

Charity number: 1092668
Company number: 04216137

East Sussex Foster Care Association
Directors' report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2020

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 2020.

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 - resigned
Ms L Grosvenor – treasurer
Mrs A Leeves
Mrs S Maylam
Mrs Ru Petraitis-Williams
Ms Ruma Smith – appointed November 2019
Ms Ann Buchanan – appointed November 2019
Ms Christine Phillips – appointed November 2019

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

13th April 2019 - Uckfield Football Rugby Club

ESFCA were invited to attend the Uckfield Rugby Football Club for the cup final and represent the association. The invitation was offered by Peter Reeves (Club President) and Margaret Chappell (Membership Secretary). During the event funds were raised by selling raffle tickets and receiving donations from the family of supporters for all teams taking part. The raffle prize was a signed England Rugby team shirt (signed by the England Squad) donated by friend of ESFCA Joe Marler (England Rugby Squad). ESFCA trustees were also able to discuss the support and projects the association provides for foster families across East Sussex.

26th April 2019 - Afternoon Tea event number 2 RRR project for Foster Carers

We invited Foster Carers to attend Ashburnham place in Battle to enjoy a relaxed afternoon taking afternoon tea as a treat on us in the Orangery Tea Rooms. Carers were able to chat with others and share experiences. The food was scrumptious. The first event we held was oversubscribed so this was the second afternoon tea treat provided by ESFCA.

30th April - 1st May 2019 - Arlington Bluebell Walk

Once again ESFCA took over the tearoom and cafe at the ever-popular Arlington Bluebell Walk. This is an annual event that allows multiple charities to raise funds by running the catering and entrance gate for the award-winning country walk, owned and managed by John McCutchen, through the bluebell woods. ESFCA trustees, members and volunteers provide the catering (home-made cakes, scones and soups) as well as working the kitchen providing lunches and snacks and front of house. The Walk is very popular and allows ESFCA to raise funds as well promote its work through East Sussex.

3rd - 4th May 2019 - Sainsbury's Awareness days

These events were the last of ESFCA's awareness days at the two Sainsbury's stores that had adopted the association as their charity of the year (2018-19). The Hampden park superstore (Eastbourne) and the Seaside Local store (Eastbourne) invited ESFCA to attend set weekends to raise awareness and receive donations from their customers. Trustees and volunteers attended and manned a stand to meet and greet visitors to the stores. Throughout the charity year both stores would run their own fundraising activities on behalf of ESFCA.

5th May 2019 - Sussex Sharks Cricket Volunteers

ESFCA trustees and volunteers were invited to help marshal the annual Sussex Sharks vs Gloucestershire cricket match held at the Eastbourne Cricket Ground. ESFCA was asked by Ian Fletcher-Price (Eastbourne Cricket Club President) and Dawn Rowe to marshal the event in return for a generous donation to the association. Over 11 Trustees and volunteers attended the event.

10th - 12 May 2019 - PGL residential trip to Windmill Hill

This took 29 looked after children (LAC) aged between 11-17 and over 18 adults (social workers and foster carers) on a residential stay at Windmill Hill (Hailsham). Over the three days the children and adults took part in 8 activities. This trip was funded by a Children in Need grant and is a much-loved event by all.

12th May 2019 - ESFCA Wagathon

This was the first Sponsored dog walk for the association. The event was run by the Staff at Seaside Local Sainsbury's with the aim of raising funds and awareness for ESFCA. The walk started at the Hollywell Tea Chalet (Eastbourne) continued to Eastbourne Pier and finished back at Hollywell.

24th May 2019 - Under 5's foster carer coffee morning.

Throughout the year ESFCA trustees hold a coffee morning at suitable venues around the County for foster carers who look after LAC under 5 years of age. This event was held at the soft play area of Urban Jump in Heathfield.

June July August 2019 - Intuitive Horse, Equine Therapy

ESFCA fund a therapy for traumatised children offering one to one sessions with specially trained horses that bond with the child and develop trust and emotional connections.

7th June 2019 - Fostering Service Thank You Dinner.

ESFCA was invited to attend the Fostering Service thank you dinner at the Azure Restaurant. Our patron Jane Torvill and her Husband attended. The event is a great way to talk to foster carers and promote the activities and support the association. ESFCA trustees also hold a Raffle to raise funds for future projects.

12th July 2019 - Presentation at West Rise School

The students at West Rise school invited ESFCA to present during their end of week assembly. The invite was extended as one of the students (a child who fosters) had presented their own story to the school and wanted to show how fostering works and what it means to the child and family.

20th July 2019 - Eastbourne festival of Food & Arts

ESFCA played a major part at the first Eastbourne Festival of Food & Arts. Dame Jacqueline Wilson (Patron of ESFCA) attended and met over 250 excited children, signed books and had photographs taken with her

fans. She also spoke about her characters (Hetty Feather and Tracy Beaker). During the book signing ESFCA trustees also held a tombola to raise funds.

1st August 2019 - HVA 30th Anniversary

ESFCA was invited to attend the Hastings Voluntary Action association to present at their 30th anniversary exhibition. The exhibition was a celebration of local charities supporting the residents in the Hastings area.

1st August 2019 - Summer Family First Theatre Mousetrap Productions

Once again, ESFCA members were invited to take part in the Family First Nights theatre offer. This provides subsidised theatre tickets in the west end for families to experience live performances in all genres for all age groups. Most children have never seen a live show, or travelled to London so a real exciting adventure for those who partook. 25 children and their families took up this offer. The show Wicked was just that!

21st August 2019 - Through Care Team Sightseeing Historic London and Thames cruise

A team of Social Workers organised an exciting day out in London to see the sights. A large group of 28 young adults and support staff travelled by train to London then jumped on and off an open top tour bus seeing all the famous sights, followed by a river cruise along the Thames. Many in this group had never been to London before. A great day was had by these young adults. ESFCA provided the funding and this also included an evening meal.

30th August - 1 September 2019 - PGL Residential Little Canada (IoW)

This residential trip took 37 looked after children aged 7-11 and one 13-year-old with a disability and 19 adults (Social Workers & Foster Carers) to the Little Canada PGL site on the Isle of Wight. Over the three days the children and adults took part in over 8 activities. This was funded by a Children in Need grant and is an annual event in much demand by all.

23rd September 2019 - Queens Award for Voluntary Service

On June 2nd, 2019 ESFCA was honoured to receive the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The award was given in recognition for the support ESFCA has given to looked after children, children who foster and foster carers in East Sussex over the 25 years it has been running. The association celebrated the occasion with an awards ceremony at Eastbourne Town Hall with a host of Dignitaries, patrons, trustees and foster carers. The award itself was presented by the Lord lieutenant Peter Field.

23rd September 2019 - Social Worker Superhero Awards

During the Queens Award Ceremony, ESFCA also presented the Social Worker Superhero awards, there are two awards one for Social Worker Superhero and one for Supervising Social Worker. The social workers are nominated by the foster families who vote and write why they are social worker superheroes.

26th October 2019 - Beachy Head Marathon

ESFCA members and volunteers once again marshalled the 10k course for the Beachy Head Marathon. The 10k is a separate race held at the same time as the marathon. The race provides a promotional activity for the association as well as acting as a fund raiser (ESCC events team donate to the charity in return for the help).

26th October 2019 - Young People Who Foster Halloween Party

The YPWF held a Halloween party and ESFCA donated the funding for the food for the party.

1st - 3rd November 2019 - PGL residential trip to Osmington Bay (Dorset)

This residential trip took 20 Young People who foster aged between 7-16 with 13 adults (Social Workers & Foster Carers) to a new PGL site in Dorset. The weather restricted the normal outdoor activities however there were still over 8 activities during the 3 days away. It was a beautiful location so we want to return. This trip was funded by the Hastings Round Table.

5th November 2019 - Sainsbury's Presentation

This was a presentation made by the Staff and management teams at Sainsbury's to recognise the fundraising activities from their staff and ESFCA over the charity year.

7th November 2019- Department of Works and Pensions fundraiser

One of our Trustees organised with the DWP based in Hastings, a fundraising day for us as their nominated charity. The DWP colleagues held a jumble sale, tombola, cake sale and raffle to help fund the annual ESFCA Christmas party. The event took place throughout the day with colleagues donating their free time to man the activities. Trustees were also invited to attend and promote the work of the ESFCA as well as the benefits of fostering.

18th November 2019 - Children's & Young Peoples Trust

ESFCA trustees attended the CYPT conference where they met other associations that help and support young people in East Sussex. Ideas were shared and contacts were made. The conference is presented by the children from various different groups and associations and gives insight into their thoughts, concerns and their goals.

16th November 2019 - Children in Care Council (CICC) Blood Brothers at The White Rock Theatre Hastings

A large group of 25 young people and support staff went to see Blood Brothers on the stage. A very poignant story really helped the young people see a different side to life. Fully sponsored by ESFCA.

19th November 2019 - Hastings Round Table

The Hasting Round Table funded the PGL trip for the YPWF through a grant and they invited ESFCA to present at their November meeting.

30th November 2019 - Seaside Local Sainsbury's

ESFCA were invited back to the Sainsbury's store to spend an afternoon fundraising to put towards the upcoming Christmas party.

25th November 2019 - CICC First Aid Course

To assist young people with their search for employment, ESFCA provided the funding for 12 students to obtain a First Aid Certificate by completing a certificated training course.

2nd December 2019 - Beachy Head Presentation

ESFCA trustees and volunteers attended the presentation from ESCC- Events team thanking them and other charities that helped Marshall for the beachy head marathon and 10k events in October.

6th December 2019 - More Radio Child of Sussex Awards

ESFCA sponsored "The Child of Courage Award" at the More Radio Child of Sussex Awards held at the Grand Hotel in Brighton. There were 13 different categories at the ceremony and each award was won by an amazing child, nominated by the listeners of More Radio across Sussex. Over 250 guests attended the black tie event which was also heavily promoted across More Radios broadcast schedule and their social media. Sponsors for the awards also benefited from the More Radio marketing campaign allowing their work to be showcased alongside the event.

As a guest of ESFCA one of the Social Worker Superhero winners also attended the ceremony.

8th December 2019 - ESFCA Christmas Party

The annual treat for young and old alike, over 120 children and 75 adults attended. The Kings Centre provides the venue free of charge, there is a DJ providing music and games and we provide a tea party for all the children. The Kings Centre also provided the free use of a bouncy castle; Jane De Weck took photographs and the lady Soroptimists donated gifts for children to wrap and give to their Carers. Father Christmas made an appearance and this year he was joined by the Snowman Olaf (Disney's Frozen).

15th December 2019 - Gift 4 Kids

Three local motorbike groups join together each year to ride the Santa run between Eastbourne District General Hospital and Hastings Conquest Hospital distributing toys to the children's ward. They also raise money and donate to charities. We received a donation to help fund the annual Pantomime we book annually in January. The groups were Sons & Widows Masonic Lodge, The Beachy Head Masonic Lodge and the Eastbourne Motorcycle Rideout (EBMR).

17th December 2019 - Through Care Team

The Through Care Team support young adults leaving the care system aged between 16-25. These young people need support adjusting to life on their own and very rarely have family to help them adjust. Each year

the through care team provide a Christmas party which allows them to celebrate together, enjoy a festive meal (party) and receive some presents. ESFCA are proud to help this event by donating funding towards the party, presents for the children of these young adults and ensuring Father Christmas still visits them at this magical time of year.

18th December 2019 - Department for work and pensions (DWP) Presentation of filled drawstring bags for children coming into Care

One of our Trustees organised a fundraising event at the DWP and during December, the colleagues and families of the DWP collated and donated over 100 drawstring bags full of toys, clothes, books, stationery and the odd sweet, for children coming into the care system, each bag providing essential special items to help the children feel important as often they move with no possessions of their own.

4th January 2020 - Christmas Pantomime Devonshire Theatre Eastbourne

Another annual event we run is our Christmas Pantomime. ESFCA took a block booking of over 220 tickets to the Eastbourne Theatres production of 'Jack & the Beanstalk'. The performance was at 11:00 allowing perfect timing for all ages to attend. There was provision for disabilities as ESFCA ensured disabled seats were available to those that needed it. This event was funded by donations and fund-raising events throughout the year and families pay a small donation towards the ticket.

18th - 20th February 2020 - Inspire Drama Workshop

The ever-popular half-term workshop returned and ran for three days over the February school holiday. 20 children attended the three-day workshop learning to build confidence & resilience through song & dance. The culmination was all of the children performing to a small audience at the end of the workshops.

26th February 2019 - Through Care Summer Camping trip

ESFCA provided the deposit for a residential weekend stay booked for August 2020 for the young people aged 16 to 25 with activities and Camping in Devon. This has been postponed until a safe way of partaking in this activity has been approved so may not take place until next year.

January 19 - March 2020 Coronavirus impact

Unfortunately, the covid-19 pandemic meant that the rest of the financial year's activities have had to be postponed. ESFCA however continues to support the foster families throughout East Sussex during these unusual times.

Usually we would have booked and paid deposits for our three residential PGL trips. These will have to take place when new rules and procedures have been approved.

Ongoing support

ESFCA is proud to help different groups of young people that operate within the care system.

Young People Who Foster (YPWF) - These are the biological and adopted children of foster families who share their home and parents with fostered children. They make lots of sacrifices to support looked after children, and there is rarely a complaint. This group allows them to have voice and an opportunity to share their experiences inside a safe environment.

Over the year ESFCA have helped YPWF by sponsoring their Halloween party and was in the process of Supporting a trip to Chessington Zoo (before the Covid -19 lock-down).

Children in Care Council (CICC) - this council represents the looked after children in foster families. Children of different ages sit on the council and help provide a voice for those that need it.

This year ESFCA have sponsored First Aid courses, and a trip to the theatre.

Through Care Team - These are the young adults leaving the care system who need support getting their start in life. Aged between 16-25, the young people are supported by a specialist team of social workers who also provide financial, legal and wellbeing support.

In this financial year ESFCA has supported the team by sponsoring their Visit to London trip, the Christmas party and by supplying suitable luggage to help Care leavers to make a new chapter of their life.

Make It Reel project

East Sussex Foster Care Association has a special pot of money in a restricted fund available to support LAC. The money has been donated from The Reel Poster Company and they would like the money to go directly to benefit LAC where a small amount of money could make a real difference.

ESFCA recognises that East Sussex County Council has the responsibility to provide and meet the needs of its LAC, but we wanted to provide a little extra support. Many families have 'Grandparents' who spoil the children by providing the little extras and this is the role that we hope the 'Make it Reel Project' will deliver.

Lobbying Government & Local Authorities

Our Trustees are actively engaged with other organisations in networking, debating, promoting and raising the profile of Foster Carers in East Sussex. We lobby Government departments and attend any meetings or debates that enable us to speak up for our members and our Looked After Children (LAC).

Independent allegation advice & support

We continue to receive funds from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) as an annual top up which is held in a restricted fund. This Allegations fund is used to buy in independent support as required to assist any of our member foster carers who may be subject to an allegation of concerns around standards of care. These investigations can be complex and lengthy and can feel very isolating to a foster family as they are unable to discuss many of the issues with others due to confidentiality.

Monthly Fostering Surgeries with Heads of Department

ESFCA hold monthly Surgeries one evening a month whereby Foster Carers can bring to the table a difficult, complex or particular issue that needs a fast track resolution from senior managers in Children's and Fostering Services. A trustee will attend the meeting to offer support to the Foster Carer in presenting their particular problem. This can really help all parties to find a way forward or air complaints in a face to face and professional manner.

Financial review

We are extremely grateful to receive an annual grant of £20,000 from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) which enables us to employ staff to support the trustees in running the charity. This money also funds our back office and operating costs. This is named our designated fund.

We continue to receive restricted funds from ESCC to top up our allegation fund to £10,000 annually, which is held by us to support any foster carer facing an allegation. The fund enables independent support at a most upsetting and worrying time for all in the family, to be provided to our foster carers which could involve a lengthy and complex investigation.

In this financial year our membership was 238 households residing in the County of East Sussex.

All grants from the wider community have been fully spent on the nominated activity and the association has often contributed significant further funds from our general fund to enable as many children as possible to benefit from specific projects. We also report back to organisations that provide funding, with full details of our expenditure and positive outcomes showing the difference these activities can make for our children.

Our reserves remain constant and at the same level as last year. These reserves are held to provide a safety net for the provision of regular annual events such as holidays, PGL weekends, the Christmas party and Pantomime, should we be unsuccessful in receiving donations or grants for these cherished activities to proceed.

Should the Local Authority withdraw its annual grant, we hold reserves to meet our obligations such as paying staff and associated costs such as pension, NI and Tax, plus any outstanding creditors. Furthermore, if the

charity was wound up or placed into dormancy, we hold reserves to pay redundancy, accounting, audit and HMRC costs. The association can access our reserve fund immediately should the need arise.

Where donations are received and the donor has asked for the money to be utilised on a specific project request or a certain group of young people, we will honour that request and mark these funds restricted so they are only used for that purpose.

We continue to hold stock of new suitcases donated from Tripp luggage and other providers. These are available to specialist teams of Social Workers needing to move children in an emergency thus ensuring that their personal belongings are carefully packed and transported with the young person.

Covid - 19 came into all of our lives around February 2020. The association had to cancel and postpone many events. Fundraisers were cancelled and much-loved annual events were postponed. All our activities are on hold until we have Government guidelines approving new methodology for our range of activities.

Highlights within this financial year include a fundraising event at the Department for Work and Pensions which then led to the donation of over 100 bags from the staff and associates, containing essentials for children coming into care; The Queens Award for Voluntary Service which is the highest accolade a Charity can have bestowed upon it; going to London for many to see the sights, families seeing Wicked on the stage in the West End and Blood Brothers in Hastings, and many more exciting activities and events as listed in the report.

A heartfelt 'Thank You' goes out to all our trustees, volunteers, supporters and all who have given donations, grants, organised fundraising activities and planned wonderful events and projects for our children to enjoy and benefit from.

Lysette Grosvenor

Trustee and Treasurer

Chairman's Review

Dear All

It is now just over 26 years since the East Sussex Foster Care Association was set up. Many thanks to the steadfast commitment of our team and the loyal support of our funders (including ESCC), children and carers in East Sussex have enjoyed another fruitful and fun packed year. Importantly, I want us to keep at the forefront of our minds that all of this is made possible by the shared vision and dedicated community partnership we are privileged to be part of. Though we have been through many changes over the years including a carefully revised framework in 16/17, the reason why we are here has not changed and our mission statement remains as relevant today and it was when our founders launched ESFCA in 1993, which is:

“to provide support, advice, advocacy, activities and training services for our fellow carers, families and the children in foster care throughout East Sussex”.

As we look back and celebrate all we have achieved in this financial year April 2019 through to March 2020 I can report a stable and efficient financial year and a real team spirit among the committee with no resignations. Credit goes to our board of trustees who are mainly registered foster carers and despite their very busy lives provide the time and commitment ESFCA needs to thrive. However, I'm thrilled to welcome three new trustees who joined us in November 2019, Ruma, Christine and Anne. This brings our team up to 11 and with our new trustees bringing teaching, SEN education and social work to the table, it also means our knowledge base and skills set increases for the good of the charity.

My sincere gratitude goes out to all of the trustees including Mark Thornborough - vice chair, Lysette Grosvenor -Treasurer, Ann Holder MBE, Tina Henderson, Ru Petraitis-Williams, Anja Leeves, Sandra

Maylam, Ruma Smith, Christine Phillips and Anne Buchan. All of whom work hard wearing various different hats and are unpaid, all generously giving their time and skill alongside our other much valued volunteers and community partners to keep our charity functioning efficiently.

Special thanks go to our dedicated treasurer Lysette, for the endless hours she has spent ensuring all aspects of our financial management are in order and also working closely with the team to safeguard ESFCA finances. We recognise that we are very fortunate to have such capable and dedicated people who work together for the good of the children and families in our County. Another essential member of the team is our administrator Nigel Berry, who the trustees are all indebted to for his support, but more than that Nigel has proved to be a real 'ideas man' whose humble nature and work ethic is second to none. Nigel has been instrumental in tying together many complex events, working closely with all 11 Trustees.

The highlight of this particular year is our proudest achievement to date, when we received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, which is the Charities equivalent to an MBE. The award was presented to us by the Lord Lieutenant Peter Field and other esteemed dignitaries. We held a fabulous celebration at Eastbourne Town Hall with both our patrons Jane Torvill OBE and Dame Jacqueline Wilson in attendance, as well as over 100 invited guests, including Senior Managers from East Sussex County Council, friends of ESFCA, and previous members of the committee.

Our much-loved annual events took place, this included the three residential PGL trips for three different groups of children. A special mention to Mark Thornborough and our PGL Queen Tina Henderson who worked tirelessly alongside Nigel to reproduce and fine tune these favourite events for the benefit of our children. We obtained a very generous grant from the Hastings Round Table for the PGL for young people who foster, and my sincere thanks goes out to them.

Yet again the Christmas party was very well attended with 120 children plus carers. We were truly grateful to see the Lady Soroptimists who offered children the 6th consecutive year an opportunity to choose and wrap a gift for their carers. For the first time we included an optional professional photo service for families to take advantage of. The Christmas pantomime in January 2020 was also very popular with over 200 taking up the discounted tickets.

During this financial year the trustees decided that it was time to give something back to our community and we were able to do this through More Radio Child of Sussex Awards which was held on the 6th of December at the Brighton Hilton Metropole. Of the 13 worthwhile categories ESFCA chose to sponsor the 'child of courage award'. The black-tie event attracted 250 guests and was promoted by More Radio. Sponsors of these awards also benefited from the More radio marketing campaign.

This year we had the most heartfelt donations of toys and funds from several donors including, More radio, The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association. Gifts4Kiz, who raised funds for us with the Eastbourne Motor cycle ride out group. Not to mention the numerous private donations we received. We have been able to support the through care team to provide some fun and exciting adventures for 16-to 25-year-old care leavers.

Just after Christmas 2019 we received sad news from John McCutchen of his dear wife Carolyn's passing. Carolyn, alongside her husband John had thought up the idea of opening up Beaton's Wood for the Bluebell walk at Arlington in 1972, the very same walk, now with a tearoom we know and love today. This idyllic place encompasses a very successful social business enterprise model and attracts thousands of visitors every year that numerous Charities all benefit from.

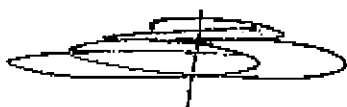
Indeed, last April 2019 over two gloriously sunny days we raised £3.7k at this event. I am grateful to Anja who lead this event for us with our teams of volunteers, foster carers, trustees and friends of the association who helped bake cakes, ticket office, organise the mobility scooters, run the tea rooms, clear and wash up and shop and clean for two long days.

In February the Corona Virus hit the nation and like many other organisations it seriously affected all aspects of our work. Fundraising had to be cancelled and in particular the precious Bluebell walk at Arlington (for May 2020). Therefore, we look forward to the event in 2021 where we will join John McCutchen and his family again and importantly where memories of Carolyn and her legacy lives on.

I am so grateful to so many generous individuals and organisations for their ongoing support. The list of fund-raising events and projects that ESFCA have put on is endless. However, we must not forget the other very important work that is carried out by ESFCA such as our active engagement with other organisations, networking and raising the profile of our association. Our trustees are involved in lobbying of Government and acting as a voice for our fellow carers and the children they care for. ESFCA is involved in supporting carers to seek solutions to particular issues they may face, setting up meetings with senior managers to ensure the carer feels heard and enable timely resolutions. Furthermore, ESFCA also assist in the event that carers are subject to an allegation or where there are concerns around standards of care to ensure carers are given the right information and most importantly that they feel supported.

Finally, if you want to learn more about our work and perhaps get involved with our fantastic team please sign up for our newsletter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Susanne Beesley', written over a series of horizontal lines.

Susanne Beesley
Chair ESFCA

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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 2020 set out on pages 2 to 17.

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
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Northbourne Road
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BN22 8PW

East Sussex Foster Care Association

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

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Donations		9,743	-	9,743	6,550
Core funding		20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Advocacy support		-	2,989	2,989	2,396
Membership		-	-	-	1,295
Fundraising – inc Bluebell walk		5,679	-	5,679	15,315
Christmas party		-	150	150	500
Keep it reel		-	2,000	2,000	1,000
Sibling sunshine days		-	-	-	9,999
PGL		-	14,050	14,050	-
Pantomime		-	1,530	1,530	3,679
Contributions towards events		-	-	-	6,857
Interest		74	-	74	101
Total incoming resources		35,496	20,718	56,214	67,692
Resources expended					
Conference		-	-	-	4,415
Insurance		526	-	526	1,078
General running expenses		2,408	-	2,343	3,329
Inspire		-	1,143	1,143	1,002
Queens award		2,323	-	2,323	-
Pantomime		-	3,441	3,441	3,538
PGL		-	13,131	13,131	15,308
Through care team		4,090	-	4,090	-
Events		2,409	-	2,409	5,058
Sibling Sunshine		-	-	-	9,771
Keep it reel		-	128	128	500
Supporting CICC		790	-	790	1,630
Leaving care project		-	-	-	2,616
Fundraising		654	-	654	813
Intuitive Horse		640	-	640	560
Advocacy support		-	2,920	2,920	2,989
Salaries & pensions		14,674	-	14,741	14,677
Christmas party		-	1,089	1,089	1,121
Computer costs		-	-	-	225
Training		-	-	-	383
Accountants fees		1,272	-	1,272	1,606
Total outgoing resources		29,786	21,852	51,638	70,617
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year/ Net income/(expenditure) for the year		5,710	(1,133)	4,576	(2,925)
Transfers		(7,888)	7,888	-	-
Total funds brought forward		83,992	2,698	86,690	89,386
Total resources		81,814	9,453	91,266	86,461

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 2020

		2020		2019	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets			-		-
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		92,601		88,032	
Debtors & prepayments	2	-		-	
		<u>92,601</u>		<u>88,032</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	<u>(1,335)</u>		<u>(1,342)</u>	
			91,266		86,690
Net Assets			<u>91,266</u>		<u>86,690</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	4		81,814		83,992
Restricted funds	5		9,453		2,698
Total Funds	6		<u>91,266</u>		<u>86,690</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 2020

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.

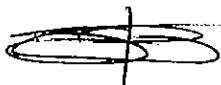
(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(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 16/09/20 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 2020

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 1. There are also a number of volunteer support workers.

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

2. Debtors and Prepayments

	2020 £	2019 £
PAYE debtor	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Accrued income	-	-
Overpaid bank charges	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Accountancy	1,335	1,342
	<u>1,342</u>	<u>1,139</u>

4. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-19 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-20
General fund	61,808	15,496	12,906	17,416	81,814
Designated fund	22,184	20,000	16,880	(25,304)	-
	<u>83,992</u>	<u>35,496</u>	<u>29,786</u>	<u>(7,888)</u>	<u>81,814</u>

East Sussex Foster Care Association

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

5. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-19 £	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance at 31-Mar-20
Advocacy support	7,011	2,989	2,920	-	7,080
Performing arts projects	-	-	1,143	1,143	-
Christmas party	-	150	1,089	939	-
CiN PGL events	(3,802)	9,050	9,103	3,855	-
CWF PGL events	(1,152)	5,000	4,027	179	-
Keep it Reel	500	2,000	128	-	2,372
Sibling Sunshine Days	-	-	-	-	-
Pantomime events	140	1,530	3,441	1,772	-
	<u>2,698</u>	<u>20,718</u>	<u>21,852</u>	<u>7,888</u>	<u>9,453</u>

6. Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Current assets	83,149	9,453	92,601	88,032
Current liabilities	(1,335)	-	(1,335)	(1,342)
	<u>81,814</u>	<u>9,453</u>	<u>91,266</u>	<u>86,690</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.