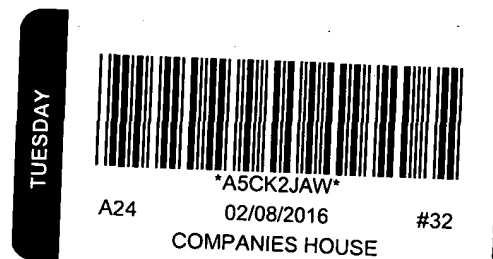


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Charity number: 1092668
Company number: 4216137

East Sussex Foster Care Association
Directors' report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2016



East Sussex Foster Care Association

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East Sussex Foster Care Association

Trustees report

Charity number 1092668

Company registration number 4216137

Registered office 3rd Floor St Mark's House
14 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1EP

Independent Examiner Dominic Hill Associates Limited
Archer House
Britland Estate
Northbourne Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN22 8PW

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is an incorporated association governed by its memorandum and articles of association, together with its constitution.

The following persons served as directors/trustees during the year;

Ms S Beesley BA (hons) – joined 12 October 2015 - chairman
Mr C K Thornton – joined 12 October 2015 - treasurer
Mrs A H D Holder MBE
Mr M Thornborough – joined 8 June 2015
Ms T M Henderson – joined 12 October 2015
Ms S Winks – resigned 22 March 2016
Mrs H Barham ACA – resigned 21 March 2016
Mr F Livings BSc Econ (hons) - resigned 12 October 2015
Ms S Francis – resigned 12 October 2015
Ms V Archer – resigned 15 June 2015
Mr W Archer – resigned 15 June 2015

Trustees are appointed at the AGM with there being a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve. At the AGM one third of the trustees must stand down, often the longest serving trustees stand down first. All trustees must be members of East Sussex Foster Care Association and members can nominate themselves for election. These nominations are circulated to the membership for voting.

Objectives of the charity

The objectives of East Sussex Foster Care Association as set out in the Memorandum of Association are to promote all or any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community mainly but not exclusively within the County of East Sussex and in particular the advancement of the education of the public in matters relating to substitute care. In particular the education, training and support of foster carers and their families, the relief of fostered children, their carers and their carers' families by providing facilities and services in the interests of social welfare with a view to improving their conditions of life.

The Association is to support East Sussex Foster Carers and their families in their efforts to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children in their care by working in partnership with all appropriate statutory and voluntary agencies. It undertakes this task by offering a range of events, advocacy, training and support for the both the families and the children they care for. Its membership is comprised of East Sussex Local Authority registered Foster Carers and the managing group is formed by elected Trustees/Directors' from within that membership.

Activities, achievements and performance

The range of services/events East Sussex Foster Care Association offers includes an Annual Association Conference, with a training element identified by the membership beforehand – plus a bi-annual large scale, 'open' training Conference, which provides the opportunity for well respected speakers to address the Association and also allows for an element of income generation by making it available outside delegates. We have also developed a Carers Library of relevant texts, which may be borrowed and can help provide useful insights into a particular set of circumstances or behaviour a Carer may be faced with.

East Sussex Foster Care Association offers the Looked –After- Children a variety of value added and development opportunities. In the former area, these include a Xmas Party and Pantomime and a variety of day trips – wherever practicable these are made accessible to all the children, including those with disabilities. We also arrange residential trips to PGL where children get the chance to work on their team building skills and working with others, whilst

achieving things they often never thought possible....all whilst having fun. They have been so successful in their aims that 2 former Looked-After-Children now work at the PGL site as Leaders. These events also have the additional advantage of often providing Carers with some respite from challenging situations. In recognition of the work the birth children of carers do, we also offer them access to similar trips, where they can get together and share common experiences and even solutions.

In order to help Looked-After-Children to develop their self confidence, this year we have run a Performing arts Project and based both on its success and demand for places, will do so again this coming year. We also do ongoing work with various local organisation and Universities, through the Virtual School, to provide Looked-After-Children with access to computers at home, to support their education – usually these will be recycled but fully functioning PCs/Laptops, being replaced/upgraded by the present users – but more than adequate for our children's use.

For older children, who are Leaving Care, we have offered a developmental programme of mock interviews and preparation for work courses and successful completion/ full attendance will entitle those who attend, to vouchers to purchase suitable 'interview' clothing.

We have also worked to provide children who are coming into care or are moving placement with suitcases, rather than suffer the indignity of having to use 'black bags' to carry their possessions. – Tripp Luggage has supported this venture in the past and we may well approach them again when our supplies of suitcases run out.

All of these events/services are usually significantly oversubscribed and run entirely on the basis of active fund raising, as we have little or no regular income.

What little we do have, from the Local Authority, is to cover the Associations operational costs and allows us to provide independent support for any carer who may be the subject of an Allegation – a much valued resource for all Carers and one they hope they will never need.

Financial review

The Association works hard to manage its limited resources and generate Funds in an increasingly difficult environment. The year ended 31 March 2016 saw outgoing resources exceed incoming resources by £2,222. However the total funds at the end of the year were £56,370 - more than enough to support the charities ongoing activities. Restricted funds represent £19,090 of this of which £11,000 is the restricted allocation of funding from the Authority for the Allegations Support work, which is made up to the start of the Financial Year to reflect the previous year's expenditure.

Restricted funds comprise of monies donated and raised for a specific cause and the charity cannot exhaust these funds on activities other than those for which the money was received.

East Sussex Foster Care Association has ongoing Designated funding from the Authority of £20,000per annum, which whilst it cannot be absolutely guaranteed year on year, currently ensures its back office functioning. In the unfortunate case that the charity may lose this funding, there are sufficient reserves to keep us functioning long enough to attempt to identify alternative funding, if the need ever arose.

Finally we must look to any opportunities to generate funds to expand our provision, and have already identified and found funding for two new Projects. These being a Project called, 'Stable Relationships', which is working with horses to develop Looked-After-Children's' emotional awareness, which has received both academic interest and a Lottery Fund allocation. The other is 'Sibling Sunshine days', which aims to reunite siblings who have been separated by the Care process and allows them the chance to be together in a 'fun' environment – again we have managed to find some funding support for this venture.

The Trustees/Directors have all been in post for approximately 6 months now and are settling into their roles, they are well aware of the difficulties faced, but are very hopeful about being able to develop the Associations work in the future. With the funds and support available they have no doubts that East Sussex Foster Care Association will continue providing support to its beneficiaries into the foreseeable future.

Chairman's Review

The Directors submit their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2016.

Welcome to our annual report for 2015-2016; a year of ongoing development for East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA). Although, unexpected and perhaps gently cajoled by others, I found myself stepping into the chairperson's role when Fred Livings stepped down in October 2015. The charity made continued progress under his leadership with ongoing support by the Association's office team of Dawn Bamforth and Heather Eserin. The committee and I are enormously grateful to Fred for his leadership, time and dedication to ESFCA and wish him well moving forward. In addition, we want to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of Dawn and Heather for all they do. I want to thank the efforts and commitment shown by former trustees Helen Barham and Sarah Winks. We do hope they will both continue to support the work of the Association. Our gratitude also goes to Dawn Bamforth who has recently resigned her role within our staff team.

Taking on the chairperson's role was not a decision I took lightly particularly as I, like many of us, lead a very busy life. However, my passion for the work of the Association and the children and families we serve, alongside my belief in our enthusiastic and experienced team spurred me on. As someone who believes in the importance of team-work and having key players, I am delighted to have the support of two vice-chairs in Chris Thornton and Mark Thornborough, both of whom have many years' experience of working with ESFCA. Having Ann Holder's (MBE) support and guidance as our longest serving committee member, has been fundamental to bringing us back to re-focus on our core values and mission statement which is central to all we want to achieve.

ESFCA has come a long way in the last 23 years. However, change in my view, is a factor of the reality of our situation and a positive necessity and summed up in the words of Marshall Goldsmith I believe that:

'.....What got us here won't necessarily get us there.....'

Therefore, the trustees have spent time auditing existing systems, roles, responsibilities and this consolidation was aimed at eliminating overlap and to create greater efficiencies. Above all I wish to create opportunities in which our members feel able to bring their ideas to the table in a supportive, inclusive environment. In this regard, you will read within this report of the extensive list of new innovative ideas, developed by our team. This includes Ronnie Archer's already much loved performing arts project 'Inspire' and Ru Petratis-William's unique Super Hero's project. These have been run alongside some of the older and much loved projects including PGL breaks and a visit to the X-factor, to name but a few. My sincere thanks goes to everyone who has played their part in ESFCA's achievements including our valued committee members, staff and of course funders, including East Sussex County Council (ESCC), each one being as important as the next in ensuring the success of our organisation.

We welcome the return of Tina Henderson to the Association as a trustee and acknowledge her tireless work behind the scenes. In addition we welcome Ru Petratis-William (trustee), Jane Hollobone and Liz Chalcraft (committee members). I extend my thanks to our regular guest members; Ade Sewell, Operations Manager for fostering; Colin Belsey, Chair to ESCC and to all the social workers who offer their time and interest including our newest guest social worker, Justin Baker.

While proud of our independence, our organisation is strengthened further by our valued partnership and close working relationship with staff and managers of ESCC who attend our monthly committee meetings. However, a group of unsung

heroes amongst us, who I must mention, are our respective partners who are often volunteered (by us) in hands-on roles and take on the challenge without so much as even questioning it!

While acknowledging that our team will operate somewhat differently, our mission is to increase our effectiveness and maximise our efficiency within a revised framework, yet continue to uphold existing values that support the holistic fostering community. It is also important that we remember that our members all give up valuable time freely to the Association and its undertaking. To keep us motivated and cohesive I am planning some more team building days; there are many more fun times ahead.

We are a diverse group of people with one vision, which is to provide positive memories for our cared for children and recognition and support to the whole fostering family, which in turn strengthens relationships and helps underpin the stability of the placement. If you are interested in joining us we actively welcome new foster carer members and or guest visitors from all areas of the fostering community. We meet on the second Monday of each month at Little Dunbar in Hailsham. For more information please contact Heather Eserin on 01323 747045

With Kind Regards



Susanne Beesley Chair

Date: 29 June 2016



East Sussex Foster Care Association

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of East Sussex Foster Care Association.

I report on the accounts of East Sussex Foster Care Association for the year ended 31 March 2016 set out on pages 2 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter D Hill FCA
On Behalf Of
Dominic Hill Associates Limited
Archer House
Britland Estate
Northbourne Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN22 8PW

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total £	2015 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Donations		622		622	1,286
Core funding		20,000		20,000	20,000
Advocacy support			2,665	2,665	10,000
Subscriptions		2,755		2,755	1,190
Fundraising		590		590	3,973
Grants			620	620	2,200
Contributions towards events		840		840	2,674
Conference receipts				-	14,225
Interest		49		49	8
Total incoming resources		24,856	3,285	28,141	55,556
Resources expended					
Conference		2,723		2,723	12,973
Insurance		493		493	493
General running expenses		173		173	648
Party and pantomime		3,508	911	4,419	4,328
Holiday project		2,857		2,857	6,724
Children who care				-	3,362
Performing arts project			1,916	1,916	866
Day trips		4,134	1,280	5,414	2,541
Carers library				-	407
Advocacy support			902	902	1,861
Salaries & pensions		8,848		8,848	11,080
Staff general expenses		125		125	348
Computer costs		170		170	200
Training		1,376		1,376	198
Accountants fees		1,067		1,067	831
Total outgoing resources		25,473	5,009	30,482	46,860
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year/ Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(617)	(1,724)	(2,342)	8,696
Transfers		(291)	291	-	-
Total funds brought forward		38,068	20,523	58,591	49,895
Total incoming resources		37,159	19,090	56,250	58,591

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2016

	Notes	£	2016	£	£	2015	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets				-			-
Current assets							
Cash at bank and in hand			52,359			55,017	
Debtors & prepayments	2		4,731			5,374	
			<u>57,090</u>			<u>60,391</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3		<u>(840)</u>			<u>(1,800)</u>	
				56,250			58,591
Net Assets				<u>56,250</u>			<u>58,591</u>
Funds							
Unrestricted funds	4		37,159			38,068	
Restricted funds	5		19,090			20,523	
Total Funds	6		<u>56,250</u>			<u>58,591</u>	

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Balance sheet (continued)

Directors statements required by the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2016

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 March 2016.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the board on 29 June 2016 and signed on its behalf by



Ms S Beesley
Director and chair of trustees

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in July 2014 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2. Going concern

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern and will continue for the foreseeable future.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants and incoming resources from charitable activities are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT, which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Expenditure on individual items of office and computer equipment costing less than £5,000 is written off in the period in which the expenditure incurred.

1.5. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Restricted funds are specifically for particular areas and projects undertaken by the charity.

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016

2. Debtors and Prepayments

	2016 £	2015 £
PAYE debtor	3,141	2,580
Prepayments	6	1,380
Accrued income	1,360	1,190
Overpaid bank charges	224	224
	<u>4,731</u>	<u>5,374</u>

Accrued income relates to membership fees for the year ended 31 March 2016 provided by East Sussex County Council.

3. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2016 £	2015 £
Accountancy	840	600
Creditors	-	54
Wages accrual	-	946
Website hosting accrual	-	200
	<u>840</u>	<u>1,800</u>

4. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-15 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-16
General fund	38,068	4,856	13,222	- 291	29,411
Designated fund	-	20,000	12,251		7,749
	<u>38,068</u>	<u>24,856</u>	<u>25,473</u>	<u>- 291</u>	<u>37,159</u>

5. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-15 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-16
Computers for LACs	308				308
Advocacy support	8,860	2,665	902		10,624
Children who care	1,199				1,199
Performing arts projects	3,584		1,916		1,668
Disability holiday	4,584		1,280		3,304
Leaving care project	1,613				1,613
Christmas party		620	911	291	
Luggage for LACs	375				375
	<u>20,523</u>	<u>3,285</u>	<u>5,009</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>19,090</u>

6. Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2016 Total £	2015 Total £
Current assets	37,999	19,090	57,090	60,391
Current liabilities	(840)	-	(840)	(1,800)
	<u>37,159</u>	<u>19,090</u>	<u>56,250</u>	<u>58,591</u>

7. Related party transactions

In January 2016 a check of £225.00 was paid to Susan Becsley (chairman) to reimburse her for the cost of the Christmas disco.

In March 2016 Susan was paid a further £115.26 in relation to Christmas party expenses paid personally.