



## Treasurer Report AGM 2021

### 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 July 2009 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 and as listed in the Reference and Administrative Details above.

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 the Pandemic and when in Lockdown, though attendance had to be greatly reduced and monitored.

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.



Little Hiccups, c/o 63 High Ridge Park, Rothwell, Leeds LS26 0NL  
Tel: **07831 230741** Email: [info@littlehiccups.co.uk](mailto:info@littlehiccups.co.uk) Web: [www.littlehiccups.co.uk](http://www.littlehiccups.co.uk)

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

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 retained the funding and are now looking to start the sessions again.

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 also have two Safe Space travel beds for families to hire too. These will make a great difference to families, making going away from home much less stressful, whether its for a holiday or to visit relatives.

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. However during the pandemic it has become clear that families have had very little face to face support, especially in their early stage and lack of contact with professionals has had a huge impact on them, with most finding Hiccups via the internet. We are working hard to pick these families up and provide what we can for them. Counselling has been in great demand as we have emerged from Lockdown and we are grateful to be proactive in providing this, avoiding the waiting times of the statutory services.

We currently support over 300 families across the region.

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 2019 to 2020 have been filed with HMRC, Companies House and Charities Commission.



<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>1/8/2019</b>	<b>£69,633.96</b>
	<b>1/8/2020</b>	<b>£78,472.93</b>
<b>Balance as of</b>	<b>23/7/2021</b>	<b>£81,159.61</b>
<b>PayPal float</b>		<b>£1,400.00</b>

## 2022 Forecast

We have never considered ourselves great at asking for money so previously we found it a better use of our time and skills to use an experienced Fundraiser, whose payment was based purely on return. From the 500 letters she sent out we received cheques for more than £14,000. 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. Therefore we have contracted her again for this year as we foresee fundraising 'events' will remain almost impossible due to Covid.

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.

