



## **Annual Report** for the year ending 31 December 2020

### **Charitable Status**

The Together Free Foundation (TFF) is a registered charity in England, No. 1185728.  
Principal address:

Trustees serving during 2020:

|               |            |          |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| Nick Lear     | Appointed  | 2019     |
| Peter Dominey | Appointed  | 2019     |
| Dan Pratt     | Ex-officio | 2019     |
| Diane Watts   | Appointed  | Oct 2020 |

### **Summary of Objects and Activities**

The Together Free Foundation (TFF) is a national initiative helping faith groups and communities end modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT). This is done through supporting and catalysing local communities and voluntary sector organisations to find local solutions for local problems of exploitation. Building the capacity of small voluntary and community organisations and providing them with the necessary support, information and services enables them respond to local forms of MSHT. These objectives are achieved through: 1) developing partnership engagement locally and nationally; 2) stimulating local responses through localised antislavery partnerships; 3) raising awareness and training, and; 4) safeguarding and caring for potential victims and survivors of modern slavery.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The charity's trustees continue to have regard for both the charitable objects set out in the governing document and to ensuring that the activities of the charity, as described, meet the public benefit test. In so doing, they take account of the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when planning the charity's programme of activities. The trustees of the Together Free Foundation are confident that the activities of the charity demonstrate strong evidence of public benefit.

### **Strong progress despite COVID-19**

Although the lockdown due to COVID-19, was challenging for TFF, there has been strong progress and adaptability. There were initially reduced opportunities for partnership engagement, awareness raising and the need to cancel TFF's national conference in partnership with with Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Consequently, both of TFF's employees were furloughed for 2 months, and then one for 25% for the remaining 6 months of 2020. Face-to-face partnership work and training now uses video conferencing. Although 2020 has been a challenging year, TTF has adapted, expanded current initiatives and pursued new opportunities relating to this vital work. This is evident from the following:

## 1. Developing partnership engagement locally and nationally

The Together Free Foundation works in partnership in order to maximise impact. It draws on its national networks to stimulate localised responses to MSHT. During 2020 this included participation in:

- Organising an online *Practical and Theological Responses to MSHT* conference at the Centre for Baptist Studies, Regent's Park College, Oxford University. This included four key-note speakers including the UK's first former antislavery commissioner, Kevin Hyland and TTF's Dan Pratt.
- Leading a research project relating to practical and theological responses from faith communities to MSHT. Survivor's narratives form the basis of the research with practitioners and theologians reflecting on those experiences, while drawing on their respective expertise. This is done in partnership with Regent's Park College: Oxford University, The Salvation Army, The Clewer Initiative, BMS World Mission, and Rene Cassin and The Baptist Union of Great Britain. The research to be published in book form by SCM Press, summer 2021.
- Awareness articles written and distributed through TFF and the Baptist Union of Great Britain's social media channels.
- Facilitating partnership meetings with Stop the Traffik, Justice and Care, Southend on Sea Borough Council and Essex Police
- Nottingham University's Right's Lab 'Partnerships for Freedom' research. TTF presented during the report findings, highlighting grassroots and community partnerships<sup>1</sup>
- Justice and Care and Centre for Social Justice research exploring antislavery partnership responses<sup>2</sup>
- The Human Trafficking Foundation's, National Network of Co-ordinator's Forum and the Eastern Regional Antislavery Partnership
- Catalysing a new antislavery partnership in Chelmsford, in partnership with Chelmsford City Council



*Awareness raising tri-fold card for public distribution by partners*

<sup>1</sup> Available from <https://iasctoolkit.nottingham.ac.uk/assets/reports/>

<sup>2</sup> Available from [www.justiceandcare.org/human-trafficking/it-still-happens-here/](http://www.justiceandcare.org/human-trafficking/it-still-happens-here/)

## 2. Stimulating local responses through localised antislavery partnerships

Localised antislavery partnerships are supported and incubated by Together Free while they emerge and develop towards maturity. The *Southend Against Modern Slavery (SAMS) Partnership* is held within the Together Free Foundation.



*Participants of the SAMS Steering Group promoting the poster awareness campaign*

The *Southend Against Modern Slavery Partnership* is supported with funding primarily from the Community Safety Development Fund for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex. During 2020, activities include:

- Facilitating quarterly SAMS Partnership meetings. During the pandemic these have occurred via video-conferencing. Twenty-five partner organisations on average attend each meeting. Keynote speakers and stakeholders give updates regarding ongoing work relating to antislavery activities.
- Increased partnership work has developed between organisations. For example, closer collaboration with Southend on Sea borough involves sitting on two council led modern slavery groups, as well as co-producing and delivering awareness training for front-line professionals.
- Six community leaders have formed the SAMS Steering Group for accountability and guidance. Three meetings held. Policies and documents in place.
- Involvement in the development of the Survivor Pathway Map, developed by SOSBC
- Participation in two council-led strategic modern slavery groups

### *Chelmsford Antislavery Partnership*

TFF is working alongside Chelmsford City Council and the Safer Chelmsford Partnership to support and form a Chelmsford Antislavery Partnership (CASP). An initial stakeholder event was attended by 35 individuals from a wide range of partner agencies representing both statutory and voluntary organisations. It was agreed to start CASP and agree local priorities and develop an action plan. In the same way that SAMS Partnership is driven by the community and charity sector, the Safer Chelmsford Partnership are keen for CASP to be embedded within the local community. The Together Free

Foundation has therefore been approached to be the charitable organisation which will hold and incubate CASP as a third sector partnership, working with statutory and law enforcement bodies.

### 3. Raising awareness and training

Raising awareness is a key part of stopping MSHT as it develops community resilience among the public, among organisations working with vulnerable people; among at-risk and vulnerable groups and for front-line professionals who work with exploited people.



*Street Art commissioned by SAMS Partnership*

During 2020, TTF carried out the following awareness raising activities:

- Seventeen awareness raising workshops were conducted within the borough of Southend through SAMS Partnership. These included training for front-line professionals and volunteers who work with vulnerable people within the locality. 528 local people were trained to identify modern slavery and safeguarding. Workshops were conducted at Essex University, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, with faith groups and charities.
- Eight community leaders trained to conduct awareness raising workshops within the community. Power-point and facilitator hand-out resources for this updated
- Further five workshops highlighting the work of SAMS Partnership were conducted across England, involving 470 people. This included organising a conference at Regent's Park College, Oxford University.
- Media coverage including two BBC Essex interviews and one article The Echo (Essex newspaper).
- Anti-slavery art campaign with Project 49 (a charity who support individuals with special needs). Resources including T-shirts, posters and flyers were produced. Accompanying awareness posters were distributed within the borough to cafes, shops and public places. The campaign included extensive social media coverage.



*Poster distributed to cafes, shops and public places within the borough*

#### **4. Safeguarding and caring for potential victims and survivors of modern slavery**

Activities include:

- Victim and survivor care and intervention relating to four vulnerable families and three individuals. These cases included labour exploitation and county lines.
  - Twenty face to face meetings with victims / survivors
  - Working alongside charities and statutory partnership to provide safeguarding referral pathways
  - Providing practical support and referrals relating to immediate needs (supporting funding applications for food, clothes, electric and other well being activities)
  - Providing pastoral care
  - Attending multi-agency meetings relating to case-work.
- Developed training packages and co-led workshops relating to modern slavery and safeguarding in partnership with Southend on Sea Borough Council for front-line professionals.
- In February 2020 a part-time Community Intelligence Lead, a retired Detective Chief Inspector was appointed, to work in partnership with local organisations and law enforcement. Actions include:
  - Recording thirty-three separate incidents of intelligence, some provide a local picture, some is passed on to law enforcement
  - Mapping all fourteen car washes and their locations in the Borough
  - Risk assessing each car wash. A subsequent review completed in the autumn.
  - Eighteen separate visits to car washes were completed by volunteers.
  - Nine partner information reports were submitted to Essex Police

- Five community intelligence training workshops were provided to community groups that were involved within the vulnerable community.
- One day spent with the local Council on an operation focusing on shellfish pickers.
- Representing SAMS with Statutory Authorities on the 'enforcement group'
- The following policies were completed and agreed by the Steering Group – Data Retention, Data Retention Schedule, GDPR, Data Personal Information Audit, Privacy, Equal Opportunities, Community Intelligence Guidelines, Safeguarding

A scoping exercise was carried out during 2020 relating to mapping survivor care within the borough of Southend. Existing models of community based survivor care within England were also explored relating to best practice. This resulted in The Together Free Foundation securing funding at the end of 2020 from the Postcode Lottery to develop community based survivor care during 2021 through employing a part-time Survivor Care Co-ordinator.

### **Accounting Basis**

The accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

### **Reserves Policy**

Reserves will be maintained to ensure core activity can continue during any period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves will be maintained in a readily realisable form. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle. It considers:

- I. Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
- II. Planned activity level
- III. The charity's commitments

On this basis, and having reviewed the policy during the year, the Trustees believe that for 2021 a reserve equivalent to three months' running costs should be maintained. The reserves policy will be reviewed annually.

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Signed by. D Pratt  
On behalf of the Trustees

22 February 2021