

Effective Altruism UK Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Reference and administration details

Effective Altruism UK

Registered charity number 1170614

Flat 19, Jarman House
Jubilee Street
E1 3BL

Charity Trustees

Sanjay Joshi	
Samuel Hilton	
Fionnuala Somerville	until 6th May 2019
Lucia Coulter	
Amrit Sidhu-Brar	from 14th July 2019
Grayden Reece-Smith	from 23rd July 2019

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods: The Trustee Board is responsible for appointing new trustees subject to requirements set out in the Charity's governing documents. Potential new trustees are assessed on the basis of their experience, skills and motivation, as well as the Trustee Board's own assessment of its gaps and the skills required to deliver the Charity's strategy. This is primarily assessed through a candidate's CV and meeting with one or more of the existing trustees.

Additional governance issues: Effective Altruism UK has a risk register which it uses to monitor and assess risks. This register is reviewed at least annually.

Effective Altruism UK has a relationship with Rethink Charity, an organisation with similar aims based in Canada. Effective Altruism UK encouraged Rethink Charity to propose a suitable individual to serve on the trustee board of Effective Altruism UK. Lucia Coulter currently serves on the Trustee Board following a recommendation by Rethink Charity.

Activities and objectives

Background to understanding the activities carried out by Effective Altruism UK

Effective Altruism UK's activities can be split into two categories:

1. **Effective Altruism London.** Effective Altruism UK has staff based in London who have worked over the last year to deliver our charitable objectives – the promotion of civil responsibility and citizenship and concern for the effectiveness of charities – among Londoners. These staff work under the name Effective Altruism London (or EA London). The Effective Altruism London website can be viewed at: <https://www.ealondon.com>
2. **Regranting.** Where it is the wishes of donors, Effective Altruism UK has also regranted funds to other organisations around the world with similar charitable aims.

A commitment to creating a public benefit

In relation to Effective Altruism London, all decisions taken by Trustees and by the staff were taken solely with concern to creating benefits for the eventual beneficiaries, and any benefit to the immediate community was incidental to achieving this aim.

Effective Altruism London

Beneficiaries

When considering the actions taken by the staff of Effective Altruism London it is helpful to distinguish between the immediate community and the eventual beneficiaries:

- **The immediate community** are the people, primarily in London, to whom we promote citizenship and civic responsibility. We support, encourage and inspire these people to give of their time, skills and money to charitable purposes, and to have concern for the efficiency and effectiveness of those contributions.
- **The eventual beneficiaries** are the people who benefit from the contributions of time, skill and money. They represent as diverse a group as charitable causes cover, including but not limited to people living in poverty in developing countries, future generations who might be impacted by climate change or abused animals.

For example Effective Altruism London ran an event for philanthropic finance professionals. At this event the guests from the immediate community received hospitality (drinks and snacks) and speakers with experience of making large donations. Yet the aim of the event was to encourage guests to increase the size and effectiveness of their donations for the benefit of the eventual beneficiaries.

Activities

Research	There are a number of existing charitable organisations that carry out research to help people to good more effectively. For example the Centre for Effective Altruism (a registered charity in England and Wales, Charity Number 1149828),	5%
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	GiveWell (501(c)(3) organisation in the USA, EIN: 20-8625442) and Animal Charity Evaluators (501(c)(3) public charity in the USA, EIN 36-4684978). Effective Altruism London staff did not carry out significant amounts of original research or independent charity vetting but did invest time into understanding the existing research available in order to best be able to promote concern for the efficiency and effectiveness of charities.	
Communications	The Charity promoted taking actions, offered support and encouraged acts of citizenship by the use of a regular email newsletter and Facebook posts. These channels were mostly used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting events, both those organised by Effective Altruism London and those organised by third parties; • Linking to articles promoting charitable giving, choosing effective charities and ethical career choices; and • Publicising volunteer opportunities and job vacancies for organisations supporting global health and development, animal welfare and clean meat technology, and reducing global catastrophic risks. • Maintaining an Effective Altruism London website, including a directory of useful resources and a member directory 	15%
Talks and discussion events	The Charity organised a number of talks and discussions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 discussion sessions for specific careers and causes • a Q&A with a professor and author of The Life You Can Save 	5%
Community events	The Charity held socials to strengthen the community around effective giving, in order to help sustain members' initial enthusiasm through peer-to-peer encouragement and to facilitate the organic exchange of related information, tips and advice between community members.	5%
Sub-community events	There are a number of specialist effective altruism communities in London, normally organised around a cause, career group or university. These sub-communities are normally volunteer-led and organise discussion events, talks/lectures, research projects and socials, which are fully in line with Effective Altruism UK's objects, but not fully controlled by Effective Altruism London. The Charity provided support to these sub-communities through marketing, planning and expensing food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 55 events organised by sub-communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16 by universities ○ 23 by cause groups ○ 16 by career groups 	15%
One-to-one coaching	The Charity provided one-to-one coaching sessions with individuals interested in increasing the effectiveness of their contributions of time, skills and money for charitable purposes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 144 1-1's in total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 54 Career conversation ○ 31 Group organisers ○ 26 Intro to EA ○ 16 Community feedback ○ 9 EA related organisations ○ 8 London subgroup organisers 	40%
Strategy	The Charity's staff and volunteers invested time into developing a strategy to	15%

development, impact measurement and administration	maximise the Charity's impact. The Charity then collected data during the course of its work to estimate its impact, and then adjust its strategy accordingly. Details of our impact measurement can be found below in 'Achievements and performance'. The charity also required basic administration, including arranging insurance, paying staff salaries and financial reporting.	
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Note: Split is based on a rough post-hoc estimate of staff and volunteer time.

Regranting

There are a number of organisations around the world with similar aims of promoting citizenship and concern for the effectiveness and efficiency of charities. The EA UK Trustees consider it good practice to be in touch with these organisations, so that we can support and learn from one another. One of the ways we have supported such organisations is by regranting funds from UK donors to these organisations. EA UK has regranted to three organisations: Rethink Charity, Effective Altruism Foundation and Animal Charity Evaluators. This accounted for less than 5% of staff time and volunteer time. All of the funds that EA UK sent to Rethink Charity, Effective Altruism Foundation and Animal Charity Evaluators had been donated to EA UK on a restricted basis, specifically for that purpose. Where appropriate, regranted funds were restricted to activities which are consistent with the objects of Effective Altruism UK.

Rethink Charity

Rethink Charity refers to Rethink Charity USA. The organisation has similar charitable aims to Effective Altruism UK. Its main projects are:

- **Rethink Charity Forward** (<https://rcforward.org>) is a donation routing program for Canadians wishing to donate to charities identified as particularly cost-effective. It facilitates donors to give directly to a charity of their choice, or donate to a cause (such as global health, global development, or animal welfare), resulting in their donation being divided among the cost-effective charities within that cause area, thereby promoting individual contributions of money for charitable purposes.
- **Local Effective Altruism Network** (LEAN, <https://rtcharity.org/lean>) provides logistical, financial, and technological support to over 350 local effective altruism groups worldwide working to promote civic responsibility and citizenship, and to educate people about charitable effectiveness for the public benefit.
- **Rethink Priorities** (<http://rethinkpriorities.org>) is a project dedicated to neglected foundational research with the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of charities for the public benefit. Examples of research topics include the logistics of administering vaccinations at a large scale in the developing world, and the effectiveness of animal welfare corporate campaigns.

Animal Charity Evaluators

Animal Charity Evaluators (ACE, <https://animalcharityevaluators.org>) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in the United States dedicated to finding and advocating for highly effective opportunities to improve animal welfare. Their main activities can be divided into:

- **Research:** ACE carries out research to evaluate charities and provide charity recommendations, with the aim of educating people about charitable giving and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of charities. Examples of their research include systematic evaluation of charities

promoting animal welfare, research into interventions related to animal welfare, and foundational research in areas that inform evaluations of interventions and charities.

- **Fundraising:** ACE engages in fundraising campaigns to support the charities that they have identified as being most impactful. They compose room for more funding estimates to help direct optimal amounts of funding to each recommended charity.
- **Communications:** To encourage individuals to contribute time, skills, and money to charitable purposes, ACE advertises and develops media relations to increase coverage and creates engaging content on social media platforms.

Effective Altruism Foundation

The Effective Altruism Foundation (<https://ea-foundation.org>) is a Swiss foundation (operating in the UK and mainland Europe) that does fundraising, enabling donors from Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands to simply and safely support effective charities all over the world; it also undertakes academic research into the most effective ways to reduce suffering in the world.

Additional details of objectives and activities

Grant making policy

Our policy on grant making can be found at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gMPSuCFIX6O4W1dGYXcbON_dRm-upfnOqtgSN8zT9pE

The grant agreements that we have asked organisations to sign can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1alvvFpRzOF_on9kUuTDwd0JXbBktGsVa

Contribution made by volunteers

The Charity benefits from significant contributions of time by approximately 25 individuals, including but not limited to being a trustee or leading a sub-community. The Charity also encourages individuals to contribute time to other charities and projects if it is likely they will have more impact that way.

Achievements and performance

Effective Altruism London

Effective Altruism UK regularly conducts detailed impact assessments. The last of these was conducted for the calendar year 2018, when Effective Altruism spent £30,231. Effective Altruism UK estimates that as a result of its actions (1) roughly £100,000 will be donated to effective charities that would not have been donated otherwise, (2) 15 people made significant large lifestyle changes that would allow them to commit a significant amount of time, skill and money towards charitable purposes going forward and (3) attendees at our events went on to start projects using the information they had learned or the contacts they had made (not quantified).

Regranting

Rethink Charity

Effective Altruism granted £6,640.86 during the year to Rethink Charity. The vast majority of this was spent on personnel costs for RC Forward, donation routing programme targeted at Canadians wishing to donate to charities that have been identified as particularly cost-effective in three cause areas: Global Health, Human Empowerment, and Animal Welfare. This allows donors to support over thirty highly effective charities in a wide range of cause areas. Support from Effective Altruism UK also allowed Rethink Charity to invest in its website infrastructure.

Animal Charity Evaluators (ACE)

Effective Altruism UK made a grant of £260 to ACE (<https://animalcharityevaluators.org>) in November 2019, supporting the expansion of its activities and operations in 2019, which align closely to the charitable objectives of Effective Altruism UK. ACE now sources its funding through other channels, so we expect this relationship to slowly cease.

Effective Altruism Foundation

During the 2019/20 fiscal year, Effective Altruism UK did not regrant any money to the Effective Altruism Foundation nor provide staff or volunteer time.

Financial Review

Policy on reserves

Effective Altruism UK aims to hold enough reserves to cover between 2 and 6 months of expenditure.

The trustees believe that this is an appropriate policy, having taken into account the lack of contingent liabilities, the quality of support from funders, lack of financial risks such as currency risk, the lack of other risk sources such as a defined benefit pension scheme, and the trustees' risk appetite.

As at 31st March 2020, the unrestricted cash balance was £61,133.09. Of this, £26,551.38 is considered deferred income as it has been received by Effective Altruism UK, but relates to the period 1st April to 31st December 2020, after the fiscal year. Consequently, the Charity considers its unrestricted reserves to be £34,581.71 on this date, equivalent to approximately 11.9 months of unrestricted expenditure. This is higher than the target band in our policy. The Trustees have taken action to address this, primarily by reducing the level of grant applied for from the Centre for Effective Altruism.

Donations received to fund grants are not included. Grants are not paid until the donations to fund them have been received and the money received for the funding of grants is not used for any other purposes.

Funds materially in deficit

No funds are materially in deficit. The Charity has a liability to repay HMRC for over-claimed Gift Aid after it discovered an error during the course of the year. The Charity has enough funds to cover this repayment and money has been set aside for this purpose.

Further financial review details regarding fundraising

Effective Altruism London existed for a few years prior to registering as Effective Altruism UK. All of the funds raised for Effective Altruism London before 1st January 2019 came from the local London philanthropic community. Largely this was people who had attended our events or who had found the content useful and inspiring and helpful for them to become better philanthropists and who wanted to help give back so more people can be supported.

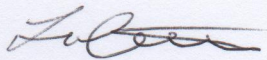
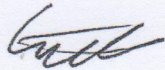
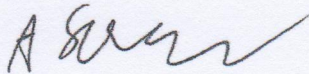
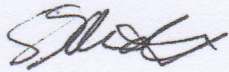
Since the 1st of January 2019 we have received funding from the Centre for Effective Altruism to continue our work inspiring and helping people become better philanthropists.

All of the earmarked funds raised by Effective Altruism UK for granting to other organisations were raised by those other organisations putting donors in touch with Effective Altruism UK.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Effective Altruism UK

1170614

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2019


To

31/03/2020

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					
Gift Aid donations (incl. tax reclaimed)	-	12,053	-	12,053	71,447
Other income	72,662	43	-	72,705	140,302
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	72,662	12,096	-	84,758	211,749
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	72,662	12,096	-	84,758	211,749
A3 Payments					
Staff	£32,965.42	-	-	32,965	27,580
Events	£1,013.23	-	-	1,013	2,919
Communications	£493.29	-	-	493	2,026
Admin	£533.07	54	-	587	574
Regranting	-	6,901	-	6,901	244,107
Sub total	35,005	6,955	-	41,960	277,206
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	35,005	6,955	-	41,960	277,206
Net of receipts/(payments)	37,657	5,141	-	42,798	- 65,458
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	23,476	- 334	-	23,142	88,600
Cash funds this year end	61,133	4,807	-	65,940	23,142

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	HSBC bank account	61,133	4,807	-
	Total cash funds	61,133	4,807	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Gift Aid due	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	none	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	none	-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Gift Aid overclaimed	Both	- 7,597	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Grayden Reece-Smith	

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name **EFFECTIVE ALTRUIISM UK**

On accounts for the year ended

31/03/2020

Charity no (if any) 11706

14

Set out on pages

1 & 2

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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 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 the 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 accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

M E Day

Date

12/11/2020

Name

Mrs Maureen E. Day

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

Inspector of Taxes (retired)

Address

18 Ferney Road
East Barnet
Herts
EN4 8LF

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

None