

CHAIR'S REPORT

2017/18 has been our first year operating as a registered charity and has been a very exciting year for us all.

After receiving the good news that we had gained registered charity status in January 2017 we did unfortunately have to wait a few months to open a bank account, this was due to a mix up in paperwork on our bank's behalf, but thankfully once this error had been rectified, we received our first donation from a company called Metaswitch who have been instrumental in supporting us in the past when we operated as a community interest company. The donation from Metaswitch was our largest donation in our first year, however we have also managed to raise funds independently through raffles, fundraising from a concert held in a local park and our charity launch party which took place in July 17.

Our first year has really been a year of learning, raising awareness of our cause and establishing links within the local community. Firstly, we partnered with the Fareshare project, whereby working in conjunction with Tesco, we collect surplus in date food on a weekly basis which is then distributed to families in need, this goes some way in helping to alleviate poverty therefore fulfilling one of our charitable purposes. Starting in the summer, we delivered a multi sports programme named 'Zebras Active' for children with disabilities and their siblings; forming a partnership with the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. This was a fantastic project and a great opportunity for our beneficiaries to access this form of coaching which ran until the project ended in October. We also continued to provide recreational groups on a fortnightly basis for children and adults, but sadly we had to stop both clubs later in the year; this was very unfortunate, but we have found it extremely difficult to recruit and retain the number of volunteers needed to provide the services. Around this time two of our trustees decided to resign from their role due to personal reasons; again, this was very unfortunate, but we wish them well in their future.

One of our most successful projects of which we are most proud has been our Christmas food and toy collection which we ran in partnership with Edmonton Salvation Army. We had asked the public to donate Christmas food and brand-new toys and between both charities we were able to deliver hampers and bags of toys to over 70 families referred to us by Enfield and Haringey Social Services. Our charity also held a 'relaxed Santa's grotto' which we were able to offer to families free of charge. Some of the children who had attended this event had life limiting conditions and those that were unable to be there on the day received a special home visit, so nobody was left out. We aim to raise money during 2018 to provide for more families in need next Christmas. It is also worth mentioning here that Zebras Children and Adults Charity is now a referral agent for Enfield North Foodbank – meaning we can refer individuals/families to the local foodbank if they are experiencing financial hardship.

It certainly has been a busy year for us all at Zebras Children and Adults Charity. We have had our ups and downs with the closure of some of our services and the loss of two of our trustees, but we must learn from what hasn't worked and think forward to 2018 and beyond. We already have plans in the pipeline for next year with the soon to launch recreation fund. We will be holding special events throughout the year and look to expand on our Christmas project. We will be looking for funding from different sources and considering innovative

ways of generating income for the charity; we will continue to form beneficial partnerships with other charities and local businesses and look to continue the good work we are doing in our community. We would be unable to do this good work if it wasn't for the kindness and generosity of our partners and supporters; so special thanks to Metaswitch, Rotary Club of Edmonton, Rotary Club of Enfield Chase, Blake and Horlock, Barnes and Partners, The Fareshare Project, Tesco Southbury Rd, John Lewis distribution centre and Edmonton salvation army. I would also like to thank our board of trustees and the Co-founder and voluntary CEO Harriet Piercy for your tireless work throughout our first year.

I have had a wonderful first year in my position of Chair of Trustees; it has been a real learning experience, it has also been fun, heart warming and rewarding. To witness the work, we do first hand and the difference our charity makes in peoples lives is what I carry with me into 2018. I am honoured to be part of such a wonderful organisation and I am excited now for the future of the charity.



Jamie Ashton

Chair of Trustees

Founder Zebras Children and Adults Charity