

SAMARITANS OF NEWRY

TRUSTEES' REPORT
for the year to 31st March 2024

COMPANY INFORMATION

1. Reference and administration

Full name of Charity:	Samaritans of Newry. (CCNI 106776) The Charity is an incorporated organisation (CLG NI 644871) and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation. The Organisation Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.
Organisation:	The Company limited by guarantee called Samaritans of Newry is affiliated to the wider Samaritan Organisation which was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.
Company Registered office:	19 St. Colman's Park, Newry, BT34 2BX
Charity address:	19 St. Colman's Park, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 2BX
Trustees serving 2023/24:	Oonagh Brown Maire Hughes Martin Darling Anne Carlisle
Secretary	Martin Darling
Treasurer	Anne Carlisle
Custodian Trustees:	Samaritans The Upper Mill Kingston Road Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AF
Principal Banker:	A.I.B Bank 42-44 Hill Street, Newry, BT34 1AU
Principal Solicitors:	The Elliot Trainor Partnership, 3 Downshire Road Newry BT341EE
Accountants:	RPB Chartered Accountants 22 St. Colman's Park Newry, BT34 2BX
Insurance Brokers:	PIB Insurance Brokers Poppleton Grange Low Poppleton Lane York YO26 6GZ

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The Trustees hereby present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2024.

These documents are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, voluntarily, in accordance with international best practice (Statement of Recommended Practice in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 effective 2015) as recommended by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustee's Annual Report under the Statements of Recommended Practice guidelines.

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2024.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Samaritans of Newry (CLG NI 644871; CCNI 106776) is, and is recognised by the Organisation as an affiliated branch of the Organisation.

The Organisation called Samaritans was incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 on 11 April 1963 and is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, and a charity registered in England and Wales (charity registered number 219432) and in Scotland (Scottish charity number SC040604) ("the Central Charity").

The Organisation's Trustee Board shall have power to dissolve, suspend or withdraw recognition of the Charity as a branch of the Organisation.

2. Management, Internal Control and Risk Management

The day-to-day management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees of the Charity who are responsible for the implementation of Samaritans strategy and to support the work of Samaritan volunteers in the Charity.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the system of internal control for the charity including the safety of Charity assets and the integrity of the accounting procedures.

The Branch Leadership Team is comprised of:

- (i) Branch Director, Vice Director, Secretary, Treasurer and
- (ii) 6 members who shall be Deputy Directors, (appointed by the Director/Chair), who have responsibility for the areas of, Hub Liason, Recruitment, Volunteer Care, Publicity, Rota and Training.
- (iii) 4 Trustees from the above
- (iv) and may also include co-opted members.

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A member shall not serve for more than three consecutive years in a given role. The exception to this is the Branch Secretary who may serve for six consecutive years.

In the event of any vacancy in the elected members of the BLT (other than ex-officio members) the BLT shall require the Secretary to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect a Samaritan to fill such vacancy.

Casual vacancies on the BLT may be filled by the Director/Chair.

The Trustees shall meet as often as may be required but at least three times a year. Three members of the Trustees shall be a quorum.

It is recommended that the BLT meet at least every 6 – 8 weeks.

3. Public Benefit Statement

In planning our activities for the year Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Samaritans offers support to those at risk of suicide by being there to listen and encourage the recognition and exploration of their options. By doing so we aim to help people find ways of coping with their distress without choosing to die by suicide. We also seek to support those whose distress is less acute, in the hope that they will not reach the point of feeling that they wish to end their lives. We make our support available by telephone and email.

Samaritans' service is open to people who are suicidal, despairing or in distress. It works with all Samaritans branches to ensure 24-hour availability of the service across the UK.

4. Objectives and Activities

4.1 Objectives

Samaritans of Newry main objects are:

- To provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair including those that may lead to suicide;
- To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and
- To support the Organisation, Samaritans, registered in England and Wales with company number 757372, registered charity number 219432.

4.2 Principal Activities

Samaritans of Newry principal activities include the following:

- Providing confidential emotional support via telephone;
- Raising awareness and understanding of Samaritans;
- Developing partnerships with related agencies, voluntary groups and statutory bodies to better implement Samaritans strategic objectives and improve our service for 'callers';

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- Liaising with statutory bodies on behalf of the charity; and
- Implementing the research policy and best practice standards generated by Samaritans.
- Network with other organisations who share similar values and objectives.

5. Mission and Values

Samaritans' *Vision* is that fewer people die by suicide.

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

We do this by being available round the clock 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 to achieve our Vision.

Influencing public policy and raising awareness of the challenges of reducing suicide.

We are committed to the following *Values*:

Listening Confidentiality

People making their own decisions

Being non-judgmental

Human Contact

6. Volunteers

Samaritans of Newry could not exist without the dedication, skill and commitment of its volunteers. We are committed to best practice in volunteering and invest substantially in initial training and on-going training to ensure that the highest standards of training and volunteer management are maintained in the branch.

All new listening volunteers are required to clear Samaritans disclosure and barring service before commencing emotional support duties.

Our volunteers know how important it is that we are always available, providing a safe place, where people can be themselves when they need us most. Our volunteers are ordinary people who do extraordinary things, and we could do nothing without them. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

To this end we have a comprehensive volunteer support system, comprising of a volunteer care team, mentors, Leaders and on-call Deputy Directors

7. Helpline

Samaritans branches collectively operate a 24-hour freephone and email helpline service. The Newry branch is one of the eight branches in Northern Ireland connected to the UK telephony network, *Link*.

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The *Link* system is a resilient digital platform which ensures that callers are connected to the service as quickly as possible and that capacity can be monitored to ensure that the service offers optimal capacity. Samaritans is also signposted to by other service providers, and many other helplines, not in a position to offer a 24-hour service.

8. Awareness raising, Outreach and face to face

Samaritans of Newry deliver a range of awareness raising sessions in the community. The broad themes of our Branch outreach/awareness activity are:

- To deliver emotional awareness presentations in post primary schools, to help young people to cope better with life's challenges and to develop their emotional health and well-being;
- To take the Samaritans message to vulnerable groups;
- To make the Samaritans service known to local organisations/businesses.

During the period of this report, we were involved in the "Darkness into Light" walk in Kilbroney Park on 24th May 2023.

We also were in attendance at the Vintage Car Rally in Rostrevor in June 2023.

We have been in contact with schools and businesses and delivered emotional wellbeing talks.

We raised our profile through social media campaigns and features in the local press.

9. Achievements, performance and plans for the future

In the 12-month period to the end of March 2024 the Branch answered 18325 calls and 3829 hours were spent on the telephone. Showing an increase on the previous years figures. All callers were provided with confidential, non-judgmental, emotional support.

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Recruitment and Training of new volunteers is ongoing in the Branch. Two cohorts received training during the period of the report, one finishing in June 2023 and the other, having finished their initial training, are in the process of Embedment training. Ongoing training of established volunteers continued via digital modules. In September 2023 we had a very successful training session in a local hotel involving all volunteers. Our thanks go to the training team for their dedication in delivering very high quality of training.

A number of volunteers attended the Regional Conference in Bangor and participated in a number of workshops and information sessions.

The Branch Director and members of the BLT attended various online conferences, webinars and workshops including Samaritans AGM Regional Council meeting.

We are celebrating 50 years in Newry this year and to raise our profile in the local community, we were featured in the local newspaper. The publicity was useful to our recruitment drive also.

Samaritans was a nominated charity by Mylife and we were charity partners with Newry Chamber of Commerce in June.

10. Financial Review

10.1 Results for the year

Financial results for the year ended 31 March 2024 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 10.

10.2 Income Generation

Samaritans of Newry raised total income of £33,082 in the year to 31st March 2024.

10.3 Resources Expended

Total resources expended by Samaritans of Newry amounted to £22,233 for the year to 31 March 2024. Of the Charities expenditure 60% was spent on direct charitable activities and 40% on governance.

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10.4 Reserve Policy

In accordance with recommended best practice, the Trustees have adopted a Reserves Policy which is concerned with how much 'free' (or unallocated) reserves the charity retains.

This excludes the following:

- Restricted funds
- Designated funds
- Income funds that could only be realised by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use.

Samaritans of Newry has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate Reserve Policy. Having reviewed the reserves of the charity, the policy of the Trustees is to retain sufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of operations and to absorb periodic setbacks, while committing the maximum amount available for the provision of services.

11. Statement of responsibilities of members of the Board in respect of the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with UK Law and regulation.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including SORP Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK.

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

- select suitable accounting policies for the Charity financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Anne Carlisle

Trustee

Date: 26th June 2024

Oonagh Brown

Trustee

Date: 26th June 2024