



South Cheshire
CLASP

Annual Report 2022

Jubilee House
St Paul's Street
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 2QA

☎ 01270 250629

✉ info@southcheshireclasp.org.uk

🌐 www.southcheshireclasp.org.uk

registered charity number: 1188608



Contents:

1. Organisational Structure & Governance	page 4
2. Charity Values and Objectives	page 5
3. Chairman's Report	page 7
4. A Snapshot of 2022	page 8
5. Achievements	page 11
6. Acknowledgements & Thanks	page 13
7. Appendix – Financial Reports	page 14

Organisational Structure & Governance:

South Cheshire CLASP is governed by its Constitution adopted on 12th June 2020.

The governing body is the board of Trustees. As at 31st December 2022, there were 6 members. Trustees are recruited annually at the AGM or can be co-opted on to the board. Decision making takes place at bi-monthly Trustee meetings.

Trustees:

Chris Wenlock
Gemma Harris (Parent Representative)
Graham Bushill (Safeguarding Lead)
John Colclough (Chairman)
Ruth Grimshaw
Stuart Luck

Staff:

Emma Culleton (Support Worker)
Jan Wenlock (Support Worker)
Jill Lloyd (Support Assistant)
Julia Wood (Chief Executive)
Lynne Davies (Finance Officer)
Marie Harrison (Cleaner)
Rachael Doherty (Children's Work Co-ordinator)
Sandra Tatton (Parent Support Worker)
Sarah Blake-Appleton (Counsellor)
Sarah Mankazana (Administrator)
Sharon Hickson (Counselling Service Co-ordinator)
Sharon Stowell (Funding Manager)
Stuart Watson (Counsellor)
Sue Chapman (Project Co-ordinator)

Volunteers:

Anna Murray
Christel Remond
Jan Ferguson
Jean Bradshaw
Lisa Robinson
Margaret Whyley
Maureen Joy
Sue Walker
Victoria Jones

Values and Objectives

The Charity is an expression of care and support for all lone parents in the locality, whatever their circumstances and regardless of how they became lone parents.

South Cheshire CLASP was first established in 1998 and obtained charity status in 2002 under charity number 1093471. In 2020 the Charity became a CIO with the new Charity Number of 1188608.

Charitable Objects:

The objects of the CIO are:

For the public benefit and within a Christian ethos to advance the education and development of children and lone parents living in the South Cheshire area, in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) providing child development and parenting skills training to parents;
- b) providing safe group play and other activities designed to support children's social and emotional development;
- c) providing support, activities and signposting to advice which develop the capabilities, competences, skills and understanding of parents;
- d) providing activities and services designed to preserve and protect the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and their parents;
- e) providing or assisting in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of children and their parents with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Vision Statement:

To reach out and support those in the community who are affected by the difficulties associated with parenting alone, whatever their circumstances. We offer friendly support and encouragement to assist with the progression from crisis to wholeness, and a positive future for the whole family.

Values

- CARING
- ACCEPTING
- RESPECTFUL
- EMPOWERING

Overarching Aims and Objectives

- Lone parents and their children will experience an increase in confidence and self-esteem
- Lone parents and their children will experience improved family relationships
- Lone parents and their children will be able to better cope with family breakdown/their family situation
- Lone parents and their children will report improved emotional health and wellbeing

Chairman's Report

Thankfully 2022 was a much more peaceful year for CLASP than the turbulent times caused by the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Throughout the year we continued to re-establish our full range of support and introduced two new services as outlined on page 8.

Demand rose considerably, exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis that has impacted particularly on low-income families. The importance of our work is seen every day, but is also demonstrated in the outcome measures (page 11).

We received external endorsement by the level of new income from a wide range of funders- this contributed to our current financial position that remains relatively stable (without us ever being complacent).

Finally, I again extend my thanks to paid staff, volunteers and trustees: together we form a great team that makes a real difference for local lone-parent families.

John Colclough
Chairman

A Snapshot of 2022

- Services and support available to lone parents and their children were:
 - Counselling for parents
 - Counselling for children (aged 5 to 19)
 - 1 to 1 parent support
 - Young People group support in school
 - Primary Plus in school (groups and 1 to 1)
 - Coffee & Chat (twice weekly)
 - Parenting courses
 - Family therapy
 - Here to Listen weekly call support
- We welcomed Sarah Mankazana as our new Administrator and Sandra Tatton as Parent Support Worker, who have enhanced our already brilliant team of caring professionals!
- We were thrilled to be successful in securing funding from Cheshire Community Foundation (Bentley), Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, The Henry Smith charity and a four year grant of £185,505 from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund.
- Demand for services, particularly counselling for children has continued to be high – we have increased resources to try and meet the demand, but have seen continually long waiting lists. We are pleased, however, that we have managed the situation and keep waiting times as short as we can.
- Two new Placement Counsellors, Anna Murray and Lisa Robinson, joined us to complete their courses and support adults and young people with therapeutic support.
- Our two new services received some really encouraging and positive feedback:

Here to Listen –

I can't access any other CLASP services, so the phone calls have really been a lifeline. They provide a safety net for the week. Knowing they're there helps me box things off. They have an impact every day. They prevent me from breaking down crying in front of my child, and then seeing the impact that has on him. The calls keep me on an even keel.

The phone service seems to me to be a very cost-effective way of reaching the most hard-to-reach parents, who can't necessarily make it to the group sessions and face-to-face events because of either lack of time or lack of transport. For those who can't get out and see people, this is the next best thing. There is nowhere else that I could get this service.

It is such a professional service. There are limits and boundaries, I feel safe, it's confidential... all with a warm human being who has got to know me. The balance between approachability and professionalism is just right. What you do at CLASP is a lifesaver. You are absolute superheroes – without the capes!

Family Therapy –

The family found new ways to communicate and at a deeper level.

A's goal was to find a way to have a better relationship with B or how to co-exist together. At the end of therapy, he said they were doing better, but this was often dependent on how they were both feeling. The counsellor noticed a shift in their relationship in the sessions, they faced each other, smiled at each other and laughed together. Mum had noticed the improvement too.

At the end of therapy, Mum said they were all communicating better.

Through the family's openness and honesty in the sessions, change happened.

- Volunteers, once again, very much enhanced our provision – where would we and our families be without them?
- Last Summer we relaunched summer holiday activities, bringing our families back together at last! Everyone enjoyed meeting for crafts, games, snacks, and also a very enjoyable day at Brereton Park with the Oakhanger Project.



Mums and tots at coffee & chat



Fun and games in Queen's Park

Wonderful sunny day for our trip to Llandudno, funded by a generous donor



Achievements 2022

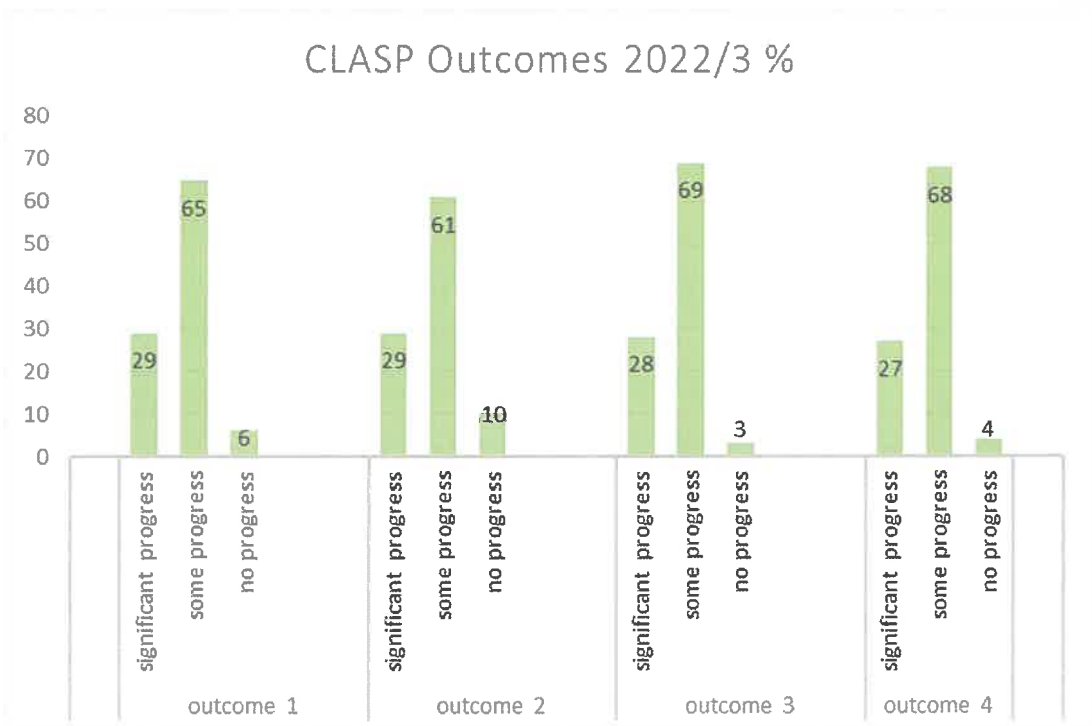
We have 4 main outcomes running across all of our projects, as well as additional outcomes relating to individual projects. The following shows our progress across these 4 main outcomes.

Outcome 1. Lone parents and their children will benefit from an increased ability to cope with family breakdown and/or their family situation

Outcome 2. Lone parents and their children will benefit from improved family relationships

Outcome 3. Lone parents and their children will benefit from increased confidence/self-esteem

Outcome 4. Lone parents and their children will report improved emotional health and wellbeing.



Some examples of how projects/services have contributed to these outcomes:

E wrote that counselling has helped her a lot to realise her worth, work through her emotions and be able to cope better with situations.

A felt better that she is beginning to address her financial issues.

T is much calmer and doesn't display the anxiety he previously did.

R has come to terms with his parents' separation and understands better the reasons why.

M said it really helped to have someone to talk to who she can trust.

E feels she looks at her emotions differently, for example she realises that underneath her anger there is sadness.

Mum has seen an improvement in L's more difficult behaviours.

X said she feels stronger and does not feel sad all the time about the loss of her Dad.

C is talking to mum about how she feels, and mum said that C has improved her emotional wellbeing.

L has benefitted from having someone to talk to about his worries, he feels lonely sometimes and is able to explore this.

J said he was feeling much happier.

T said she was feeling much more able to cope and that she is not crying as much.



Referrals received in 2022 for **306** families



We interacted in some way with **288** lone/step parents



We provided support to **279** children and young people

Acknowledgements & Thanks

The Trustees and Staff Team of South Cheshire CLASP wish to thank all the individuals and organisations who have supported us throughout 2022, through donations, funding support, partnership working, free training, volunteering, and advice.

- ❖ All of our wonderful volunteers
- ❖ Allchurches
- ❖ Ann Norburn
- ❖ Anonymous donors
- ❖ Audlem Baptist Church
- ❖ Banner Schoolwear
- ❖ Changing Lives Together
- ❖ Cheshire Community Foundation
- ❖ Cheshire Connect (Dianne Parish, Hilary McDonald)
- ❖ Cheshire East Council – Children and Families
- ❖ CVS Cheshire East
- ❖ Cheshire & Wirral Partnership
- ❖ Dunelm (staff and customers)
- ❖ Everybody Health & Leisure
- ❖ Henry Smith Charity
- ❖ LATH
- ❖ J & R Rivers
- ❖ Just Drop-In
- ❖ L Gentil
- ❖ Local Primary & Secondary Schools
- ❖ Mark Hart
- ❖ Morrisons PLC
- ❖ Nantwich Churchwardens Merged Charity
- ❖ Phoenix Cellular
- ❖ Rookery Wood Farm
- ❖ St Bridget's Trust
- ❖ St Mary's – Nantwich PCC
- ❖ Tesco
- ❖ The National Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities
- ❖ The Oakhanger Project
- ❖ Thomas Protheroe – Crewe Rotary
- ❖ Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
- ❖ Visyon
- ❖ Wishing Well Project
- ❖ West St Christian Fellowship
- ❖ Wrenbury PCC

Appendix: Financial Reports

- Treasurer's Report
- Receipts & Payments Accounts for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 for Charity Number 1188608
- The set of Accounts includes a statement of Assets and Liabilities for the period, an analysis of Restricted Funds, notes to the Accounts and the Independent Examiner's Report

Operating for the Public Benefit:

As can be seen from the Project report we were able to meet our aims and objectives during the year to provide support for lone parents and their children, enabling them to grow and develop.

Treasurer's Report

During the year we lost our previous Treasurer, Stuart Luck, and we thank him for his hard work during the time he was with us as a Trustee and Treasurer. I have again taken up the reins until we can find a new person to take over the role.

I am pleased to report that we have had another good year financially. Our total income for the year ending 31st December 2022 was £188,673 and expenditure for the same period was £190,442, giving us a balance of £168,898 at the end of the year of which £46,235 was in restricted funds and £122,663 in unrestricted funds. Comparative figures for 2021 were income of £205,620 and expenditure of £178,700 and a closing balance of £170,667.

Restricted funds are as the name implies for specific projects and cannot be spent on other things.

The Charities Commission recommends that we keep a reserve sufficient to cover at least our next three to four months' worth of expenditure and this we have been able to do.

During the year we secured new funding from Trusthouse Charitable Foundation and additional funding from Cheshire East Council/Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, also an agreement for a further Grant from Henry Smith from the new year. We are very grateful to these and our other funders as well as the individuals, trusts and churches who have provided financial support during the year.

We have started 2023 in a strong financial position but as ever we are dependent upon securing new funding to maintain our service level.

Ruth Grimshaw
Trustee/Treasurer

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

Charity Commission Registered Number: 1188608

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
RECEIPTS				
Donations & Grants	50,910	137,084	187,994	197,520
Receipts from Operating Activities	-	-	-	-
Tax Recovered on Gift Aid	241	-	241	470
HMRC JRS	-	-	-	7,620
Investment Income	438	-	438	10
Fundraising Activities	-	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	51,589	137,084	188,673	205,620
PAYMENTS				
Charitable Activities				
Staff Salaries/Sessional Workers/inc Creche	52,940	111,825	164,765	151,686
Volunteers Expenses	228	-	228	203
DBS checks	562	-	562	172
Counselling Supervision	2,640	-	2,640	1,707
Staff Training	799	100	899	2,835
Travel	398	-	398	228
Parents Courses/Activities	-	-	-	-
Materials/Resources	482	-	482	883
Refreshments/meals	616	-	616	264
Parties/Activities	111	961	1,072	-
	58,776	112,886	171,662	157,978
Support Costs				
Utilities	3,500	3,500	7,000	7,000
Insurance	2,117	741	2,858	1,856
Consultancy - Building Capabilities	-	-	-	1,063
Subscriptions	303	-	303	-
Stationery/Telephone/Post	1,133	282	1,415	2,242
Repairs & Equipment	1,724	1,546	3,270	398
Database/IT	1,820	750	2,570	998
Advertising/Printing	1,174	-	1,174	2,557
Staff Uniforms	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	-	-	-	-
Staff Uniforms	-	-	-	10
Other	190	-	190	4,598
	11,961	6,819	18,780	20,722
Total Payments	70,737	119,705	190,442	178,700
Net Receipts / (Payments)	(19,148)	17,379	(1,769)	26,920
Transfer between Funds	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	(19,148)	17,379	(1,769)	26,920
Total funds b/fwd - 1 January	141,811	28,856	170,667	
Total funds c/fwd - 31 December	122,663	46,235	168,898	

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

Charity Commission Registered Number: 1188608

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Cash and Bank Balances			
Unrestricted Funds	122,663	-	122,663
Restricted Funds			
Cheshire Community Funding		20,205	20,205
Crewe Town Council		1,553	1,553
Henry Smith (next instalment due early 2023)		(3,219)	(3,219)
National Lottery		10,507	10,507
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation		17,189	17,189
Total Cash & Bank Balances	122,663	46,235	168,898
Other Monetary Assets	-	-	-
Debtors and Pre-Payments	-	-	-
Investment Assets	-	-	-
Assets Retained for Charity's own use	Fund to which asset belongs	Original Cost	Current Book Value
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Computers	All	6,644	3,854
Furniture	All	633	379
Total		7,277	4,233
Liabilities at the end of the year			-
Total Value of Assets less Liabilities			173,131

Trustee's Signature



Print Name

JOHN COLCLOUGH

30.6.2023

Trustee's Signature



Print Name

RUTH GILMSHAW

30.6.2023

SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

Charity Commission Registered Number: 1188608

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Reserves Policy

Our current reserves policy aims to stabilise our unrestricted cash and bank balances at a level sufficient to cover our next three months worth of expenditure. This would suggest that our optimum cash balances would be between £40,000 and £50,000. At the end of 2022 our unrestricted cash balances totalled £122,663

Depreciation - Our furniture and office equipment is depreciated over 5 years

Trustees Remuneration

Trustees should not generally receive payment for being a charity trustee and no Trustee has received any remuneration. Janet Wenlock is employed by CLASP and her husband Christopher Wenlock is a trustee. Employment cost was £5869.01 including pension contributions. Christopher does not take part in any discussions regarding salary increases etc.

Operating for the Public Benefit

As can be seen from the Project report, we were able to meet our aims and objectives during the year to provide support for lone parents and their children, enabling them to grow and develop.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUTH CHESHIRE CLASP

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the South Cheshire CLASP for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: A.P. Buchan - ACMA, CGMA

Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

28 Cormorant Close

Crewe

Cheshire

CW1 5LN

Date: 30 June 2023