

Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UK
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)
Year ended 31 May 2021

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Governing document

Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UK (FOP-UK), hereafter known as the charity, is a company Limited by Guarantee, governed by its Articles of Association, adopted by Special Resolution on 4th February 2021. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (England and Wales). Membership of the company is by approval of the trustees. In the event of winding up each member has agreed to contribute £1.

Objects

The aim of the charity is to make a difference, now and in the future, by generating hope and transformation in the lives of abandoned and/or orphaned babies and children in the Kyenjojo District of Western Uganda, in particular, a Babies' Home to benefit and serve these children has been built with a capacity of 42 infants. Currently there are also six family units, each accommodating a family of up to eight children, from three years of age onwards, along with a house mother and nanny.

The stated Objects of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian Faith;
- the relief of poverty and sickness and the distress caused thereby among children in Africa and such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit including, but not by way of limitation, through the provision of orphanages and homes for abandoned children and such other charitable activities as the Trustees shall determine from time to time;
- to advance education for the benefit of children disadvantaged or marginalised by reason of their economic or geographical circumstances in such parts of the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit, including, but not by way of limitation, the provision of sponsorship programmes; and
- the provision of facilities for the benefit of such local communities in Africa and the world which facilities may without limitation include the provision of child care services and meetings, lectures and classes and other forms of education, recreation and leisure time occupation, without distinction of race, sex, political, religious or other opinion and with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants as the Trustees may from time to time in their discretion determine.

Structure, governance and management

Related parties

A similarly-named charitable company Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UG (FOP-UG) is incorporated in Uganda, number 92703, and is Limited by Guarantee. Funds raised in the UK are granted to the Ugandan charity, which in turn oversees the operational aspects of the development, as implementing partner. FOP-UK and its related Ugandan partner have discrete Articles of Association though their business plans and strategy are broadly aligned. Likewise, a charitable company, registered with the New Zealand Charities Commission (CC number 48465), with whom FOP-UK works closely, provides funds for the same purposes as FOP-UK in making grants to FOP-UG. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by all three parties, is in place.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The board meets three times per annum. All aspects of the UK charity are considered, principally in line with the operational function of FOP-UG, who issue quarterly management and financial reports, in line with their future planning policies.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The board consists of voluntary trustees who are all practising Christians. Prospective new trustees are invited to join the board by existing trustees through the recruitment process, which follows Charity Commission guidelines, in making sure there is an appropriate range of skills, knowledge and experience amongst its members. Board members have statutory responsibilities but they receive no remuneration. They also attend briefings and training courses as appropriate.

Existing members approach suitable candidates who are invited to attend a Trustee meeting, initially as an observer, before being formally invited to join the board following references and other relevant checks including an enhanced child protection police check (DBS).

New trustees are given an induction pack which includes all relevant constitutional documents, a brief history of FOP-UK, governance and any other information relevant to the work of the charity. All members receive a regular copy of the "Governance & Leadership" magazine in order to keep them up to date with their role and responsibilities and are also directed to read the Charities Commission Governance code.

Safeguarding

As a charity whose primary objective is to fund the provision of care for the most vulnerable children overseas it is incumbent upon the UK trustees to ensure that they, as well as all those who work within or otherwise visit the project, are required to undergo regular safeguarding training. All volunteers who go to the project to assist are required to have an enhanced DBS check to accompany their application to travel. The charity is registered with an approved UK Safeguarding agency to advise on these matters, and also to give ongoing training to the Board.

Risk management

The Charity's exposure to risk is constantly kept under review and 'Risk Management' remains a priority that is reflected in the organisation's attitude and practice towards good governance. A written policy for risk management is in place and is regularly reviewed by the board on an annual basis.

The risk register identifies risks likely to affect the charity's ability to meet its aims and objectives in areas of Governance and Management, Financial and Legal, Operational and any other external factors.

Systems and policies are in place to reduce or mitigate any risk and these are monitored and appropriate actions taken if required.

Other Written Policies

In accord with the charity's approach to good governance there are also written policies in place (see below) which are reviewed on a regular basis as shown.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

List of policies:

Policy name	Implementation date	Last review	Next review date
Anti-Fraud Policy	20 th January 2020	6th November 2020	November 2021
Code of Conduct for Board Trustees	1 st August 2017	6th November 2020	November 2021
Complaints policy	28 th September 2017	6th November 2020	November 2021
Conflicts of Interest policy	28 th September 2017	6th November 2020	November 2021
Finance Policy	6th November 2020	6th November 2020	November 2021
Manual Handling policy	January 2019	6th November 2020	November 2021
Privacy policy	4 th July 2018	6th November 2020	November 2021
Recruitment and Induction of new Trustees	1 st August 2017	6th November 2020	November 2021
Risk Register	28 th September 2017	6th November 2020	November 2021
Safeguarding Children & Young People policy	11 th October 2017	6th November 2020	November 2021
Succession Policy	6th November 2020	6th November 2020	November 2021
Training Policy	6th November 2020	6th November 2020	November 2021
Volunteers policy	28 th September 2017	6th November 2020	November 2021

Achievements and performance

The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to significantly influence our operation in the UK, insofar as promotional activities have been severely curtailed, affecting our income. However, we can report that we continue to operate from a solid financial base which, along with the loyalty of our donors, has allowed us to fulfil all our obligations without diminishing our ability to make additional funding available for capital expenditure projects etc. We have increased our regular donors from 76 to 89 in this financial year.

The total funding grants made, for charitable activities, to support the work of FOP-UG from June 2020 to May 2021 was £84,535 excluding any bank charges. The breakdown of these funds includes the following:

£14,498 as a 50% share towards installation of Grid Power which will also benefit the local community.

£10,848 to complete work on the 6th family home.

£5,880 was paid towards the conversion of a pre-existing building to a two classroom block for Rwenjaza High School.

£5,567 was paid to fund rebuilding of the access road to the project/local village.

£3,234 funded the conversion of wood fired kitchen burners to eco-kitchens in all the homes.

We continue to make grants of £7,000 per quarter in lieu of our regular financial commitment to the FOP project in Kyenjojo.

Board of Trustees

Continuing education of all trustees is considered mandatory. Each trustee receives regular bi-monthly copies of 'Governance & Leadership' magazine. We have appointed one new Trustee in this current year bringing our total to seven.

Fountain of Peace NZ

2020-2021 has seen Fountain of Peace (New Zealand) continue to supply financial and practical support. All 3 countries (UK, UG, NZ) continue to work together to advance the aims and objectives of Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation in Uganda.

Sustainability

The trustees, along with other FOP partners, continue to actively consider a medium-long term sustainability strategy in line with our overall policy of self-sufficiency at the earliest date possible.

Volunteers and supporters

The trustees of FOP-UK and our implementing partner FOP-UG, owe a massive debt of gratitude to our volunteers and supporters. Their dedication and commitment provides both organisations with a solid foundation that enables our UK fundraising events and activities to be undertaken and the implementation of the projects to be achieved. To ensure that our volunteers are supported and recognised we will continue to refine our 'Volunteer Policies' both in the United Kingdom and Uganda. Annual volunteer trips, whilst suspended during the Covid pandemic, are also organised to build on the policy of volunteer support to the charity.

Reserves policy

The Charity regularly reviews its 'Reserves policy' which stands at a residual balance of £17,000 equating approximately to 6 months operating costs (including teachers holiday pay) for Uganda. This sum may vary from time to time.

Future Plans

In planning for the future the trustees are actively seeking to add further new partnerships with Churches and Schools, in particular, in order to develop fresh funding opportunities as well as innovative ideas to broaden the horizons of our childcare and teaching responsibilities as the FOP children grow up.

A period of financial consolidation will be required in 2021/22 to allow for further likely impact from the Covid-19 crisis, in addition to influencing our requirements for further planned expenditure in the Fountain of Peace village in Kyenjojo.

We aim to ensure that our Christian beliefs are always integral in the decision-making of the Board.

We seek, at all times, to work closely with our Ugandan colleagues in planning and executing the development of new build structures in the FOP village, particularly in relation to the ongoing family units and the school buildings.

The UK board has undertaken a full reassessment of its responsibilities and functioning in order to make better use of the skills available, in addition increasing its number where certain skills may be lacking. We have therefore acquired 1 new trustee this year who brings her substantial legal expertise to our Board.

Public Benefit statement

As a Board of trustees we are cognizant of the Charity Commission's guidelines on public benefit and we confirm that we have given due regard to this guidance within our report. We have shown in this report that we continually seek to fulfil the core objectives of the charity in the Articles of Association, in addition to improving relationships between UK and Uganda in moving forward with care and education for severely disadvantaged Ugandan children. This has been facilitated by partnerships with a number of UK based schools in an educational role, as well as increasing involvement of church and other communities, so enhancing UK-based inter-society relationships.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- 1) there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- 2) the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Financial review

Restricted funds of £nil

Restricted funds are funds received from grants, stakeholders or donors for future expenditure associated with specific projects or purposes.

Unrestricted Funds

The current level of unrestricted funds is £31,378

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 11th June 2021 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Dr A.D. Shepherd
Chair of Trustees

Mrs M. Shepherd
Charity Secretary