



Patron: The Right Reverend Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021

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	01/04/2020-31/03/2021	✓
Kate Mellor	-	01/04/2020-31/03/2021	✓
Andrew Teale	-	03/07/2020-31/03/2021	✓
Martin Finch	-	07/06/2020-31/03/2021	✓
Rev Lucy Holt	-	22/01/2020-31/03/2021	✓

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 followed guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation to activities undertaken in relation to the objects.</p> <p>Core Work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Outreach</u>: R2R provides space for outreach workers in the areas of addiction and mental health, physical health, housing and benefits to meet clients in a familiar and unthreatening environment. This improves access to, and take-up of, these important services to resolve the problems that cause homelessness. 2. <u>Providing Basic Necessities of Life</u>: R2R provides a hot meal five times a week, fortnightly Sunday lunch and 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 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.

	<p>4. <u>Life Skills and Wellbeing</u>: R2R has provided projects 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>
Additional Information	<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:</p> <p>"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>New Building</u></p> <p>Despite the problems caused to everyone by coronavirus throughout the year, we pressed on with seeking funds to start the refurbishment of the former Baptist Church on Hill Street, Poole, which we bought in February 2020. We were extremely successful in this, securing over £56,000 in grants as well as substantial donations from local people, schools, churches and businesses. In addition to the pro bono architect Ken Morgan, we secured pro bono help from eight other local professionals. In July 2021 we were granted listed building and planning consent and work started in September. The work is proceeding in phases with the intention being to complete the main hall, office, kitchen, laundry, showers and toilets, which will enable us to move in. As work progressed, substantial problems to the flooring were uncovered, which delayed us and increased the cost of the project. An additional £25,000 in grants has been pledged to this work but not yet paid in (and another £35,000 in May 2021). We hope to move in before the end of 2022.</p> <p>Trustees Kate Mellor, a grassroots property developer, and Martin Finch, a retired builder, are leading this project alongside architect Ken Morgan.</p> <p>In October 2020 we welcomed Dorset's High Sheriff and his wife to Hill Street to be briefed on our plans for the building and future activities to help clients.</p> <p>We have named this building Genesis Centre.</p> <p><u>Supported Accommodation</u></p> <p>We entered the sixth year of this project. During this year, we have had three tenants. Delays in moving people on and finding new tenants were brought about by the pandemic and lockdowns. Sadly one person has now had to be given notice to leave as he persistently broke the terms of his licence, did not engage with EDAS (Essential Drugs and Alcohol Services) and has become a risk to others in the house. Steve, who moved into local authority housing in September 2020, took advantage of the Daisy Fund grant to buy essential furniture and appliances for his new home. Before Christmas 2020 our first female tenant moved in after being homeless and put in a B&B during the lockdowns.</p> <p><u>Drop-Ins</u></p> <p>As BCP Council's Covid-19 emergency accommodation provision wound down and more rough sleepers took to the streets, we</p>
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restarted our drop-in sessions at Skinner Street URC on 1 July 2020 after being closed since 25 March 2020. The sessions ran every weekday and were only able to provide takeaways. In July we welcomed back a total of 45 clients and served 133 takeaway lunches. From 12 October, following risk assessments, we were able to allow clients to come indoors and offer hot meals but on 5 November we again had to revert to takeaways only. On average we saw 15 clients each day. At Christmas Kingsbere Kitchen again brought their burger and hot dog van and we were able to serve Christmas Day lunch. On 8 January 2021 we again suspended our drop-ins to encourage clients to take up offers of accommodation arranged for them by St Mungo's. During this period our Drop-in Manager found that a number of people stayed on the streets and took out lunches and hot drinks. On 1 March 2021 we re-opened for takeaway lunches only.

This has been a rollercoaster year for our staff and volunteers to manage and we are extremely grateful to Skinner Street URC who worked with us throughout this time to make what provision was allowed available.

Communications

Throughout the year we have been supported pro bono by Saltwater Stone, a local PR company, who helped us to set up a regular email newsletter to keep supporters up-dated on our progress at Hill Street and client activity.

Trustees, staff and relevant volunteers kept up-to-date with fortnightly zoom calls after work at Hill Street started in September 2020.

An AGM was not held in 2020 but the Accounts and Trustees' Report for 2019-20 were put on the website, notified in the eNews and sent out to members.

The charity's Business Plan was updated during email and telephone correspondence of the R2R Trustees in April 2020 as meetings could not take place during the coronavirus crisis. It is available on the website.

Patron

The Venerable Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne has continued to be active in supporting us.

Contracted Services and Staffing

We continue to employ two part-time staff and outsource our accounts and financial support. In October 2020 our part-time Drop-in Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator Helen left and we welcomed Andy Mason as her replacement. During the shutdowns of drop-ins

	our two staff worked from home catching up on administration and helping with plans for the move to Hill Street.
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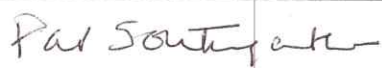
SECTION E: Financial review

Policy on Reserves	In February 2021 the Trustees agreed to raise the six months' reserve policy from £25,000 to £30,000 in order to prepare for an increase in operating costs after our move into Hill Street. Our prudence on reserves enabled us to continue throughout the pandemic without furloughing our two staff.
Financial Review	<p><u>Financial Review 2020-21</u></p> <p>The funding position of the Charity decreased over the course of the year, from £244,620 as at 31 March 2020 to £231,019 at 31 March 2021, with the Charity posting a net deficit (receipts minus payments) of £13,601 in the year, versus a surplus of £59,843 in the previous year.</p> <p>The main highlights are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £56,772 was secured in grants for Hill Street (and £25,000 was pledged). - Receipts totalled £165,216 in 2020-21, nearly 27% more than £129,196 in the previous year. This included a single donation of £10,000 from a local couple. - Overall payments were higher than in the previous year, at £178,817 in 2020-21 versus £69,353 in 2019-20. This is largely attributed to contractors' costs of £124,797 associated with the renovation of the Hill Street premises. - Receipts saw an increase in church, school and individual donations. - Gift aid income was £3,796 compared with £8,151 in the previous year. <p>Income for Amos House, consisting of Housing Benefit, rent and specific donations, for 2020-21 was £17,666 versus £25,220 in 2019-20. This decrease is accounted for by longer periods of unoccupancy between tenants because of the pandemic. Expenditure was £21,152 versus £20,283 in the previous year due to expenditure on maintenance and repairs.</p> <p><u>Outlook 2021-22</u></p> <p>Looking forward to 2021-22, thanks to a grant of £35,000 from The Clothworkers Foundation made in May 2021, we believe we have the money to complete the work that will enable us to move into our Hill Street building but the timing of the move remains dependent on the</p>

	<p>progress of building work and availability of contractors given the current uncertainties. We hope that we will be in before the end of the year. With the kind permission of the URC Elders we will remain at Skinner Street until then.</p> <p>Following our move, and the lifting of pandemic social restrictions, our immediate plan is to re-establish health, housing and benefit outreach and we are in discussions with the relevant local authority providers who are keen for this to go ahead. We will also start work on the second hall, which could be the location for SWEP and a winter shelter and a programme of daytime activities to help the clients move on, including financial advice and training sessions.</p> <p>Because of the various drop-in closures many volunteers have not been as active as they may have liked and re-motivating them and expanding our volunteer base for future activities is a priority.</p> <p>It is important to note that the expected downturn in local donations and fundraising activities from individuals, churches and schools over the last 12 months did not happen. The level of support and appreciation in the local community for our work has never been higher. This will ensure that our long-term plans for a one-stop centre for all help available in Poole will happen.</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	9 th August 2021