Lighthouse Ely

Trustees Report for the Year to 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Legal Status

The Charity was established by Trust Deed on 3 November 1997 and is registered with the Charity Commission. During the financial year 2007/8 charity Ely Christian Fellowship Trust (registered number 293691) was merged with all assets and liabilities being transferred to charity 1070700 River of Life. Subsequently, River of Life changed its charitable name to Lighthouse-Ely – retaining its charitable number (Charity no 1070700). These changes have all been registered with the Charity Commission and recorded on the central register of Charities.

Objectives of Lighthouse-Ely

The objectives of the Trust are:
- To administer property in the furtherance of the Christian faith or any charitable work
- To support any work which:
- Furthers Education
- Advances Christian faith
- Provides relief for the poor and needy
- Helps comfort the sick and aged

Organisation

The Lighthouse Centre, located at 13 Lynn Road in Ely, Cambridgeshire, stands as a vital source of hope and support for individuals and families within our community. This welcoming facility is home to the Lighthouse Church, which serves as a spiritual haven for worship and fellowship. Additionally, the Centre hosts a Food Bank, providing essential provisions to those in need, ensuring that no one faces hunger or hardship alone.

Among its many initiatives, the Centre is proud to support LuvEly charity, which focuses on empowering disadvantaged individuals and fostering a sense of dignity and self-worth. Furthermore, the Lighthouse Centre offers a diverse array of projects and programs, including various support groups that cater to different needs, from mental health to family support, allowing members of the community to find solace, connection, and understanding.

The Trust that oversees the Lighthouse Centre is deeply committed to fulfilling its inspiring vision and mission. It employs a range of thoughtful and effective strategies to achieve its objectives, all while adhering to the Charity Commission's guidelines on public benefit. The trustees are dedicated to consistently enhancing the Trust’s positive impact on the public and the broader community. By prioritizing outreach and inclusivity, they strive to

ensure that the Centre not only serves as a place of refuge but also as a catalyst for growth, empowerment, and social change.

Review of developments, activities and achievements in the year and plans for the future

The charity continued to carry out its core objectives throughout the year with activities continued both in person and its online presence on social media websites, Lighthouse continues its aims to reach out with inspirational messages to anyone seeking or wishing to grow in the Christian faith. Lighthouse offers access via several methods including YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

The Trust continues to build on the firm foundations already established and is always looking for ways to improve and augment the facilities and opportunities to demonstrate the love of God to all.

- Lighthouse is dedicated to its mission of serving vulnerable individuals and families facing economic hardships. It actively distributes a variety of essential items, including food and clothing, to those living on low or no income. In addition to these services, Lighthouse operates night shelters that provide a crucial haven for the homeless, ensuring they have a warm and secure place to spend the night.

- The Charity places a strong emphasis on community outreach, with specialised programs designed to support young people, parents with young children, and teenagers. These initiatives not only help address immediate needs but also empower the youth, offering them opportunities for personal development and engagement

- Within this dynamic community hub, the Luvely charity plays a vital role in fostering connections among various age groups. It operates social clubs and lunch programs tailored for older adults, creating a welcoming environment where seniors can gather, share experiences, and build friendships. As an independent charity, Luvely is instrumental in bridging generational gaps and promoting inclusivity within the community.

- Furthermore, the Lighthouse serves as an essential resource for community well-being, offering a safe and welcoming space for various activities. It also provides a platform for individuals to report hate crimes, ensuring that everyone in the community feels secure and supported. Through these efforts, Lighthouse and Luvely charities together contribute significantly to enhancing the quality of life for all community members, fostering a nurturing and supportive environment.

Activities are undertaken which can be classed as ‘public benefit’

- Christian teaching to children and adults has applications in all areas of life and relationships

- A winter night shelter was set up just in case of extreme weather provision in conjunction with the local authority.
- A pantry and a food bank provide food and clothing to people in times of need.
- Home packs were given to people entering the local hostel some fleeing domestic violence.
- Community Cook Club is a free weekly club for people to come cook and eat together.
- Free meals and support for all those in need.
- Food donations are taken and given to local families.
- Community hub drop-in and outreach to the isolated and vulnerable.
- A low-cost venue for Weddings and funerals.
- Support those displaced by war (for example Ukraine)
- Low-cost or free cognitive counselling when needed.
- Feeding the community with hot meals at the warm hub.
- Youth work for the benefit of secondary school-age children, offering informal education.
- summer programs and school holidays with activities for the community
- Working with elderly people who are isolated and vulnerable through social interaction, providing hot meals and informal education.
- Support groups specifically for men to allow space to talk and aid in mental health.
- Ladies groups for social engagement and holistic care.

The Lighthouse has premises that are a valued resource to the community. The following groups have made use of the premises.

- ☐ LuvEly Pantry (community fridge)
- ☐ Groups for children and young people.
- ☐ Support organisations for those with additions.
- ☐ Aerobics for adults and children
- ☐ Everyone Heath and everyone active.
- ☐ Falls prevention support group.
- ☐ Ukraine Community Support Hub
- ☐ Relate counselling.
- ☐ Provision for children not in education
- ☐ Building better lives
- ☐ CAP debt management.
- ☐ Adult learning
- ☐ 1-2-1 teaching for excluded children.
- ☐ Sports/dance/drama for teenagers
- ☐ Prospects Trust supports adults with additional needs.
- ☐ And others

Financial progress

Support for outreach, evangelism and ministry are core purposes of the Trust they remain a high priority for funds. The principle applied is that individual courses & events should cover costs wherever possible and that funds should be invested with that hope.

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees have resolved to establish reserves to provide for future activities.
The policy on reserves is that the existing assets are retained to produce income which is wholly utilised to support existing activities. There is no intention in the long term to either increase or reduce the capital held. Lighthouse aims to have in place 3 months of expenditure kept in reserve. This policy is justified in that it is necessary to preserve income at the present levels to maintain the activities of the charity.

The Trustees are also conscious that the buildings require maintenance and repair, some reserves are being put aside for necessary works and specific donations go into a restricted fund that has also been established for this purpose.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year of its financial position at the end of the financial year. In preparing these financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Board of Trustees should follow best practices and select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on an ongoing concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Signed

Giles Cornell Trustee

Date