Charity No. SC041071

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Administrative Details

The reference and administrative details, including the names of the Trustees who held office on Page 1 Also a list of Trustees that stood down and those elected during the year.

Structure, governance and management

Fresh Start Borders is governed by its Constitution. The Committee, who are the organisation's Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law, are elected by members for a term.

Objectives and Activities

Fresh Start Borders has premises at 9B Tweed Mill in Selkirk and is affiliated to the Selkirk Council of Churches. Fresh Start Borders is a charity set up to help alleviate poverty providing Starter Packs to Homeless People in the Scottish Borders

Achievements and Performance

During the year Fresh Start Borders has met regularly to carry out various activities in thewith pursuit of its objectives. Since Fresh Start Borders was set up in June 2009 it has helped numerous homeless people working with agencies throughout the Scottish Borders to alleviate poverty in the Scottish Borders It has distributed nearly 4000, Starter Packs to Homeless people by March 2026 helping homeless people in the Scottish Borders Area.
This year has been another year where we have seen an increase in the need for start pack, but Fresh Start Borders has been able to provide all the extra packs required. This has been because of the dedication of our volunteers. Fresh Start Borders has received grants from individuals and companies which should help in providing a secure future. We have also received other donations from various other local groups and items of second-hand goods to supply our packs. Fresh Start Borders has also received an offer of help of funds from local businesses as the area becomes aware of our work. This year again we have publicised Fresh Start Borders through various talks in schools and were chosen as a charity for a local school for this year. We again continue to talk about our service to local groups. This year has seen another steady demand for start packs but have noticed that we have helped an increasing number of families with Children as of last year. We have strived to meet the demand. We continue to be able to supply the clients needing Starter Packs and we are in some cases expanding our work with different agencies to ensure the appropriate clients are supplied. We have again increased the number of collections from people willing to donate goods so that we can supply the packs to the clients with the essential items (bedding etc). needed to complete the Starter Packs and in some cases been able to supply a limited number of microwaves, heaters to certain clients. New last year we introduction of the distribution of Slow cookers under a trial period and are continuing the trial this year as we look for funding to supply this item on a regular basis. We have been able to negotiate with local bedding retailer for discounts on duvets etc..

Financial Matters

Financial accounts are included in this report. At the end of the year the total in bank is £ 34705 all is unrestricted funding.
Reserves Policy; - As the charity relies on donations and grants the reserves are to enable emergency costs to be met and is set at £500 which is held in main account which is closely monitored by the trustees.
This year again has seen the charity obtain access to our Banking through the internet, as local branches have been closed, this has enabled us to pay bills through BACs and quicker.

Plans for the future

It is anticipated to carry on making Start Packs as we assume the need for our packs will increase, we are expecting a substantive rise in demand. As already, stated we have been contacted by a Housing Association stating that they are estimating an increase in a demand for our packs
Fresh Start Borders plan to continue to expand further in the Borders so that more Homeless people can be helped. This will be done by further appeals for donations of items for the make- up of starter packs and presentations to the various homeless groups informing them of our service. To enable the packs to be made, further donations of items will be needed as stated above and these will be obtained by appeals locally in the borders for good quality 2nd hand goods and applying for grants from donor bodies when required. There will also be a need to set up further collection points in other Border Towns the aim being to have central collection points in each border town this has only been achieve through some of the local churches but still needs to be expanded, this will involve the local people in helping in their own areas expanding the aim to help the most needed people in the Borders..Future funding opportunities will be investigated in the year ahead when opportunities arise. Fresh Start Borders will continue to raise its profile in the Scottish Borders through various activities (e.g. demonstrations).