

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

S Dean
C Gibbons
L Bull
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Charity Number

1041297

Principal address

154 Caledonian Road
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Independent Examiner

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DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

2019/20 has proved to be a busy and eventful year for DC Network, not least as we had to pivot our services as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic from March 2020. The DC Network team responded magnificently to the challenge of moving many of our services online. Although new member numbers initially declined, due to the halting of fertility treatments, and we unfortunately had to cancel the April 2020 conference, the pandemic allowed us to reach more people worldwide, on our online workshops, for instance.

The net result was that we managed to end this very challenging year in a healthier financial position than we had expected.

During this period, we continued to bring the experiences and needs of donor conception families to a wide range of events and meetings and provided expertise at conferences and webinars, albeit many online from March onwards. We developed new services and resources for our members and for all donor conception families and ensured our workshop programme continued. Sales of our books continued to grow, as a result of joining Lightening Source (a distribution network).

Among the many services we offer, the phone and email Helpline is at the heart of what we do and typifies the expertise and support we offer to members and non-members alike, something which is unique to the DC Network. Sometimes related to very complex cases of donor conception, we provided 651 support interactions this year.

Likewise, I would like to thank our volunteers, some of whom we brought together in a Volunteer Day in February 2020. Between them, they organised 58 meet ups of local groups around the UK and Ireland.

We sadly said goodbye to 2 of our trustees, Claire Beasley and Gurinder Rajput and we thank them for their service, particularly Claire as Chair.

Sue Dean

May 2021

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Objects of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated association which was established by a constitution dated 24 September 1994 and amended 3 March 2000 and 20th October 2015 with the following objectives: to advance education in human fertility, fertilisation and embryology, assisted conception, genetics and the impact of non-genetic relationships by the provision to parents of children conceived by sperm, embryo or egg donation, to the children themselves and to those contemplating or undergoing treatment, of information, advice, counselling and support.

Donor Conception Network's Vision and Mission

The Donor Conception Network's vision is a society where a climate of openness and understanding about donor conception enables people considering it to make informed decisions and helps build families who are confident, accepted and have a secure identity.

The Donor Conception Network's mission is to deliver high quality, non-judgemental and inclusive support and information to would-be and current parents and their children to enable them to navigate the often complex and individual journey of donor conception.

We are a pioneering parent-led and child-centred organisation and a trusted authority on the social and emotional aspects of building or expanding a family using donor conception. We are at the forefront of the donor conception movement, bringing our 25 years' of experience and the voices of our members to inform professionals, practitioners and policy makers in the UK and worldwide.

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Network is a professionally-run support organisation for families using donor conception. It performs a vital role in providing information and support to prospective parents and donor conception families.

In 2019/20 we welcomed 475 new members to the Network. This included re-joiners who had been members previously, professionals working in the field and donor conceived adults.

In Autumn 2019, we hosted our annual out-of-London National Conference in Edinburgh where 67 adults and 19 children attended. The main presentations were from a panel of parents and from Kate, a DC Adult. We also ran a What Makes Me, Me creative session for children aged 7-13yrs.

We had to cancel our annual London conference (scheduled for April 2020) due to the coronavirus restrictions. We refunded some of the bookings but many members generously offered to turn their ticket into a donation to help the charity during the financially difficult months of March, April and May 2020.

Throughout the first part of the financial year, we ran local meetups all around the country, bringing together members to share experiences and build friendships. These were paused from March 2020 due to coronavirus restrictions.

We published two Journals, produced a weekly news bulletin for members and had an active presence on social media. We spoke at various events and engaged with professionals working in the field to educate them on the long-term implications for families using donor conception.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020 (CONTINUED)

Our activities in 2019/2020

New services and resources

In 2019 we developed a new 1-day version of our Preparation for Parenthood workshop for single women (it had been 2 days).

In December 2019 we joined the Lightning Source global distribution service, which meant our books would be available around the world on most of the major book sales channels (e.g. Amazon).

In May we launched a new online service for members – DCN Chats. These are small, facilitated, discussion groups on a particular topic or for a particular member demographic.

In June 2020 we piloted our first online Preparation for Parenthood workshop and started developing online versions of our Telling and Talking workshops..

DCN Helpline

Our phone and email helplines provide invaluable support to members, the general public and professionals working in the field wishing to discuss specific donor conception related issues. In total, we provided over 651 support interactions (beyond simple questions and queries), approximately half of these coming from non-members.

Local groups/meetups

Our volunteers organised around 58 meetups for members around the UK and in Ireland, some events being adults only and others catering for families with children. These opportunities for people to meet face-to-face are invaluable in helping break the isolation some people feel. They are opportunities to raise and discuss difficult topics where appropriate and generally help to build confidence in decision-making and sharing their family story. These in-person events were paused from March 2020 due to government restrictions.

We piloted and launched our online DCN Chats and ran 12 Chats between May and July 2020 with 122 bookings (averaging 10 people per Chat).

Volunteer support

On 29th February 2020 we held our 6th annual Volunteers Day bringing together 47 of our volunteers. This provided an opportunity for us to thank them for their wonderful work and for them to meet and network. This year we offered small group discussions on specific topics as part of their on-going support and training.

Workshops

We offer two main workshops which are open to both members and non-members, Preparation for Parenthood (for people considering donor conception) and Telling and Talking (separate events for those with children up to 7yrs and those with children 8-12yrs). These workshops are very important in helping participants explore the issues related to donor conception relevant to their stage of parenthood.

Up to March 2020 we were running these in-person. Once there were restrictions placed on events, we immediately started translating the programmes to make them suitable to deliver online. We started offering online Preparation for Parenthood workshops from June 2020. We started work translating all our workshops to create online versions.

During 2019-2020 we ran 4 in-person Preparation workshops with 59 delegates and 3 online workshops with 33 delegates. The online workshops included delegates from Sweden, Poland, Ireland, Australia and Luxembourg, perhaps demonstrating the improved reach by going online.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020 (CONTINUED)

We also ran 5 Telling and Talking workshops in-person (including one in Edinburgh) totalling 76 delegates, plus a workshop specifically for double/embryo donation families with 15 delegates.

In March 2020, after our pilot in 2019, we ran a Making It Real workshop in London for professionals working with donor conception families (eg fertility counsellors, clinic staff, lawyers, HFEA staff, fertility nurses, family therapists). We ran this event shortly before restrictions on physical meetings were put in place in the UK and we had 25 attendees (34 were booked but several had to cancel last minute due to restrictions on travel).

Projects

April Trust funding to make a new film for our workshops: this project was temporarily paused while we focussed on the more urgent task of moving our work and support services online.

Advocacy and awareness

In September 2019 we attended a surrogacy-related event as part of the Law Commission's consultation and another one connected to the UN's project on surrogacy. We spoke at the Merck Fertility Insights event in Birmingham (an educational event for fertility nurses and clinic staff).

In September we also attended the Surrogacy UK annual conference. We ran our bookshop at the conference and offered SUK attendees a Telling and Talking workshop specifically for surrogacy families.

In November 2019 staff from DCN attended the ESHRE (European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology) training course in Bilbao, Spain titled "Genes vs Children". We also attended the annual Fertility Show in London, speaking with people at our stand and giving a presentation on donor conception for one of the seminars.

In February 2020 we attended another ESHRE workshop in Leuven, Belgium called "Moving on from Individual Connections to Networks: New Challenges in Donor Conception".

In February 2020 we attended a De Montfort University workshop in Leicester on egg donation in the UK, Belgium and Spain.

In May 2020, as part of a strategy review for the charity, we completed a survey of members and non-members asking how people feel about DCN and the services we offer. We had over 450 responses and were able to use these to better inform our strategy and next steps.

Through the year we participated in the regular HFEA and AFPO meetings and presented two Egg Donation Friends webinars and a Fertility Network webinar.

We circulated two media requests to members and were approached about research by two researchers. We started discussions with another researcher, Sophie Zadeh, for DCN to act as consultants for a large-scale programme for which she was awarded funding from the ESRC.

COVID19

DC Network support services and normal office activity were obviously impacted by the restrictions on in-person events, the move to working from home, the impact of international travel restrictions on fertility treatment abroad and the temporary clinic closures in the UK. Added to this, of course, there were the feelings of stress, anxiety and uncertainty surrounding the situation.

We were able to face and rise to these challenges fairly quickly in April/May 2020. We are extremely grateful to members who made donations during April and May 2020 to support us, as well as a generous donation from the Joseph Strong Frazer Trust. Although the year has been challenging, we have, thankfully, come out the other side stronger and more resilient.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020 (CONTINUED)

How we are funded

The DC Network has five main sources of income: membership subscriptions and donations; membership activities (e.g. conferences); publication sales; workshop income; and income from our clinic and lawyer supporter schemes.

Membership subscriptions, gift aid and donations account for over half of our income and supports the services that we offer to members. These include: planning our annual conferences; biannual journal to members; supporting our local groups and meetups throughout the UK and Ireland; our regular bulletins to members; and our email and telephone support services.

Publication sales. Our publications continue to sell well around the world, reflecting the broader reach that our small charity achieves.

Workshop income. To keep prices as low as possible, our workshops are designed to be self-funding, rather than profit making, with the income received matching the cost of developing, organising and delivering these specialised, highly-sensitive and professionally-run events.

Our corporate supporter programmes generate part of our income and we are very grateful to all our clinic and lawyer supporters.

Our Lawyer supporters

Our lawyer supporter scheme encourages legal firms specialising in fertility law to support us and help us ensure that we are connecting people to the right support that they may need. We know many people use our website for information and signposting to appropriate services. We are enormously grateful to all our lawyer supporters for building these links with us:

4 Paper Buildings
A City Law Firm
Biscoes
Bishop and Sewell
Clarke Willmott
Harper Macleod
JMW
Natalie Gamble Associates
Osbornes
Penningtons Manches

Our Clinic supporters

This scheme encourages fertility clinics to support us in the work we do. It enables us to forge closer links with these clinics, who are treating many of the people who go on to become our members at the start of their donor conception journey.

Clinics who join the scheme recognise that there are wider issues to consider when a child is being created with the use of donor gametes. Their commitment to us is helping to ensure we can support families long-term, whatever needs may come up that relate to donor conception.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020 (CONTINUED)

We are very grateful to our clinic supporters:

Aberdeen Fertility Centre
Bath Fertility
The Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health
City Fertility (Gennet)
Harley Street Fertility Clinic
HCA Lister Fertility
Herts and Essex Fertility Centre
Hewitt Fertility Centre Liverpool
Jessop Fertility
LWC London
LWC Cardiff
LWC Darlington
LWC Swansea
LWC London Bridge
London Sperm Bank
London Egg Bank
Manchester Fertility
European Sperm Bank

Review of financial position

At the balance sheet date the total funds of the Charity were £54,737 (2019: £66,660).

Trustees

Sue Dean
Claire Beasley (resigned 17 June 2020)
Gurinder Rajput (resigned 17 June 2020)
Caroline Gibbons
Linzi Bull
Spencer Fox
Rachel Gundesen

Investment policy

Under the constitution, the Trustees have the authority to invest the funds of the charitable trust at their discretion.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level that will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Risk Factors

The Trustees regularly examine the major strategic business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to ensure that necessary steps are taken to lessen the effect of such risks.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT

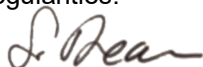
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020 (CONTINUED)

Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities for that year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Financial statements and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



S Dean

Trustee

Dated 15 May 2021

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2020, which are as set out on pages 9 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit 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 sections 145 (5) and 152 (5) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

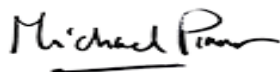
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 financial statements, 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 financial statements 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:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Name: Michael Pinner ACA

Relevant professional body: Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: Errington Langer Pinner
Pyramid House
954 High Road
London N12 9RT

Date: 15 May 2021

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Incoming resources | | | | |
| Donations and subscriptions | 119,772 | - | 119,772 | 118,211 |
| Publication sales | 37,437 | - | 37,437 | 43,268 |
| Grants | - | - | - | - |
| Other income | 84,196 | - | 84,196 | 81,344 |
| Total incoming resources | 241,405 | - | 241,405 | 259,873 |
| Resources expended | | | | |
| Staff and management | 132,009 | 500 | 132,509 | 120,477 |
| Operations | 120,125 | 694 | 120,819 | 128,560 |
| Total resources expended | 252,134 | 1,194 | 253,328 | 249,067 |
| Net incoming/(outgoing)/resources for the year ended 31 July 2020 | (10,729) | (1,194) | (11,923) | 10,836 |
| Fund balances brought forward at 1 August 2019 | 49,344 | 17,316 | 66,660 | 55,824 |
| Fund balances carried forward at 31 July 2020 | 38,615 ===== | 16,122 ===== | 54,737 ===== | 66,660 ===== |

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2020

| | Notes | £ | 2020 | £ | £ | 2019 | £ |
|--|-------|--------|--------|---|--------|------|---|
| Current assets | | | | | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 54,737 | | | 66,660 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | | - | | | - | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Net current assets | | | 54,737 | | 66,660 | | |
| | | | ===== | | ===== | | |
| Income funds | | | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 2 | 16,122 | | | 17,316 | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 2 | 38,615 | | | 49,344 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | 54,737 | | 66,660 | | |
| | | | ===== | | ===== | | |

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 May 2021



S Dean
Trustee

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020 (CONTINUED)

1.5 Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| Office equipment | - | 15% reducing balance |
|------------------|---|----------------------|

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income / (expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020 (CONTINUED)

2. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

| | Balance at 1 August 2019 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Balance at July 31 2020 |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General fund | 49,344 | 241,405 | (252,134) | 38,615 |
| | <u>49,344</u> | <u>241,405</u> | <u>(252,134)</u> | <u>38,615</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

Analysis of restricted funds movement

| | Balance at 1 August 2019 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Balance at July 31 2020 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Solo Mum Conference 2012 | 266 | - | - | 266 |
| April Trust Film Project | 17,050 | - | (1,194) | 15,856 |
| | <u>17,316</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(1,194)</u> | <u>16,122</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

| Name of the fund | Description, nature and purpose of the fund |
|--------------------------|---|
| Solo Mum Conference 2012 | Solo mum support project |
| April Trust Film Project | Grant to allow the remaking of our Telling and Talking film which we use in our workshops |

3. Staff costs

The average weekly number of employees remunerated during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis, was 4 (2019 – 3.5).