

**Samaritans of Caithness SCIO**

***Registered Scottish Charity***

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Charity No: SC 046706**

**Samaritans of Caithness SCIO**  
**31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

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**Samaritans of Caithness SCIO**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Scottish Charity Registration Number** SC046706

**Contact Address**

**Trustees**

Director

Treasurer

Secretary

Trustee

**Bankers**

Bank of Scotland,  
25 Orlig St,  
Thurso  
KW14 7HQ

Santander Bank,  
1 Orlig St,  
Thurso  
KW14 7BJ

Redwood Bank  
The Nexus Building Broadway,  
Letchworth Garden City  
SG6 3TA

**Independent Examiner**

KWlck Books Ltd  
12 Albert Street  
Wick  
Caithness  
KWI 5BQ

## **Report of the Trustees**

Scottish Charity Number SC046706

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Committee Members (Trustees)**

The committee members were appointed at the Annual General Meeting of Charity SC046706 on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### **Governing Document**

Caithness Samaritans is governed by its constitution, which also forms the basis of the other Samaritans branches which chose to become incorporated charities affiliated to the Samaritans Central Organisation.

### **Charitable Purposes – Samaritans Vision is that Fewer People Die by Suicide**

We work to achieve this vision 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 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide emotional support for the people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. In particular we reach out to high-risk groups and communities to reduce the risk of suicide. We attempt to influence public policy and raise awareness of the challenges of reducing suicide.

### **We are Committed to the Following Values**

Listening, because exploring feeling alleviates distress and helps people to reach a better understanding of their situation and the options open to them.

Confidentiality, because if people feel safe they are more likely to be open about their feelings. People making their own decisions wherever possible, because we believe that people have the right to find their own solution and telling people what to do takes responsibility away from them.

Being non-judgemental, because we want to be able to talk to us without fear of prejudice or rejection.

Human contact, because giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental need, and reduces distress and despair.

## **Samaritans of Caithness SCIO**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

### **Activities and Achievements**

The Caithness branch of Samaritans meets the needs of the local population, the more general Scottish population and the population of the UK as a whole by providing a telephone answering service. Because of the small number of listening volunteers, the branch is only able to open for a limited number of hours per week. The branch is endeavouring to increase the number of such listening volunteers and as this number increases the hours open per week will increase. In addition to speaking to callers on the telephone the branch also offered an e mail answering service until this was stopped by the Central Samaritans Charity in November 2022. The table below shows the number of contacts we have had during the last two years. Some of the telephone calls received are of only a few seconds in length and do not involve provision of the full Samaritan service; the calls excluding these very short calls are also shown in the table. It is noted that the proportion of these short calls has reduced over recent years from about 50% of total calls to less than 25%. This experience is typical of the results for Samaritans calls as a whole.

Year	Total Number of Telephone Contacts	Number of Telephone Contacts lasting more than a few seconds	Total Number of e-mails responded to
2022/2023	2087	1664	224
2023/2024	2011	1563	0

In addition to being available to callers we undertake awareness and fundraising events in the local community, as well as being a vital source of funds to allow us to continue to operate, these events publicise our existence and draw attention to the service we provide. During the period we have held fundraising events at the Co-op supermarket in Thurso, walked the street in the Thurso shopping centre and attended the County Show in Wick and the Highland Games in Halkirk and Mey.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### **Overview**

The Financial Statement for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 are set out on pages 6 and 7. This has resulted in a Deficit of £335. (2023 Gain of £1130). Only by maintaining careful control of expenditure and exploring a range of income streams has it been possible to achieve this satisfactory financial performance. Details of the financial performance of the charity are given later in this document.

## **Samaritans of Caithness SCIO**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

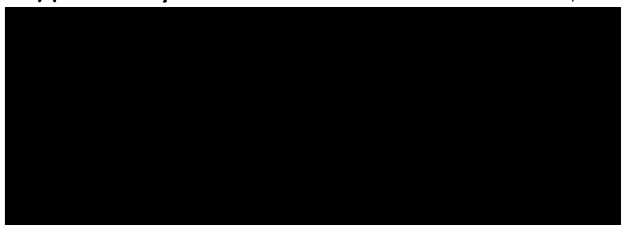
### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees believe that a reserve of about 12 to 18 months of expenditure is an appropriate level of reserves. Reserves on 31 March 2024 were £19115, which is somewhat above the target level but keeps the charity in a relatively good position.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

We are committed to supporting our callers by telephone. Recruitment and training of new listening volunteers will remain essential to achieving this.

Approved by the trustees on ..... 5.6.24 ..... and signed on their behalf by: -



Date ..... 28.6.24 .....

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees**

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the 12 months ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the items of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ('The 2006 Regulations'). The Charity's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether matters have come to my attention.

### **Role of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the documents presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention: -

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name:

Qualification: Accountant

Address: KWick Books Ltd  
12 Albert Street  
Wick  
Caithness  
KW1 5BQ

Date: 10-07-24

# SAMARITANS OF CAITHNESS SCIO

## Statement of Receipts and Payments For The 12 Months Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Restricted Funds (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Grants	2	500	5,000	5,500	7,000
Fundraising and donations			2,720	2,720	1,928
Investment Income			185	185	102
Sundry Income				-	-
Gift Aid including GASDS			360	360	-
		500	8,265	8,765	9,030
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Cost of voluntary income			-	-	-
Fundraising Expenses					
Cost of charitable activities (excluding examiner's fees)	3	500	8,600	9,100	7,900
Governance Costs (examiner's fees)			-	-	-
<b>Total Payments</b>		500	8,600	9,100	7,900
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT (-) FOR THE PERIOD BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		-	335	335	1,130
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT (-) FOR THE PERIOD AFTER TRANSFERS</b>		-	335	335	1,130
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Balance of Funds at commencement			19,450	19,450	18,320
Balance of funds at close		-	19,115	19,115	19,450
<i>The above funds are represented by:-</i>					
<u>Bank Accounts</u>					
Bank of Scotland		-	4,067	4,067	9,402
Santander		-	5,048	5,048	48
Redwood Bank			10,000	10,000	10,000
Cash in Hand			-	-	-
		-	19,115	19,115	19,450

This financial statement and associated notes were approved by the Board of Trustees on

(Trustee and Director)

28. 6. 24.

Date



# SAMARITANS OF CAITHNESS SCIO

## Notes To The Financial Statements For The 12 Months Ended 31 March 2024

### 1 FIXED ASSETS

The Charity owns and occupies the premises at [REDACTED]  
The current insurance values are Buildings £105069, Contents £31223.

Note	Restricted Funds (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
2 GRANTS RECIEVED				
Samaritans Scottish Regional Grant	500		500	
Samaritans Central Charity		5,000	5,000	
Halsary Caithness Community Fund Grant			0	7,000
Highland Regional Council			0	0
	500	5000	5500	7,000
COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
3 Insurance		0	0	1,607
Telephone		926	926	823
Heat and Light		778	778	725
Show Expenses		185	185	10
Stationery, Advertising and Postages		293	293	18
Branch Contribution		974	974	649
Property and Equipment Costs		716	716	65
Travelling Expenses for Duty		2,849	2,849	3,871
Miscellaneous Expenses (incl training)		119	119	44
Sum Up Card Machine		65	65	
Deposit on New Doors and Windows	500	1,600	2,100	
I C O		35	35	35
Three Rings		60	60	53
	500	8,600	9,100	7,900
4 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS				
Insurance prepaid			-	829
5 CREDITORS				
There were no creditors			-	-
6 TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES				
No remuneration was paid to any trustee or related party				
Expenses paid to Trustees in respect of travelling expenses			2,377	1,068
Number of Trustees (as of 31st March)			4	3
7 CENTRAL OFFICE GRANT				
The accounting year end of all Samaritans Branches is now 31 March.				
The Samaritans General Office make calculations of branch affiliation fee (known as new branch contribution) from the results of the previous accounting period.				