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Company number: 4216137

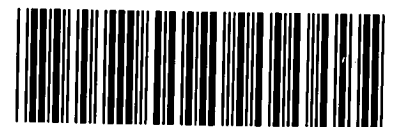
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East Sussex Foster Care Association

Directors' report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2018

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East Sussex Foster Care Association

Contents

	Page
Company information	1
Trustee's report	2 - 5
Independent examiners' report	6
Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8 - 9
Notes to the financial statements	10 - 12

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 2018.

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) - chair

Mrs A H D Holder MBE

Mr M Thornborough

Ms T M Henderson

Ms J Hollobone

Ms L Grosvenor – treasurer

Mrs A Leeves

Mrs S Maylam

Mrs Ru Petraitis-Williams

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, but may choose to stand for re-election. All trustees must be members of East Sussex Foster Care Association and members can nominate themselves for election.

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 Looked After 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

17 June 2017 - London Zoo – Day Trip

The trip was funded by Eastbourne Lions Club. 81 seater coach for 38 adults and 41 children. Packed lunches supplied by Sainsbury's. Great memories and positive feedback from all. Many children had never been to a Zoo.

24 July 2017 - Skate World – Exclusive Sunday Event

This was a 2 hour closed event for our foster families only. 53 children attended plus their carers. There was no age limit so adults and children could share the fun. We had face-painting, tattoos, balloons and fundraising cake stall. Marshalls organised games whilst skating. A great opportunity for a family day out and to socialise with other foster families.

28-30 July 2017 - PGL (7-11 year olds) Windmill Hill – Residential

25 children and 19 adults attended. The residential was over a 3 day weekend. The children got a fabulous opportunity to take part in many organised activities such as Giant Swing, Abseiling, Zip wire, Archery, Canoeing, Aeroball and much more. A grant was funded by BBC Children in Need.

1-4 Aug 2017 - Inspire Drama project (7-12 year olds)

An activity held in the school holiday, a 4 day workshop. The 4 days included music, dance, drama and singing and culminated with a performance on the final afternoon. Certificates were presented to all attendees. No previous experience or skills were necessary, fun, inclusive and interactive opportunity for the children to gain confidence and make new friends. 17 attended.

1-3 Sept 2017 - PGL (11-16 year olds) Little Canada, Isle of Wight – Residential

32 children and 15 adults attended. The residential was over a 3 day weekend. The children got a fabulous opportunity to take part in many organised activities such as Giant Swing, Abseiling, Zip wire, Archery, Canoeing, Aeroball, Quad biking and much more. Funded by BBC Children in need.

14 Oct 2017 - Legoland – Day Trip

A special day out for our younger children included 52 adults and children under 10 year olds. We obtained a Grant from Merlin's Magic Wand, and a contribution towards the coach.

27-29 Oct 2017 - PGL for Children who Foster, Windmill Hill – Residential

23 children aged 6 – 15 and 7 adults participated. The residential was over a 3 day weekend. A treat to say thank you to our birth and adopted children who share their lives with fostered children. This activity helps them feel valued and important. Special friendships are made with other children. Organised activities as before. Funding from BBC Children in need.

30 Oct -14 Nov 2017 - Cookery Class Evening Workshops- Sussex Downs College

8 carers and children came along for professional cookery lessons. The instructor gave everyone 2 choices at each of the 3 sessions. This really engaged each cook and helped them take ownership of their own recipe. They made their own pasta and turned it into ravioli, created apple pies and tackled choux pastry. The team of cooks learned about putting different flavours together, weighing, measuring and cooking times using industrial ovens. Funded by the college. This helped our older children learn independent self care skills.

18-19 Nov 2017 - RSPCA Mallydams – Residential holiday

15 children and 8 adults came along for a mini break, 1 night and 2 days. The Mallydams Centre provided outdoor play, learning and skills development in their education centre and nature reserve woodland. Accommodation was gifted to us from Mallydams. There was shared cooking and mealtimes where families could socialise together.

10 Dec 2017 - Christmas Party

Our yearly treat for young and old alike, 127 children and 65 adults. Kings centre provide the Venue for our party free of charge. We had a kids DJ with fun dancing and games, Father Christmas with his sleigh (loaned from the Lions club) handed out presents to all the children. The Soroptomist donated gifts for children to choose and wrap up as a surprise for their foster carers. Funded by the John Jackson Trust.

6 Jan 2018 - Pantomime

Another regular favourite for all. We took 204 children and carers to see Dick Whittington and his Cat at Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne. A grant was received from the Happy Days Trust.

3 March 2018 - Urban Jump (trampoline Park) – Evening Party

A party evening for our older children, 20 young people took part. The evening started off with hot dogs, chips and a soft drink. A safety briefing followed then a 2 hour jump session ensued. The activities included a jungle rope swing area, ball pits with trampolines and an array of trampolines. Music and a crazy light show added to the party vibe. Funded by The Hastings Round Table.

Fundraising events

18-19 April 2017 - Arlington Bluebell Walk - Bates Green Farm, Arlington

We raised £3289. We made and sold cakes, light lunches and cream teas. Great weather and very busy with 17 volunteers. A donation was also received from the proprietor, John McCutchan, who supports our fundraising.

29 Sept 2017 - Golf Day- The Lottbridge Golf Club, Eastbourne

Our very first Golf fundraising day. We had 20 teams of 4 sign up for the fabulous turn out. Unfortunately bad weather but everyone was in good spirits. The course was donated free of charge by Ray Cruttenden the owner. Food was also donated by Dizzy Piggy Catering. Teams had 2 rounds of 9 hole golf, bacon butties and beverages on arrival, ham egg and chip lunch and bar snacks. Lots of fabulous prizes were donated from local businesses and teams won prizes. Our Patron Jayne Torvill attended. We raised £4,451.28 before costs.

19 Oct 2017 - French Fest Dinner at Kings Restaurant Sussex Downs College

The students at Kings building created a 3 course French themed meal for our fundraiser. We filled 8 tables with 50 attending, including our Patron Jayne Torvill. We raised £1809 with added attractions including a brilliant magician and a raffle. Guests enjoyed canapes and cocktails on arrival and a 3 course set meal.

Financial review

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

East Sussex Foster Care Association has ongoing Designated funding from East Sussex County Council of £20,000 per annum, which whilst it cannot be absolutely guaranteed year on year, currently ensures staffing and associated costs in running the charity.

If the unfortunate situation arose due to budget restraints that the charity may lose this funding, the Trustees have endeavoured to keep contingency reserves allowing the charity to continue to operate for two years, including running long standing events for the families we support such as a Christmas party and a Pantomime.

The charity has been in existence for 25 years and the Trustees are determined not to let changes in Local Authority funding effect the longevity of the charity. This time frame would allow the association time to apply for alternative funding, if the need ever arose.

The association also has restricted funding from ESCC of £10,000 per annum to support any Foster Carer facing an allegation whilst looking after foster children. This fund enables independent support for the Carers to see them through the process which can sometimes involve a lengthy and complex investigation.

Many grants applied for are also restricted funding, to be used for the sole purpose of the original grant application. If there is a small balance left over from the project, we obtain permission from the organisation who gave the grant to move the remainder into a general fund.

We have also for a second year running been voted as Sainsbury's Arndale Centre Eastbourne, charity of the year and they have graciously supported us with a number of fundraising opportunities and donated time, gifts, food and drinks and much more to many of our activities and projects.

We continue to hold stocks of new suitcases, donated from Tripp luggage and other providers, we aim to hold around 50 cases at any one time which are immediately available to our large teams of Social Workers who can request these suitcases to assist any child that needs to move in an emergency from any location to another, enabling their personal belongings to be carefully packed and moved with them and never for their possessions to be put into bin bags or similar.

Chairman's Review

The Directors submit their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Welcome to our annual report for 2017/18. We are an independent charity who seek to keep up with the diverse and often changing needs of the children and fostering families alike.

Like every child, Looked after Children (LAC) need and deserve to feel loved, cared for and supported. At the very least these children and young people will be feeling the effects of emotional trauma. Many will have experienced some kind of neglect or abuse in its many guises and are very likely to be dealing with the aftermath of witnessing domestic violence. Unsurprisingly, these children often also feel a sense of abandonment and carry the burden of a low self-esteem which makes fitting in with their more fortunate peer group a struggle.

Alongside the importance of stability and building consistent and trusted relationships comes the important question of how best to reach these children. East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) want Looked After Children to know that they can recover from past trauma and develop every talent, attitude, quality and characteristic needed to reach their potential, succeed in life and build an incredible future.

Our membership includes all Fostering Families in East Sussex. Our committee is made up of ESCC Foster Carers and friends of the Association who include a number of community partners all working together to achieve our goals.

Whilst entering into our 25th Anniversary year, we can look back and see that although much has changed over the years ESFCA remains as focused today as it was 25 years ago when ESFCA was founded. We have a committed and growing membership who meet together on a monthly basis to organise and provide a range of support services such as advice, advocacy, activities and training services. Although there are many old favorites among our lists of activities, there has recently been a surge in new and innovative ideas and a deepened interest shown in our work by funders and community partners.

I am delighted to be reviewing another very successful year where a staggering £69,870 was raised from grants, donations and fundraising and £52,991 was duly spent on activities, events and supporting looked after children and the families who care for them.

Over the last three years we have increased our fund raising by 51% and therefore our ability to provide much needed support have increased exponentially. ESFCA are ever grateful to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for the support and encouragement they provide us as an independent charity, and who share the common vision to better the life experiences of Looked after Children.

Going forward in this current economic climate and with increasing pressure placed upon Fostering Families, the committee is working hard with our supporters to meet these challenges. ESFCA regard both mental health and more general health needs of children to be chronically under-resourced and want to address this now. Taking action today can make a real difference to the life chances of tomorrow's young adults and future parents. By investing in their future health you invest in our community's future in a real sense.

Quote from one of our young people who nominated us for a recent competition/award:

'....ESFCA do amazing work and throw parties and take kids out on activities and give up their time and I love them for what they do...'

We will continue to aim high and increase our ability to provide activities to fulfill our charitable aims and strategy by meeting the needs of children through our close partnership with key Agencies and Community Partners.

There are so many projects to mention but here are some of the **Key highlights of our year:**

The growing list of engaged community partners including:

Our esteemed patron Jayne Torvill

Our impromptu meeting with Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Children's author, resulted in her acceptance of ESFCA invitation to become our second patron

Our relationship with The Lady Soroptimist's International

Sainsbury's Arndale Centre Eastbourne

The Eastbourne and Hastings Lions

Fund raising Golf Day attended by the Major of Eastbourne

The revival of PGL (children's activity weekend) for children who foster (CWF)

Sibling sunshine project bringing large sibling groups together for a weekend holiday (otherwise divided by separate foster homes) to experience fun and lasting memories to take forward into adulthood.

The Bluebell walk, Arlington, fundraising event, supported by John McCutchan

This is my third report as Chair of ESFCA and the energy, enthusiasm and passion our supporters demonstrate has never failed to amaze me. It just shows with a shared passion, the willingness to selflessly give up precious time, just how much can be achieved by a relatively small core group of 9 Trustees, friends of the association and many other volunteers, not forgetting Hannah our Funding and development Coordinator and our admin support, and my grateful thanks goes out to all.

I hope that like me, you will be inspired by the trustees plans to help children recover from past trauma, nurture potential, whilst learning to love themselves and build brighter futures. If you want to help make a difference and would like to donate, details about how to do this are at the end of this report.

We greatly value every contribution however small and assure you of the purposeful work that this contribution will enable the association to continue for many years to come.

With Kind Regards



Susanne Beesley Chair

Date: 15th Oct 2018

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 2018 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

Peter D Hill

East Sussex Foster Care Association

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

For the year ended 31 March 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2018 Total £	2017 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Donations		11,357		11,357	3,505
Core funding		20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Advocacy support		-	4,243	4,243	-
Subscriptions		1,380	-	1,380	-
Fundraising - Golf & Bluebell		8,032	-	8,032	4,699
Grants		200	17,500	17,700	21,112
Dinner		1,746			
Contributions towards events		456	6,681	7,137	-
Interest		20	-	20	8
Total incoming resources		43,192	28,423	69,870	49,324
Resources expended					
Conference		1,184	-	1,184	-
Insurance		563	-	563	509
General running expenses		1,449	-	1,449	700
Inspire		959	-	959	
Dinner		795		795	
Pantomime		-	1,768	1,768	1,863
Holiday project & PGL		-	17,814	17,814	6,326
Disability holiday		-	-	-	880
Performing arts project		-	-	-	632
Day trips & Sibling Sunshine		1,029	-	1,029	5,116
Fundraising - Golf & Bluebell		1,362	-	1,362	-
Intuitive Horse		-	5,660	5,660	2,550
Advocacy support		-	2,396	2,396	4,293
Salaries & pensions		15,490	-	15,490	9,159
Christmas party		-	948	948	815
Computer costs		-	-	-	252
Training		-	-	-	30
Accountants fees		1,573	-	1,573	1,688
Total outgoing resources		24,404	28,586	52,991	34,813
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year/ Net income/(expenditure) for the year					
		18,788	(163)	16,879	14,511
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		49,347	21,414	70,761	56,250
Total incoming resources		68,135	21,251	87,640	70,761

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 2018

	Notes	2018	2017
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		90,525	71,660
Debtors & prepayments	2	-	-
		<u>90,525</u>	<u>71,660</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	<u>(1139)</u>	<u>(899)</u>
		89,386	70,761
Net Assets		<u>89,386</u>	<u>70,761</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	4	68,135	49,347
Restricted funds	5	21,251	21,414
Total Funds	6	<u>89,386</u>	<u>70,761</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 2018

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 2017.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 and 387 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 provisions of Section 1A 'Small Entities' of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 15th Oct 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms S Beesley
Director and chair of trustees

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018

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 in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A 'Small Entities' of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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.

1.6. Average number of employees

The average number of employees during the year was 2. There are also a number of volunteer support workers.

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018

2. Debtors and Prepayments

	2018	2017
	£	£
PAYE debtor	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Accrued income	-	-
Overpaid bank charges	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2018	2017
	£	£
Accountancy	1,139	840
	<u>1,139</u>	<u>840</u>

4. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-17 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-18
General fund	33,823	23,172	4,877	2,322	54,440
Designated fund	15,522	20,000	18,328	-	17,194
	<u>49,345</u>	<u>43,192</u>	<u>24,404</u>	<u>2,322</u>	<u>70,455</u>

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018

5. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-17 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-18
Computers for LACs	256	-	-	256	-
Advocacy support	6,330	4,243	2,396	573	7,604
Children who care	1,199	-	-	1,199	-
Performing arts projects	2,116	-	959	-	1,157
Disability holiday	2,424	-	-	2,424	-
Leaving care project	1,613	-	-	1,613	-
Christmas party	-	1,314	948	128	493.50
Luggage for LACs	375	-	-	375	-
PGL events	-	21,985	17,814	4,555	8,726
Sibling Sunshine Days	54	-	-	54	-
Intuitive Horse	6,925	-	5,660	1,265	-
Pantomime events	123	882	1,768	763	-
	<u>21,415</u>	<u>28,423</u>	<u>29,545</u>	<u>- 2,312</u>	<u>17,980</u>

6. Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2018 Total £	2017 Total £
Current assets	69,317	17,980	87,297	71,660
Current liabilities	1,139	0	1,139	(899)
	<u>70,456</u>	<u>17,980</u>	<u>88,436</u>	<u>70,761</u>

7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions other than expenditure reimbursement made to trustees. These payments were supported by documentary evidence such as receipts, and approved for payment by a third party.