



Treasurer Report AGM 2020

Main Objective

Provide opportunities for families to meet others in similar situations
Offer emotional and professional support
Enable children to make friends and learn through play
Families to benefit from quality time together and experience family outings.
Ensure outings are kept to minimum cost allowing families to attend, regardless of personal background, faith or circumstances.

Financial Trustees Report

The Charity was set up on 06/07/09 and became a company limited by guarantee on 17 July 2015. It was entered onto the Register of Charities on 14 November 2016 with the Registered charity number 1170147.

The Directors of the company are the Trustees.

The nature of the charity is to offer support to any child with a disability/additional need and their family, irrespective of nationality or religion.

In 'normal' times, we provide this in a variety of ways:

Stay and Play – held on Thursday afternoons at Leeds Mencap. Accessing softplay and a sensory room in a relaxed environment where families can meet others in similar situations, access information, creative play and support from therapists, counsellors and other professionals. We have managed to provide some Stay and Play sessions through 2020 Pandemic and when in Lockdown, though attendance had to be greatly reduced and monitored ... (more from Miriam on this subject)

Family Fun Days are normally organised every month and offer a wide range of activities including the hire of cinemas, private theatre companies, indoor skydiving, wall climbing, skiing, parties and local visitor attractions. Every event caters for the range of abilities/disabilities and is heavily subsidised by Little Hiccups ensuring they are all accessible to every family. We encourage the whole family to attend including siblings and our aim is to enable families to experience a wide range of activities and to make memories together.

Hydrotherapy is a great benefit to many of our children but can be expensive and difficult to access. We offer hydrotherapy sessions on a seven week basis at a local Sports Centre, in partnership with SportWorks. Physiotherapists assist in the pool so the children can safely participate in the activities and the parents have all the support they require. We have been able to secure grants to cover the costs of this so we can offer the sessions at a token cost to the families, which secures their booking. Sadly through the Pandemic, hydro had to be put on hold but we are ensuring the funding is retained for when it is safe to resume.



Little Hiccups, c/o 63 High Ridge Park, Rothwell, Leeds LS26 0NL

Tel: **07831 230741** Email: info@littlehiccups.co.uk Web: www.littlehiccups.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1170147 Company Limited by Guarantee No: 9692276

Little Hiccups has some all terrain wheelchairs, to enable families to hire for either day trips to the coast or take on holiday with them, enabling children to be able to access the parks, and the beaches (as every child should be able to experience the seaside). They have also been used in emergency situations when children have a sudden need due to illness, proving we could respond considerably faster than statutory services and make life easier for the family.

We are very happy to confirm, thanks to one of our fundraisers we will soon have two Safe Space travel beds for families to hire too :)

We offer professional Counselling to Hiccups families should they require it, due to work pressures, bereavement, relationship issues etc, due to having a child with additional needs. Many families struggle to take the first step to meet others, therefore we offer an Outreach service and will meet families on a one to one basis until they are confident enough to attend Stay and Play or a Family Fun Day. This service is greatly supported by Health Visitors and other professionals and our relationship with them is growing, helping us to reach more families who need our support. Counselling has been a great demand as we have emerged from Lockdown.

In 2019 we had our first Little Hiccups Holiday, giving 10 families a few days break with activities in our very own forest. It marked one of our LH goals! A lot of organisation, thought and at a cost of £5,755 it was a fantastic, positive experience and to see everyone relaxed, having fun and sharing new experiences was awesome!... "its the first time we have ever had a BBQ"That is exactly why we do Little Hiccups :)

We currently support more than 300 families across the region and the number is constantly growing.

We take pride in listening to our families and wherever possible remain flexible enough to meet their growing needs.

Our board of Directors/Trustees consists of parents of children with disabilities/additional needs or people who work closely with them. Therefore we all have a great amount of experience and passion for the work we do.

We believe that every child, no matter what disability/additional need should have the opportunity to explore and experience as many adventures as possible and to make happy memories with their families and it is our aim to help them achieve this.

Audited Accounts for July 2018 to 2019 have been filed with HMRC, Companies House and Charities Commission.



1/ 8/18 - 31/7/19**Opening Balance****£83,261.95****1/8/19 - 31/7/20****Opening Balance £69,633.96****Income**

Donations £3758.54
 Fundraising £4756.85
 Grants/Funding £9,910.00
 Interest £0.00

£11,434.37
 £7,612.87
 £22,186.00
 £0.00

£18,425.39**£41,233.24****Services**

Events -£17,738.39
 All Terrain -£362.60
 Information -£1218.18
 Sports 399.71

-£11,747.34
 -£312.99
 -£1,678.89
 -£9,407.51

-£18,919.46**-£23,146.73****Overheads**

Marketing £1,650.19
 Meeting Expenses -£44.50
 Legal -£111.60
 Insurance -£495.56
 PPS -£531.65
 Storage & Equipment -£1,271.80
 Training -£0.00
 IT -£630.82
 General Admin -£8,397.81
 Misc £0.00

-£90.60

-£28.00

-£733.04

-£231.21

-£1,164.80

-£735.02

-£6,127.30

-£137.57

-£9,833.55**-£9,247.54****-£13,133.92****£8,838.97****Closing Balance 31/7/19****£69,633.96****£78,472.93****Bank Funds (as of 13/11/20)****£79,089.49****PayPal****£1,244.95**

2021 Forecast

Our 10th Anniversary year saw a massive effort from our Hiccups families and friends - not to mention the lengths our kids went to with their sponsored events and challenges. Their efforts raised over £6,000 as well as the awareness and interest in the charity itself. Together we marked this milestone in the 'Little Hiccups' way - families coming together, having fun and celebrating the amazing achievements of our kids!

After the huge cash injection from Strata back in 2017 which meant we could increase the number of families we supported and the spend on the events, we had to ensure that level of sustainability. We have never considered ourselves great at asking for money so we turned to an experienced Contracted Fundraiser to do that job for us - best use of time and skills :) her payment being based purely on return. From the 500 letters she sent out we received cheques for more than £14,000 and they are still coming in. Even in this climate of Covid I am pleased to say that because we can show that we are very much solvent, organisations are happy to support us financially.

We will continue to contract Miriam of Appen Creations to fulfill the secretarial duties and the day to day running and organising of events, including social media, without which Hiccups could not provide the services we are committed to. Even through a very tough year, Miriam's determination has kept the Hiccups Ship afloat and steered us through these turbulent waters ;) A huge thank you to both her and Tracy in particular for bravely stepping out of shielding to be there for our families. Thank you x

The secured funding from Children in Need, to enable us to run 3 sets of 7 weeks of Hydro sessions for the next 3 years, a total of £27k, is in its second year and although we had to pause the hydro, Children in Need have very much needed to keep tabs on the funding and ensure it is still there and ready when some normality starts.

The funds in PayPal are being moved across to the bank account after each event and we will look into the benefits of having a second bank account to secure the funding is protected.

In the past we have felt the pace at Hiccups never slowed down, however this year we almost came to a halt due to Covid. It has given us time to gather ourselves, re-assess and establish a new way of working and an energy for the future. It has challenged how we can support families in new ways and made us think outside of the box - knowing that as we all emerge from this episode there will be a lot of recovery and healing required.

Financially we are in a good place but cannot ever become complacent. The number of families needing our support is growing and with the cutbacks and changes within the NHS, we anticipate the demand for our services will constantly be on the up. This means that we must always drive to increase our funding to ensure we have sustainability and be there for people who need us.

No monies shall be classed as 'profit' but will be held in preparation for the next events and opportunity to benefit the families we support.

