



Secretary and Treasurer's Annual Report to September 2024

Registered Charity Commissioners No. 1058931

Introduction

The Poole and District Children's Cancer Fund aims to enhance the quality of life for local children, and their families, undergoing treatment for cancer.

The Charity is run entirely by volunteers. The Trustees during the year were:

Martin Hussey	Chairman
Kevin Allen	Treasurer / Hospital Liaison
Caroline Field	Secretary
Natalia Czernik	Fundraising coordinator

We are also grateful to Nikki Ratsey and Hannah Ratsey for joining the charity as co-opted members.

Report

Following on from the Chairman's report, I would like to thank Martin very much for his hard work and dedication to the charity. Martin has taken on board all the jobs that everyone else tries to avoid, such as writing policies, and updating the website, as well as managing us all!

I would like to extend my own thanks to Kevin, the charity's outgoing treasurer, for his support and for the prompt and efficient service that he has provided. It has been a real pleasure to work with Kevin and I look forward to his ongoing support of the charity, as I do with all the other trustees and co-opted members.

The Charity has continued to help individual children and families in accordance with its Mission Statement. The main expenditure has included

- Financial support for families by way of paying for rent, household bills and unforeseen expenses
- A trip to the Christmas pantomime at the Lighthouse for several families. This was with the help of The Lighthouse who kindly donated about a half of the seats free of charge.

Last year, due to funds being low, the decision was sadly made not to have a trip to Center Parcs. This year, seeing as though donations are thankfully increasing, the charity has arranged a trip to Weymouth, staying in mobile homes, for the weekend of 27th September. This trip will be less costly than Center Parcs and has the added benefit of free entertainment at the beach, as well as being close to Dorchester hospital in the case of a hospital emergency.

We are very grateful to Kevin and Sam Jagger, Paediatric Counsellor and Family Support Co-Ordinator at Poole Hospital, for continuing to liaise with families, making them aware of the charity, and for passing on their requests for finance.

Financial report

We are very grateful to everyone who has donated to or fundraised for the charity this year, including some long standing benefactors who support the charity year after year. This year we are pleased to report that at last donations have started to increase after the drop of the previous few years.

Total income for 2022/23	£ 10,389
Total expenditure for 2022/23	£ 11,886

We apologise that these figures are for the 2022/23 year's accounts. This is due to the accountant being unavailable for lengthy periods of time this year so there was a delay in obtaining the prepared accounts, and hence a rather postponed AGM.

The current account bank balance currently stands at **12,963.58**

An application was made to the national lottery this year for 5 years support of £25,000 per year. Sadly this was turned down, but we were given some advice as to how to amend the application in order to re-apply. This will be one of the coming year's activities.

We will also be looking at moving into the 21st century with online banking. This will help ease the worry for families of paying bills, knowing that once their request is approved, they can have the money immediately.

Conclusion

The charity will continue to prioritise direct support for children, and their families, undergoing treatment for cancer. We are pleased that the charity's financial situation has improved and hopefully this will continue.

Kevin Allen, Treasurer

Caroline Field, Secretary

For and on behalf of the Trustees
16th September 2024