



**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales  
Registration Number 1171958

**Finnbar's Force Annual Report & Financial Statements 2020**  
**Trustees' Report**

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**Reference and Administration Details**

Charity Number: 1171958

Registered Address: 1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3GL.

Trustees:

Tristan Cork (Resigned 6 January 2020)

Claire Cork (Resigned 6 January 2020)

Paul Read (Chair)

Christopher Sharman (Treasurer)

Charlotte El-Labany (Appointed 6 January 2020)

Independent examiner: Will Moy ACA,  
57 Bertram Way,  
Norwich,  
NR1 1FD.

**Finnbar's Force Annual Report & Financial Statements 2020**  
**Trustees' Report**

The Trustees present their annual report together with financial statements of Finnbar's Force for the year ended 31 October 2020.

**An Introduction to Our Charity**

*We set up Finnbar's Force in 2017, after losing our son to an aggressive brain tumour just before his 5th birthday in 2016*

**Finnbar's Story**

Finnbar was born in September 2010 and enjoyed a lovely start to life, doing all the things little boys love doing and being around his loving family. He was doing really well at school and was a fantastic reader - he absolutely loved stories and always had at least two every bedtime!

Then one day, a couple of months after Finnbar's 5th birthday, he started to complain that he felt dizzy. At first it was every few days, but after a couple of weeks it had become every day. We saw the GP and put it down to an ear infection. As a few more weeks passed, we became increasingly concerned as the dizziness was getting much worse - in fact it was now happening several times a day. We saw the GP again and were told to come back again if it carried on for much longer.

By Christmas we noticed that he seemed to be developing other subtle symptoms; sometimes he staggered whilst walking, as though he was drunk; and his behaviour changed - he even said that he didn't feel like himself anymore.



By January 2016, with Finnbar getting no better, we managed to get a hospital appointment. After several appointments and scans, our worst fears became reality - Finnbar was diagnosed with a brain tumour. In February he needed an emergency operation to relieve the pressure on his brain, followed by further surgeries to take a biopsy and insert a special line to administer drugs.

The biopsy results came back and we found out that the tumour was inoperable.

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Finnbar began a course of chemotherapy in March but continued to deteriorate rapidly - by May he was unable to walk, could barely talk and couldn't eat. Towards the end of the month we were given the heart-breaking news that the doctors felt that there was nothing that could be done to save, or even help, our dear little Finn.

We continued to fight for Finnbar, never giving up hope of some improvement, but it was to prove a vain battle. On Friday 5th August 2016, just five months after he was diagnosed, Finnbar became very poorly. That evening we cuddled him as he slipped away from us.



**A Message from Tristan Cork – Finnbar's Father and Founder of the Charity**

Throughout our unwanted journey that was Finnbar's illness - which, although relatively brief, was incredible painful for him and for all that loved and cared for him - I was shocked by some of the things I found and that I have discovered subsequently.

Nobody wants their child to be diagnosed with cancer or a brain tumour, where even "benign" tumours can cause devastation. But as a parent I felt sure that everything would be thrown at Finnbar to make him better, I had great faith; I thought that in this day and age there would be many options for treatment and that the medical teams would work together to do the very best for our son.

However, sadly this didn't turn out to be the case. I began to discover that childhood brain tumours were so poorly understood - a combination of rarity and chronic lack of research - that unless the child gets a "simple", low grade, easy to remove tumour, the odds are very heavily stacked against their long term survival. Fortunately, other



childhood cancers, such as leukaemia, have benefited from huge leaps and bounds in understanding, treatment and ultimately survivability – up to around 80% nowadays. In stark contrast, some experts think we could be 100 years away from being able to make that statement about brain tumours. We

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decided early on that we would support this cause – we would campaign for more research and donate to research projects that would benefit childhood brain tumour patients. We also found that there is a frequently occurring common denominator among childhood brain tumour patients – lengthy delays in diagnosis, with some frankly shocking stories of initial misdiagnosis. So, we also raise awareness of symptoms – both to the public and to healthcare professionals.

Throughout the painful and terrifying rollercoaster ride we were on, we felt well-supported by certain individual clinicians and charities, particularly towards the end of Finnbar's life.

However, we also suffered at the hands of some serious failings – both in the 'system' and in the capabilities of some of the care teams. Sometimes we felt that we were not listened to or taken seriously. Sometimes communication was terrible. Often, we felt alone and isolated. In hospital we were generally very well looked after – out of hospital we felt forgotten. Simple mistakes or oversights caused us a great deal of unnecessary stress and hassle – running around trying to find a piece of equipment or medication that someone forgot to arrange, for example. Phone calls would sometimes take hours, or even days, to be returned. Sometimes they didn't get returned. All of these things made a horrific experience even worse – in fact we have been left severely traumatised by some of the things we had to go through with Finnbar. We feel that some of those things could have been prevented or made easier, if the right support was in place for us, and we know we're not alone in that – we have spoken to many parents that have described feeling the same way.

Whilst I have also heard of many positive experiences and we know that most of the care teams go above and beyond to care for children and families, we think that all families should be able to feel that they have all the support they need, when they need it – to take the load off for a while. In East Anglia there are good mechanisms in place to support children that are at the end of their lives and an excellent charity in East Anglian Children's Hospices that makes sure of that. But our vision would see much more support from the beginning of a journey, especially in acting as advocates and ensuring communication is effective amongst the various care teams involved.

We got off to a phenomenal start with our fundraising, thanks to the incredible efforts of our volunteers and supporters – now it is time to work really hard on achieving this vision – and our conversion to become a CIO is the first step towards this.

Thank you so much to everyone who helps us in our mission.

**Tristan Cork**

Founder

### **Objectives and Activities**

As a young organisation we recognise that there will be some natural evolution in our ideas as we build a better picture of the present-day situation and the needs of children and families. Our vision reflects our recognition that, while we will always maintain a sharp focus on childhood brain tumours, some of our work can and will benefit all children with cancer, in particular the opportunity to make their families feel better supported.

#### **Our Vision:**

*A world where fewer children suffer and die at the hands of a brain tumour and where all children with cancer in our area receive all the support they need, when and where they need it.*

#### **Our Mission:**

- ***To improve outcomes;*** by supporting and campaigning for increased research into childhood brain tumours; and by raising awareness of the symptoms of the disease.
- ***To support children and families;*** by advocating; providing easy access to the best support and information; and by working with other services to improve the overall care package.

### **Our Objectives**

Our original charitable objectives focus on childhood brain tumours:

To relieve the needs of children suffering from brain tumours (especially rare/unusual presentations) and their families by;

- Providing information, advocacy and local support
- Providing basic financial support in the form of 'Assistance Grants' for associated costs that the diagnosis brings, such as travel to distant hospitals, car parking, food etc.
- Fund research into brain cancer and potential treatments through grants to research teams and support of umbrella organisations to raise awareness of the disease and its debilitating effects

At the start of 2020 we began the process to convert from a trust to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), using the opportunity to amend our objects slightly to accommodate the fact that some of our services will ultimately benefit families of children with any kind of cancer. This is a natural by-product of our desire to improve support for children with brain tumours.

### **Our Main Activities to Achieve Our Charitable Objectives**

In undertaking our main activities, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefits.

In our first few years as a charity we had some brilliant successes in supporting our objectives and were aiming high with our future.

After the Trust is wound down, the newly formed CIO will continue to progress the founding aims to support even more children and families.

### **How We Helped:**

**Raising Awareness** - We take every opportunity we can to provide the public with information about the symptoms of brain tumours, as well as childhood cancer generally, including through information stands and social media, as well as working to improve awareness amongst healthcare professionals.

Examples include:

- Distributing symptom cards at various locations and events.
- Providing information packs for professionals, to doctors' surgeries, schools and opticians.
- Spreading the word online and on social media

### **Supporting Families** – We have helped by:

- Giving grants of £500 to families of children diagnosed with a brain tumour, to help cover some of the costs faced upon initial diagnosis, such as travelling to a far-away hospital, car parking and food whilst away from home.
- Developing an information toolkit for families to direct them to the best online resources and connect them with charities and services that can help them locally.
- Offered 1-to-1 advice and support by visiting families at home to share experiences and point parents in the right direction for further advice. We have also connected families to each other for support.
- Working with service providers and charities in Norfolk to look at ways support can be improved for families with a child undergoing treatment for cancer.

**Supporting Research** – Since we began fundraising for research, we have provided over £40,000 toward paediatric brain tumour research projects. We have:

- Donated almost £12,000 to a project based at Birmingham Children's Hospital, developing a technique to use MRI scanners to identify the aggressiveness of a brain tumour without invasive biopsy brain tumour, which may in turn help guide treatment.
- Most recently we have supported research at Queen Mary University of London, a Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence, looking into potential treatments for brain tumours that affect children.
- Committed to further support, with around 20% of our annual income currently designated to supporting research.

### **Our Impact**

We have received very positive feedback in respect of our support, a few examples of correspondence that we have received from families we have supported are given below;

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*"We wouldn't know half the things we do about childhood brain tumours if it wasn't for them"*

*"Tristan has been amazing – I wouldn't have found out half of the information that I now have if it wasn't for his support. People need this kind of help when they're in this situation and it's really tough when you're in such a state"*

*"The money has helped us so much! My husband is on half pay now so we need every penny we can get"*

*"I didn't know who to talk to or where to turn when I needed to find out what benefits I could claim, but Finnbar's Force pointed me in the right direction and I had it sorted within weeks"*

*"Thank you for referring us to EACH – you've both been amazing"*

*"The grant you gave us meant we could be with our son whilst he was at Addenbrookes for a week – I don't know what we would have done without it as I am self-employed! Thank you!"*

*The help they gave us with getting our son to Disneyland was brilliant. I didn't think it was going to happen but these guys got hold of a charity that took care of EVERYTHING! We had a wonderful time!*

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## **Financial Review**

### **Funds Carried Over From Trust to CIO**

These accounts cover the last year of the Trust, up to the point where all assets and funds were transferred to the newly formed CIO (Charity Commission registration number 1187338) . Following that point all financial activity is conducted as the CIO.

The existing charity transferred all assets to the new charity after it was registered on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and a new bank account was set up. The total amount transferred was £143,680.49, which was the total cash balance at the time of the transfer.

### **How We've Raised Funds**

The majority of our funds have arisen from very kind and generous donations from members of the public and local businesses. These may be from a collection tin in a shop or from one of our fantastic supporters following a small fundraising event or as a result of a sponsored activity, along with 'charity of the year' or one off donations from fabulous local businesses, clubs and societies. We are so grateful to each and every person and organisation that has donated or raised money for us – every penny goes into our general fund that supports families, goes to research and helps the charity to run.

A good amount also comes in from our own selection of fundraising events that we hold throughout the year. All of our events are family focused with the emphasis on bringing the local community together.

Events include:

- Jedi Walk
- Family Adventure Day
- Community Sports Day
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Lights



### **Future Income Strategy**

As the Trust will be wound down and all activity will be carried out by the CIO, it is not intended to raise further funds for the Trust. However, bank accounts will remain open for a period of time in order to collect any income and cover and outgoings that may have been missed during the transfer. At a future point when the Trustees are satisfied that all financial activity within the accounts have ceased, these accounts will be closed. This will coincide with the winding down of the trust.

### **Main Use of Funds**

All funds will be transferred to the CIO to be used as directed by the Trustees of the CIO.

### **Reserves Policy**

There will no longer be a reserve held for the Trust. The CIO has set out its own policy.

At 31st March 2020 the Trust had unrestricted cash reserves of **£0** and restricted cash reserves of **£0**.

### **Governance**

Finnbar's Force is a charitable trust, governed by its trust deed, dated 7 February 2017 and amended 5 March 2017. Charitable status was awarded on 8 March 2017. The charity is run only by the trustees. There must be a minimum of three trustees. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a special meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. The trustees keep a record of the names and address of each trustee, together with the dates of their appointment, re-appointment or retirement and will provide a copy of the charity trust deed and latest report and account to each new trustee. In addition, all trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission and other newsletters designed to keep them abreast of their duties and responsibilities. The trustee board currently meets at least four times each year. The trustees have established an operational management committee which meets on a monthly basis to oversee the day to day operations of the charity.

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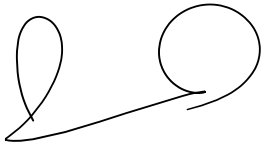
In late 2019 Finnbar's Force set about the process of converting from a charitable trust, governed by its trust deed, originally established in February 2017, to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This process was hampered by the effects of the pandemic upon our team, however was completed during the summer of 2020. A Foundation Constitution was established for the CIO on 2 January 2020, amended from the original document of 3 October 2019.

Charitable status for the CIO was awarded on 13 January 2020. The process to convert was completed in March 2020. The process to wind down the Trust has been severely delayed by the impact of Covid19 on the ability of the Trustees to meet and for the charity to carry out normal activities, however this will now be completed as soon as possible.

**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:



Paul Read, Chair

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022



Christopher Sharman, Treasurer

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the act')

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as require by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Moy', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

William Moy, ACA

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**Finnbar's Force Annual Report & Financial Statements 2019-2020**

**Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Totals £	2019 Totals £
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Donations and sponsored events	18,197	-	18,197	50,535
Legacy	-	-	-	48,732
Fundraising events	32,622	-	32,622	12,568
Online sales and merchandise	1,535	-	1,535	3,715
Grants	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	430	-	430	350
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>52,784</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,784</b>	<b>115,900</b>
<b><u>Outgoings</u></b>				
Grants/Donations	33,000	-	33,000	9,811
Runnings costs/consumables	2,831	-	2,831	4,743
Promo/Merchandise	2,967	-	2,967	1,740
Other Expenses	1,309	-	1,309	1,679
Events	8,186	-	8,186	2,117
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>48,293</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,293</b>	<b>20,090</b>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>4,491</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,491</b>	<b>95,810</b>

On 4 March 2020, the Trustees passed a resolution to transfer the entirety of the Trusts' funds to Finnbar's Force, a CIO with charity number 1187338. The CIO undertakes the same activities as the Trust. Therefore, as at 31 March 2020, the Trust held Cash Funds of £nil.

Cash funds at 1 April 2019	137,817	1,374	139,191
Cash funds at 31 March 2020	-	-	-

Commented [1]: needs 2019 totals as well

**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Read', with a large loop at the end.

Paul Read, Chair

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Christopher Sharman', with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christopher Sharman, Treasurer

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Notes to the Financial Statements

**1 General Notes**

Basis of accounting:

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

**2 Transactions with Trustees**

The Charity has 1 employee.

No remuneration or benefits were paid to the Trustees or people connected with them, by the charity.

No expenditure transactions were undertaken by the charity in which a trustee or connected person has a material interest.

During the year, no trustees were reimbursed for expenses.