Trustees' Annual Report

1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

Section A: Reference and administration details

Charity name	**FOUNTAINS COUNSELLING SERVICE**
Registered charity number	**1166723**
Charity's principal address	**c/o 3 The Mount, Mount Lane, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 1AG**

Names of the charity trustees

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Lindsay Bashford	Chair	
Rob Belcher	Treasurer	
Sandra Davis		Until December 2025
Sarah Watson		

Section B: Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods	New trustees are selected and appointed by the Charity's Trustees
Additional governance issues *(optional information)*	None

Section C: Objectives and activities

The object of the charity set out in the governing document	To preserve and protect good mental health in Staffordshire and the surrounding areas by the provision

	of a confidential counselling service.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)	Fountains Counselling Service is a voluntary organisation staffed by professionally qualified volunteer counsellors. It continues to offer counselling support to adults experiencing a variety of life challenges including anxiety, stress and depression, loss and bereavement, anger, abuse and relationship difficulties. The Service is accessible to all and does not charge a fee for counselling sessions (although a donation is welcomed from those clients who are able to make a contribution towards sustaining the service). We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.
Additional details of objectives and activities *(optional information)*	None

Section D: Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Fountains Counselling in partnership with Reach Christian Counselling has provided counselling services in Staffordhsire and surrounding areas. In its first year of operation the partnership has seen Reach managed the services offered by the partnership. Reach received and allocated requests for counselling and ensured Counsellors provided a safe and appropriate service. Fountains provided support for Counsellors in Staffordshire and surrounding areas.

Fountains continues to promote its activities by liaising with local churches in Stafford and in Stoke, and maintaining an active website.

Section E: Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	At present Fountains Counselling Service does not have an explicit policy on financial reserves. However, this is on the agenda as part of a review of its wider Finance Policy and Procedures.

Details of any funds materially in deficit	None
Further financial review details *(optional information)*	The headline points are: • At 30 September 2025 (close of annual accounts) the Service had total funds of **£22,131.32,** a decrease of £2,811.16 on the previous year; • Following the recommencement of counselling in 2023/24 (in partnership with Reach Counselling), activities continued to increase this year with the consequent implications for both expenditure and income transactions. <u>Income</u> • Income more than doubled (to £1,481.00) from the previous year; • With a growth in counselling activities, client donations received by Fountains rose to £321.00; • Donations from individuals (a new monthly donation from one person) realised significant income of £480.00; • We also continue to receive church donations (£680.00); • There were no fundraising activities during the year. <u>Expenditure</u> • As the Service's activities continued to grow, expenditure during 2024/25 nearly quadrupled on the previous year to £4,292.16. In line with our partnership with Reach Counselling, we pay them a £250/month management administration fee. This was the most significant outgoing in the year (£3,000.00). • The other most significant cost in 2024/25 was counsellor payments (£762.00). <u>Summary</u> 2024/25 was the first whole year of counselling activities after recommencement of the service in the previous year, in partnership with Reach Counselling. From a financial perspective, Fountains costs have increased significantly – specifically in terms of management and administration fees, and counsellor payments. Although income has also significantly increased – through donations from clients and individuals – it is a long way short of covering our costs. Consequently, this year has seen a deficit of £2,811.16. Nevertheless, for the time being, the accounts currently remain in a healthy state.

Section F: Other optional information

None

Section G: Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature:	
Full name:	**Professor Charles Lindsay Bashford**
Position:	**Chair of Trustees**
Date:	**2026-09-10**

FOUNTAINS COUNSELLING SERVICE

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30/09/2025

		2024	2025
(1) Unrestricted Funds		**£**	**£**
Receipts			
Donations etc	Church donations	615.00	680.00
	Client donations	60.00	321.00
	Individual donations	20.00	480.00
	Charitable donations and grants	0.00	0.00
Other	Gift Aid rebate	0.00	0.00
	Fundraising activities	0.00	0.00
	Other	8.38	0.00
Total		**703.38**	**1,481.00**
Payments			
General	Administration service costs	750.00	3,000.00
	Counsellors' payments	140.00	762.00
Other	Professional membership	152.25	159.85
	Telephone costs	28.84	0.00
	Insurance	0.00	0.00
	Website hosting	0.00	136.52
	Promotion expenses	27.49	45.00
	Miscellaneous	0.00	188.79
Total		**1,098.58**	**4,292.16**
Net of receipts (payments)		**-395.20**	**-2,811.16**
Cash fund last year end		25,337.68	24,942.48
Cash fund this year end		£24,942.48	£22,131.32

(2) Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 30th September 2025

Monetary Assets

Bank and Cash balances (no cash held or cash transactions)		**year end 30.09.24**	**year end 30.09.25**
	Total held in bank account	**24,942.48**	**22,131.32**
	minus value of unpresented cheques at year end	0.00	0.00
	plus value of unbanked receipts	0.00	0.00
	total	£24,942.48	£22,131.32

Other assets (non-endowed)

None

No other accounts held, no other funds held, no liabilities.

For and on behalf of Fountains Counselling Service Management Committee

Rob Belcher (Treasurer)