

# **SAMARITANS OF FALKIRK AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND SCIO**

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2025



Samaritans ' Vision is that fewer people die by suicide



# **ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## **BRANCH DIRECTOR STATEMENT**

I am pleased to present our Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2025.

This has been a challenging yet productive year for the branch as we continue working towards restoring our full complement of listening volunteers. Our Training and Recruitment Team have worked tirelessly, delivering numerous training sessions and providing prospective volunteers with flexible opportunities to complete their training at times that suit their individual circumstances.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our volunteers, who, in addition to their commitment to delivering our listening service, have undertaken a variety of leadership and support roles that are essential to the successful operation of the branch. Their dedication, professionalism, and willingness to contribute beyond their core volunteering responsibilities are greatly appreciated.

During the year, we undertook a recruitment process in the hope of appointing a new Branch Director to lead the branch into its next phase. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, we were unable to fill this position. As a result, I agreed to continue in the role for a further year to provide continuity and support for the branch.

It remains a privilege to serve as Branch Director, and I look forward to working alongside our volunteers in the coming year. Together, we will continue to deliver our vital listening services, support one another, and work towards achieving our objectives as we further develop and strengthen the branch.

Michael Thompson

Branch Director

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## **ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Charity Name-** Samaritans of Falkirk & Central Scotland SCIO

**Charity Number-** SC047635

**Principal Address** - 19 Orchard Street, Falkirk, FK1 1RF

**Website Address-** [www.samaritans.org/branches/falkirk](http://www.samaritans.org/branches/falkirk)

#### **Current Trustees –**

Michael Thompson (Director)

Charlotte Bentley Williams (Secretary)

Allan Williamson

Margaret Coutts

Seonagh Perrie

#### **Other Trustees Who Served During the Year**

Yvonne Gregg

#### **Bankers**

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
ME19 4JQ

#### **Independent Examiner**

Kelly Thompson  
40 Sheephousehill  
Fauldhouse  
EH479ED

### **STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing document**

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation that was registered on the 10th of August 2017 and governed by its constitution. It is the successor to the charity to Samaritans of Falkirk and Central Scotland which was an unincorporated association (Charity No SC006695), established in 1974.

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### **Appointment of trustees**

The board of trustees consists of the branch director (whose appointment is subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Samaritans Charity), a secretary, a treasurer and up to eight trustees elected by the members of the branch. The trustee may co-opt two further trustees.

The Branch Director serves for three years (four years in exceptional circumstances). All other trustees retire at the AGM but are eligible for re-election if they have not served for six or more consecutive years.

### **Induction and Training of Trustees**

New Trustees are inducted and trained in accordance with Samaritans national policy.

### **Organisational structure**

The Board of trustees, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity, normally meets monthly.

Day-to-day management of the Branch is delegated to the Branch Leadership Team ("BLT") which normally meets monthly.

Sub-sections of the Branch Leadership Team ("BLT"), meet at regular intervals in the furtherance of operational activity.

### **Volunteers**

Our Branch is run entirely by unpaid volunteers. Without them, our Branch would not exist. In addition to their core role of being available for our callers, many of our volunteers give generously of their time to undertake:

- Management and leadership of the Branch
- Fundraising
- Serving on the prison team
- Recruitment, selection, training and mentoring of new Samaritans
- Building maintenance and housekeeping
- Giving talks and reaching out to schools
- Community Engagement and Presence

We are very grateful for the considerable time, enthusiasm and expertise with which these activities are undertaken.

Our support volunteers are also immensely valuable to us, giving us their expertise in finance, IT, compliance and office organisation.

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### **Risk assessment**

The trustees and branch leadership team regularly review the risks, including the health and safety of its volunteers, to which the charity is exposed. They do not believe there are any substantial risks beyond the liabilities disclosed in the Balance Sheet. The trustees accept that the Samaritans' reputation could be at risk through misuse of confidential information but has policies and procedures in place, including safeguarding and Protection of Vulnerable Groups checks on all volunteers, to mitigate this risk.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objectives of the charity are:

- To enable people to be in Falkirk and Central Scotland and the surrounding area as well as elsewhere who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those who may be at risk of suicide, to receive confidential emotional support at any time of the day or night in order to improve their emotional health and to reduce the incidence of suicide
- To promote a better understanding in society of suicide, suicidal behaviour and the value of expressing feelings which may otherwise lead to suicide or impaired emotional health; and
- To collaborate with and support Samaritans Central Charity and its affiliated branches in fulfilling these Objects.

Samaritans vision is that fewer people die by suicide. We work to achieve this by making our mission to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feeling and suicidal behaviour.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Summary**

This year has been extremely rewarding, we have carried out numerous training sessions and have achieved our goal set last year, number of listening volunteers has increased to a more stable number. We as a branch still have an increasing amount of work to carry out in our public engagement, this is due to the increasing demand from outside organisations, reaching out for mental health awareness materials/ talks.

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### **Volunteer capacity**

At the end of this financial year, we have 43 volunteers actively supporting and undertaking listening duties. In addition to this we have 2 support Samaritans who contribute to the running of the branch in various capacities.

Across this financial year we received several resignations, from our existing volunteer base. This has been a significant loss to the branch in terms of knowledge, skills and community contribution. The reasons for resignations are varied, however, We have seen several volunteers explain that their personal circumstances have changed or retirement from volunteering.

As a board, we are supportive and respectful of everyone, and their decision to volunteer. It's our wish to share a heartfelt appreciation for the contribution and efforts of each volunteer during their time with the branch.

### **Volunteer Recruitment & Training**

The branch has recruited various intakes of potential new volunteers, who have settled within the branch, as above our training team has worked extremely hard this year to increase the numbers of volunteers.

We have also carried out a huge number of interviews, this has resulted a reduction in the backlog of potential volunteers from Covid restrictions.

Over the next year we will continue at the same pace as we have, this will enable the branch to keep with demand for applications being received.

All mandatory training has been completed by listening and support volunteers as directed by Central Charity across the year.

### **Service delivery**

Across this financial year, the branch has delivered 1252 shifts from listening volunteers. This total is made up of:

Out of Hours Shifts: 256

Day Shifts: 956

The branch has remained closed for face-to-face calls.

### **Prisons**

Historically this branch would support both the Cornton Vale women's prison in Stirling, and the Polmont Young Offenders Institution.

Since the newly opened HMP Stirling opened this year, our branch has bi-weekly visits to the ladies that have moved there from Corton Vale, the increasing demand on our services within HMP Stirling has allowed potential new Listener volunteers to be trained.

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We have also carried out various training days/ information sessions with both prisoners and staff, we will continue to work with both HMP Strirling and HMP Polmont, throughout the year we will support both prisons through face-to-face visits.

### **Outreach - Schools**

As a branch we are continuing to support local schools within the area, this was paused briefly due to Samaritans changing the policy on supporting schools, regularly reaching out to schools /colleges looking to provide material for awareness.

### **Partnership Working & National Campaigns**

The branch maintains relationships with local partnerships, which supports the visibility and awareness of Samaritans and our services. The partnerships have been specifically cultivated to reach key demographics who have historically found it more difficult to reach out for help and support in times of crisis.

Police Scotland (Forth Valley), the branch has held events to drive awareness in the community in conjunction with Police Scotland of Fourth Valley. This consisted of town centre presence, discussing the service and making contact details available to the public.

Network Rail, in conjunction with network rail, the branch has hosted community awareness events at high traffic train stations across our region. Stations reached include - Stirling, Bridge of Allen, Falkirk High & Falkirk Grahamston. These events supported national Samaritans campaigns such as 'Brew Monday', and general awareness across key local dates.

### **Fundraising Activities**

We rely on income from a variety of sectors; some independent people do provide donations and larger groups / companies we appeal to for funds.

Face to face collections and informal fundraising activity have largely been our main income this year, throughout the next financial term we will continue to fundraise the same way and try for grant funding to assist with branch equipment.

Any funds which are received by the branch are used to help run our branch with everyday running costs. We advertise at football grounds, schools, colleges, and use posters to support awareness across the region, in addition to delivering talks. Our aim is to share the message that it is OK to talk to Samaritans at any time of the day or night.

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### **FUTURE PLANS**

In the immediate future, there are several activities which we will continue to focus on. on:

- Encourage volunteers to help with running the branch as there are still numerous roles that require filling. – actively promote the role of BD and fill this role within this year
- Recruitment and Training – Continue our current training /recruitment drive and keep volunteer s engaged.
- Build up the branch awareness in the local community, driving awareness of the services we offer and how these are relevant to our area.

M. Thompson

*M. Thompson*

Michael Thompson

## **ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Samaritans of Falkirk and Central Scotland SCIO  
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

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

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms 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 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 under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis 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 accounts 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 view given by the accounts.

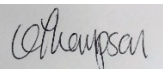
#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with the examination, no matter came 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, and 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.

Kelly Thompson  
40 Sheephousehill  
Fauldhouse

EH479ED



## ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations		4,907		<b>4,907</b>	6,217
Gift Aid		1,305		<b>1,305</b>	1,238
Prison support grant		2,127		<b>2,127</b>	2,514
Other grants			702	<b>702</b>	691
Fund Raising				<b>0</b>	825
Bank interest		63		<b>63</b>	80
		<b>8,403</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>9,105</b>	<b>11,564</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Fund raising costs		236		<b>236</b>	236
Charitable activities					
Branch costs	7	11,128		<b>11,128</b>	12,521
Service delivery	8	4,446		<b>4,446</b>	5,051
Central charity dues		1,138		<b>1,138</b>	1,517
Governance costs					
Annual accounts		0		<b>0</b>	0
Data Protection registration		35		<b>35</b>	35
		<b>16,982</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,982</b>	<b>19,360</b>
Deficit for the year		<b>-8,580</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>-7,878</b>	<b>-7,796</b>

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## STATEMENT OF BALANCES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Cash at Bank</b>					
Balance as at 01 April 2024		34,726	69	<b>34,795</b>	42,591
Surplus/(Deficit) for period		<b>-8,580</b>	702	<b>-7,878</b>	<b>-7,796</b>
Balance as at 31 March 2025		<b>26,146</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>26,917</b>	<b>34,795</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	9	737,554		<b>737,554</b>	716,956
Debtors & prepayments	11	2,353	1,783	<b>4,136</b>	2,737
		<b>739,907</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>741,690</b>	<b>719,693</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Central charity dues				<b>0</b>	1,138
Other creditors	12	272		<b>272</b>	39
		<b>272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>1,177</b>

The Notes on pages 11 to 13 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and signed by:

Michael Thompson



Director

# ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31  
MARCH 2025

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### 1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
- (b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

There has been no change to the basis of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

### 2 Fund accounting

- (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

- (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

- (c) The purposes of the fund are shown in Note 12.

### 3 Taxation

- (a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

- (b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

### 4 Trustee remuneration

- (a) No remuneration was paid to trustees during the year or in the previous year.

- (b) The charity's insurance policy includes trustees indemnity insurance cover for all of its trustees.

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- 5 Trustee expenses  
Expenses were reimbursed  
to trustees as follows:

	2025		2024	
	No	£	No	£
Travelling expenses	0	0	0	0

- 6 Transactions with  
related parties  
There were no transactions with related parties during the year  
or in the previous year.

- 7 Branch costs

	Unrestricte	Restrict	Total	Total
	d Funds	d Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Cleaning & housekeeping	4,489		<b>4,489</b>	4,576
Heating & lighting	4,331		<b>4,331</b>	5,286
Insurance	1,548		<b>1,548</b>	1,557
Office equipment	0		<b>0</b>	117
Property Maintenance	759		<b>759</b>	985
Rent	0		<b>0</b>	0
	<b>11,128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,128</b>	<b>12,521</b>

- 8 Service delivery  
costs

	Unrestricte	Restrict	Total	Total
	d Funds	d Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Advertising & publicity	2,113		<b>2,113</b>	1,850
Print Postage & Stationery	217		<b>217</b>	187
Telephone		1,783	<b>1,783</b>	1,393
Travel expenses			<b>0</b>	918
Prison expenses	273		<b>273</b>	0

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Sundries	60		<b>60</b>	192
	2,663	1,783	<b>4,446</b>	4,540

### 9 Fixed assets

The charity owns the property at 19 Orchard Street, Falkirk, which has been refurbished over time. No reliable market value is available, but current insurance cover is as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
Buildings	707,147	686,549
Contents	30,407	30,407
	<b>737,554</b>	716,956

### 10 Movements in funds

	As at 31/03/24	Receipts	Payments	As at 31/03/25
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General fund	36,119	8,403	14,062	<b>30,460</b>
Restricted Funds				
CFSLA lottery	<b>-1,324</b>	701	1,783	<b>-2,406</b>
Total Funds	34,795	9,104	15,845	<b>28,055</b>

### 11 Debtors & Prepayments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Debtors				
NCS Overpayment			<b>0</b>	0
Prepayments	1,548		<b>1,548</b>	1,548
Accrued income	805		<b>805</b>	805
		1,783	<b>1,783</b>	3,566
	2,353	1,783	<b>4,136</b>	5,919

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12	Creditors	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	<b>Total 2025</b>	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
	Creditors				
	Travel Expenses	272		<b>272</b>	39
	Office Equipment			<b>0</b>	0
	Contribution to central charity	1,255		<b>1,255</b>	1,138
		1,527	0	<b>1,527</b>	1,177

### 13 Purpose of funds

General Fund

An unrestricted fund that may be expanded at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

CFSLA Lottery

Grant funding from the CFSLA lottery to cover internet and telephone costs.

Claims are submitted to CFSLA after bills have been paid which results in a negative balance until the funds are received.