

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016



Giving hope to rebuild lives

ROAD VICTIMS TRUST VALUES

The Road Victims Trust (RVT) is a registered charity (1142336) that has operated in Bedfordshire since 1995, in Hertfordshire since 2010 and in Cambridgeshire since 2013 to provide the following services to all residents of these three counties affected by fatal road collisions:

- Regular weekly emotional and practical support for individuals and families in their homes or at our offices, for as long as it is useful.
- Space to express the whole range of feelings that come with the loss and horror following a fatal road collision.
- Time to discuss the repercussions of the collision that is a life-changing event for all those involved.
- Information on the investigation, inquest and court hearings, and preparation and support for inquests and hearings.

In addition, we offer telephone support to enquiries from outside these three counties.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The past 12 months (April 2015- March 2016) have been an incredibly challenging and demanding time for the whole of the RVT team as we continue to provide free emotional and practical support to all those affected by a road death in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.

By its very nature, a road death will always be a violent and sudden death that leaves many people in a state of shock, pain, disbelief and anger. The RVT has 21 years of experience in supporting people who have suffered a road death and we are proud of the quality and depth of service that we are able to offer. This approach has only been possible with the support of so many people and organisations who have shown genuine understanding and compassion for our work.

Our unique working arrangements with the Police Forces and Road Safety Partnerships at both strategic and operational level ensure that we are informed of every fatality that occurs on the roads of the three counties. This allows us to provide the best possible levels of victim care to those most in need. I am delighted that our work has been recognised and supported by the three Police and Crime Commissioners who have a legal requirement to commission victims' services within their counties.

We have also received generous support from many grant-making foundations who recognise that road death is utterly indiscriminate in how it selects its victims. Road death doesn't just affect individuals, it affects entire communities and we are grateful for the foresight of funders who recognise the very real difference that early intervention can make to build social cohesion.

However, for all of the aforementioned people, the on-going support is only made possible by a dedicated team of Staff, Counselling Volunteers and Trustees who provide expertise, innovation and energy on a daily basis. I am honoured to be part of a small team that makes a very real difference to so many lives.

Mark Turner

COORDINATORS' REVIEW

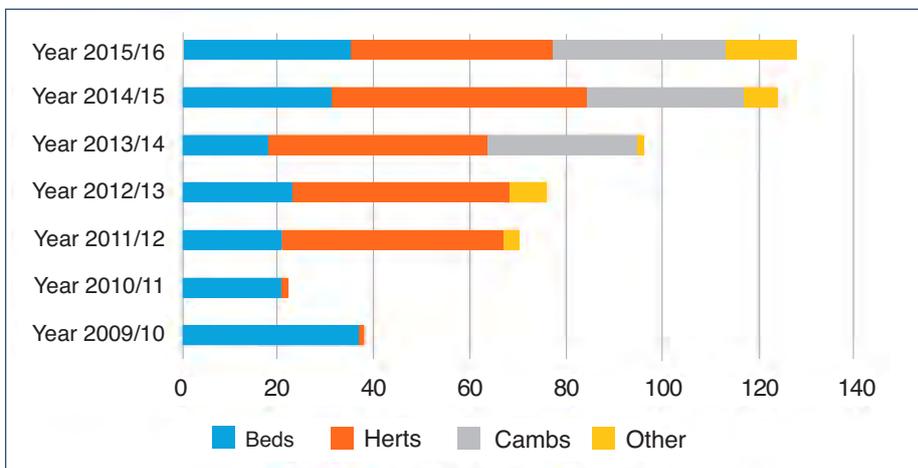
(1/4/15 to 31/3/16)

Referrals

This year across the three counties there was a small increase in the number of collisions referred. The source of referrals changed in this year with an increase in self-referrals on previous years; 77% were from the Road Collision Unit, 21% were self-referrals and 2% from other agencies.

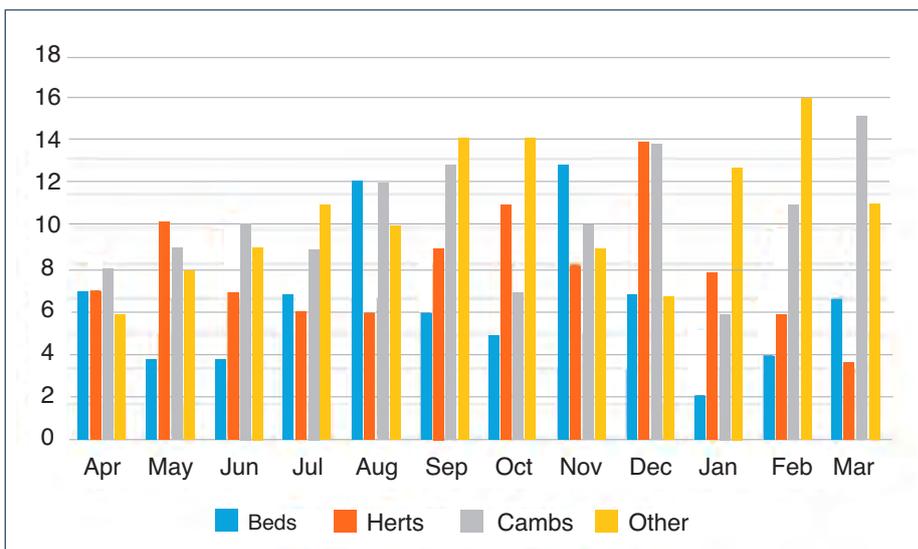
The referrals comparison chart shows the increase in referrals as the area of operation has expanded and changes in the numbers each year.

Referrals Comparison by county 2009/10 to 2015/16



The distribution of the total number of referrals throughout a year varies month-by-month and county-by-county.

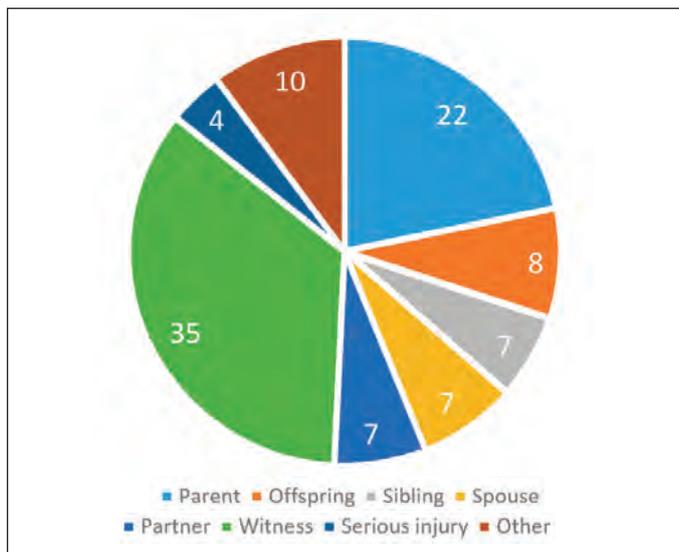
Referrals by area per month 2014/15



Service Provision

From the 128 referrals, 597 people were sent an introductory letter with a leaflet about the service that was then followed up by a telephone call. While a person may not take up the full service the contact we have will usually involve listening to their experience, normalising their emotional response to what happened, provision of information on the procedures that follow a collision and the offer for the service to be taken up at any time it is needed if they decline at the time of the call.

So 597 people were reassured that a service is available should they need it and that the impact of what has happened has been considered important enough for the service to be offered. Of the 597, 216 went on to receive either weekly face-to-face or telephone support.



The chart (left) shows the percentage of client population for the year by their relationship to the collision or deceased.

The longer-term work is usually with bereaved clients and the shorter term work is mostly with witnesses. The 'other' category is made up of different family members, e.g. grandparents.

Counselling Volunteers

We ran two training courses in the year – one based at Welwyn Garden City in September (2015) and the other at Huntingdon in February (2016). The courses, which are an intensive 40 hours over a six-week period of

Wednesday evening and Saturday sessions, recruited 13 new Counselling Volunteers. Two training courses a year has become the norm, with a Bedfordshire-based course planned for August 2016.

We hold three training days a year for Coordinators and Counselling Volunteers – a time to get together for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and for group discussion around the challenges and rewards of the work we undertake with the Trust's clients. On one of our training days we have a guest speaker and in June Robin Shohut from the Centre for Supervision and Team Development (CSTD) and author of 'Supervision in the Helping Professions' ran a supervision workshop for the service delivery team of Coordinators, Counselling Volunteers and Trustee Lyn Hesse.

Outside the Trust

As well as in-house training the Coordinator team also provided training and workshops for other organisations. This year we gave a training session for each of the five road traffic teams across the three counties and also held a workshop for a Hertfordshire college that provides counselling training and which has since provided us with three new Counselling Volunteers.

Team Changes

During the year we said goodbye to Becky, thanking her for her time with us, and hello to Susanne who joined the Coordinator Team in November 2015.

Frances, Sarah, Michelle and Susanne

TRUSTEES AND PATRONS

Trustees

As with any charity the Road Victims Trust relies on its Trustees to ensure that the appropriate policies, procedures and resources are put in place to allow our staff and Counselling Volunteers to deliver the service to clients. In addition they hold the Chief Executive to account for the use of those resources to ensure that they are being used in the most efficient and effective manner to support clients. Our Trustees bring a wide range of skills and experience to bear as well as providing a good geographical spread of the areas we cover to ensure our service meets the needs of all the communities we serve.

Lyn Hesse—Road Safety Officer (Chair since 2015)

Professor Les Ebdon—Government Advisor

Clifton Ibbett—Businessman

Paul Jones—Managing Director

Robert Panton—Chartered Secretary (Treasurer)

Ian Pears—Solicitor

Tim Sharpe—Barrister

Pat Whittome—Retired Technology, Training and Development Manager

Rosaline Wong—Solicitor

Patrons and Advisors

The Trust is able to call upon the services of a number of distinguished individuals for specialist advice and support, each of whom brings in-depth knowledge of their area of expertise to inform and shape the service we offer to ensure that it continues to provide the best possible support.

Lady Sue Acland (Former Client)

Rt Revd Richard Atkinson (Bishop of Bedford)

Dr Tim Dagleish (Medical Research Council)

H M Coroner Tom Osborne (Senior Coroner)

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Glen Ranger (Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue)

Viscount Jan Simon (House of Lords)

Chief Constable Alec Wood (Cambridgeshire Constabulary)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Once again I am able to report a satisfactory year with another increase in our reserves which are now in total at a level slightly in excess of six months expenditure.

The revised reporting requirements of The Charity Commission have caused us to review our policies in respect of the designation of our reserves and we have felt it necessary to make a more conservative view of them in order to highlight the potential cost of circumstances that would cause us to make changes to the delivery of our service.

The demand for our services has continued to expand as can be seen from the statistics elsewhere in the report. Continued funding has been received from the PCCs, Candis and our charitable donors, in addition we have invested in house in fundraising activities at a level that has justified the cost of setting it up.

We continue, in financial good health, with, I believe, our reputation enhanced and public awareness of us at a high level.

Robert Panton

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016**

	£	31.3.16 £	£	31.3.15 £
Incoming Resources				
Donations and government agencies	227,833		189,035	
Fundraising	55,245		30,302	
Committed giving	2,309		2,978	
Gift aid tax refund	7,084		7,863	
Bank interest	283		222	
		<u>292,754</u>	<u>230,400</u>	
Resources Expended				
Salaries	174,223		141,118	
Social security	14,234		10,704	
Support services	2,581		2,560	
Room hire	415		489	
Rent and rates	1,819		1,895	
Cleaning and household	805		847	
Electricity	1,773		1,587	
Hire of equipment	5,546		4,577	
Conferences and courses	4,248		1,849	
Travel	20,444		21,565	
Advertising and promotion	214		810	
Legal and professional	7,470		10,148	
Accountancy	630		639	
Repairs and maintenance	2,800		537	
Postage	1,549		1,356	
Telephone	3,608		3,566	
Computer and internet services	5,349		7,152	
Printing and stationery	3,315		3,072	
Insurance	2,510		2,437	
Sundry expenses	2,313		298	
		<u>255,846</u>	<u>217,206</u>	
		36,908	13,194	

**BALANCE SHEET
31ST MARCH 2016**

	31.3.16 £	31.3.15 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	1,146	1,113
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>217,577</u>	<u>176,529</u>
	218,723	177,642
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>41,501</u>	<u>37,328</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>177,222</u>	<u>140,314</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>177,222</u>	<u>140,314</u>
RESERVES		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
GENERAL	100,109	83,935
DESIGNATED	66,051	45,576
RESTRICTED FUNDS	11,052	10,803
TOTAL	<u>177,222</u>	<u>140,314</u>

(A copy can be obtained on request)

FUNDRAISING AND SUPPORT



Some of our runners of 2015 – well done to you all and thank you!



David Murfitt, Managing Director of Fire Safety Services (UK) Ltd, sponsored RVT and helped raise awareness by having signage at Bedford Rugby Club.



Bedfordshire Police Family Fun day in September supporting RVT and, below, Kempston Mayor Mohammed Masud nominates RVT as his charity of the year.



RVT 20th Anniversary Charity Ball. Thanks to all those who supported this event.



RVT's first Big Lunch in the Park June 2015 – a great success!



January 2016 Saw RVT introduce its first Ambassador – Henry Wellbelove

The Service of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in November 2015



A couple of our skydivers ... Carl Klein and Amiee Phillips – you were so brave!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help make a difference by:



Joining our CLUB 1000 — The Club is open to companies (small and large) and individuals who pledge to raise £1,000 within a one-year period. This is the cost of supporting one person.

COMMITTED GIVING

We are committed to helping people affected by fatal road collisions. We really need your pledge too ... by making a small donation of only £2 a month you will make a real difference. Contact us for a **COMMITTED GIVING FORM**
Tel **01234 843345** or enquiries@rvtrust.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE ROAD VICTIMS TRUST

The Friends of the Road Victims trust exists to support the work of the Trust. This can be done in a number of ways from promoting the work of the Trust to a bucket collection at a rugby ground!
Please contact the Trust to find out more.

TRUSTEES

If you would like to join our team of trustees and help the continued development and on-going work of the Trust, please contact:
Mark Turner, Chief Executive on **01234 843345**
or markt@rvtrust.co.uk

By joining the Friends of the Road Victims Trust you will be making a valuable contribution to supporting victims

SPONSORS AND EVENT FUNDRAISERS

Harpur Trust (Bedford Charities)	Bedfordia
Wixamtree	Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Masonic Lodges of Beds, Cambs and Herts	Edith Winifred Hall
Ibbett Trust	Rotary Clubs of Bedfordshire
Children in Need	Gale Family Charity Trust
Paradigm	Candis Ltd
Panacea (via Community Foundation)	Ridgeons
Mrs B L Robinson Charitable Trust	Waitrose
Hobson Charity	Asda
Greggs Foundation	Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner
John Aphthorp Charity	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner
House of Industry	Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Herts in Trust	Mike & Anne McKeegan
CDA Herts	The Wellbelove Family
Screw Fix Foundation	Paul & Sally Jones
Awards for All	A L & G Abbotts
Steel Charitable Trust	All our Committed Givers

And the many, many other individuals and groups who have contributed whatever they can either in time or money, by attending events or simply by putting money into collection boxes to help the Road Victims Trust provide its services to all those who needed support.

THANK YOU ALL – YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED