



Registered Charity Number 1187737

Annual Trustees' Report

Period Ending: 31st December 2020

Future Academy Reference and Administration Information:

4 February – 31 December 2020

Charity Number: 1187737

Date of Registration: 04.02.20

Operational Address: Brierley, First Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9EX

Trustees

Christopher Watts (Chair)

Stephen Appleton

Alex Fisher

Damien Gabet

Max Montgomery

Rob Pilgrim

James Watts

Jane Watts

Key Management Personnel

Christopher Watts (Co-Founder; Head of Operations; Director of Future English)

Jane Watts (Treasurer; Governance Lead; Education Consultant)

Max Montgomery (Secretary; Media Director)

Ahmad Al Jamal (Co-Founder; Operations Lead-Beirut; Director of Future Football)

Consultants

Mariane Lisboa de Paula (Strategy)

Omar Adi (Partnerships)

Meriem Cheikh (Web design)

Bankers

APS Financial Ltd

One London Wall, London EC2Y 5EB

Soldo Financial Services

119 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PU

Future Academy was registered by The Charity Commission as a CIO in February 2020 (Charity No. 1187737). From 1st June 2019 – 3rd February 2020 Future Academy operated as an unregistered charity, funded by its co-founder (now Chair of trustees). The Trustees have decided that the financial year will run from 1st January to 31st December, so this first report covers a period of eleven months from 4th February – 31st December 2020.

Aims and Objectives

The Future Academy Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year in January. This report looks at what the charity has achieved; the outcomes of its work in the reporting period and the benefit brought to the young people it supports.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular the Trustees consider how the planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The objects of Future Academy are for the public benefit to advance in life and relieve the needs of young people up to the age of 18 living in Burj Barajneh Camp, Beirut by:

- a) Developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;*
- b) Advancing education;*
- c) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.*

Burj Barajneh Camp was established in 1948 by The League of Red Cross Societies to accommodate refugees who fled from Galilee in northern Palestine. The camp is in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Burj Barajneh is overpopulated and living conditions are poor. According to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) more than 30,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees live in the camp, though originally only 10,000 were planned to live in the one square kilometre site. Men from the camp generally work as casual labourers in construction and women work in sewing factories or as cleaners. Refugees remain subject to various restrictions and are denied access to their full range of human rights, even though most of them were born and raised in Lebanon (UNWRA). Access to primary schools is generally only with the support of humanitarian communities and one in three refugee children fail to complete their primary education.

Future Academy aims to deliver activities that will further its objects. These include football coaching; football tournaments; English language classes; and sporting/educational field trips in wider Beirut. All activities are risk assessed at the planning stage and again before implementation; they are reviewed afterwards to evaluate their success and impact.

Future Academy's operations are overseen by co-founders Christopher Watts (Chair of Trustees) and Ahmad Al Jamal (Operations Lead, Beirut). Ahmad is responsible for the day-to-day running of Future Football and liaison with the Burj Barajneh community while Chris manages Future English and develops partnerships with potential sponsors. Both volunteer their time and expertise and are integral to the successful operation of Future Academy.

Future Academy's aims for 2020 were to become known and trusted by the Burj Barajneh community; to establish regular activities for one cohort of children; and to raise sufficient funds to maintain these activities for the calendar year and beyond.

Achievements and Performance

Prior to Charity registration in February 2020 Future Academy held occasional football coaching sessions; hosted the first Future Cup and provided a series of taster English classes to small groups of children.

Shortly after registration the coronavirus pandemic curtailed international travel; both Lebanon and the UK entered prolonged lockdowns. While frustrating, the Trustees used this time to prioritise raising awareness and fundraising activities.

Future Academy now has a website www.future-academy.net and has developed a social media presence on Facebook (Future Academy); Instagram (futureacademybeirut); and LinkedIn (Future academy UK).

Fundraising events included "From Lockdown to Lebanon" where the Trustees walked, ran or cycled the 3488km between London and Lebanon and a humanitarian appeal following the Beirut port explosion in August. [While the structure of the camp was not affected by the explosion, the availability of work and food decreased causing further hardship for the community.]

By the summer, travel restrictions had eased sufficiently to allow activities to resume in Burj Barajneh. Future Academy currently provides regular activities for up to 50 children aged 7-14 years. Every week children may attend two football coaching sessions and two English lessons. Sessions have a maximum group size of 16 to facilitate progress and are free of charge to the children.

Future Football

50 children regularly attend Future Football sessions, which are led by a qualified local coach (Asian Football Federation Accreditation) and supported by at least one assistant coach. We hire the community Astroturf pitch, within the camp, for four hours each week. Sessions focus on the acquisition of football skills, tactics, fair play and fun; groups are split according to age and ability. Monthly awards are given for attendance, improvement, fair play and leadership. The Future Cup provides the children with an opportunity to test themselves competitively against other teams.

The Future Cup – Future Academy's Annual Football Tournament

Future Academy is proud to host the only annual football tournament for refugee children in Beirut. In November eight teams, totalling 90 children from 4 different refugee camps, participated in a fiercely competitive, Covid-safe tournament held over two days. Transport, staffing and refreshments were provided; all competitors received football kit and participation medals; and trophies were awarded to the winners, best player, best goalkeeper and top scorer. After losing in the final in 2019, the Future Football 'A' team squad were delighted and extremely proud to be crowned champions of 2020. Future Academy is very grateful to Nai Arabia who provided sponsorship for this event.

Future English

In October Future English moved into its new Education Centre. [Prior to this, English classes were held outdoors]. While fairly basic, local staff and volunteers worked hard to transform it into a safe and welcoming learning environment with chairs and tables to accommodate all students. During 2021 we hope to provide additional equipment and resources to inspire our students further. Future English provides classes led by TEFL-qualified, native English speaking teachers supported by local (English speaking) Arabic teaching assistants. We offer an innovative, bespoke curriculum that is designed to meet the children's needs and to supplement their limited, formal schooling. All students complete a baseline assessment of English skills during their first month and are then allocated to the most appropriate class. Lessons focus on the acquisition of English skills (both oral and written), complemented with other curriculum areas and life skills. Student progress is measured both within a lesson (by engagement, outcome, intervention and self-evaluation) and over time (using the Future English Proficiency scale). 50 children have attended English lessons this year but attendance fluctuates. Consistent attendance is essential for maximising progress and creating stability for children whose start in life has been challenging. We are addressing this issue using football-style incentives; monthly awards are given for attendance, effort, improvement, achievement and leadership.

Community Relationships

Charities and NGOs operating in Burj Barajneh are often viewed with scepticism. Residents are wary of charities arriving and promising great new opportunities, then disappearing when too many obstacles occur or diverting resources when a crisis happens elsewhere. Future Academy's commitment to the children of Burj Barajneh is long term - Ahmad, Future Football Director, was a child refugee who grew up in the camp (becoming a professional footballer); he is well known and respected. Our football coaches, teaching assistants and security staff are all local residents. The community is becoming familiar with our programme of activities and children are keen to participate.

Feedback received from residents following the 2nd Future Cup tournament:

"One of the best events to happen to children in our refugee camp is this Academy."

"The Academy means that a brilliant future is waiting for the children."

Volunteer Contribution

Without the significant contribution of volunteers, Future Academy would be unable to deliver its activities to so many children.

In addition to the time donated by The Board of Trustees and occasional volunteers, the contributions provided by our key management personnel, consultants and volunteer teachers equate to more than 45 hours per week. A conservative estimate of the financial value of their contribution to Future Academy is £3500 per month.

Future Plans

Coronavirus continues to impact upon Future Academy's operations: travel restrictions, entry requirements, local and international lockdowns, quarantine, additional costs and reduced fundraising opportunities. We expect 2021 to be similarly challenging.

Our aims for 2021 are to:

- 1) Maintain our current provision of weekly activities for the current cohort of 50 children and host the 3rd Future Cup.
- 2) Increase stability by raising sufficient funds to create reserves amounting to 6 months activity and to provide a contingency of £1000 to allow us to react quickly to emergency situations within the camp.

As soon as additional funds are sourced we will also:

- 3) Extend our provision to include a cohort of girls.
- 4) Provide further opportunities for competitive sport by establishing a football league for children living in refugee camps in Beirut.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. The public benefit of the Charity's activities is to advance in life and relieve the needs of young people living in Burj Barajneh Camp, Beirut; this is achieved principally by providing the children with regular educational and sporting activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

Future Academy was registered as a CIO with the Charities Commission in February 2020. The governing document is the Charity Commission's Foundation Model Constitution. Future Academy has a board of eight Trustees, who have a varied skillset.

Three Trustees are key officials who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the charity (alongside co-founder Ahmad Al Jamal). Key officials are appointed to the board for an initial period of four years; other Trustees are appointed for three years. (Existing Trustees may be reappointed for additional terms).

The Trustees will consider recruitment of new Trustees as the need arises. Applications from suitable candidates would be sought by identifying specific gaps in professional skills and seeking recommendations of professionally qualified candidates, if necessary, placing advertisements in suitable publications. Applicants would be provided with an information pack outlining the history of the organisation, its structure, activities and objectives, roles and expectations of Trustees plus other relevant supporting information.

The board meets a minimum of four times a year. Policies are reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis along with the risk register. The board are committed to developing a training budget so that Future Academy Trustees and the wider team are appropriately trained for their roles.

Trustee Training completed in 2020:

- One-to-one meeting with ICET (International Charities Engagement Team)
- Recovering with integrity - Charities united against corruption internationally (ICET)
- Holding, moving and receiving funds safely when working internationally (ICET)
- Introduction to Trusted Charity Workshop – Quality Area 1, Governance (NCVO)

Financial Review

Future Academy raises funds from the general public, individual donors, workplace giving schemes and corporate sponsors. All funds are unrestricted; we do not use professional fundraisers.

Once revenue reaches £25,000 Future Academy will be required to have their accounts independently examined. Until that time the accounts will be reviewed by trustees not involved in the day-to-day running of the activities.

In 2020 total receipts of unrestricted funds were £16,899; expenditure totalled £7,355 leaving a net balance of £9,544.

Future Academy's main expenses are the hire costs of both the Astroturf pitch and Education Centre plus the costs associated with the logistics of operating a charity overseas. We estimate that the cost of activities planned for 2021 amount to £21,000 and so far we have pledges for donations of £15,000.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Future Academy does not pay any Key Management Personnel.

Remuneration of Local (Beirut) Personnel

Local football coaches and teaching assistants are paid by the session.

Trustee expenses

In 2020 Future Academy paid expenses of £2,755 to two trustees. The expenses covered living and travel expenses associated with governance (£276) and volunteering (as teachers) in Beirut (£2479). They were approved, in principle, in advance and paid retrospectively on receipt of appropriate documentation [in accordance with Future Academy Internal Financial Controls Policy, 6.3: Expenses]

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to maintain reserves allowing Future Academy activities to run for six months. This provides stability and enables us to honour our commitment to the children of Burj Barajneh. Our current reserves equate to 5½ months, which suggests that we are maintaining an appropriate level of liquidity whilst ensuring that excessive funds are not accumulated. The adequacy of this policy is reviewed annually.

Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Guarantee Given by the Charity

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Debt

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Risk

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed have been identified by the Trustees; procedures established to mitigate these risks are monitored and reviewed regularly and have been recorded in the risk register.

This year we have seen a new risk – that posed by Coronavirus, creating a range of issues with associated additional costs. These have been added to the risk register alongside the procedures established to mitigate these.

Financial risk relates mainly to establishing stable revenue streams and overseas currency fluctuations - our revenue is in £ sterling but payments made in Beirut are in Lebanese pounds (converted from US dollars). Both the political and economic situation in Lebanon is very volatile and the value of Lebanese pounds against the dollar fluctuates daily. In order to mitigate these risks, the trustees follow all Charity Commission guidance relating to “Moving, handling and receiving funds safely when working internationally”.

Declarations

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above report and authorised that it be signed on their behalf.

Signed by: Jane Watt.

Name: JANE WATTS

Role: TREASURER / TRUSTEE

14.3.21



CHRISTOPHER WATTS

CHAIR

14.3.21



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Future Academy

No (if any)
1187737

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	04.02.20		31.12.20

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts	16,899	-	-	16,899	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,899	-	-	16,899	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,899	-	-	16,899	-
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activities	7,160	-	-	7,160	-
Bank Charges	45	-	-	45	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	7,205	-	-	7,205	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Classroom Furniture	150	-	-	150	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	150	-	-	150	-
Total payments	7,355	-	-	7,355	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,544	-	-	9,544	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	70	-	-	70	-
Cash funds this year end	9,614	-	-	9,614	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	UK	7,332	-	-
	Lebanon	2,282	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,614	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Classroom Furniture	Unrestricted	150	150
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Trustee Loan	Unrestricted	5,000	31.05.24
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Jane Watts	JANE WATTS	14.3.21	
	Christopher Watts	CHRISTOPHER WATTS	14.3.21	

Future Academy 1187737

Notes to accompany R&P accounts 2020

£

A1. Voluntary Receipts

General Donations	1942
Individual Donations	12500
Trustee Donations	95
Workplace Giving	100
Corporate Sponsorship	2262
Total	16899

A3. Payments

Football Tournament	3782	(Includes £1102 Trustee Expenses)
Weekly Football Coaching	1124	(Includes £275 Trustee Expenses)
English School	1978	(Includes £1102 Trustee expenses)
Bank Charges	45	
Governance	276	(Includes £276 Trustee expenses)
Total	7205	

A4. Asset and Investment Purchases

Classroom Furniture (Tables and Chairs)	150
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B5. Liabilities

Interest-free Trustee Loan (1 June 2019)	5000
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[Loan repayment schedule: £5000 is due to be repaid on or before 31 May 2024]

Trustee Expenses

A total of £2755 was paid to two trustees as expenses:

1) Monitoring the end use of funds (Governance)

£276 was paid to the Chair of Trustees (while in Beirut as a volunteer)

Accommodation/living costs: £264

Travel: £12

2) Volunteer Expenses

£2479 was paid to two trustees who delivered activities in Beirut, as volunteers, for a total of 90 days.

Accommodation/living costs: £2379

Travel: £100

These costs were split between the football tournament, weekly football coaching and English school (see A3 above)