



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	January	2015		31	December	2015

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address   
  
  
  
  
 Postcode

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Christopher Westwood			A Trustee is appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting, called in accordance with Clause K of the Declaration of Trust dates 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2003
2	Martyn Peter Morgan	Legal Adviser	Until 10.12.15 (Deceased)	
3	Graham Kenneth Wood	Treasurer		
4	Dr Janine Margaret Barnes	Medical Adviser		

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Not Applicable - None	

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Not Applicable	No additional advisers required at present scale of activity	

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not applicable – no employees, all work carried out voluntarily, at no cost to the Charity, by the Trustees. All Charity activities are under the control of the Trustees, chaired by the Founder (Chris Westwood)

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed dated 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2003
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Selection by the existing Trustees, in accordance with sections D to G inclusive of the Declaration of Trust, dated 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2003

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

**Policy Regarding Trustee Appointment:** Trustees are selected on the basis of the expertise and experience that they are able to bring to the Charity. As the position is voluntary, and the current scale of operation is such that there is no need to employ any additional assistance, key attributes are the willingness to both provide the necessary time to carry out any tasks that arise, and to underwrite any incidental costs that result from those actions, so minimizing (and to date eliminating) any resultant costs to be met from Charity funds.

**Organisational Structure:** The Trustees constitute a governing board, which meets biannually (or additionally as may be required). Direct and e-mail contact is made between the Trustees on a regular basis to discuss and agree any actions, grant approvals etc. that may be required. These are subsequently reported formally, at the next Trustee meeting. The Charity is not part of any wider network, operates as a sole entity, and it is the wish of the Founder that it remains completely independent. Upon his death, a permanent endowment from his estate will provide regular income from a suitably managed investment portfolio, which the Founder wishes to be used by the Trustees to continue the activities of the Charity, as an independent organisation, in perpetuity.

**Relationship with Related Parties:**

The Charity has no formal direct operating relationship with any other charity or organisation. Informal relationships exist with other local charities, such that suitable applications may be passed between them or very occasionally co-funded, where appropriate.

A relationship commenced during 2012 with the Wolves Community Trust (WCT). Under this arrangement, the Charity continues to operate completely independently, but any application which has been supported within the WCT operating area, is then referred to them, and within an agreed maximum budget for the year (currently £8,000.00), some support might be retrospectively awarded. The availability of additional potential finance from this source has allowed the Charity to explore expansion within this key local area. This agreement initially ran for 3 years until April 2015. The Charity was then asked to apply again for a new agreement, after a one year break, ie during 2016. It is the intention of the Trustees to reapply at a suitable point during 2016.

During 2014, a new contact was formed with the St James's Place Foundation, resulting in an agreed funding amount being provided in two stages (total £10,000.00), subject to reporting back requirements. It was stated at the time that there would be a one year break between awards, and that the Charity would be eligible to reapply during 2016. It is the

intention of the Trustees to reapply at a suitable point during 2016, depending on funding requirements.

During December 2014, the Charity received a grant of £10,000 from the Robert McAlpine Foundation. It was invited to apply again in July 2015, and in December 2015 was awarded a further grant of £15,000. These funds have helped greatly, and the Trustees hope to be invited to apply again during 2016, although application will depend on the position with the Charity reserves.

Several groups also collect for the Charity, but, while any and all donations are very greatly appreciated, the Trustees retain sole control over decisions regarding the use of any funds donated.

The Charity is occasionally approached by other charities for donations. In each case it is prepared to offer help only if a suitable case is referred directly to it, and it can then deal directly with the applicant, so that the effect of any administration expenditure by the original charity is avoided.

The Chairman is a Governor of Pens Meadow Severe Special School in Wordsley., and of Penn Hall Special School in Wolverhampton. The Charity periodically helps some of the children attending these schools, but all applications for help follow the standard procedure, and are considered by all of the Trustees. Assistance is granted only if any application satisfies the Grant Criteria, the necessary funding is available, and all the Trustees agree to proceed.

**Trustees Consideration of Major Risks:** The Trustees are aware of the guidance in "Charities and Risk Management" CC26 October 2012, and that a Charity is encouraged to make a statement regarding Risk Management as a matter of best practice. The Trustees consider that carrying out Risk Assessments on the major activities is a very worthwhile exercise, and, accordingly, operations are reviewed at the biannual meetings, and procedures are regularly updated and extended in the light of operational experience, and revised legislation/guidance.

The Charity has a comprehensive set of operating procedures, which are detailed in the Charity Handbook, and which are regularly reviewed and updated as required.

The Trustees also regularly review the Child Protection Policy, and while it remains a Charity requirement that all Trustees must satisfactorily complete a basic Criminal Records Bureau check prior to appointment, this has subsequently been extended, with two nominated Trustees now required to also complete an enhanced CRB check, and to act as the specified direct contacts with children when/if a very occasional requirement for such contact arises. Since these contacts are minimal, very occasional, and never unsupervised, no further action is considered relevant at present. Due to the requirements of working with WCT, all of the Trustees had to complete an enhanced CRB check, prior to the start of the association, although the minimum requirement specified above is considered suitable for regular operation, should the agreement with WCT not be in place at some point in the future.

The Trustees' Statement of the Consideration of Major Risks is:

"At the current scale of operation, with the only point of contact with the public normally being via the provision of grant aid finance, approval for which is only given following the receipt of external expert assessment, and having an extensive Policy for Safeguarding Children in place, and in operation, current risks are assessed to relate to the ability to generate

sufficient funding, generate a suitable level of grant requests, and ensure the long term continuation of the Charity. Operational objectives have already been set to address these risks".

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To provide financial assistance at the discretion of the Trustees to provide the relief of Physically Handicapped Children, within the United Kingdom, in particular but not exclusively to improve the quality of their lives by the provision of financial and other assistance, for example the purchase of equipment and modifications to improve access and mobility, or for any other purpose that the Trustees deem to be in accordance with the aims of the Charity, in Stourbridge and surrounding areas.

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

#### Public Benefit:

The Trustees are very aware of the requirements for the Charity to be able to demonstrate, explicitly, that its aims are for the public benefit, and for Trustees to report on their charity's activities for the public benefit.

#### Charitable Activity:

Since inception, the Charity has received a wide range of requests for assistance, and typical examples of the areas in which financial assistance has been granted to date have involved providing the funding for:

- a ) Special exercise equipment, walkers, tricycles, and standing frames, to assist in regaining and maintaining mobility.
- b ) Wheelchairs, special mobility chairs, support seating and lifting equipment, special car seats and special beds, to improve the quality of life.

The stated objects of the charity are:

"To provide financial assistance at the discretion of the Trustees to provide the relief of physically handicapped children, within the United Kingdom, in particular but not exclusively to improve the quality of their lives by the provision of financial and other assistance, for example the purchase of equipment and modifications to improve access and mobility, or for any other purpose that the Trustees deem to be in accordance with the aims of the Charity, in Stourbridge and surrounding areas".

It is considered that the charitable purpose listed as "the relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage" in the Charity Commission publication "Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit" issued 16.09.2013, covers the activities of

the Charity, as detailed in its stated objects. The Trustees conclude that this demonstrates that the Charitable Purpose is for the Public Benefit.

In order to demonstrate how the Charity's aims, and purpose, comply with Public Benefit requirement, its activities have been examined in more detail, in relation to the Public Benefit Principles.

*Principle 1: There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits*

*Principle 1a: It must be clear what the benefits are:*

The public benefit requirement is met by the clear stated aim of providing financial assistance to physically handicapped children.

*Principle 1b: The benefits must be related to the aims*

The stated aims cover the provision of financial assistance to provide the relief of physically handicapped children, and the activities of the Charity throughout the year have been solely related to the provision of financial assistance within the areas listed under Charitable Activity.

*Principle 1c: Benefits must be balanced against any detriment or harm*

The Charity carries out no direct activities other than the provision of financial assistance to help the relief of physically handicapped children.

Its actions are in response to requests for assistance which are supported, either initially, or following a Charity request, by information and advice from experts in the particular area of the problem, explaining why the assistance is required, the specification of the equipment to be purchased with the grant, and the cost. The Charity, therefore, provides finance only when suitable external expert advice has already been provided.

*Principle 2: Benefit must be to the public, or section of the public*

*Principle 2a: The beneficiaries must be appropriate to the aims*

The aims of the Charity are to provide relief to physically handicapped children. Accordingly, the benefit is available only to a section of the public. This selected grouping has two restrictions:

Firstly, it is limited to children and young people. While there are no explicit age limits, the discretion of the Trustees is used, and ages up to 25 years would normally be considered.

Secondly, the child, or young person, must require assistance for the relief of problems associated with a physical disability, in order to be assessed for a grant, and be in a position where insufficient funding is available from other sources, to provide the relief requested.

It is considered that the restrictions are the result of a clear definition of the charitable purpose, and are reasonable and relevant to the Charity's aims. They define a potentially substantial class of people able to benefit, and anyone who could qualify for the benefit is eligible.

*Principle 2b: Where benefit is to a section of the public, the opportunity to benefit must not be unreasonably restricted by geographical or other restrictions*

While the Declaration of Trust Deed does allow the Charity to operate

throughout the UK, the Charity's primary stated aim is to help children and young people with physical disabilities, in Stourbridge and the surrounding areas. The location of operation is at the discretion of the Trustees. In view of the size of the Charity, and current scale of operation, it was considered sensible and practical to concentrate initially on the local area. Accordingly, approval of applications to date has been restricted to only those within an approx. 50 mile radius of the registered office, any final decision on location remaining at the discretion of the Trustees. The Trustees consider that the area specified is of a very significant size, particularly in relation to the size of the Charity, and does not place unreasonable geographical restrictions on applicants.

*Ability to pay any fees charged* – While this section has now been withdrawn, the Charity wishes to state clearly that there are no fees charged for any of the activities of the Charity. Everything done is an outright gift to the recipient, so this section was never applicable.

*Principle 2c: People in poverty must not be excluded from the opportunity to benefit* – Withdrawn by Charity Commission in 21.12.11 Guidance, but not applicable in any case since all activities are outright gifts, and the Charity has a specific Policy Statement that it does not retain title to any equipment purchased.

*Principle 2d: Any private benefits must be incidental*

The activities of the Charity are confined to the relief of physically handicapped children by the provision of relevant financial assistance. The assistance is generally for the direct purchase of an item of equipment, and, primarily, therefore, benefits only the recipient.

None of the Trustees is associated in any way with the assessment, manufacture, or supply of any equipment, or receives any payment associated with the provision of the financial assistance.

As a result, it is considered that the Charity operates only to help those specified in its charitable aims, and the Trustees do not obtain any private benefits from the Charity.

**Conclusion:**

**The Trustees formally declare that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit, and consider that the activities of the Charity are in full compliance**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**Key Financial Highlights:**

- The Charity began the year with funds of £14,064.00
- Income for the year was £153,248.13
- Grants made totalled 63, at a cost of £87,270.34
- Administration expenditure for the year was again zero
- Leaving total funds at the year end of £80,041.79
- By the year end we had completed 320 grants, at a total cost of £323,172, since the Charity was formed on the 19th November 2003.

**Significant fundraising events during the year were:**

- 1) The regular standing orders amounted to £2,530.00 during the year, and Gift Aid can be claimed on all but one of the donors. With two additional contributors having just joined, we anticipate that this will increase to £3,130.00, plus Gift Aid in a full year. This continues to be a useful, and increasing, source of income, but we would like to grow this further.
- 2) Personal Donations were £8,620.00, and Gift Aid is claimable on most of that sum.
- 3) Company Donations were £6,506.59, from a number of contributors, which has helped greatly.
- 4) The Wolves Community Trust claims amounted to £3,500.00, which completed the grant of £8,000/yr from April 2012 to April 2015. After further discussion, we were requested to take a break of one year, and then reapply in 2016, for a further possible agreement.
- 5) Increasingly, fundraising groups are using the facilities of Charities Trust, and setting up donation pages, which transfer funds to our Charities Trust account. As a result, we receive periodic payments from them which are part funds raised and part gift aid. The management of the payments was transferred to CTT (Charities Technology Trust), and we have continued to receive payments without any problems. We received £2,334.56 through Charities Trust, followed by £392.07 from CTT
- 6) Events organised by Talbots included a Property Conference, which raised £2,138.49, but due to the work involved in organising this, we were unable to hold the Walkathon, although we hope to hold it again in 2016
- 7) The total amount from Fundraising events included £1,140.00 from a Quiz Night, and £1,571.06 from other small events.
- 8) Gift Aid, claimed in April, amounted to £3,493.54
- 9) We raised £127.68 from collection boxes, and although small, this sum is growing steadily.
- 10) We were also helped by Paul Matty Specialist Sportscars, who regularly give valuations on cars in return for a donation to charity. We have now become the nominated charity, and we received £300.00 during the year
- 11) Charitable Foundations-despite the efforts to increase fundraising, the rate of compound growth we have seen in grant applications in recent years has resulted in a funding gap. This has been bridged by donations from external sources in previous years. This year we were aware of a Legacy from a relation of the Charity Founder, who sadly died in December 2014. This has subsequently amounted to £93,000.00 to date, and meant that we did not seek to apply for much external help during 2015. Due to various minor delays, the legacy was not received until July, so we were grateful

to receive £12,500.00 from applications originally made to Charitable Foundations during 2014, until we received the funding awaited. We were also pleased to receive £15,000 from the Robert McAlpine Foundation, after being invited to apply, as we had already used approx one third of the Legacy, in the few months since receipt, due to further increases in requests for help.

**Charitable Activity:**

The Charity continued to provide the funding (or balance of funding) required for the purchase of mobility and related equipment, for children with physical disabilities, when there is insufficient (or no) State funding available, and the family is unable to raise the amount required. In total, the Charity completed 63 grants, that were in accordance with the grant criteria, and was able to complete every request which satisfied the requirements. Funding is provided as a gift outright, with no retention of title, and the business model is designed such that a cheque, payable to the supplier, is provided, and the applicant is then required to organise the ordering and delivery.

We found the funding position very difficult by mid year, as we continued to expand rapidly, and we had made limited applications for external help from Charitable Foundations, as we were aware of the impending Legacy.

However, we managed to avoid having to turn away any child we wished to help, and fund the applications we approved, although we ran with practically no reserves for a period, meaning that every fundraising activity became critical, as applications continued to be received.

Once received in July, the Legacy was put to immediate use, and approx one third of it had been used by year end. However, prior to receipt of the Legacy, we were asked by the Robert McAlpine Foundation if we wished to apply in 2015, which we did, and we were extremely surprised to receive a £15,000.00 grant (compared to £10,000 in 2014) in December. This has partly rebuilt the Legacy funding, and we end the year with reserves of £80,041.79.

However, with continued expansion, which has seen annual compound growth of 43%/yr over the last 9 years, and actual growth in 2015 of 47%, we anticipate that we might well face a funding requirement of up to £125,000 in 2016, and an even greater problem in 2017.

So although we start the year with just under 11 months funding at current levels, it would become only 7.5 months at the anticipated 2016 rate. Hence we shall need to start fundraising as early as possible in 2016, in order to ensure we can meet the expected demand both during the year, and particularly to build our reserves for 2017.

There has to be a limit to the rate of expansion we can fund, but we shall continue to face the challenge in 2016.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The primary objective of the Charity is to ensure that the funding raised is directed to those in need. If an application fulfils the Grant Criteria, and the Trustees, at their discretion, consider that a grant should be made, then provided sufficient funds are available, help will be given, even if it reduces the reserves to zero. With no operating costs, we have no minimum reserves requirements, and the Trustees consider that all funds held should be used for the purpose for which they were donated, with no minimum retention level. Should the level of grant requests fall significantly below income at any time, allowing a cash reserve to accumulate, the Trustees have the discretion to consider longer term investment, in accordance with the criteria in the Investment Policy.

Mindful of the increased level of risk that would then be involved, the policy requires the Trustees to consider if they need to seek additional expert advice, at that point, before taking any action, although, as stated above, the objective of the Trustees is to ensure that funds raised are directed to those in need, at the earliest opportunity, and not accumulated in the Charity's reserves.

Currently, the Trustees aim to hold the cash reserves in instant access accounts, to enable the Charity to respond to requests arising for grant assistance, as they arise.

During the year, the Charity received a substantial legacy, but as this is a "one off" payment, and results in the reserves reaching 11 months of 2015 activity, but only 7 to 8 months at the expected level of activity in 2016, the Charity has opened a new higher interest instant access account with Metro Bank, as it expects to use this funding during the year. Fundraising will still continue, as without substantial reserves at the end of 2016, the funding requirements for 2017, with continued expansion, are expected to present a considerable challenge. As has been stated elsewhere in the report, because the Charity operates with zero expenditure, it could cease operation and await further funding, if necessary, the only problem would be that some children that we wish to help would have to wait for funding to become available.

Accordingly, the Trustees consider that the current levels of reserves are prudent, in view of the continued growth experienced (43% per annum compound over the last 9 years, and 47% during 2015).

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

Not Applicable - None

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy

The Charity has continued to try to develop a wide range of sources of funding, and these have been detailed in Section D Achievements and Performance.

We constantly seek new sources of funding, so that we can respond to the level of requests for help that we receive.

All of our expenditure has been by outright gifts, with no retention of title, and paid directly to the supplier of the specified item of mobility equipment, all in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Charity.

adopted.

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**Section F Other optional information**

The Charity considers that its method of operation offers four points of possible differentiation from other charities, which might be worthy of consideration to potential donors:

**Targeted:**

We are a local charity, targeting small sums for specific uses, which can make a dramatic difference to both the life of the individual, and the family. Typically this will involve the purchase of a special piece of equipment to help with daily life, which can range from a special car seat, special support chair, a walker to aid mobility, to special exercise equipment to aid development.

**Safety Net:**

The State systems often have gaps which leave individuals with little hope of receiving help, and it is in these areas that the Charity operates. The special equipment required often has to be funded from a general budget of the special school attended by the child (and available funding is usually limited), or by the parents for home use (and again, some parents circumstances are such that they are unable to fund the equipment recommended). The Charity can help by providing the required funding directly to the individual children with the identified needs.

**Timescale:**

We try to respond to a request within 24/48 hrs. Larger organisations often have quarterly cut off dates for applications, and periods of 3 to 4 months before a determination is made. When a young child needs exercise equipment for development, we believe that speed is critical, particularly when they have a degenerative condition, and for suitable applications, we can give a fast response, allowing improvements to start much earlier.

**No Costs:**

We operate without any overhead costs. All the Trustees, and their friends, provide the necessary services free of charge, and no person receives any payment from the Charity. This includes office services, printing, postage, website development etc. As a result, every penny donated is put to the use that the donor intended.

**Section G Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	
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**Full name(s)**

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

**Date**