) at the Tickfield Centre on Christmas Eve (and New Year's Eve) with volunteers coming from various shelters and the community.

Also, because they are a Polling Station, Westcliff Free Church (WFC) were not able to host on Thursdays until January 9th. Fortunately, Westcliff Baptist Church (just over the road) were able to host on those nights by borrowing equipment and volunteers from WFC. Westcliff Baptist then hosted on Tuesdays from January 7th, and the Council are funding the purchase of equipment for them!

In the first 4 weeks, we were therefore open for $28 - 3 = 25$ nights. With 20 beds per night, we provided 500 bed-nights. Of these 457 were filled (i.e. 91.5%). We were full on 3 nights and over capacity on 7 more nights. The minimum number overnight was 8 and the maximum number was 25 (twice).

We have seen 66 guests who have stayed at least 1 night; of those:-

- 6 have stayed for more than 20 nights, whereas 20 have only stayed for 1 night.
- 12 are female (approx.. 18% - about the same as last year).
- 1 is under 25, but 10 are over 55.
- 35 are from the UK; 12 are from the EEA; and 4 are from elsewhere.
- Only 30 are on benefits; 3 said they had No Recourse to Public Funds (probably too low).
- When they first attended a WNS, only 28 were referred by HARP with 35 self-referring (the remaining 3 were referred by soup kitchens and the police).
- 15 admitted to regular use of alcohol; and 7 admitted to regular use of drugs.
- 22 said they had a mental health problem; and 18 said they had a physical health problem.
- 7 said they were homeless because of a relationship breakdown.
- 5 have learning difficulties.
- 7 have been released from prison in the last year.

N.B. Not all self-declared data has been collected.

Of the 66 guests, HARP informed me that 4 had been accommodated.

Volunteers have already given over 2,500 hours of their time which, if they had been paid (at the adult living wage), would have cost over £20,700. The minibus drivers and escorts have provided transport Monday evenings/Tuesday AMs (to/from Leigh Road Baptist), and Saturday evenings/Sunday AMs (to/from Whittingham Avenue Methodist).

It was worrying to note that the coordinator knew 12 of the 18 guests on the first night's list, but some of them have disappeared from the list to be replaced by a mixture of known guests and brand-new ones.

Prayer and worship.

We consider prayer to be an indispensable part of the individual's, the church's, and therefore Love Southend's life. We hold monthly prayer and worship weekday morning meetings which are open to any member of the community. These meetings focus on issues of celebration or concern in the life and work of the borough; the work and ministry of churches or individuals and their service in the community.

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

Network meetings

Love Southend holds a monthly evening network meeting for church leaders, people who pray regularly for the well-being of the residents, life and work of the borough, and Christians who hold positions of responsibility within the community. These meetings involve: raising awareness of borough-wide issues by inviting community leaders or those leading borough focussed Christian ministry to inform the network and create opportunities for churches and individuals to engage with the issues raised; to provide mutual support, encouragement and prayer for network members and their ministry. This year, for example, the CEO of Southend Borough Council and the Chairman of Southend Against Modern Slavery attended network meetings.

Engagement with Community Leaders

Members of Love Southend have established strong connections with community leaders to better understand issues for celebration and the needs of the community, and to provide prayerful support and encouragement for those carrying significant responsibility within Southend. Three members of the Servant Team meet regularly with a senior member of the Council; another has regular meetings with senior police officers; others are members of the Southend Inter-faith Working Group which provides a communication conduit between the Council and faith communities in the borough, giving opportunity for faith groups to express issues of concern and to make a contribution to developments in the borough like the '2050Agenda'.

Blaze youth work

Blaze has continued to act as a catalyst for youth events and activities for senior school aged young people linked to local church youth groups, organisations and their friends across South East Essex. Resourced by voluntary and paid youth workers from across the area Blaze has seen events and activities in 2019 arranged including:

Sunday, 3 March 2019 - Lily Jo Gig & Megazone

focusing on mental health and Christian testimony

Lily-Jo is a musician and also a qualified Counsellor. She has a passion to see people living their lives to the full whilst embracing their true potential. In early 2016 Lily-Jo launched an online self- help resource called The Lily-Jo Project. The web resource features information, interviews, videos, practical tools, on the most common mental health issues including; Low mood, anxiety, self-harm, eating disorders, childhood trauma, low self-esteem, grief and loss.

Sunday, 28 April 2019 - J Vessel + DJ Kelechi Gig & Megazone

positive role modelling and Christian testimony - In a sea of indulgent music, J-Vessel is swimming against the tide embracing all the things that make him the man he is, including his faith.

Sunday, 1 December 2019 - Step into Christmas.

Inflatables, Mega Nativity & Games Night, Food, Gospel message at The Rayleigh Megacentre

Numbers attending have been 50-100 young people.

Blaze has also fostered relationships between youth groups and their leaders and seen other collaborations developed at a more local level.

About Blaze events: Blaze and The Gunpowder Plot* present a calendar of youth events that have travelled around and been led by different churches/organisations across South-East Essex. Each Blaze event aims to ignite the heart, mind and spirit with a unique blend of word, worship, prayer, serving and fun. Events are for senior school ages.

Town centre chaplaincy

This was the first full year of Love Southend (LS) being involved as part of Town chaplaincy (Retail) in partnership with The local Methodist Circuit with whom we have ongoing links and meetings both at the Love

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

Southend Servant Team/ Methodist Superintendent level and between the Chaplains of Retail, homeless and seafront. The Retail being the responsibility of LS.

We have had three people interested in shadowing the chaplains looking at then attending chaplaincy courses in 2020 and to carry out the regular checks as needed.

At present the Methodist circuit is covering LS with such as Safeguarding etc.

During 2019 LS chaplain has completed 180 hours not including admin time. This has led to 373 prayer requests covering health, education, finances, employment, businesses and much more.

To assist with this the chaplain has gathered a prayer group of at least ten persons, to whom he sends regular updates and prayer needs all anonymous to fit to Data Protection laws. These people are either church leaders from various denominations or leading Christians within the borough who have a heart for Southend and the community.

These connections leading to prayer have, in some instances, led to pastoral care and ongoing mentoring also signposting to both secular and ministry assistance and led some people back to engaging with God including attendance at church.

Relationships in the area have been grown by joining the rangers on patrol, time spent with various charitable groups such as 49 (a special needs group), Mental Health Carers Support Group, Olive Tree counselling. Also attendance to interfaith groups, community police workshops and the Southend Festival.

Major advancements have been seen in an area of the high street which had an atmosphere of despondence, prayer and growth in relationship has lifted the atmosphere and has replaced it with one of hope.

Another was the chaplain organising a meeting between Adventure Island/Sealife management with a various groups of charities and borough services to make use of the staff as volunteers in many areas of need and to grow an ongoing relationship for giving talks and advertising for need.

Another group was formed from a local church on behalf of the local shopping centre to give free hugs to passers by on the lead up to the Christmas lights launch.

The Retail Chaplain has also regularly attended a Mental Health Carers Support Group and community coffee mornings all held at a local coffee house.

Looking forward to 2020 we are planning to grow relationships with various aspects surrounding the high street and beyond, assist the shadowing chaplains find roles and receive training.

Carol service

On Dec 6 Love Southend hosted its first community carol service. The event was attended by over 100 people and was very enjoyable. All Southend churches were invited and encouraged to bring friends and neighbours. There were representatives from the local council and the local police in attendance. The singing was led by the very talented Helen Yousaf and the gospel preached by Dave Campbell, Elim Area Superintendent. Overall a very successful evening.

Public Benefit

In planning the activities of the charity, the trustees have given consideration to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in particular to ensure that:

- There are identifiable benefits
- Benefits are to the public or a section of the public
- The benefits relate closely to the charitable objectives.

Plans for 2020

As a Christian CIO we intend to continue to reach out to the population in the Southend area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We expect to grow the work of town centre chaplains and hope to appoint a paid coordinator for this role as well as having new volunteer chaplains. We plan to promote our second community carol service. We will continue to operate the Churches Winter Night Shelters and continue to promote youth events. (The coronavirus pandemic may severely limit some of these activities. At the time of writing it seems the Carol Service may not be able to run and the Night shelters may have to take on a new way of operating. Also large

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

gatherings of young people both indoors and out are completely restricted. The chaplaincy work, however is still continuing)

Financial Review

Grants:

£25000 from Morrisons

Donations over £1,000

£10955.05 from SEELEF
£1007.50 from St Mary's Prittlewell
£1098 from SBC
£2000 from Stockvale
£1500 from Walsingham House
£1100 from St Mary's Prittlewell
£2800 from Lion's Club of Leigh
£2100 from Regis Service Ltd
£8940 from SBC for night shelters

Grants

Reserves Policy

At this stage in the charity's history we do not have a reserves policy

Investment Policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investments which the trustees see fit.

Independent Examiner

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting that Caroline McGregor be appointed the Independent Examiner to Love Southend for the ensuing year.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that period.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the activities of the company will continue.

LOVE SOUTHEND

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2019

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

On Behalf Of The Trustees

Date: 30 July 2020

Andy Vincett (Chairman)



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Love Southend

On accounts for the year
ended

2019

Charity no
(if any)

1180977

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended ~~30 / 11 / 2019~~

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

CMcGregor

Date:

11/05/20

Name:

CAROLINE MCGREGOR

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

46 TINTERN AVE

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA

SS0 9QH .

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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



Charity name Love Southend

Charity number (if any) 111809177

For the period from (start date) 01/01/19

to (end date) 31/12/19

Section A

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General	12044				340
Street Pastors		40			180
Town Chaplaincy		1000			—
Winter Night Shelters		6665			12524
Youth Work		6452			1941
Sub total	12044	54137			14985
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc					
Total receipts	12044	54137			14985
A3 Payments					
General	6631				—
Street Pastors		220			—
Town Chaplaincy		500			—
Winter Night Shelters		13658			—
Youth Work		827			—
Sub total	6631	15205			—
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc					
Total payments	6631	15205			—
Net of receipts/(payments)	5413	38932			14985
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end					
Cash funds this year end	5753	53577			14985



Receipts and Payments Accounts

LOVE (SOMETHING)

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Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
<i>Sub total</i>					
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc					
<i>Total receipts</i>					
A3 Payments					
<i>Sub total</i>					
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc					
<i>Total payments</i>					
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>					
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end					
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>					

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
Love Southampton	5753	53577	
<i>Total cash funds</i> (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	5753	53577	

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print name	Date of approval