

Annual Report 2021-22

Charity Registration Number: 1150075

Company Registration Number: 8283049

Trustees: Helen Burgess, Emma Joyce; Stephanie James; Deborah Fox; Jenifer

McFadden; Kayleigh Fleming; Sally Bowers, Derek Burgess

Chief Executive Officer: Caroline Dann

Registered Office: Room 401, Fourth Floor, PZ360, St Marys Terrace, Penzance,

Cornwall TR18 4DZ

Independent Examiner: Dick Maule

Bankers: Reliance Bank Ltd. Faith House, 23-24 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB

Our Aims and Objectives

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the constitution are: To promote health, advance education and relieve the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities, primarily in the South West of England, in particular but not exclusively by:

a) Providing information, advocacy, advice and support to Gypsies and Travellers Working with statutory and non-statutory agencies or bodies to help provide better services that are needed by Gypsies and Travellers

The promotion of equality of treatment and diversity particularly in relation to Gypsies and Travellers for the public benefit by:

- a) informing and educating the public about the Traveller way of life and the needs of Gypsies and Travellers; and
- b) promoting activities that foster good relations between Gypsies and Travellers and the communities in which they live

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to Gypsy & Traveller communities.

The review also helps us to ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We refer to the Charity Commissions general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Reserves Policy

The trustees continuously review their policy on free reserves, taking advice from the auditor and consulting Charity Commission guidance, and the Company continues to aim to build up its free reserves to three months' normal operating costs, circa £50,000.

Financial Review

TravellerSpace's activities were funded by The Big Lottery, Children In Need, Henry Smith, The Tudor Trust, COMF, & ESF

Note 2 provides a breakdown of the expenditure on charitable activities from all sources. It will be noted that 74% of the funding is on staff costs.

All of the funding detailed in Notes 2 and 3 supports delivery of TravellerSpace's priorities.

The principal financial management policies in force during the year include: Financial records are kept so that TravellerSpace can:

Meet its legal and other obligations, e.g. Charities Act 2011, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and common law.

Enable the trustees to fulfil responsibilities and governance role

Enable TravellerSpace to meet the contractual obligations and requirements of funders.

The financial year will end on the 31st March each year.

Accounts will be drawn up within 3 months of the end of each financial year.

Prior to the start of each financial year, the trustees will approve a budgeted income and expenditure account for the following year.

A report comparing actual income and expenditure with the budget is presented to the trustees at each board meeting (at least 4 times a year).

The AGM will appoint an appropriately qualified auditor/examiner to audit/examine the accounts for presentation to the next AGM.

The trustees will identify a treasurer in line with Charity Commission guidance.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020, which also comprises the Directors' Report [Trustees report] required by the Companies Act 2006

Reference and administrative information set out on page 2 forms part of this report.

The charity is also constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act and its governing document is a Memorandum and Articles of Association under company legislation. By operation of law all trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation. All trustee appointments are confirmed by a majority vote of the Board.

Public benefit statement

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'

To meet the legal requirement of 'benefit'

- a charity's purpose must be beneficial
- any detriment or harm that results from the purpose must not outweigh the benefit

To satisfy the 'public' aspect of 'public benefit' the charity's purpose must: benefit the public in general, or a sufficient section of the public, and must not give rise to more than incidental personal benefit

Based on the activities and details of TravellerSpace's achievements in 2019/20 that follow, the Trustees consider that both requirements have been fully met.

TravellerSpace Committee

Chair: Emma Joyce Treasurer: Zoe Fox Secretary Katie Wise

Trustees: Sally Bowers, Kayleigh Fleming, Derek Burgess, Jenl McFadden

Steph James

Signatories Zoe Fox, Emma Joyce

Staff

Director: Caroline Dann Operations Manager: Karen Walton Senior Worker: Vanessa Boase

Centre Manager: Hazel Dann Family Support Worker Sophie Belcher Youth Support Worker Lorna Pierce Youth Support Worker Matt Smith

Early Years Lizzie Chambers

Sessional Support: Colette Colburn, Saffy English, Jessica Chambers Senior Devon G&T Support Worker Angi Whitehead-Gardiner

Volunteers

Cainenisha Lee, Angel Lee, Lucky Lee, Kayleigh Fleming, Joanne Hughes

TravellerSpace are also greatly assisted by a number of volunteers and students on placements and by the involvement of the Trustees in the day to day activities of the charity; their support is invaluable to us.

It's Our 20 Year Anniversary!

Here's a potted history starting with our humble beginnings:



Our original playbus

TravellerSpace's story began twenty years ago.

A project run by a large national charity had identified a large number of children living on unauthorised sites, who were not accessing early years support and play provision. The parents had reported hostility and prejudice when they did try to attend pre-school groups and drop ins. Having identified the need the charity wound down their project, leaving a gap that needed filling.

An initial partnership with the Travellers' School Charity and a small amount of funding, saw the birth of *ArtSpace for Traveller Children* - a summer play scheme on two New Traveller sites in West Cornwall.

As the service developed from just working with children and young people to supporting adults to access opportunities and services in the wider community, ArtSpace soon became TravellerSpace. Play sessions were delivered from an old erratic camper van, which frequently required repairing by the adults as their children played inside.

Despite their best efforts, by 2004 the van had finally died and a successful application was made to Children In Need to fund a new playbus.



The New Playbus 2005

TravellerSpace developed a close working relationship with Cornwall Council's *Traveller Education Service*, which remained in place until the service was scaled back and eventually cut completely due to funding cuts – a loss still felt heavily by Cornwall's Gypsies and Travellers. It was Traveller Education who asked us to help organise and run sessions for Romany Gypsy children and young people from the Wheal Jewel site who were not in school or other education.

Over these early years we developed our knowledge and understanding of Gypsy and Traveller communities in Cornwall, which led to us being asked to manage the field work for a survey of accommodation needs being carried out across Cornwall. TravellerSpace recruited and trained Gypsies and Travellers to carry out interviews with their peers. These interviews formed the backbone of the report, which acknowledged the need for many more pitches. Evidence from Cornwall's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment has helped many Gypsies and Travellers to develop their own private sites and led to opening of Cornwall's first transit site near Liskeard.



Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month event 2008, in partnership with Traveller Education – you might regcognise a few people in this photo including a very youthful Hazel Dann

TravellerSpace has continued to work with the Local Authority on accommodation matters and in supporting Gypsies and Travellers to develop their own sites. In 2015, following concerns that Cornwall Council had seriously underestimated Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, we made representations to the Cornwall Local Plan Examination, alongside Ruston Planning Limited. The inspector ruled that the assessment should be redone, with our help. Again, we employed Gypsy and Traveller interviewers to undertake the field work for this.

2005 saw big changes for TravellerSpace. A successful bid to the Lottery meant we now could employ a full time member of staff, an administrator and part time support workers. It also gave us the luxury of an office. Up until this point much of the work had been done on a volunteer basis, usually having to fit around other jobs.

That year also saw the founding of the Wheal Jewel Gypsy and Traveller Women's Group. Set up in partnership with the Health Visitor, who had recognised a need for somewhere for the children to play and for the women to get off site. The Women's Group grew to become central to to our activities. Until Covid forced a change in how we organised sessions, the weekly group was attended by most of the women, children and young people on site.



Our first Open Day & film showing at the Teyluva Centre June 2008

It provided a 'one stop shop' where the site's residents could access health and welfare services, early years activities, cooking, arts and crafts and a wide range of other activities.

Alongside the Women's Group we organised literacy and numeracy sessions and other short courses, in partnership with a variety of providers, trips out and supported regular sessions for some of the young people at an out door activity centre, BF Adventure!

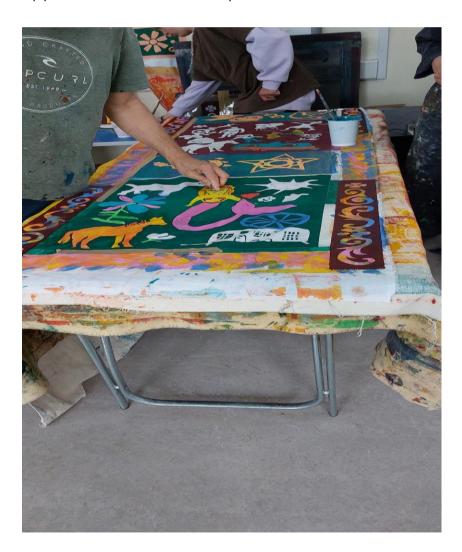
We also ran play sessions at the two other Local Authority Gypsy sites in Cornwall and worked with Pool Academy running after school clubs and other activities. In May 2011 we celebrated the opening of a Multi Use Games Area at Boscarn Parc. This was result of a two year partnership between young site residents, TravelllerSpace, Pool Academy, Devon and Cornwall Police, Cornwall Council and the Eden Project.

A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2016 allowed us to support a group of young Gypsies and Travellers to explore their history through interviewing older family members and other Travellers to find out how they lived and how their lives have changed. The interviews, which have a permanent place in the Cornwall

Records Office collection, are a fascinating insight into past times. Have a listen at travellerspace-heritage.org.uk/

In 2018 TravellerSpace took over the management of the former Children's Centre in St Day. The Teyluva Centre has become the de facto community centre for the Wheal Jewel site. Being able to use the whole building as we like, has meant we can work much more efficiently and effectively, as well as improving the outdoor space.

The Teyluva Centre is open five days a week. Since the pandemic we have split the women's group into smaller family sessions, which has worked well. We currently have a contract with Cornwall Housing to provide support to residents and people can drop, in at any time for help with forms, benefit applications, repairs and so on. Site residents are involved with the day to day running of the centre, providing opportunities to learn many new skills.



2002 - banner making at the Teyluva Centre

One of our most successful partnerships has been the Teyluva Midwives project, with the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust and the Kernow Maternity Voices Partnership. Maternity Voices Partnership, ran consultations at Teyluva with mothers, identifying the gaps and barriers to provision and the subsequent poor health outcomes experienced by mother and babies. A bespoke midwifery service was co-designed with women and put into place. Find out more at vimeo.com/373378914



Collecting our award for the Teyluva Midwives project for demonstrating great partnership working 2018

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The enforced pause of lockdown presented us with a new set of challenges. Many Gypsies and Travellers found themselves without work, unable to continue in their usual trades. We found ourselves supporting previously proudly self-reliant Gypsies and Travellers with food bank vouchers, making Universal Credit claims and other help. Most of TravellerSpace's staff were furloughed, but those who weren't worked hard to assist as many people as possible through the difficult times.

It was during this time that we became aware of the extensive voluntary support work being carried out by a New Traveller on sites in Devon. TravellerSpace found funding to employ her part time to further develop this essential work. In the past geographical distance has always limited the practical help we can offer Gypsies and Travellers in Devon and the wider South West, so we are delighted by this new development and are in the process of putting together a small team to support our ourare new member of staff in her role.

Twenty years on and much has changed: the New Travellers who'd come for the daffodils every winter were replaced by workers from Eastern Europe.; long term unauthorised sites gradually became less necessary, as people got planning permission for their own ground;; the council defied local opposition and built a transit site; six district councils became one unitary authority.; My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding and a slew of negative media drew unwelcome and usually unfair attention; new laws and changes to the planning system created yet more barriers; austerity stripped away Traveller Education, alongside other specialist services and a great deal of expertise was lost; local politicians periodically called for site closures and stirred the pot; the babies we saw on the playbus now have babies of their own.

Back in 2002, when we first conceived of what was to become TravellerSpace, we agreed our ultimate aim must be to make ourselves redundant.

This day is still some way off: we are living in an uncertain and challenging age. Previously socially unacceptable racism and prejudice is being legitimised and acted on by far right governments across the world. In the UK legislation is being introduced that will in effect criminalise life on the road. Survey after survey confirms what every Gypsy and Traveller knows - they are not wanted and despised by a terrifyingly large proportion of the British public. Media reporting is relentlessly negative, seeking to blame any crime commuted committed by an individual Gypsy or Traveller on whole communities;. Gypsies and Travellers continue to have the worst outcomes in health and in education.

All this makes us even more determined to achieve our aim of making the world a better place for Gypsies and Travellers where people are able to live as they want, free from prejudice and interference and able to participate in wider society on the same terms as everyone else. We'll continue to strive for this world, even if it takes us another twenty years.

Report from the Chair 2022

I'm so delighted to see the Centre up and running again after all the disruptions caused by Covid – the staff work so hard to ensure everyone is as safe as possible whilst still providing a comprehensive service and high quality activities for everybody to enjoy.

The work in Devon is a very exciting development. The pandemic did have the very positive effect of putting us in touch with many more project users and enabling us to expand our service quite considerably.

It is also gratifying to see that for the first time we are able to employ 2 community members, through the Government Kickstart scheme – these are great opportunities for project users to gain valuable employment skills & experience. These posts have built in support from TravellerSpace with opportunities to undertake training alongside.

Funding going forward is, as ever, an issue, especially now we have vastly increased the number of project users we support, but I know that Caroline will work tirelessly to ensure, to the best of her ability that all aspects of the projects are staffed & funded.

So I will take this opportunity to say thank you and well done to everyone, may we continue to go from strength to strength.

Emma Joyce Chair April 2022 This report is for the year from April 2021 to March 2022. During this period we calculate activities and services offered by TravellerSpace have been accessed 3872 times by 781 different people. Of these, 651 were from a Gypsy or Traveller communities and 130 were from a non-travelling background. 242 Gypsies & Travellers have been regular attendees of activities offered by the project.

Family Groups

Due to Covid, we changed our delivery from large groups to family groups having a regular weekly slot. During their allocated slot, all activities that we had previously run in separate groups were available, including craft, cookery, literacy & short courses; these activities were adapted so they could take place outdoors. We have run 210 Family Sessions attended by 99 people

We actually found that the smaller family groups work much better for everyone, as there is more time to give individual attention to those who need it, and the staff can spend time properly listening and responding, which didn't happen so much in the larger groups such as the extremely popular Gypsy & Traveller Women's group due to the large numbers.

Having discussed the issue with the Steering Group, we all agreed, and everyone is happy to continue in family groups with the occasional larger gathering. The loosening of restrictions mean that young people can choose to attend a different family session if they wish to.

The family groups and the other activities we run continue to provide a space for the women to get off site, socialise & to learn new skills and gives the young children play and learning opportunities. Other agencies including the Health Visitor, education services, Cornwall Housing's Site Manager and staff from a range of other agencies come along to meet the women in an informal setting.

The Gypsy & Traveller Youth Group

We were able to restart the group, which had paused during lockdown, and we were pleased to welcome partners Action for Children to come and deliver a 12 week programme supported by our staff for the over 10's, which was hugely popular.

Action for Chldren in turn invited Plymouth Argylle to deliver another 12 sessions at the local sports centre, which was very well received; TravellerSpace & parents alike were really impressed with the activities on offer and the level of engagement from the young people, particularly given that these were 'new' adults who were previously unknown to them.

The sports sessions have now come to an end, but we decided with the Steering Group to fund a session ourselves once a month, as it has been so successful, and

has engaged young people who are in danger of getting drawn into antisocial behaviour.

This year we have run 28 Youth Group sessions attended by 45 young people

Our very popular **Short Courses Group** gives people access to the internet, driving theory practice, and the opportunity to gain *ASDAN Awards* and Educare qualifications in a quieter setting; this is also popular with young people not in education. This year we have run 31 groups attended by 22 young people & adults

New projects

Outreach work in Devon & with the Horsedrawn community

During Covid we enlisted the help of community volunteer Angi Gardiner to support Travellers in Devon.

Angi has so far worked with 143 people who are new to our project This uncovered such a breadth of need and potential new projects in Devon that we decided to extend our project; we also realised that there was no one better placed, experienced & qualified than Angi herself; we were delighted that she agreed to take the part time post of Senior Support Worker.

Hazel Dann will be joining the Devon Team in April to support our new Kickstart employee, run playbus sessions and use her wealth of knowledge & experience to support the new projects.

Kickstart Placements

This year we have taken on 2 Gypsy & Traveller young people on work placements, through the Government Kickstart scheme.

This is the first time that current project users have joined the staff team, so we are very excited to be able to enable this to happen

Requests for support

This year TravellerSpace responded to 939 direct requests for assistance. These were for a wide range of issues including: crisis funding, food vouchers, education, training, information, liaising with social services, signposting to other agencies, help with planning issues, assistance with IT and help filling in forms. We have distributed £19,669 in crisis funds

Teyluva Safe Space

In response to the need for community members to have a safe place to go to talk to trained workers in private, our IAG trained staff operate a Safe Space at the Centre.

In addition, staff from other agencies such as Pentreath and CRUSE use the Safe Space to deliver counselling sessions to project users who require it We operate the Safe Space 5 days per week.

This year we ran 231 sessions which were accessed 758 times.

The Teyluva Steering group

The Steering group is made up entirely from community members, which meets monthly to share ideas, decide on which activities we run, how they are run and to feedback on any issues that need discussing; we also talk to everyone online or through voice messages when we are unable to meet in person; our community volunteer is in regular contact with all the project users to make sure their voices are heard in all the discussions about the running of the Centre.

We also discuss new & potential funding, visits from funders, fundraising ideas & choosing new equipment needed

The skills learnt as part of the steering group help project users gain confidence in negotiating their relationship with the world outside their immediate community and in taking part in activities in the wider community

The Wheal Jewel site & the local community

There is substantial animosity towards the site residents from the local housed community, ramped up in particular by certain parish & county councillors; it seems that Cornwall Housing are responding to the pressure and will be reducing the size of the Wheal Jewel site.

We continue to challenge the views of local councillors at strategic forums, but due to Covid we have been unable to host any community events or any other initiatives which bring the community together.

We intend to host smaller events in the warmer weather so we can make use of the outdoor space

Training Sessions and Workshops

Within the wider community is often much misunderstanding, misinformation and wildly inaccurate ideas about who Gypsies and Travellers are, their customs, history and the issues they face. To help counter this TravellerSpace has a programme of awareness training for schools, colleges and voluntary and statutory organisations.

The training can be tailored for the particular interests of the group it is for and covers history, 'myth-busting', barriers faced by Gypsies and Travellers to participating in wider society, challenging racism and practical suggestions for those encountering Gypsies and Travellers in their work.

This year the training has been delivered via webinars, Teams meetings and a recorded Powerpoint.

All who received training in the previous year have reported increased understanding of the issues affecting Gypsies & Travellers, and we have had many messages left at the end of workshops to tell us how valuable they found the training; in some cases completely changed their views on the Gypsy & Traveller community, with the benefit of the deeper insight afforded by the training.

On-line

We have continued to use our online Facebook group & virtual staff member on a daily basis for project users to be able to contact us easily & quickly, make appointments ask question, check whether they have a meeting etc. This worked so well during lockdown that we have continued to use it

We monitor media sources on a daily basis for relevant stories, providing a news feed for the nearly six thousand members of the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Facebook group. This group is accessed by most of the Gypsy & Traveller activists in the UK and Ireland and we are acknowledged as providing an essential service.

Our social media profile has lead to our being contacted by Gypsies and Travellers in the wider UK, with requests for information & support. Where appropriate we sign post these enquiries to other more local services.

Networking and Partnerships

We have had formal and informal partnerships more than 30 agencies during the past year, including

BF Adventure

Friends, Families and Travellers

Truro Food Bank

Camborne Food Bank

Plymouth Argylle

Action for Children

RJ Working

Community Law Partnership

Diversity Network For Cornwall

Hedgucation

WILD Young Parents

Cornwall Black Voices

Cornwall Council Equality & Diversity Voluntary Sector Forum

Plymouth University

Cornwall College

Ruston Planning

Sunny Days Nursery

St Day & Caharrack Primary School

Cornwall Health Visiting Team

The People's Health Trust

Headstart Kernow

Cornwall Family Support

West Cornwall Diversity Action Network

Cornwall Education Welfare Service

Cornwall Housing

Devon & Cornwall Police

Bodmin Women's Centre

Your Way

Cornwall Council Planning department

Cornwall Health Visitors

Cornwall Council Social Care

Public Health England

The Voluntary Sector Forum

Forums

TravellerSpace is represented at the following forums and committees.

Cornwall Gypsy &Traveller Keyworker meeting

Cornwall Gypsy &Traveller Forum

Gypsy & Traveller Health Task & Finish Group

Cornwall Housing 'Thinking Differently' group

COMF Alliance forum

Teyluva Centre Steering Group

West Cornwall Diversity Action Group

Staff and Volunteer Development

TravellerSpace's greatest strength is in having truly dedicated and caring team of staff and volunteers. TravellerSpace staff need to be responsive, flexible and reflective of their own practice to best support the project's users (and must have a good sense of humour!). Each session is followed by a debrief, giving staff and volunteers space to discuss any issues arising, plan for future sessions and to consider what went well and what maybe didn't. More in depth meetings are held monthly and all staff and volunteers have access to regular supervision.

Alongside mandatory training in areas such as Safeguarding and Health and Safety TravellerSpace is committed to supporting the ongoing professional development of our staff and volunteers, encouraging the uptake of training and learning opportunities when they become available.

Progress

We are delighted with the success of the Steering Group, which gives community members the opportunity to have a role in running the Centre, deciding which activities we offer and how they are delivered.

This plays an essential role in building confidence and self esteem in our project users, as well as giving the opportunity to learn important skills in communicating ideas to others and planning how projects can be realised.

We are very pleased with the level of engagement with activities we have offered. It has become apparent just how valued the services we provide are, with regular attendance and people even coming back to Cornwall when off travelling so as not to miss events and activities.

Plans for 2022 - 23

Our Work in Devon

The Devon project goes from strength to strength, and this year will have 3 part time staff including a Kickstart worker from the community, and a volunteer from the community starting up a community food hub on one of the larger sites, to provide good quality cheap food boxes for community members

The Teyluva Centre

Partnerships – Increasing our partnership work benefits our project users greatly, as we can be part of providing a more effective support package where needed. The Centre is increasingly used for meetings with Social Care and contact meetings with estranged parents; we are a service which is trusted by community members that we will do our best for them no advocte on their behalf where needed

Capacity building - TravellerSpace will build on the success of our work in offering a wide range of ASDAN and other awards to Gypsies & Travellers not in education or training. We will support and encourage other agencies to engage with our project users, so that they can access a range of opportunities in the wider community, improve their education & ultimately their emplyoment opportunities

Training

TravellerSpace continues to offer training for service providers, schools and the wider community. It is essential to raise awareness of issues affecting Travelling people to counter prejudice & discrimination, and to improve the way that essential services are delivered.

Volunteering

We recognise that TravellerSpace relies heavily on volunteers to enable us to offer the much-needed one to one support to the children and young people we work with.

We wish to offer training and expenses to our highly valued volunteers, so that their hard work is rewarded with opportunities for personal development, training and experience, increasing both their value to TravellerSpace and their employability.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of TravellerSpace for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial

statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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:

there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's independent examiner is unaware; and

the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

Emma Joyce Interim Chair

Caroline Dann Director April 2022