

PDCCF Chair report September 2024

Dr Martin Hussey

AGM 16th September 2024

Thank you for joining us here this evening for the 2024 AGM of the P.D.C.C.F.

The charity was founded in 1996 and so this is our 28th year!

I am going to take this opportunity to say a few hellos, say thank you to a few people who have helped the charity over the past year and to reflect on the Charity activities over the past year.

I would like to start by saying hello to Nikki Ratsey and her daughter, Hannah. Both Nikki and Hannah have joined the charity this year and have already made a noticeable impact with new ideas, involvement in fundraising activities and the development of a new charity logo. The existing trustees are pleased that Nikki and Hannah have joined the charity, and we look forward to their company and input into the charity in the future.

This AGM cannot pass without a special mention of Kevin. Kevin joined the charity in 2001, he joined at a time of crisis when it looked as though the future for the charity was bleak and we didn't have enough trustees to continue running the charity. Kevin finally agreed to join for 1 year and took up the temporary role of treasurer.

Kevin made it clear that he was only going to do this until we had found a replacement. He did such a great job that year that we didn't try very hard to find a replacement and Kevin has continued to do a great job ever since; however, he has finally decided to step back from the treasurer role although he is willing to continue to be a trustee, if nominated. Unfortunately, Kevin can't be with us at the meeting tonight, which is a shame for many reasons, but I was particularly looking forward to embarrassing him with further praise, however, that will have to wait for another time.

I hope you will all join with me in saying "Thank you" to Kevin for all the work he has done as treasurer over the past 13 years.

While thanking trustees, I will continue, with my thanks to both Caroline and Natalia for their support, encouragement and enthusiasm during 2024. The trustees we have makes my role, as Chair of the P.D.C.C.F, so much easier although I am not so sure that I do the same for them.

The P.D.C.C.F, despite the economic climate, has still managed to support families as they face a difficult emotional, physical and financial time. In addition to individual family support, we have been able to fund activities such as the annual Pantomime trip to Poole Lighthouse and a family weekend break away from home.

The support for individual families and the group activities and events are only made possible by the continued support from regular donors, community groups and individual fundraising efforts. I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have given their time and effort to raise money for the P.D.C.C.F.

The "Thank you" is not just for the welcome funds but also for the ongoing encouragement given and friendships made.

Also, the "Thank you" is not only from the charity trustees but is on behalf of all the families who benefit from the kindness and support from our local community

Continuing with Thanks, I would like to thank you to the Royal British Legion, Broadstone branch for their support and for allowing us to use their facilities for our meetings.

Thanks also go to Mark Andrew, Accountant, for his help in reviewing our finances and providing financial governance for the charity.

Looking to the future, the existing trustees would like to continue to support local families with financial and other help at an extremely difficult time in their family life and organising some fun family events when, hopefully, some of the day-to-day worries can be forgotten for a short time.

Finally, we are continually looking for new trustees, new ideas and new fundraising activities and so please let one of the trustees know if you would like to find out more about the charity and you might even want to join the charity, like Kevin, for a year or two!

Thank you to everyone who helps with every aspect of the Charity, your efforts are greatly appreciated by the local families who are supported by the PDCCF.

Martin

Dr Martin Hussey
Chair
Poole and District Children's Cancer Fund

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