

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019

SECTION A: Reference and administration details

Charity Name	Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO
Other names the charity is known by	Routes to Roots, R2R
Registered charity number	1155945
Principle address	R2R Office
	Skinner Street URC
	Poole
	Dorset BH15 1RQ

Trustees

Name	Office	Period	Those entitled to appoint Trustees
Rev Pat Southgate	Chairman	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	✓
Kate Mellor	-	01/04/2018-31/03/2019	✓
Andrew Teale	-	03/07/2018-31/03/2019	✓
Martin Finch	-	07/06/2018-31/03/2019	✓
Lucy Holt	-	22/01/2018-31/03/2019	✓
Iain Scott	-	22/01/2018-31/03/2019	✓

SECTION B: Structure, governance and management

Governing Document	Constitution
How Constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee Selection Methods	Appointment by Board of Trustees and by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting

SECTION C: Objectives and activities

Objects	<p>The objects of the CIO are to relieve the needs of rough sleepers and vulnerably housed in the Borough of Poole by furthering such charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the Trustees may from time to time determine, in particular but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief of financial hardship • Advancement of education • Relief of unemployment <p>For the purposes of this clause the term ‘rough sleepers and vulnerably housed’ means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone without a home • Those living on the streets • Those with no fixed abode • Those in makeshift accommodation • Those in emergency accommodation • Those who have experienced homelessness and those who are at risk of becoming homeless and who need support to maintain their housing and independent living
Main Activities	<p>The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation to the activities undertaken in relation to these objects.</p> <p>Core Work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Outreach</u>: R2R delivers outreach at its drop-ins. We help direct rough sleepers to the appropriate agencies that can provide them with assistance in resolving the problems that are keeping them on the streets, for example introducing those with alcohol or drug addictions to the Poole Addictions Team at afternoon drop-in. We also inform rough sleepers about services and help provided by R2R. 2. <u>Providing Basic Necessities of Life</u>: R2R provides a hot meal four times a week, breakfast for rough sleepers during the cold weather months, clothing, sleeping bags, and practical assistance for those moving into accommodation, as needed. We also signpost rough sleepers to other support such as the Salvation Army shower facility, their breakfast provision and local soup runs. 3. <u>Prevention and Social Inclusion</u>: R2R works with those who are currently housed to help minimise the risk of repeated homelessness. We give support to those who are in danger of losing their tenancies through whatever means, such as non-payment of top-up fees, etc. Additionally, we encourage and work with clients who are struggling with addictions. We also work with those who might choose to give up their housing because of their isolation and loneliness by encouraging social participation and developing their living skills. 4. <u>Life Skills and Wellbeing</u>: R2R has, in prior years, provided projects

	<p>to develop self esteem, self-awareness, social skills, and employment skills through participation in team working, volunteering, and training and also provided creative activities including art workshops, drama workshops, cooking, etc. We plan to continue to provide these as possible. These are dependent on volunteer involvement and funding, but we plan to continue to take advantage of every opportunity.</p> <p>5. <u>Engaging the Local Community</u>: R2R offers opportunities to groups, businesses and individuals to volunteer, support and fundraise. To inform, inspire and raise awareness in local businesses, schools, community groups, and churches, R2R volunteers give presentations and talks about the charity’s vision and mission.</p> <p>6. <u>Advocacy</u>: R2R monitors the current situation for homeless and vulnerably housed people in Poole and acts as an advocate for them with police, local government and services.</p>
<p>Additional Information</p>	<p>Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO is a charity based on Christian principles which seeks to serve the needs of rough sleepers and vulnerable housed of all faiths and none.</p> <p>Its statement of faith and ethos is: “Routes to Roots is an organisation whose roots are firmly based in the Christian faith. Our inspiration comes from the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, as recorded in the Bible. We champion the cause of the homeless and the vulnerably housed in Poole. We show them the love of God for all people, not through preaching but through our actions. We also open the eyes of all those who are blind to the needs of the homeless and vulnerably housed in our town. We see Christ in the face of all who seek our help and support. We believe all human beings are made in the image of God and as such should be treated with dignity and self worth by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing, and helping to give a voice to the homeless and vulnerably housed people in Poole • Standing with them and not above them • Encouraging participation and engagement rather than dependency • Respecting difference and not expecting or demanding conformity” <p>This statement is published on the charity’s website and made available to all members, staff, volunteers and Trustees. The CIO welcomes members, staff, and volunteers without faith or of other faiths who respect its faith and observe its ethos. Trustees of the CIO must show their acceptance of the statement of faith and ethos by signing it on election.</p>

SECTION D: Achievements and performance

<p>Main Achievements</p>	<p><u>Supported Accommodation</u></p> <p>We entered the fourth year of this project. Poole Council granted gold status for housing to our tenants, which is the highest priority rating. Following this, the original three tenants moved out into independent accommodation in August, September and December 2018. Their replacements, rough sleepers, have moved in and one has been able to take on full time employment. We have established a six-month tenancy limit and Poole Council Housing team will work with all future tenants to enable them to move on in a timely manner. We are grateful to the Council staff for all their support and look forward to continued progress with getting further rough sleepers into Amos House and then on to their own homes.</p> <p><u>Drop-Ins</u></p> <p>During the year we were able to extend our drop-in services with a new drop-in on Wednesday afternoons and a fortnightly one, managed by local churches, on Sunday lunchtimes. We also extended the opening hours of the three afternoon drop-ins so the guys can come in at 12.00 for a hot drink and to read the papers in the warmth. This is an excellent start on meeting our ambition to establish a homeless hub in Poole.</p> <p>The extended opening hours also enabled the guys to make full use of a shower installed at Skinner Street in April 2018, thanks to grants from The Screwfix Foundation and Valentine Charitable Trust. Started in September 2018 the new Wednesday drop-in has become a focus for wellness outreach activities with attendance by a CMHT (Community Mental Health Team) Nurse, Homeless Health Nurse, EDAS (Essential Drugs and Alcohol Services) and referrals to SMART (Substance Misuse Assessment and Referral Team). St Mungo's rough sleeper outreach team attended on Mondays and Poole Housing Advisers on Thursdays.</p> <p>Three chiropodists continued to attend monthly and provide verified rough sleepers with new shoes. Two hairdressers each attended monthly.</p> <p>In March 2019 a mobile laundry service, The Clean Machine, based in Bournemouth also started to attend the Wednesday drop-ins so that the guys could wash their belongings.</p> <p>Throughout the year we continued to offer other one-to-one support to clients for calls to agencies, doctors, landlords, etc., professional counselling, referrals to other agencies as well as a postal care-of address and access to landline telephone at our office in Skinner St. Overall numbers attending decreased by 15% over the previous year. About 30% of those attending were known rough sleepers, the remainder were vulnerably house and at risk of repeated homelessness and ex-rough sleepers.</p>
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Meals Served	2017	2018
Afternoons	1975	2379
Evenings	2101	2027
Total number of meals	4076	4406
Number of individuals attending	296	267

Big Breakfast

Routes to Roots was again able to provide a much-needed hot breakfast to verified rough sleepers over the winter months at The Fisherman Café. This year the provision ran from November 2018 to March 2019 and was accessed by 34 individuals.

Following on from the last two years, we again confined the breakfast provision to the days when we did not have afternoon drop-ins, to encourage more rough sleepers to engage with those who can help them at the drop-ins. This continued to be effective.

Severe Weather Emergency Provision

After the inability of Poole's rough sleepers to access the out of town accommodation provided for them during the March 2018 snowstorms, St Mungo's, Routes to Roots and Skinner Street URC worked together to arrange that the Skinner Street URC Hall would be used in the future when Poole's SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Provision) is triggered. This was first used on 2 January 2019.

Client Participation

Our clients are continuing to 'give back' to the charity by using their experiences to help others, for example by helping with the cooking at drop-ins and joining the Trustees when they give talks to potential supporters.

Patron

The Venerable Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne has continued to be active in supporting us and successfully completed a 24k walk across 16 iconic London bridges in September 2018, raising £1260 for Routes to Roots.

Contracted Services and Staffing

In August 2018 we recruited a second part-timer to concentrate on drop-in management, volunteer recruitment, training and management. We now employ two part-time staff. This was essential to enable us to implement our plans to increase the number of our drop-ins and provide more support to clients. Following the departure of our last Hon Treasurer, we also outsourced our accounts and financial support to an Account Manager, to provide greater long-term stability.

	<p><u>Poole Public Services Protection Order</u></p> <p>The Town Centre PSPO was introduced on 16 April 2018. So far no R2R clients have been prevented from accessing our services.</p>
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SECTION E: Financial review

Policy on Reserves	<p>At a Trustees' meeting on 14 March 2019, the Trustees decided it was prudent to increase the amount held as reserves from three months to six months' operations, or a minimum of £25,000, at current rate of expenditure.</p>
Financial Review	<p><u>Financial Review 2018-19</u></p> <p>The funding position of the Charity again improved over the course of the year, from £138,560 as at 31 March 2018 to £184,778 at 31 March 2019, with the Charity posting a net surplus (excess of receipts over payments) of £46,217 in the year, versus a surplus of £62,175 in the previous year, a decrease of £15,958 year-on-year.</p> <p>The main highlights are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funds received over the Christmas period were particularly high, thanks again to the generosity of the local churches and successful fundraising activities by our Patron, our Trustee the Rev Lucy Holt and Poole Bay Rotary Business Networking Group. - Receipts totalled £104,695 in 2018-19, slightly below £106,312 in the previous year. - Overall payments were higher than in the previous year, at £58,479 in 2018-19 versus £44,137 in 2017-18. - Premises rental and food costs for the drop-ins increased in line with the increase in the number of drop-ins but costs of the Big Breakfast again decreased in line with the decision to provide four a week instead of six, with improved lunch provision on the days without breakfasts. - Increase in staff and contract services costs through the hire of a part-time Volunteer Co-Ordinator and outsourcing management of our accounts. - Increase in operational costs through additional on-site storage facilities for better management of donations in kind and the use of a shower. <p>Income for Amos House, consisting of Housing Benefit, rent and specific donations, for 2018-19 was £25,900 versus £28,397 in 2017-18. This decrease is accounted for by short periods of unoccupancy between tenants. Expenditure was £18,684 versus £18,744 in the previous year.</p>

	<p>Outlook 2019-20</p> <p>Looking forward to 2019-20, R2R will continue to look into ways to enhance its mission to care for the homeless in Poole. Specifically, R2R is investigating ways in which to acquire premises, which will enable us to run drop-ins on every day of the week. If we are able to move forward with this, we will need to mount a major fundraising campaign in the coming years to cover both initial capital and on-going running costs.</p> <p>R2R will also continue to work closely with the Poole Council Rough Sleeper Team and Poole Council Housing Services Team to identify sustainable ways to support those on the streets into accommodation and those in accommodation to stay there.</p>
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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	Revd. Pat Southgate
Position	Chairman
Date	30th May 2019