

**TAUNTON AREA DEBT ADVICE
(A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2020**

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CONTENTS

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 – 3
Receipts and Payments account	4
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	5

TAUNTON AREA DEBT ADVICE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The trustees are pleased to present their report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 31 March 2020

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number	1162324
Principal address	St Mary's House Magdalene Street Taunton Somerset, TA1 1SB
Bankers	Natwest Taunton, Somerset

Trustees

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows: -

Steven James Reed (Chair)
Pamela Dorothy Walker (Secretary)
Graham McRae Reid
Martin James Ingrams
David Lenton Akerman
Philip Bedford

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Taunton Area Debt Advice is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution last amended 4 June 2015.

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Constitution, there must be at least three charity trustees but no maximum number of trustees. The trustees are also the members of the CIO and have no liability to contribute to its assets if it is wound up and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Apart from the initial trustees, every trustee is appointed for a term of 3 years although they can offer themselves for re-appointment and retire by notifying the CIO in writing. Appointment is by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the CIO trustees.

TAUNTON AREA DEBT ADVICE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020 (cont)

Organisation

The board of trustees administers the charity and generally meets four times a year – each trustee having a designated role within the organisation. The charity operates under the umbrella of Community Money Advice which provides a wide range of practical support and advice; it also provides the services of a regional Operations Support Manager who is available to give assistance on any aspect of debt advice.

The charity is a small debt advice centre with nine volunteers excluding the trustees.

Risk Management

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors.

Taunton Area Debt Advice works with Thirty-One Eight which is an independent safeguarding charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity as set out in the CIO's Constitution are the relief of financial hardship or poverty amongst persons in the Somerset area by any such means that are exclusively charitable at law, particularly but not exclusively by providing debt counselling and adjusting services, advice and assistance in financial matters.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relations to these objects involves meeting with indebted clients and working with them by helping to draw up a realistic household budget; subsequently the qualified debt advisors may negotiate with creditors or consider any other available debt remedy up to and including insolvency.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

We welcome anyone living in the Somerset area who can benefit from the resources on offer regardless of personal background, faith, gender, age or personal circumstances.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The reduction in stress both for the individuals concerned and for those close to them is immense; families can see a future ahead and the prospects of a normal life. Taunton Area Debt Advice has continued to help a number of clients to become free of debt and to stay clear of debt.

TAUNTON AREA DEBT ADVICE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020 (cont)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued

All this work is carried out by a team of volunteers who give generously of their time for the benefit of our clients and receive no remuneration for their work.

Clients are mostly referred to the charity by other agencies including Housing Associations, community support bodies, local churches and other charities. When all volunteers are fully occupied, new enquiries are generally referred to other service providers such as StepChange or Pay Plan or, with their permission, the names are added to the waiting list.

The charity moved into new premises within the Taunton Citizens Advice office in September 2019.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND OUR RESPONSE TO THIS

In March 2020, Governmental health directives required the closing of the Citizens Advice office with the consequent end to all face-to-face client meetings. The charity subsequently decided to plan for a remote debt advice service to be predominantly provided by telephone and email: all advisers have since been trained in the techniques involved and supplied with new smart phones.

The charity has also developed a new website which offers an improved service to clients and those waiting for advice. Existing clients (pre COVID-19) have been supported continuously throughout the lockdown period.

The charity is grateful to have received financial support towards the training and other costs involved in developing the remote advice service including grants from Somerset Community Foundation, Taunton Rotary and other private gifts.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Unrestricted receipts in the year to 31 March 2020 amounted to £6,001 with expenditure of £5,063. A further £2,988 was received by way of restricted gifts which included £2,500 towards training costs and new office equipment. Including the restricted fund balance of £1,766 there was a closing bank balance of £4,304.

The charity continues to seek additional sources of finance and now receives regular giving from a wider range of churches and individuals in the Taunton area.

Approved by the trustees on 7 December 2020 and signed on behalf of them by:

Steven Reed
(Chairman)

TAUNTON AREA DEBT ADVICE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL Funds 2020	TOTAL Funds 2019 £
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary income:				
Grants and donations	6,001	2,988	8,989	4,437
Gift aid tax recovered	-	-	-	-
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,001	2,988	8,989	4,437
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
PAYMENTS				
Business rates	422	-	422	-
Office Licence fees	1,769	-	1,769	-
Mobile phones	207	-	207	744
Postage, printing and stationery	713	-	713	250
Sundry	24	-	24	19
CMA affiliation fee	595	-	595	595
Data protection	35	-	35	35
Training and room hire	70	770	840	985
Internet	151	-	151	114
Thirtyone:eight (safeguarding)	120	-	120	332
Insurances	810	-	810	280
Travel	54	-	54	14
Insolvency fees	-	680	680	-
Equipment purchases	93	258	351	-
Other expenditure	-	439	439	-
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TOTAL PAYMENTS	5,063	2,147	7,210	3,368
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Excess of Receipts over Payments	938	841	1,779	1,069
Cash funds brought forward	1,600	925	2,525	1,456
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CASH FUNDS carried forward	2,538	1,766	4,304	2,525
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TAUNTON AREA DEBT ADVICE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Bank current account		4,304
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS		
Income tax recoverable		645
ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE		
Printer		
Shredder		
Two Windows Laptops		
Filing cabinets		
Gopak table		

LIABILITIES

A 36-month Licence to occupy the office was entered into at an annual Licence Fee of £3000 from 28 August 2019. The moving in date was 18 September 2019 and the first Licence fee was paid 1 November 2019 for the period from 18 September to 30 November.

Approved by the trustees on 7 December 2020 and signed on behalf of them by:

Steven Reed (Chairman)