



GOOD STEWARDSHIP & INTEGRITY

Back in 2019, I had the spark of an idea to take a handful of parable-style stories and some songs into the care home opposite my house, along with some mum friends and their little ones. We would share storytelling and singing together and bring a little joy to the isolated residents there. From here **Truth Be Told: Storytelling For Life** was born.

But it has only been able to continue, to grow and thrive, **because of the many loyal supporters** who have believed in it enough to deliver sessions, become partners, approve grant applications, give money, share office space, to actually come along and join in with enthusiasm. And the list goes on!

As Founder and CEO, I am humbled by everyone who has and continues to be involved at every level. **It is their confidence, belief and trust in the project and our charity** that spurs me on to lead TBT to impact more lives more deeply, this also spurs me on to **lead TBT with honesty and integrity**.

If I was considering committing my money to a charity, I would want to be reassured that they were safely stewarding it, so here's a list of ways in which we do that...

1. We operate with a **small part-time team of three** with an equivalent of less than 1.5 full-time staff.
2. Our **overheads are very low** because we have been blessed generously by St Paul's Church in Bournemouth who not only give us free office space, but also Wi-Fi, heating, lighting, use of facilities for meetings etc. The list goes on and includes their kindness and their coffee and cake!
3. We **review subscriptions and licenses regularly** to make sure we aren't paying for anything we're not making full use of.
4. We do a fair amount of travelling to meet new Storytellers and explore new opportunities but always do so as economically as possible, keeping **expenses to an absolute minimum**.
5. We charge wherever we can and appropriate to the setting for training and resources so that we can **operate sustainably**.
6. We have been the grateful recipients of others' generosity, and we want to be generous too so we have made the project available for free to those who need it.
7. We have **robust governance and finance processes** in place with a dynamic Board of Trustees who are on hand to consult or assist whenever needed.
8. We always submit the required documents to the Charity Commission as early as possible, **believing that transparency and accountability are for everyone's benefit**.

I hope this will reassure you that your entire donation will be used responsibly with as much as possible going directly to our purpose, but if you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to contact us.

Gemma