



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022

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	Genesis Centre
	Hill Street
	Poole
	Dorset BH15 1NR

Trustees

Name	Office	Period	Those entitled to appoint Trustees
Rev Pat Southgate	Chairman	01/04/2021-31/03/2022	✓
Kate Mellor	-	01/04/2021-31/03/2022	✓
Andrew Teale	-	01/04/2021-31/03/2022	✓
Martin Finch	-	01/04/2021-31/03/2022	✓
Rev Lucy Holt	-	01/04/2021-31/03/2022	✓

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
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	<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
<p>Main Activities</p>	<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 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. 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

	<p>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:</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>We moved all our operations into Genesis Centre on Hill Street on 21 March, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of our founding as a charity. This has been a major undertaking, which would have been impossible without the tremendous support shown for our vision both locally and nationally. Under the continued guidance of architect Ken Morgan we secured the pro bono services of nine additional local professionals. Over the two years since our purchase we received nearly £212,000 in grants from 18 foundations and trusts. At our move-in the works have cost nearly £270,000.</p> <p>There is still work to be carried out on the second hall and to the outside of the building and fundraising is continuing to pay for this.</p>
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	<p>However, this does not impact our ability to run our drop-ins and welcome back our outreach partners. Shower and laundry facilities are available and there are computers for clients' use.</p> <p>We were delighted to have a very special visitor in January at Genesis Centre. Routes to Roots was privileged to be one of the first stops on a visit to Poole for the Very Reverend Stephen Lake, following the announcement that morning that he will be the next Bishop of Salisbury.</p> <p>On 20 March we held an Open Day, with words of thanksgiving by our patron The Right Reverend Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne. Over 150 attended including Angus Campbell, Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, and George Streatfield, the former High Sheriff of Dorset - both of whom had previously visited R2R – and the Mayor of Poole, Councillor Julie Bagwell.</p> <p><u>Amos House Supported Accommodation</u></p> <p>We entered the seventh year of this project. We had three licensees at the start of lockdown and because of the pandemic all remained in their licenses until September 2021. Currently, there are two licensees. Before we let the third room, we plan to review the use of the premises as part of our strategic plan update in May/June 2022.</p> <p><u>Drop-Ins</u></p> <p>Despite on-going restrictions because of Covid, we were able to operate five lunchtime drop-ins with indoor hot meals throughout the year. On average we saw 15 clients each day with a high of 22 in February.</p> <p>In June EDAS (Essential Drugs and Alcohol Services) re-started their outreach operations with us, soon to be replaced by the new service providers We Are With You.</p> <p>At Christmas Kingsbere Kitchen again brought their burger and hot dog van and we served Christmas Day lunch to 17 clients.</p> <p>In February, working with colleagues from St Mungo's and The Health Bus, we provided a venue for BCP Council to offer COVID 19 vaccinations to those homeless or living in Emergency/Temporary accommodation.</p> <p><u>Communications</u></p> <p>We continued to issue an eNewsletter to keep supporters up-dated on our progress at Genesis Centre and client activity. Trustees, staff and relevant volunteers kept up-to-date with regular zoom calls and eventually face-to-face meetings.</p>
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	<p>An AGM was again not held in 2021 but the Accounts and Trustees' Report for 2020-21 were put on the website, notified in the eNews and sent out to members.</p> <p><u>Patron</u> The Venerable Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne has continued to be active in supporting us.</p> <p><u>Contracted Services and Staffing</u> In anticipation of our move to Genesis Centre and recognising the need for full-time management, we appointed Ben Sargent as Genesis Centre Manager in January. Ben has many years' experience in housing and addiction services across Bournemouth and Poole and will take on the responsibility for all the Centre's operations including management of volunteers. Elaine Mellers remains as part-time administrative assistant and we are currently recruiting a second part-timer to oversee all communications and fundraising activities. This will bring the employee head count to one full-time and two part-time. We continued to contract out finance and website management.</p>
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SECTION E: Financial Review

<p>Policy on Reserves</p>	<p>The Trustees maintained a reserve policy of £30,000, covering roughly five-six months. During the coming year, as it becomes clear what the operating costs of the building will be, they will re-examine whether this remains prudent.</p>
<p>Financial Review</p>	<p><u>Financial Review 2021-22</u> The funding position of the Charity over the last year reflected our work on renovating the former Hill Street Baptist Church so that we could open it as the Genesis Centre. Our position also reflects our ability to perform our mission during Covid times, when our ability to run our services was sometimes greatly affected. It is safe to say that we probably will not ever have another financial year like this one.</p> <p>The main highlights are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receipts totalled £196,723 in 2021-22, nearly 20% more than £165,216 in the previous year. - £90,000 was secured in grants for Genesis Centre. This included another donation of £10,000 from a supportive local couple, £40,000 from Talbot Village Trust and £35,000 from the Clothworkers Foundation. - Overall payments were higher than in the previous year, at £243,363 in 2021-22 versus £178,817 in 2020-21. This is largely attributed to contractors' costs associated with the renovation of the Genesis Centre. - Every area of fundraising was similar to or increased from the previous year.

	<p>Income for Amos House, consisting of Housing Benefit, rent and specific donations, for 2021-22 was £26,221 versus £17,666 in 2020-21. This increase is accounted for by periods of unoccupancy between tenants because of the pandemic. Expenditure was £20,286 versus £21,152 in the previous year due to expenditure on maintenance and repairs. A grant of £1000 was secured from Arnold Clark Community Fund to pay for maintenance work.</p> <p>Financially, we are looking forward to a period of consolidation before we tackle Phase Two of the work on the Genesis Centre, which includes renovating the Activities Hall, renovating the Balcony, and repointing the building.</p> <p>Outlook 2022-23</p> <p>We are very excited about the coming year as we settle into our very own building and start to put in operation our plans to become a one-stop centre for all help to our clients in Poole. Initially we will open on five weekdays, from 12:00 noon to 2:30pm, but intend to extend our hours as more volunteers join us.</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 for our new Genesis Centre Manager.</p> <p>We Are With You are already providing addiction outreach twice a week and we expect our partners from St Mungo's, Victim Support and Mental and Physical Health Support to join us shortly.</p> <p>During the coming year we hope to be able to 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>Yet again we are strengthened by the level of local support shown for our plans and are very confident for the future.</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	Chair of Trustees
Date	6 April 2022