STILL WATERS HOUSE

Charity Number 1200086

Report of the Trustees for the Year ended 31 December 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The purpose of the charity is to relieve financial hardship for the public benefit of people who have experienced homelessness, people who are living in vulnerable housing situations and people who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness in Birmingham and surrounding areas. We do that by providing accommodation and related support services to such people. This includes giving guidance, mentoring, and providing opportunities to gain skills and experience to enable them to break the cycle of homelessness and to achieve independence.

In pursuance of that aim, the CIO is responsible for the management of two properties in Birmingham, which are leased from Green Pastures, a Community Benefit Society which fully supports our objectives. Our properties provide good quality accommodation for persons who meet the above criteria, and we are responsible for giving them the ongoing support described above.

Public benefit

We have considered the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit. We believe our activities have delivered this, since we are seeking to tackle the very considerable problem of homelessness in society. As stated above, we do this by not only providing accommodation but also providing ongoing support. Although we can only help a limited number of people at a time, we believe each person is important and we aim to make a difference in that individual’s life. We are also happy to work alongside other organisations that deal with the issue of homelessness, for example, by accepting referrals from them or by signposting residents to sources of specialist help.

Volunteers

During the period in question, we have benefited from the support of 7 volunteers. These comprise the five of us who serve on the board of trustees and two others who provide befriend our residents alongside the paid

support workers. We have a volunteer policy, which includes an application process, a DBS safeguarding check, induction and training.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our project has been running for some 6 years, initially as an outreach project of Birmingham Central Baptist Church and since August 2022 as an independent CIO. During the year the trustees took the opportunity to evaluate what we do. There have been a number of successes, when we have helped residents to move forward in their lives and address the issues that had led to them becoming homeless, but, on the other hand the project has developed organically rather than systematically. Although we have been able to provide a good level of support for our residents, we have perceived the need to develop a more structured programme which we expect them to participate in. We commissioned an outside consultant, Sarah Harris, to devise such a programme and we are pleased with the outcome of her work. We shall be rolling out this programme, which we have given the name ‘Resolute’, soon.

At the same time, the year has had its challenges. In October our paid support worker left our employment, which meant we had to make other arrangements to ensure that our residents continued to receive the support they required. Rev Paul Tyler, the Housing and Support Manager employed by our partner organisation, Green Pastures, initially filled the gap on a voluntary basis by providing individual support for each resident. However, we were also able to recruit a paid part-time employee to take on some of this role. Also, during the year there have been some rooms at our properties which we have not managed to fill. We are convinced there is a significant unmet need in our city to provide the kind of support we are able to offer and we have no doubt that we are in a position to help more people than we do at present, but it has been a struggle to obtain sufficient referrals from other agencies of men we can accommodate.

The trustees receive regular updates about the residents at both of our properties. This has enabled us to monitor how support is delivered and ensure that each person is helped in a significant way and in a way that is appropriate for their individual needs.

We aim to ensure that both properties are maintained in a good state of repair and we have engaged skilled tradespeople to carry out necessary works, including roofing repairs at one of our properties. During the year we also employed a paid part-time worker to carry out cleaning and general house maintenance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

The trustees have continued to monitor our financial position throughout the year. We recognise that operating both our houses at full capacity would increase our income considerably, so we are very mindful of the need to secure suitable referrals of people we can help. We also recognise the need to develop other sources of income, particularly grant funding and voluntary donations, to ensure we deliver the programme of support which we want to develop.

We refer to the attached financial statement, which provides a breakdown of total receipts of funds and expenditure, together with fund balances.

We are very grateful to individual donors for supporting us during the year.

Reserves Policy

It had previously been agreed to try to maintain a reserves balance of unrestricted funds of at least the equivalent of 3 months' running costs. But this is subject to review, as this may not be adequate to ensure that commitments would be met in the event of a major reduction in current income levels.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Still Waters House is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and its activities are regulated by its constitution.

Charity Trustees

Under the constitution, the only members of the charity are the trustees. They are responsible for the direction of the charity, ensuring that it is well-run and delivers its charitable outcomes in accordance with its aforesaid aims and objectives.

The constitution names the first trustees. Further trustees may be appointed at a meeting of the existing trustees. Also, up to four trustees may be nominated by Birmingham Central Baptist Church. There have been no changes to the board of trustees during the year.

Organisational structure

Decisions are made at trustees' meetings. During the year 2025 there have been five convened meetings, including a strategy planning afternoon and a

meeting to discuss an urgent personnel matter. The trustees also share information and, if necessary, agree on actions between meetings using private electronic media.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1200086

Principal address

Birmingham Central Baptist Church
35 Ellen Street
Birmingham
B18 7LJ

Trustees

Rowland Hopkins
Rev Elisabeth Tyler
Gemma Webb
Shirley Mallon
Andrew Jolly

Independent Examiner

Philip Powell

Contact with the charity may be made at its principal address above or by email at stillwatershouse@gmail.com

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21st October 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Rowland Hopkins – Trustee