

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1099960

Details

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Other names | THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK), THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK) LTD, FERTILITY NETWORK UK, I N UK, INFERTILITY NETWORK UK |
| Status | Registered |
| Legal form | Charitable company |
| Company number | 04822073 |
| Registered | 2003-10-09 |
| Register | View on the Charity Commission register |

Contact

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Website www.fertilitynetworkuk.org

Activities

Objects: (I) TO RELIEVE PERSONS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM INFERTILITY PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT;(II) TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF AN EQUITABLE SYSTEM OF PUBLICLY-FUNDED FERTILITY TREATMENT THROUGHOUT THE UK FOR ALL SUFFERS OF INFERTILITY, SUB-FERTILITY AND SECONDARY FERTILITY;(III) TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF PERSONS SUFFERING FROM INFERTILITY THROUGH, INTER ALIA, THE PROVISION OF A NETWORK OF LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS, A COUNSELLING SERVICE, A WEBSITE AND A REGULAR MAGAZINE;(IV) TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT ALL ASPECTS OF FERTILITY AND INFERTILITY;(V) TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF ISSUES CONCERNING FERTILITY AND INFERTILITY IN THE MEDIA AND IN GENERAL, IN AN INFORMED, RESPONSIBLE MANNER;(VI) TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST FURTHER RESEARCH IN ITS BROADEST SENSE INTO INFERTILITY AND ITS VARIOUS EFFECTS.

Activities: Infertility Network UK's provides support for all those affected by fertility challenges, at whatever point they are on their fertility journey, by providing free and impartial information, emotional and practical

support. We provide information, advice and support via our website, a network of face-to-face and online support groups, and a support and information telephone service,

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THROUGHOUT THE UK
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £496,287 | £454,802 | - | - |
| 2024-03-31 | £579,039 | £792,533 | £168,532 | 25 |
| 2023-03-31 | £638,297 | £644,363 | £382,026 | 22 |
| 2022-03-31 | £451,660 | £426,460 | - | - |
| 2021-03-31 | £467,723 | £349,910 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|------------------------|------|------------|
| Jaskiren Kaur Samra | | 2024-12-16 |
| Jennifer Finnegan-John | | 2025-07-29 |
| Kathryn Sparrow Robins | | 2023-09-26 |
| Laura Jakilaitis | | 2025-07-29 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1099960

Accounts

Annual Report

And Accounts

2024-2025



fertilitynetworkuk

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

| | |
|---|--|
| Charity number (England and Wales) | 1099960 |
| Charity number (Scotland) | SC039511 |
| Company number | 4822073 |
| Registered office | 23 St Leonards Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH |
| Accountants | Galloways Accounting (Bexhill) Ltd 23 St Leonards Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank PLC 25 Cornhill Bridgwater TA6 3AY |

Trustee Foreword

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-2025. This year has been one of progress, resilience, and renewed stability for Fertility Network UK as we continue our vital work supporting all those affected by fertility challenges across the United Kingdom.

In a year marked by continued financial pressures across the charity sector, the organisation has demonstrated strong governance and effective stewardship. I am particularly pleased to note the significant improvement in the charity's financial position – with a surplus of £41,485 compared with a deficit of £213,494 in the previous year. This reflects the prudent management, strategic restructuring, and commitment of our staff, volunteers, and Trustees to ensure long-term sustainability and impact.

This year, we amplified the voices of those navigating infertility through Unspoken, Fertility Network UK's first podcast, creating a platform that fosters understanding and empathy. Our expanded Fertility in the Workplace initiative has driven cultural change in organisations, influencing policy and improving support for employees in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care, Bourn Hall, and HSBC. Groundbreaking research into infertility-related trauma has sparked a national conversation on mental health and fertility care, shaping awareness and informing future practice.

By delivering tailored support across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, our regional teams have helped this community of people feel less isolated and more empowered on their fertility journey. Through specialist networks for ethnic minority, LGBTQ+, and male communities, we have sought to ensure that every voice is heard, making our services truly inclusive.

Across all nations, Fertility Network UK continues to strengthen its reach and influence, and shaping the national conversation on infertility.

The Trustees extend sincere thanks to our partners, funders, donors, staff, and volunteers. Your collective commitment makes it possible for us to deliver compassionate, evidence-based, and accessible support to thousands of individuals each year.

Looking ahead, the Board is committed to driving sustainable growth by diversifying income streams, ensuring the charity can reach and support more people. We aim to strengthen partnerships with health professionals to improve patient experiences and influence practice, while continuing to champion fair and equitable access to fertility treatment across the UK. With a clear strategic direction and a dedicated team, we are confident in delivering lasting change for everyone affected by infertility.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank all who have contributed to our mission this year and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that everyone facing fertility challenges receives the understanding, care, and support they deserve.



Katy Sparrow Robins
Chair of Trustees
Fertility Network UK

About Fertility Network UK

Our Mission

Fertility Network UK is the leading charity across the UK in the provision of a comprehensive support network for those facing fertility challenges at all stages of their journey, providing information, education as well as practical and emotional support.

Our Objectives

- To be there for those navigating infertility particularly through the provision of information, advice, and support.
- To uphold the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK for all affected by infertility, subfertility, and secondary infertility.
- To support the needs of persons navigating infertility through the provision of inter alia, a network of local support groups, a support line service, a website and a regular magazine and e-newsletter;
- To advance public education about all aspects of fertility and infertility;
- To raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media and in general, in an informed, responsible manner; and
- To encourage and assist continuing research into infertility and its various effects.

What We Do

Driven by the lived experience of our community we;

- Provide unbiased information, advice, and support to people navigating infertility, through our website, telephone advice line and online chatbox.
- Connect people across the nations, through a network of face to face and online support groups and webinars.
- Support employers and employees through our 'Fertility in the Workplace' Initiative.
- Campaign for the provision of an equitable system of publicly-funded fertility treatment.
- Advance public education.
- Engage and inform young people around their future fertility.
- Encourage and assist research in into infertility.
- Champion patient voices on professional committees

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

In considering the operation, achievements and performance and finances of the Trust, the trustees are satisfied that public benefit has been provided in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and guidance provided by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and the Charity Commission.

Highlights of the Year

Unspoken: Launching Our First Podcast

In November 2024 we proudly introduced Unspoken, Fertility Network UK's first podcast, designed to give a voice to the often-silent experiences of those facing fertility challenges. In its first month this podcast had 370 listens across all platforms.

Through candid conversations, expert advice, and personal stories, the podcast aims to break down stigma and provide support to anyone navigating infertility. By creating this platform, we are strengthening our commitment to raising awareness and fostering a sense of community. Unspoken is already resonating with listeners, offering reassurance that no one has to face this journey alone.



Listen on:

[Apple Podcasts](#)

[Spotify](#)

[Amazon Music](#)

[RSS Online](#)

With thanks to Anita Guru and all our guests who supported our Season 1 podcast

- **Episode 1: Andrea Byrne: Desperate Rants and Magic Pants through a fertility journey.**
- **Episode 2: Dr. Thanos Papathanasiou from Bourn Hall IVF Clinic**
- **Episode 3: The journey with the creators of 'Joy, Jack Thorne & Rachel Mason**
- **Episode 4: The journey of the world's second IVF Mum, Grace MacDonald**
- **Episode 5: A mother's heart with empty arms, Ruth Corden**
- **Episode 6: Fertility in the workplace at HSBC, Kim Stubbs**

Highlights of the Year

National Fertility Awareness Week 2024

#FertilityinMind

WHAT'S ON FERTILITY WEEK 2024

#FertilityinMind FERTILITY WEEK
4 - 8 Nov 24
fertilitynetworkuk

MONDAY
Trauma Research
&
Hear from ITV's **Andrea Byrne** and her new book 'Desperate Rants and Magic Pants'

TUESDAY
Ethnic Minorities Communities
Webinar: The Psychological Impact of Infertility in Ethnic Minority Communities - Our Stories!
Webinar: An Intro to Emotional First Aid Kit

WEDNESDAY
LGBTQ+
Webinar: The injustices for the LGBTQ+ Population with Regards to Accessing Fertility Treatment

THURSDAY
Fertility in the Workplace
Webinar: Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace

FRIDAY
More to Life
Webinar: Finding New Passion and Purpose at the End of Your Fertility Journey
HIMfertility
Webinar: A Man's Guide to Surviving the World of Fertility

SIGN UP TO RAISE MONEY AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF FNUK
visit www.fertilitynetworkuk.org

One Step at a Time
fertilitynetworkuk

FERTILITY
MAKE TEA AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

www.fertilitynetwork.org

In 2024, the **12th National Fertility Awareness Week** focused on the impact fertility issues have on mental health and wellbeing.

The week aimed to raise awareness of how infertility affects mental health, highlight the support people need, and show how we can all play a role in helping individuals look after their wellbeing.

We launched the week with the release of findings from a major new survey on infertility-related trauma, conducted with nearly 900 patients in collaboration with the British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA) and researchers at Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Queen's University Belfast.

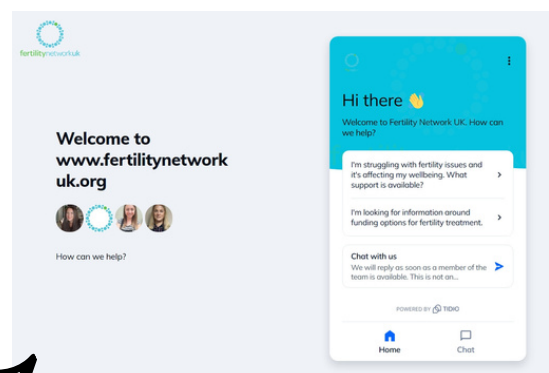
Throughout the week, we shared beneficiaries' experiences, signposted support, and encouraged conversations about mental health. Activities included awareness-raising, fundraising for our cause, and promoting resources to help those on their fertility journey.

The campaign amplified the voices of people affected by infertility, spotlighted the prevalence of trauma, and strengthened calls for better mental health support. It mobilised professionals, patients, and the public to work together on improving wellbeing for those facing fertility challenges.

Online Chat Box

In November 2024, we introduced an online chat pilot to enhance real-time support for our beneficiaries. This initiative was designed to provide a discreet and convenient way to connect with our team, reducing reliance on phone calls or email correspondence. The pilot demonstrated strong engagement, confirming the value of this channel in improving accessibility, particularly for individuals in workplace settings where calls may not be practical. Building on these insights, we plan to implement the chat functionality across all staff in the coming year and actively promote it as a key component of our support services.

Read the article and access support [here](#)



Highlights of the Year

Partnerships & Initiatives



TFP Fertility Partnership

In January 2025, Fertility Network UK announced an innovative partnership with TFP Fertility, a leading fertility clinic group, to address the often-overlooked issue of male infertility. The collaboration aims to:

- **Raise Awareness:** Challenge myths and taboos surrounding male fertility and shift societal perception from infertility being seen solely as a “women’s issue.”
- **Support Men:** Provide improved emotional and practical support for men through counselling, online resources, and community engagement.
- **Research & Advocacy:** Build on Fertility Network’s research showing male infertility significantly impacts mental health, self-esteem, relationships, and finances.
- **Clinical Commitment:** TFP Fertility will explore ways clinics can better support men during treatment and promote technological advancements to overcome reproductive challenges.

This partnership strengthens our mission to ensure inclusive fertility support and reduce isolation for men experiencing infertility.

Clinic Pledge: Supporting Patients and Staff



In partnership with Bourn Hall, Fertility Network UK launched the Clinic Pledge as part of its Fertility in the Workplace initiative. This programme encourages fertility clinics to help patients balance treatment with work commitments and to support their own staff who may face similar challenges.

Why It Matters:

- Research shows 75% of fertility patients report reduced productivity at work, and 37% receive little or no employer support.
- 40% of employers lack a fertility policy, leaving employees vulnerable to stress and discrimination.

What the Pledge Involves:

- Signposting patients to workplace support resources and tools for starting conversations with employers.
- Operational flexibility, such as online appointments and varied communication methods.
- Best practice adoption, including implementing a fertility policy within clinics and subscribing to workplace education packages.

This initiative strengthens collaboration between clinics, employers, and Fertility Network UK to reduce stigma and improve wellbeing for those navigating fertility treatment alongside their careers.

Highlights of the Year

Research

Infertility-Related Trauma Research - Key Findings

Fertility Network UK, in collaboration with Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Queen's University Belfast, and the British Infertility Counselling Association, published new research revealing that infertility-related trauma is significantly more common than previously recognised.

- **Prevalence:** 41% of respondents met criteria for PTSD or complex PTSD (32% complex PTSD, 9% PTSD) using the International Trauma Questionnaire.
- **Sample:** 590 respondents from the UK and Ireland self-reported traumatic experiences linked to infertility.
 - Care Gaps: Only 16.1% said healthcare professionals discussed infertility-related trauma.
 - Just 27.6% received any support to cope.
 - 61.2% reported aspects of fertility care worsened trauma.
- **Impact:** Respondents described cumulative distress from repeated medical events and social triggers, with some reporting suicidal thoughts.
- **Call to Action:** Fertility Network UK urges trauma-informed fertility care and improved counselling interventions to prevent and mitigate harm.

This research underscores the urgent need for systemic changes in fertility services to address psychological wellbeing alongside medical treatment.

Social Media & Outreach

Social media engagement has increased across most platforms, the most significant growth being on our Instagram page, with an increase of 34% throughout the year.

Facebook: 17,163

Instagram: 21,534

Twitter (X): 13,595

LinkedIn: 5,936



Highlights of the Year

Events

Fertility in the Workplace: Driving Employer Engagement

This year, Fertility Network UK strengthened its Fertility in the Workplace programme, partnering with HSBC and Bourn Hall fertility clinic under the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) grant-funded initiative. In November, we convened The Case for Employer Action event at Essex Cricket Ground, highlighting the intersection of fertility challenges and workplace support. Speakers shared personal experiences and best practice, emphasising the need for inclusive policies, flexibility for treatment, and stigma reduction. The event showcased grassroots advocacy, employer initiatives, and clinical perspectives, reinforcing the importance of collaboration between employers, clinics, and



Through FiTW, we help transform workplaces into environments where people navigating fertility challenges feel supported and understood. By providing policy guidance, training, and practical resources, we enable organisations to reduce stress and protect mental wellbeing. Our fully funded support for subject matter experts under the Women's Health Strategy goes beyond compliance—it empowers employers to create inclusive cultures that retain talent and prevent isolation during one of life's most difficult journeys. The result: healthier teams, stronger organisations, and a workforce where fertility is no longer a barrier to thriving.

Fertility Network UK at The Fertility Show

Fertility Network UK participated in The Fertility Show, the UK's largest event dedicated to fertility education and support. The charity hosted an information stand to raise awareness about our services. Attendance reinforced our commitment to supporting everyone affected by fertility challenges and building partnerships across the sector. The event provided an opportunity to connect directly with individuals, clinics, and employers, share resources, and promote campaigns such as Fertility in the Workplace and the Clinic Pledge.

Attendance reinforced our commitment to supporting everyone affected by fertility challenges and building partnerships across the sector.

Fertility Network at The Modern Family Show

Fertility Network UK attended The Modern Family Show in London, with a stand providing further information about NHS funding and support avenues, as well as workplace support options, to hundreds of show attendees from all over the UK.

Our presence at the show was an important opportunity to engage directly with the LGBTQ+ community and ensure they had access to clear, reliable information on family-building options. By being part of this event, we strengthened our role as a trusted source of guidance and demonstrated our commitment to supporting diverse paths to parenthood.

Spotlight on our Services

Fertility in the Workplace

The Fertility in the Workplace (FiTW) initiative, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, aimed to improve workplace support for individuals facing fertility challenges. Now in its second year, the project has exceeded several key targets and continues to align with the Women's Health Strategy and DHSC's goal of improving healthcare outcomes through a well-supported workforce.

Our KPIs across the 3 years of the grant were:

Number of women supported directly 1:1 and through workshops.

Target 900 - **Actual 1,419** (+57%)

Number of SMEs supported directly.

Target 60 - **Actual 102** (+70%)

Number of active workplace ambassadors.

Target 50 - **Actual 60** (+20%)

Number of women supported through health and wellbeing programmes.

Target 480 - **Actual 554** (+15%)

Number of self-employed women and women working for SMEs accessing online support, forums, support line etc.

Target 1,400 - **Actual 1,762** (+26%)

The project supported DHSC priorities by helping employers recognise fertility as a medical condition, implement supportive policies, and educate staff. Research shows that 75% of women consider workplace fertility policies when applying for jobs, yet only 25% of organisations have one. FiTW addresses this gap by promoting inclusive workplace cultures and reducing stigma.

Programme activities to achieve impact targets:

- Developed **downloadable workplace information packs** for employers and employees.
- Delivered support packages including webinars, **CPD-accredited online learning**, and 1:1 support.
- Introduced the **Clinic Pledge** with Bourn Hall Clinic to improve workplace support for fertility patients and clinic staff.
- Created a **mini-series of webinars** covering topics such as LGBTQ+ fertility, mental health, baby loss, and IVF.
- Offered **inclusive wellbeing sessions** focused on mental health and nutrition, with a dedicated members page and monthly mentoring group.
- Engaged 10 **volunteers** to support delivery and share lived experiences.
- Relunched the **Workplace Ambassador** role to promote policy change and peer support within organisations.

Evaluation: An external evaluator confirmed the programme was well-targeted, met an unmet need, and received strong endorsement from participants. Benefits included improved wellbeing, reduced isolation, and increased workplace awareness. Most participants would recommend the programme.



Spotlight on our Services



Fertility Network UK in England

In its final year, our lottery-funded project in England delivered measurable improvements in emotional support, outreach, and inclusivity for people facing fertility challenges. Feedback-driven enhancements to stakeholder engagement, peer support, and wellbeing services meant that:

78% of service users reported feeling significantly more supported after accessing our services.

Over three years, we made major strides in reaching ethnic minority communities through a dedicated Project Worker, tailored webinars, peer groups, and partnerships with local organisations. This work impacted more than 700 individuals in the first year alone and grew our online community to 739 members, with over 500 people attending online meetings.

Our Clinic Ambassador Programme strengthened patient access by connecting with 136 clinics, improving awareness and signposting support in underserved areas. Fertility support groups grew by 54%, now reaching over 5,000 members, including a 41% increase in the over-40s group and a 70% rise in weight-loss support groups, driven by popular nutrition programmes.

Wellbeing remained central, with eight annual programmes such as yoga, mindfulness, and nutrition sessions, alongside targeted initiatives for LGBTQ+, ethnic minority, and male communities. LGBTQ+ support expanded significantly, with segmented groups and a 42% increase in Facebook membership, complemented by outreach at Pride and the Modern Family Show.

“Absolutely amazing! The support and information about pathways was invaluable. Having experts give talks was also superb as there’s so much information out there, it’s hard to know where to go or what to do. Aside from that, having a safe [space] to talk, moan, cry etc, with people who understood what you were going through was so important, especially as my situation went on for 5 years. I’ve made some good friends from the support groups too. I just wish I knew about Fertility Network sooner. [Fertility Network UK team] have been absolute stars.”

LGBTQ Pathways to Parenthood Course Feedback

Volunteer engagement improved through better onboarding and training, while KPIs evolved to reflect changing needs. Across all channels, we supported around 4,000 individuals annually, exceeding one-to-one support targets and ensuring inclusive service delivery.

Spotlight on our Services



Fertility Network UK in Wales

In November 2024 our funding in Wales came to end after a 5 year funded project from the Welsh Lottery however we were able to secure additional funding from TNL Wales for a new project from March 2024.

Between December 2023 and November 2024, Fertility Network UK Wales delivered life-changing support to thousands of people navigating fertility challenges. We provided direct assistance to 1,815 individuals, while our peer networks, information sessions, and outreach extended our impact across Wales. Feedback shows that personalised one-to-one guidance on treatment options and emotional wellbeing transformed lives, helping people feel informed and supported during an incredibly difficult journey.

Our peer support network connected 759 individuals through regional and LGBTQ+ Facebook groups, WhatsApp communities, and face-to-face initiatives like Cardiff's Walk and Talk group—creating safe spaces that reduce isolation and build resilience. Educational webinars on NHS referral pathways, donor conception, and LGBTQ+ fertility journeys attracted 329 live attendees and over 600 YouTube views, ensuring vital information reached far beyond the live audience.

"The peer support has been great. I've accessed weight loss and Wales groups. Via Facebook, Zoom, face to face and WhatsApp. Hearing from others that understand is helpful. I've had 1-1 support. That was helpful when I was just about to start my round of IVF. Also when asking questions about treatment locally (questions on NHS policy and acquisition of my chosen clinic). They asked questions for me where I was nervous to do so myself."

We also engaged 1,500 young people through outreach to 12 educational institutions, addressing gaps revealed by our Your Future Fertility survey (reaching 834 people) and sparking conversations about fertility awareness. Clinical and workplace engagement advanced through a pilot with Cwmtawe GP Cluster and training for over 220 healthcare professionals, while our presence at the Women at Work Wales Conference promoted fertility-friendly workplaces.

"I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for your presence at the meeting on Tuesday. Your insights and contributions were invaluable, and I truly appreciate your time and effort in attending. Your professionalism and commitment are truly admirable."

GP trainee

Our digital reach soared, with Instagram surpassing 1,000 followers, Facebook reaching 910 followers and 15,400 impressions, and 165,000 website visits, including 6,600 from Wales. Media collaborations with BBC Wales and Pure West Radio amplified visibility, while community engagement at Pride Cymru and the Modern Family Show reinforced our commitment to inclusivity. Supported by 10 dedicated volunteers, we exceeded one-to-one support targets and strengthened wellbeing for thousands across Wales.

Spotlight on our Services

Fertility Network UK in Northern Ireland

With continued support from the Department of Health, Belfast Health Trust, and the Belfast Cathedral Black Santa Sit-out Fund, we delivered services that made a real difference for people facing fertility challenges in Northern Ireland. Over the year, we provided direct support to more than 1,000 individuals, offering guidance and emotional care through email, WhatsApp, calls, and texts. Our outreach to health professionals exceeded 900 contacts, ensuring better awareness and signposting, supported by monthly updates to over 100 professionals.

Peer support remained a lifeline, with inclusive groups such as monthly 'Trying to conceive' Zoom meetings featuring expert speakers, ACeBabes hosting its first in-person meetup since the pandemic, and More to Life offering regular online and seasonal gatherings. Wellbeing initiatives reached wide audiences, including monthly yoga sessions with over 1,000 views, mindfulness under the Fit 4 Fertility programme, and webinars on coping at Christmas, unexplained infertility, and treatment overseas—helping individuals manage stress and improve resilience.

Our research and advocacy strengthened the case for better mental health support, with the Trauma in Infertility Survey (875 responses) revealing significant unmet needs. Collaborations with Queen's University Belfast, Cardiff University, and involvement in the NI Pregnancy Loss Charity Collective and Maternal Mental Health Alliance amplified our influence. Preparations for Belfast Pride and inclusivity training further reinforced our commitment to equality.

Digital engagement grew, with the NI Facebook page reaching 1,600 followers and the closed group expanding to 325 members, while volunteer capacity increased to boost social media and group facilitation. These efforts ensured that people across Northern Ireland had access to vital emotional support, practical guidance, and a stronger voice in shaping fertility care.

Spotlight on our Services

Fertility Network UK in Scotland

With support from the Scottish Government, Fertility Network Scotland (FNS) strengthened emotional wellbeing and inclusivity for people facing fertility challenges across Scotland. Volunteers remained central to this impact, delivering peer-led services that saw a 25% increase in support group participation since March 2023, thanks to Zoom and WhatsApp. These platforms provided flexible, responsive peer support between meetings, ensuring safe spaces moderated by FNS staff and volunteers—especially vital for crisis support in groups such as pregnancy loss.

Face-to-face connection also grew through Walk and Talk events in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee, combining companionship with the proven mental health benefits of nature. FNS now supports 877 members in Scotland-specific groups and 4,800 in UK-wide specialist groups, including TTC, IVF/ICSI/IUI, LGBTQ+, More to Life, solo fertility, secondary infertility, and endometriosis. Our LGBTQ+ group is among the largest in Scotland, collaborating with Stonewall and LGBT+ Health and Wellbeing to ensure inclusivity.

Education and outreach expanded significantly. Responding to patient feedback, we addressed barriers such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, Endometriosis, and BMI in fertility education, reassuring LGBTQ+ individuals about future parenthood options. Grant funding enabled outreach at 37 Fresher events, distributing 4,800 “Your Future Fertility” leaflets and driving a 10% rise in completed questionnaires. Partnerships with Youth Link Scotland, LGBT Youth, Penumbra, and others extended engagement to young people beyond education.

To improve health and wellbeing services, we developed Scotland-specific fact sheets on pregnancy loss and weight management for funded treatment eligibility, alongside four wellbeing programmes focused on fertility nutrition for weight loss. Our presence at Pride, Dundee Pride, and the Modern Family Show reinforced our commitment to inclusivity and support for all.

“My mental health is suffering from trying to conceive and starting our fertility journey. Hearing other women speak of their fertility journey was really good and reminded me I was not the only one. I was able to speak out loud about mine. Became emotional but I think it was what I needed to accept my situation and be able to move forward”

Spotlight on our Services



UK-Wide Specialist Support Groups

We're here to support you

- Treatment Abroad
- Moving on from Treatment
- Fertility Weight Loss
- Pregnancy After Infertility
- Secondary Infertility
- Black Women
- Muslim Women
- Pregnancy Loss
- LGBTQ+ Starting Out
- LGBTQ+
- Single Women
- South Asian
- HIMfertility
- 40 and Over
- More To Life

SCAN ME



MONTHLY ONLINE MEETINGS 

CLOSED FACEBOOK GROUPS 

www.fertilitynetworkuk.org

Fertility Network UK is a trading name of The Infertility Network (UK) Company Registration No. 4822073
Charity Registration No. 1099960 Charity Registered in Scotland No. SC239811

UK Wide Groups

Our UK-wide peer support groups provide safe, inclusive spaces for people with shared experiences—helping reduce isolation and improve wellbeing for those facing fertility challenges. These groups cater to specific needs, including ethnic minority communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, those over 40, and people managing weight, among others.

This year, the impact was clear: an average of 80 members joined meetings each month, while our closed Facebook communities grew by 17% to over 5,600 members across 15 groups, showing the increasing demand for peer-to-peer support. To ensure accessibility for those who find social media triggering, we introduced WhatsApp groups, now supporting around 300 members, offering an alternative way to stay connected and receive encouragement.

By creating these tailored spaces, we empower individuals to share experiences, access emotional support, and build resilience—making fertility journeys less isolating and more supported.

Spotlight on our Services



Support & Information Line

Our helpline is more than a source of information, it's a lifeline for emotional support. Available five days a week and run by two former fertility nurses, Diane and Janet listen with compassion and offer reassurance to people facing one of life's most difficult journeys. While they cannot diagnose, they offer guidance, empathy, and practical advice to ease anxiety and help callers feel less alone and this year, they handled **1,166** calls in year.

"When I was having a really bad day and I felt I'd exhausted all my friends and family I called your [support] line and spoke to [one of the team]. I was sat crying on a park bench unable to get up and go to work. She talked to me in a really kind and understanding way that enabled me to feel heard and got me back up on my feet and into work. Thank you so much..."

"It has been a lifeline at times. The help via the helpline has answered really important questions about health and things to research."

Volunteers

Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we achieve—97 individuals across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland make it possible for Fertility Network UK to reach and support thousands of people. Their work amplifies awareness, delivers peer support, and ensures that no one faces fertility challenges alone.

In 2024, we strengthened volunteer wellbeing and capability through targeted training, including grief support sessions and mindfulness workshops, making volunteers better equipped to provide compassionate care. Feedback from our volunteer survey shaped these initiatives, ensuring roles remain fulfilling and impactful.



Volunteers drove inclusivity by supporting ethnic minority groups, recruiting guest speakers, and expanding community engagement. This included launching a Muslim Community Group and sustaining vital spaces like the Black Women's and South Asian Fertility Groups.

Left: Ogechi Ekwegh, a dedicated volunteer with our Black Women's Group, was nationally recognised as Volunteer of the Year at the Black Health Care Awards 2024, highlighting the extraordinary impact of our network

"I just wanted to share that I won the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Caribbean and African Health Network Gala yesterday. Thank you for nominating me, it means a lot to me." (Ogechi)

We also reintroduced the Community Volunteer role, empowering volunteers to actively raise awareness in clinics and local communities, attend events, and represent Fertility Network UK. These efforts not only extend our reach but create meaningful connections that transform lives.

Our Plans for the Future

Our Plans for 2025/26: Driving Change, Expanding Impact

Transform Support Delivery: Launch new podcasts, enhance online chat, and grow WhatsApp communities to make support more accessible and immediate.

Champion Inclusivity: Diversify our beneficiary base to reflect the UK today, ensuring every voice is heard.

Lead in Workplace Change: Build on our success with fertility-friendly workplace initiatives, tackling discrimination and influencing policy.

Be the Go-To Resource: Deepen engagement with patients and health professionals, including GPs, to cement our role as the leading source of trusted fertility information.

Expand Knowledge Sharing: Host regular expert-led webinars and create richer content to empower and inform.

Secure Sustainability: Strengthen fundraising and partnerships to grow income streams, while restructuring for efficiency as grants end.

Maximise Digital Reach: Use our website and social channels to generate income and amplify awareness.

Hybrid Support Model: Continue delivering services digitally and face-to-face, expanding Walk & Talk groups for in-person connection.

Empower Volunteers: Revamp volunteer engagement and training for greater impact and community reach.

Strengthen Partnerships: Work with HFEA, BFS, BICA, and RCOG to highlight emotional impact and promote our services.

National Fertility Awareness Week: Drive awareness, fundraising, and perception change with a new theme shaped by beneficiary feedback (3-7 November 2025).

Advocate for Fairness: Keep lobbying to end the NHS postcode lottery and fight workplace discrimination through policy change.

Thank you!

Our supporters

We are extremely grateful for the support from our partners including:

- **The Scottish Government:** To work with clinics and Health Boards on the provision of fertility services in Scotland; to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients; to raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility by working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland, and to provide recruitment and training support for our volunteers.
- **The National Lottery Community Fund Wales:** Five-year project to expand our regional network of support for infertility sufferers in Wales and to deliver the Education project across the country.
- **Health and Social Care Board, Northern Ireland:** To provide support services to local patient groups.
- **St Anne's Cathedral - Sit Out Fund:** Charitable Donation in Northern Ireland
- **The VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund, part of a partnership programme between Department of Health & Social Care, NHS England and UK Health Security Agency:** to improve health and employment outcomes for women and people experiencing reproductive health issues. The support should ensure women facing reproductive health issues can remain in and return to work with the right support.
- **Bourn Hall Fertility Clinic & HSBC** for match funding our FiTW project work.
- **The National Lottery Community Grant, England:** This project provided increased support and information to increase our reach in order that more people are supported on their fertility journey. Dedicating resource to engage and support LGBTQ, Ethnic minority, women over 40 and male community. Increase the number of volunteers in the network with a focus on geographical areas where there are none.
- **TFP - Male fertility support project** - This enabled us to dedicate a team member to increasing the provision of male support and information by way of online events and activities and face to face activities.

Our thanks go to all our supporters, including our **corporate and clinic supporters**.

Thank you!

A special thanks to those **small businesses** who are donating a proportion of their proceeds to Fertility Network UK.

Our Fundraisers and individual donors. We are also particularly grateful to all those individuals who have made donations or carried out fundraising activities for Fertility Network UK.

This year saw an incredible **£59,961.84** donated through Just Giving, Paypal and individual donations! This just goes to show how much those donations can add up! So massive thanks again to you all for your support.

Some wonderful fundraising activities this year included:

- **3 Peaks Challenge**
- **Various Marathons & Half Marathons across the UK**
- **Sky-diving**
- **Peak District Ultra Challenge 2024**

Thanks to all our amazing donors. Thank you for your help to fund our critical work.

Thanks to volunteers. Thanks to our committed and generous volunteers, including those patients who bravely share their stories for the benefit of all our beneficiaries.

Thanks to staff. We are grateful to our passionate staff who deliver our activities for our beneficiaries.

Thanks to those departing. During 2024/2025 we said goodbye to some of our Trustees and team members. We would like to thank them for their service to Fertility Network UK and wish them all every success in the future.

Structure, Governance & Management

Governance

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by Articles of Association. The number of Trustees shall not be less than 4 and not more than 10 (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects. The Trustees are each members of the company and have no beneficial interest therein and guarantee to contribute £1.00 in the event of a winding up.

Trustees 24-25

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

John Richard O'Neil (appointed 15/12/24)
Jaskiren Kaur Samra (appointed 16/12/24)
Kathryn Sparrow Robins (appointed 26/09/23)
Sophie Giddings (appointed 26/09/23)
Holly Atkinson (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 29/07/25)
Jennifer Finnegan-John (appointed 29/07/25)
Laura Jakilaitis (appointed 29/07/25)
Louise Jones (appointed 29/07/25)

Thanks to those Trustees who joined us this year for their contribution and commitment, and to those who departed, we are very grateful for your support, time and energy.

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board meets quarterly and as necessary. The Interim Chief Executive, Sharon Martin (from May 2024) was appointed by the Board of Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity and have overall responsibility for managing the charity's operations and employees. The Board delegates to the Finance and Risk Committee for further support and scrutiny.

Appointment of Trustees

A simple majority of trustees must approve the appointment of any new trustee.

Governance Statement

The Board of Trustees presents this Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2025, outlining how Fertility Network UK is governed, managed, and held accountable for the delivery of its charitable objectives.

Governance Structure

Fertility Network UK is a charitable company limited by guarantee, governed by its Articles of Association and regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for the strategic direction, governance, and financial stewardship of the charity. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Interim Chief Executive who is supported by a small staff team. Together they ensure that services are delivered effectively and in accordance with the charity's mission to relieve the suffering caused by infertility through information, education, advocacy, and support.

Trustee Oversight and Delegation

With a smaller Trustee base, all Trustees now meet collectively to provide detailed scrutiny of the charity's finances, reserves and risk register. This collective approach ensures robust oversight and accountability across the Board. The Interim Chief Executive continues to exercise delegated authority for operational decisions within parameters set by the Board.

Trustee recruitment and Induction

New Trustees are appointed by a majority vote of the Board and receive a structured induction covering their legal responsibilities, governance, policies and the charity's current strategic priorities. Induction materials include a financial overview and relevant policies to support their orientation. On-going training is encouraged to ensure Trustees remain up to date with charity law and best practice.

Remuneration Policy

The Trustees ensure that staff remuneration is fair, transparent, and benchmarked against sector standards. The aim is to attract and retain skilled personnel while ensuring that resources are used responsibly in furtherance of charitable purposes.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a central role in the delivery of Fertility Network UK's activities across all nations. Supported by a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator, they contribute to peer support, outreach, and events. The Trustees express their deep appreciation for the invaluable commitment and compassion of all volunteers.

Risk Management and Financial Oversight

The Board of Trustees maintains and reviews a comprehensive risk register, identifying key operational and strategic risks. The principal risks during the year related to the potential reduction in grant income, organisational capacity, and governance continuity. Mitigation measures included diversification of income sources, targeted fundraising, and the use of designated reserves to strengthen governance.

During the year, the Board maintained close oversight of financial performance. Through prudent management and effective cost control, the charity achieved a surplus of £41,485 (2024: deficit £213,494), representing a significant improvement on the previous year. This turnaround reflects the effectiveness of the charity's financial governance and its commitment to long-term stability and sustainability.

Internal Control and Compliance

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity has appropriate systems of internal control to safeguard assets, ensure the accuracy of financial reporting, and maintain compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements. Policies are reviewed regularly to reflect best practice.

Commitment to Good Governance

The Board is committed to the principles of the Charity Governance Code – ensuring leadership, integrity, openness, diversity, and accountability. Governance arrangements are reviewed periodically to ensure they remain effective and fit for purpose.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Katy Sparrow Robins
Trustee
Fertility Network UK

Statement of Trustees' Responsibility

The Trustees 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).

Charity 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group 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.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The Trustees' annual report has been approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by Katy Sparrow-Robins



On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Katy Sparrow Robins
Holly Atkinson
John O'Neill
Jaskiren Samra

Financial Statements

Financial Review

It is a challenging time for any charity, but as the cost of living crisis continues to impact not only fertility patients, it also puts pressure on our generous donors. Yet we are proud to report through dedication of an exceptional team of staff and volunteers, our total income for the year was £496,287 enabling the charity to continue with vast levels of impactful work. Compared to income of £579,039 in the previous year this is still an amazing effort.

Income & Expenditure

Of the total income, £307,613 was restricted (2024: £432,150). The income change is mostly as a result of a reduction in restricted grants, where the landscape has changed enormously. Total expenditure was £454,802 (2024: £792,533) leading to a Surplus in 2025 of £41,485 (2024: deficit £213,494). This included some one-off exceptional expenditure incurred during the year for unavoidable and necessary HR, legal and professional services.

Total reserves at the year-end were £210,017 (2024: £168,532) of which restricted were £32,625 (2024: £96,440)

Unrestricted £120,385 (2024: £36,112)

Designated £57,007 (2024: £35,980)

Reserve Policy

The Board of Trustees revised the Reserves Policy from "6 to 9 months" of normal unrestricted expenditure to "6 months", which the board has deemed a sufficient time frame to run the organisation without any income. In line with this policy, there were sufficient unrestricted reserves available at 31 March 2025 to achieve this.

The 'free reserves' of the charity (defined as those unrestricted funds not designated for specific purposes or tied up in fixed assets) stood at £119,877 at the year end (2024: £35,290)

Charity registration number 1099960 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number SC039511 (Scotland)

Company registration number 4822073

**FERTILITY NETWORK UK
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Fertility Network UK (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. You are satisfied that the financial statements of the charity are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

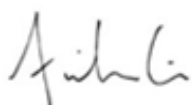
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity has prepared its financial statements on an accruals basis and is also registered in Scotland, or the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in Regulation 11(2) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 44(1)(a) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Ainsley Gill

23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH
12 December 2025

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

| Current financial year | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Notes | 2025 £ | 2025 £ | 2025 £ | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 40,832 | - | - | 40,832 | 10,326 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 33,565 | - | 307,613 | 341,178 | 459,290 |
| Investments | 5 | 950 | - | - | 950 | 8,010 |
| Other income | 6 | 113,327 | - | - | 113,327 | 101,413 |
| Total income | | <u>188,674</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>307,613</u> | <u>496,287</u> | <u>579,039</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 72,394 | 16,732 | 365,676 | 454,802 | 792,533 |
| Total expenditure | | <u>72,394</u> | <u>16,732</u> | <u>365,676</u> | <u>454,802</u> | <u>792,533</u> |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | <u>116,280</u> | <u>(16,732)</u> | <u>(58,063)</u> | <u>41,485</u> | <u>(213,494)</u> |
| Transfers between funds | | <u>(32,007)</u> | <u>37,759</u> | <u>(5,752)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net movement in funds | | <u>84,273</u> | <u>21,027</u> | <u>(63,815)</u> | <u>41,485</u> | <u>(213,494)</u> |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2024 | | <u>36,112</u> | <u>35,980</u> | <u>96,440</u> | <u>168,532</u> | <u>382,026</u> |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2025 | | <u>120,385</u> | <u>57,007</u> | <u>32,625</u> | <u>210,017</u> | <u>168,532</u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

| Prior financial year | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Notes | 2024 £ | 2024 £ | 2024 £ | 2024 £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 10,326 | - | - | 10,326 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 27,140 | - | 432,150 | 459,290 |
| Investments | 5 | 8,010 | - | - | 8,010 |
| Other income | 6 | 101,413 | - | - | 101,413 |
| Total income | | 146,889 | - | 432,150 | 579,039 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 205,388 | 36,586 | 550,559 | 792,533 |
| Total expenditure | | 205,388 | 36,586 | 550,559 | 792,533 |
| Net income | | (58,499) | (36,586) | (118,409) | (213,494) |
| Transfers between funds | | (26,465) | - | 26,465 | - |
| Net movement in funds | | (84,964) | (36,586) | (91,944) | (213,494) |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2023 | | 121,076 | 72,566 | 188,384 | 382,026 |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2024 | | 36,112 | 35,980 | 96,440 | 168,532 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

| | Notes | 2025 | | 2024 | |
|---|-------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 12 | | 508 | | 822 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 13 | 30,347 | | 27,685 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 236,896 | | 202,200 | |
| | | <u>267,243</u> | | <u>229,885</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 14 | <u>(57,734)</u> | | <u>(62,175)</u> | |
| Net current assets | | | <u>209,509</u> | | <u>167,710</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | <u><u>210,017</u></u> | | <u><u>168,532</u></u> |
| The funds of the charity | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 19 | | 32,625 | | 96,440 |
| Designated funds | 17 | | 57,007 | | 35,980 |
| Unrestricted funds | 18 | | 120,385 | | 36,112 |
| | | | <u>210,017</u> | | <u>168,532</u> |

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 11 December 2025



K Sparrow-Robins
Trustee

Company registration number 4822073 (England and Wales)

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

FertilityNetwork UK is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 23 St Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1HH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Such funds are subject to certain conditions agreed by the Trustees and used in accordance with the majority decision of the Trustees from time to time.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the charity are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the charity can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of financial activities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising and publicity costs include general advertising and promotion of the charity and its objectives.

Governance costs include costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's activities.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

A liability will arise when the charity is under an obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party. Where costs cannot be attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 20% per annum on a straight line basis |
|--------------------------------|--|

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Donations and gifts | 40,832 | 10,326 |

4 Income from charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2025 £ | Total Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Restricted funds 2024 £ | Total 2024 £ |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Fundraising income | | | | | |
| Fundraising income | 33,565 | - | 33,565 | 27,140 | 27,140 |
| Grants receivable | | | | | |
| Performancerelated grants | - | 307,313 | 307,313 | 432,150 | 432,150 |
| Other income | | | | | |
| Otherincome | - | 300 | 300 | - | - |
| | <u>33,565</u> | <u>307,613</u> | <u>341,178</u> | <u>432,150</u> | <u>459,290</u> |

5 Income from investments

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 £ | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Interest receivable | 950 | 8,010 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Other income

| | Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| | £ | £ |
| Miscellaneous | 66 | 350 |
| Sponsorship | 112,261 | 87,063 |
| The Fertility Show income | 1,000 | 14,000 |
| | <u>113,327</u> | <u>101,413</u> |

7 Charitable activities

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 322,350 | 473,906 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 316 | 316 |
| Activities undertaken directly | 73,387 | 191,531 |
| | <u>398,205</u> | <u>668,585</u> |
| Share of governance costs (see note 10) | 56,597 | 123,948 |
| | <u>454,802</u> | <u>792,533</u> |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 72,394 | 205,388 |
| Designated funds | 16,732 | 36,586 |
| Restricted funds | 365,676 | 550,559 |
| | <u>454,802</u> | <u>792,533</u> |

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Employees

The average monthly number employees (including full time and part time staff) during the year was:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Number |
| | 21 | 25 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Employment costs

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 315,849 | 463,980 |
| Social security costs | 13,782 | 17,721 |
| Other pension costs | 4,231 | 7,680 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Redundancy and termination payments totalling £15,146 were made in the reporting period.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Key management has been determined to be the trustees and 3 members of the senior management team (2024: 5). Trustees receive no remuneration or benefits.

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aggregate compensation | 79,278 | 150,269 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

10 Governance costs

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 11,512 | 15,474 |
| Legal and professional | 45,085 | 108,474 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | 56,597 | 123,948 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Analysed between | | |
| Charitable activities | 56,597 | 123,948 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

All costs are allocated based on estimated actual use of service provision.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

| | Fixtures, fittings & equipment £ |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Cost | |
| At 1 April 2024 | 33,070 |
| Additions | 614 |
| | <u>33,684</u> |
| At 31 March 2025 | 33,684 |
| Depreciation and impairment | |
| At 1 April 2024 | 32,247 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 929 |
| | <u>33,176</u> |
| At 31 March 2025 | 33,176 |
| Carrying amount | |
| At 31 March 2025 | <u>508</u> |
| At 31 March 2024 | <u>822</u> |

13 Debtors

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| Trade debtors | 25,571 | 21,498 |
| Other debtors | 4,776 | 4,327 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | - | 1,860 |
| | <u>30,347</u> | <u>27,685</u> |

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | Notes | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Other taxation and social security | | 3,037 | 4,111 |
| Deferred income | 15 | 26,642 | 31,657 |
| Trade creditors | | 12,911 | 14,887 |
| Accruals | | 15,144 | 11,520 |
| | | <u>57,734</u> | <u>62,175</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Deferred income

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other deferred income | 26,642 | 31,657 |
| | <u>26,642</u> | <u>31,657</u> |

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income is included within: | | |
| Current liabilities | 26,642 | 31,657 |
| | <u>26,642</u> | <u>31,657</u> |
| Movements in the year: | | |
| Deferred income at 1 April 2024 | 31,657 | 142,563 |
| Released from previous periods | (5,015) | (110,906) |
| | <u>26,642</u> | <u>31,657</u> |
| Deferred income at 31 March 2025 | <u>26,642</u> | <u>31,657</u> |

16 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £4,231 (2024 - £7,680).

17 Designated funds

To provide funds to deliver a refreshed long-term strategy and business plan for the charity together with governance improvements. This is to ensure that the charity is in robust financial health for the foreseeable future.

| | At 1 April | Resources | Transfers | At 31 March |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | 2024 | expended | £ | 2025 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | 35,980 | (16,732) | 37,759 | 57,007 |
| | <u>35,980</u> | <u>(16,732)</u> | <u>37,759</u> | <u>57,007</u> |
| Previous year: | | | | |
| | At 1 April | Resources | Transfers | At 31 March |
| | 2023 | expended | £ | 2024 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | 72,566 | (36,586) | - | 35,980 |
| | <u>72,566</u> | <u>(36,586)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>35,980</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

| | At 1 April 2024 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Match funding | At 31 March 2025 |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 36,112 | 188,674 | (72,394) | 13,427 | (45,434) | 120,385 |
| | <u>36,112</u> | <u>188,674</u> | <u>(72,394)</u> | <u>13,427</u> | <u>(45,434)</u> | <u>120,385</u> |
| Previous year: | At 1 April 2023 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Match funding | At 31 March 2024 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 121,076 | 146,889 | (205,388) | 17,245 | (43,710) | 36,112 |
| | <u>121,076</u> | <u>146,889</u> | <u>(205,388)</u> | <u>17,245</u> | <u>(43,710)</u> | <u>36,112</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

| | Movement in funds | | | | | Movement in funds | | | | | Balance at 31 March 2025 £ |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Balance at 1 April 2023 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | Match Funding £ | Balance at 1 April 2024 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Match Funding £ | Transfers £ | |
| Health & Social Care Board | 8,088 | 40,800 | (42,588) | - | - | 6,299 | 45,308 | (38,319) | - | - | 13,288 |
| Scottish Government Health Board Project & Options | 16,766 | 48,768 | (63,162) | - | - | 2,372 | - | (1,195) | - | (1,177) | - |
| Scottish Government Fertility Education Project | 56,572 | 46,235 | (68,446) | (6,000) | - | 28,361 | - | (23,829) | - | (4,532) | - |
| Belfast Cathedral Sit Out Appeal | 2,825 | 850 | (362) | - | - | 3,313 | 880 | - | - | - | 4,193 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Network Scotland Projects | 29,108 | - | - | - | - | 29,108 | - | - | - | (29,108) | - |
| Scottish Volunteer Project | 1,801 | 19,098 | (17,672) | - | - | 3,227 | - | (285) | - | (2,942) | - |
| VCSE Health & Wellbeing Fund | 14,592 | 110,729 | (141,418) | 1,055 | 15,041 | - | 111,544 | (112,140) | 15,649 | - | 15,053 |
| TNL Community Grant | 36,822 | 71,209 | (102,274) | - | 17,057 | 22,814 | 45,485 | (71,174) | 17,057 | (14,182) | - |
| GAIA | - | - | - | - | - | - | 250 | (259) | - | 9 | - |
| Scottish Maternal & Infant Health & Wellbeing Grant | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15,000 | (14,913) | - | - | 87 |
| TNL Community Fund England | 9,509 | 94,460 | (114,637) | - | 11,612 | 944 | 89,146 | (103,564) | 12,728 | 746 | - |
| | <u>188,384</u> | <u>432,150</u> | <u>(550,559)</u> | <u>(17,245)</u> | <u>43,710</u> | <u>96,440</u> | <u>307,613</u> | <u>(365,677)</u> | <u>45,434</u> | <u>(51,186)</u> | <u>32,621</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Health & Social Care Board - Successful bid for tender to provide a part-time support coordinator, a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and the coordination and delivery of support to local patient groups.

Scottish Government - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Scotland, to work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland, and to produce patient information packs.

Scottish Government Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

St Anne's Cathedral Sit-Out Fund - To run workshops for the More to Life Group in Northern Ireland and provide some funding for Fertility Network Support Groups not covered by other funding.

Scottish Government Project - To work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland and to produce patient information packs.

Scottish Volunteer Project - Match funding from the Scottish Government to employ a Volunteer Coordinator.

VCSE Health & Wellbeing Fund: Women's Reproductive Wellbeing in the workplace - to provide support, guidance and signposting to assist people experiencing reproductive health issues to remain in and return to the workplace.

TNL Community Grant - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Wales, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Wales. To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Wales to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

TNL Community Grant England - This project will provide increased support and information to increase our reach in order that more people are supported on their fertility journey. Dedicating resource to engage and support LGBTQ, Ethnic minority, women over 40 and male community. Increase the number of volunteers in the network with a focus on geographical areas where there are none.

GAIA - Sponsorship of a face-to-face event to support raising awareness of male infertility.

Scottish Maternal and Infant Health Improving Health and Wellbeing Grant Funding - Pregnancy loss and weight-loss project - Development of support services to support people on a fertility journey with pregnancy loss and weight loss.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

All of the above grants were received after successful application for funding by Fertility Network UK.

All of the grants are restricted to expenditure as agreed with the grant body during the application process.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

| | Services received | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| | £ | £ |
| Other related parties | - | 120 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| At 31 March 2025: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 508 | - | - | 508 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 119,877 | 57,007 | 32,625 | 209,509 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | <u>120,385</u> | <u>57,007</u> | <u>32,625</u> | <u>210,017</u> |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | | | | |
| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
| | 2024 | 2024 | 2024 | 2024 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| At 31 March 2024: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 822 | - | - | 822 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 35,290 | 35,980 | 96,440 | 167,710 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | <u>36,112</u> | <u>35,980</u> | <u>96,440</u> | <u>168,532</u> |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1099960

Accounts

Annual Report and Accounts

2023-2024



fertilitynetworkuk

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

| | |
|---|--|
| Charity number (England and Wales) | 1099960 |
| Charity number (Scotland) | SC039511 |
| Company number | 4822073 |
| Registered office | 23 St Leonards Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH |
| Accountants | McPhersons CFG Ltd 23 St Leonards Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH |
| Auditors | Sumer Auditco Ltd Unit 2, Gosforth Park Avenue Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8EG |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank PLC 25 Cornhill Bridgwater TA6 3AY |

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Welcome from our Board of Trustees

This year has been incredibly special for the charity in that we reached an impressive milestone: Our 20-year anniversary of supporting beneficiaries with our critical work. The board of trustees were truly honoured and proud to see so much support at the celebratory event, raising awareness of our industry.

The trustees have dedicated a huge amount of time along with trusted partners at McPhersons and CounterCulture to ensure the charity can deliver its work. We're looking forward to the coming year, and indeed the following two decades. We plan to build on the great momentum the staff and volunteers have created focusing our efforts on providing support in modern ways in line with beneficiary needs.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "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).

About Fertility Network UK

Our Mission

Fertility Network UK aims to continue being the leading charity across the UK in the provision of a comprehensive support network for those facing fertility challenges at all stages of their journey, providing information, education as well as practical and emotional support.

Our Objectives

- To relieve the suffering from infertility particularly through the provision of information, advice, and support.
- To uphold the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK for all sufferers of infertility, subfertility, and secondary infertility.
- To support the needs of persons suffering from infertility through the provision of inter alia, a network of local support groups, a support line service, a website and a regular magazine and e-newsletter;
- To advance public education about all aspects of fertility and infertility;
- To raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media and in general, in an informed, responsible manner; and
- To encourage and assist continuing research of the broadest nature into infertility and its various effects.

What We Do

- Provision of information, advice, and support to people suffering from infertility
- Unbiased and free information on our website (www.fertilitynetworkuk.org)
- Network of support groups across the nations, online groups and webinars
- Information & Support telephone advice line
- Employer and employee support
- Support the provision of an equitable system of publicly-funded fertility treatment
- Advancing public education
- Engaging young people to understand how to care for their future fertility
- Provide patient representation on professional committees
- Provide a patient voice

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

In considering the operation, achievements and performance and finances of the Trust, the trustees are satisfied that public benefit has been provided in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and guidance provided by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and the Charity Commission.

Highlights of the Year

20th birthday celebrations

Fertility Network celebrated 20 years of providing free and impartial information and support on 5 July 2023. In February 2024, we held a fantastic event at the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, London to commemorate 20 years of Fertility Network UK. It was a wonderful evening, bringing together beneficiaries, health professionals, sister organisations, former staff and trustees and so many people who have supported and worked with the charity over the last two decades.

The MP Alex Davies-Jones, who has spoken publicly about her own fertility journey and the impact this had on her, as well as campaigning for tighter regulation of IVF add-ons, sponsored this event and opened the evening. We were also privileged to welcome, as our guests of honour, Grace McDonald, one of the world's very first fertility patients, and her son Alastair McDonald, the world's first IVF boy. We also heard from former trustee and IVF campaigner Jessica Hepburn, whose fertility journey began two decades ago – as Fertility Network came into being.

Thanks to everyone who joined us to celebrate Fertility Network at 20!

“The anniversary event was a wonderful occasion...It was lovely to chat with an FNUK volunteer during the evening. The speeches were inspiring and at times very moving, and the video of fertility patients was a fantastic and powerful way to close...”

Event Attendee



“...the event was fabulous – you guys did a brilliant job. As was said on the night, here’s to another 20 years of your brilliant work.”

Event Attendee

Highlights of the Year

National Fertility Awareness Week 2023 #Forward4Fertility

The 11th National Fertility Awareness Week gained widespread attention and support across digital and traditional broadcast media across the week. There was significant media coverage for our survey investigating the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on fertility patients. More details can be found in our report [here](#). We gave press, radio and TV interviews and coverage featured many of our media volunteers.

Our research was mentioned by the chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), Julia Chain, during the fertility conference held by charity Progress Education Trust in December 2023, and at the British Fertility Society's Fertility 24 conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in January 2024.

During the week we celebrated 20 years of Fertility Network UK, we signposted support for beneficiaries, released two surveys and one campaign. We had an amazing line-up of events throughout the week. These included webinars, panel discussions, Instagram lives and more, and held events with sister organisations and stakeholders; the theme of the week and our 20th birthday celebrations was #Forward4Fertility

Our webinars focused on specific communities, including ethnic minority communities, LGBTQ+, More To Life (childless not by choice), HIMfertility (male fertility), Fertility in the Workplace and fertility education.

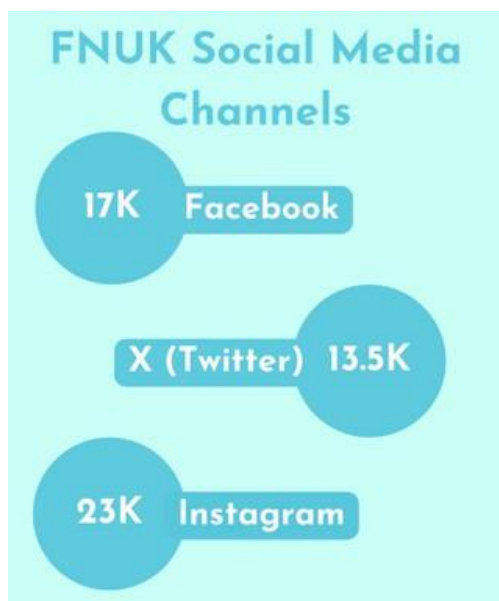
We launched our fertility education campaign, Finding your Fertility Freedom, with Merck. This was aimed at Gen Z and ran over a period of weeks, with the first part of the campaign: 20 questions for 20 somethings (as Fertility Network celebrates 20 years!) launches on our website, on Refinery 29's website, and via ads.

We launched the largest Fertility in The Workplace survey yet with Fertifa. It revealed the impact of juggling fertility treatment and work. The figures obtained from this survey have shaped some of the content provided in education programmes developed by our Fertility in the Workplace team. More details in the report can be found [here](#).

Highlights of the Year

Social Media

Alongside our growing online communities Health Unlocked, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram, in June 2023, we launched Fertility in the Workplace (FiTW) social media accounts on LinkedIn and Instagram. Our FiTW LinkedIn account has 156 followers, and our Instagram account has 432 followers. We also created a Fertility in the Workplace mailing list which launched in September 2023 and currently has 283 subscribers.



Recognising Trauma in Infertility

Our Northern Ireland team is collaborating with Queen’s University, Belfast to develop a research project ‘Trauma in Infertility’. This research aims to investigate the incidence and impact that fertility issues have on the social and emotional wellbeing of those affected. Particularly around psychological trauma. This was a result of our virtual event in November 2022 for UK and Ireland healthcare professionals. We worked with key UK researchers and the British Infertility Counselling Association to develop the survey.

The trauma survey launched in October 2023 and the response was overwhelming. With 875 responses submitted, 590 of which were completed within the first 3 weeks. Our original target was 300-400. This response highlighted the huge need and interest in this research. The research data will be released during National Fertility Awareness Week 2024.

Highlights of the Year

Educating young people

Our project 'Your Future Fertility' educates young people on lifestyle choices which could impact their future fertility. The project has continued to grow successfully in Scotland and Wales supported by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery Community Fund Wales, respectively.

Engagement across both regions provided 3,682 responses to our survey. Feedback indicated that 97% of respondents feel that fertility and information on pathways to parenthood should be included in main stream curriculum.

We also launched our fertility education campaign targeting young adults, Finding your Fertility Freedom, with Merck

Campaigning for change

We were involved in the development of a Workplace Fertility Campaign Group to campaign for much-needed change in employment legislation, support anti-discrimination in the workplace and to protect the rights of those undergoing fertility treatment. We worked with MP Nickie Aiken, supporting her fertility workplace pledge which encourages employers to pledge to provide the support and understanding fertility patients need from their workplace. Nickie actively engaged in a parliamentary bill for employee rights around fertility and the group supported this as well as the development of a proposed APPG.

Currently, those undergoing fertility treatments have no rights in the workplace and face discrimination, or anxiety around potential discrimination. As a result they often have to hide their treatment despite it being a recognised medical condition. We are privileged to be part of campaigning for change in this area and hope this will lead to a marked difference for beneficiaries in the workplace in the future. In March 2024 the Workplace Fertility Campaign Group presented a White Paper to MPs on **'The Impact of Fertility Challenges in the Workplace'**

Highlights of the Year

Surveys & Research

Cost of Living

Launched in Fertility Awareness Week 2023, we investigated the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on fertility patients. We revealed that soaring living costs coupled with rising fertility treatment fees and a lack of NHS-funded fertility care are pricing fertility patients out of the chance to become parents and forcing them into unwelcome and potentially hazardous choices.

The survey highlighted patients' actions to fund expensive private care, including maxing out credit cards, cashing in pensions, selling homes, stalling careers, cancelling weddings and more. It also revealed the majority of patients said their fertility clinic had not taken any positive action to help them during this time, with nearly a quarter stating their clinic's actions had exacerbated the effects of the cost-of-living crisis.

The survey of nearly **200 UK fertility patients** revealed the vast majority of respondents **(95%) were experiencing or had experienced financial worries in relation to fertility treatment. For most (92%), these problems were being or had been exacerbated by the current cost-of-living crisis.**

Half of respondents (49%) said the combination of the cost-of-living crisis, the lack of NHS-funded help and the high cost of private care meant they were currently unable to move forward with fertility treatment – potentially jeopardising their future chances of becoming parents.

For patients able to continue with treatment, they reported taking cost cutting action. The survey revealed that some patients were not able to have their preferred treatment option because of cost constraints. In some cases these options had potential health risks for women and any children, or were unwanted or unwelcome options.

The full report is available on our website [here](#). The British Fertility Society and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists commented in our press release.

Highlights of the Year

Surveys & Research

Impact of Fertility Challenges in the Workplace

03 November 2023, London UK: Capping off Fertility Awareness Week, a nationwide survey, commissioned by Fertifa and Fertility Network UK collated over **3,600 responses** to reveal the profound and extensive impact of fertility challenges on individuals in the workplace. This is the largest survey ever conducted in the UK on fertility for working professionals, and the results are too significant to ignore.

Three out of four (75%) people navigating fertility challenges said that their productivity at work was strongly impacted. Despite this, over one-third of these people received very little or no support from their employer. This reveals the serious lack of workplace support, as people struggle to manage necessary medical care with their work lives, leaving employees feeling overwhelmed and unable to cope.

The impact of this can be hugely detrimental to an individual's career long-term. Almost one in five (18%) people quit their jobs or took a significant change in responsibilities, because of the impact fertility treatment was having on their lives.

This survey aligned with our Cost of Living survey in identifying that the hidden costs of fertility treatment which extend far beyond the treatment in itself; the financial impact of fertility challenges can be long-term. The data showed that people (often women) often have to take unpaid leave, or reduce their hours to cope with fertility challenges. To compound this, people are not prepared for the financial impact of fertility challenges; 95% of women surveyed said they were not prepared financially for fertility treatment.

View the full report [here](#)

This survey went on to form part of the content of the White Paper presented to MPs as part of the Fertility Workplace Campaign Group.

Spotlight on our Services

Fertility in the Workplace

Alongside the work with the Fertility Workplace Campaign Group and the Fertifa survey. We have developed our Fertility in the Workplace initiative's programmes and resources with funding from the DHSC and VCSE Health and Wellbeing-funded project. This aims to support women in small-to-medium enterprises, business owners and self-employed women in England providing free workplace education and support.

The team have supported **39 SMEs** this year and **over 1,000 women** accessed online support, received 1:1 support or attended workshops.

This year Fertility in the Workplace has developed:

Improved support packages for workplaces launched in March 2024. These packages provide resources, access to our exclusive wellbeing in the workplace members page, 1:1 support for employees with our experienced team, support for workplace Ambassadors and support in implementing a fertility policy. This includes a badge of recognition for employers who sign up to our support packages to indicate to existing and potential employees that they will receive support from the organisation while navigating fertility struggles, in addition to raising awareness of support available through Fertility Network UK.

Wellbeing in the Workplace: This year we supported **232 women** through these programmes including mindfulness, mental health, nutrition and peer to peer support. We have developed a members page providing hints and tips for wellbeing in the workplace and recorded wellbeing sessions.

Clinic Pledge & Bourn Hall Partnership: At the end of 2023, we partnered with Bourn Hall Fertility Clinic to look at how clinics can best support their patients to navigate workplace commitments alongside fertility treatments.

Workplace Ambassadors: This programme invites ambassadors within their organization to encourage managers to develop workplace policies and strategies to support their staff in navigating fertility treatments. The role provides direct support for those who are experiencing fertility struggles within the organisation. We have engaged **7 Workplace Ambassadors** since launching in September 2023.



Spotlight on our Services

Fertility Network UK in England

With the support of The National Lottery Community Fund – Reaching Communities England, we have provided one-to-one information and support, via text, social media, phone and email to **3,780 individuals**. We engaged with **6,543 members** of our regional Facebook groups in England.



We have **34 regional fertility groups** and continue to host online peer-to-peer meetings. Our intention is to streamline our online activities to increase attendance, extending opportunities for members to connect with others on a similar journey.

Through our **Clinic Ambassador** programme we have established links to bridge gaps between our services, clinic staff and patients, with over half the fertility clinics within London and nearly three-quarters of the fertility clinics across the rest of England. England team members have attended **community events** and engaged with other stakeholder organisations, including LGBTQ+ community groups, ethnic minority community groups and women's health organisations.

Our **Wellbeing Programme** in England continues to flourish with over 750 people supported through Yoga, Mindfulness and Nutrition courses.

The England team hosted **webinars, information and Q&A Sessions** with guest speakers throughout the year. These included general fertility information and advice, discussions about topics for coping with specific events and information sessions relevant to target audiences. These sessions see an average of 30 attendees each.

The Ethnic Minorities Communities project continues to support people from racialised and minoritised communities in England. This year we ran wellbeing courses, events and talks for people from ethnic minority communities. Further outreach and engagement activities included liaising with community organisations and delivering workshops at conferences. These activities provided valuable insights about the needs of racially marginalised communities. The HFEA's 'Ethnic diversity in fertility treatment 2021' report was published in December 2023, and we continue to work collaboratively with the HFEA to address the issues raised in the report findings.

Spotlight on our Services

Fertility Network UK in Wales

With the support from The National Lottery Community Fund Wales, we have supported **784 people**. Across our four private groups (South & West Wales, Mid and West Wales, North Wales, All-Wales LGBTQ+) we have 740 members. Regular meetings of the All-Wales group include both peer support meetings and meetings with expert speakers.



We attended many events including Pride Cymru, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and online training events, where we spoke to event-goers about the support the charity provides and gave out information regarding fertility and fertility treatment to members of the public.

We launched the inaugural 'Walk & Talk' in Cardiff, Wales. This was a pilot project launched in the capital to reach as many people as possible and enable people on a fertility journey to connect with each other in the outside whilst having a gentle walk. Since the launch, we have also established a 'walk and talk' WhatsApp group for members to connect between walks. The walks have continued as a volunteer led project meeting regularly with between 7 and 12 attendees.

We delivered **4 emotional impact training sessions** with 110 tertiary clinic consultants, nurses, and admin staff, GPs & Obs & Gynae registrars. 249 people took part in 19 information and awareness sessions.

We attended 23 events at colleges and universities and had 645 responses to our survey looking at fertility education.

We attended the Women in the Workplace event as a guest speaker on Fertility in the Workplace at the CIPD conference in Cardiff, with 22 employers present.

We completed a pilot project into 'Fertility in the Community' working with two GP practices in South Wales who referred patients directly to Fertility Network UK, should they identify a need for our support services.

We continued to provide webinar sessions, with guest speakers covering topics such as 'Unexplained Infertility', 'Options for remaining embryos', 'PCOS' and 'Coping with friendship changes'. Topics were chosen by members – with everything we do, we try to co-produce our support with our beneficiaries and put their voice at the centre of the support we provide.

Spotlight on our Services

Fertility Network UK in Northern Ireland

With the support of the Department of Health via the Belfast Health Trust and the Belfast Cathedral Black Santa Sit-out Fund, we have:

In February 2024, the Health Minister Robin Swann announced that **publicly-funded IVF treatment** would increase from one partial cycle to one full cycle for eligible women. Previously, eligible women were entitled to one fresh and one frozen embryo transfer (FET) (or two frozen if wasn't possible to transfer a fresh embryo for clinical reasons), even if the first transfer resulted in a live birth. With the increase in provision, women who do not have a live birth from either of these transfers and have been placed on the waiting list for their publicly funded IVF/ICSI treatment on or after 1 October 2022, and still have frozen embryos, are entitled to further FET until they have a live birth, or all remaining frozen embryos have been transferred. Fertility Network UK was pleased to be part of this project board and involved in communicating with members about what the increase in provision means for patients.

More to Life in Northern Ireland: This year we developed our support for the MTL group in Northern Ireland. We increased the opportunities for face-to-face and online courses and meet-ups. Following consultation with our MTL group we provided a variety of events such as 'A Good Nutrition for Health workshop' mindfulness and CBT resources for being childless not through choice.

Donor Conception Event: We held a Donor Information evening in April hosting a panel of experts and parents with experience of donor treatment. The evening provided attendees with an opportunity to ask our panel questions about all aspects of donor conception, whether considering the process to how to speak to a donor conception child about their conception.

Wellbeing programmes: These continued this year with courses in mindfulness, covering topics such as Self Compassion and Loving Kindness and Nourishing Happiness and Resourcing. The course was delivered by Veronica Ellis, who provided attendees follow up recordings to practice mindfulness and mediation.

Spotlight on our Services

Fertility Network UK in Scotland

With the support of the Scottish government, we attended a number of events including the National Care Bereavement Pathway Conference and Baby Loss Awareness Week Alliance meetings. We presented at the IBSA Nurses meeting, and Living with Endometriosis event.

The Scotland team organised and presented regular peer support groups for beneficiaries for the trying to conceive (TTC) community in Scotland.

Fertility Network Scotland continued to offer support to beneficiaries through closed Facebook groups, WhatsApp groups and online meetings. Membership of the 4 Facebook groups increased by 177 totaling **705** by April 2024. Membership of the 9 WhatsApp groups increased by 103 to **over 830** members. These groups include support for beneficiaries with secondary infertility; solo mums, support for endometriosis and patients over 35 trying to conceive.

Your Future Fertility Project

The Scotland team attended **62 events**, promoting the Your Future Fertility (YFF) project message. These were in-person events, where staff engaged in discussions with people about the 8 wellbeing factors that can impact fertility and asked them to complete evaluation questionnaires.

The events included: 40 Fresher Events; 12 Refresher Events; 9 Health and Wellbeing events and 1 event for International Women's Day. A total of **3,037** questionnaires were completed and **8,220 young people** were engaged with.

We presented to 30 Medical Students about the emotional impact of fertility issues and treatment. Highlighting the support offered by FNUK and the YFF project.

Our engagement on social media for Your Future Fertility was a focused push. TikTok saw the largest increase in followers and reached a younger audience. The total social media reach was **75,370**; an increase of 20K since last year.

Spotlight on our Services

UK Wide Support

More to Life:

Our More to Life community continues to support beneficiaries across the UK who are living without children. We have hosted webinars and support groups as well as providing WhatsApp groups including:

- Becoming Unstuck with Meriel Whale
- NFAW 23 – Live Big and Brave with Jessica Hepburn
- My Journey with Sofia Gameiro
- Childless Voices with Lorna Gibb
- Men and Childlessness with Michael Hughes

LGBTQ+:

We have continued to develop our LGBTQ+ community groups, as people in our LGBTQ+ group, in its first incarnation, were often accidentally triggering each other. It became apparent two groups were needed – one group for those at the beginning of their journey, often filled with excitement and needing information, the second group would be for those currently undergoing treatment, where maybe they have had a few unsuccessful rounds and need peer support in what is a difficult time. Since developing this a further need was identified for those in the LGBTQ+ community who have become pregnant or gone on to become parents, and two new groups were launched to meet this need.

Our six-week LGBTQ+ Pathways to Parenthood course was well received. We collaborated with other organisations including Donor Conception Network, the Royal College of Nursing and NGA Law. The course looked at a number of topics, including legal implications, lived experience and donor conception support.

We collaborated with Maternal Mental Health Alliance to see how we can jointly support LGBTQ+ people better who might need signposting between our services and how we can promote the support each organization provides to these groups.

In addition, we attended Pride Cymru in Wales and Pride in London in 2023 and were invited to attend the Modern Family Show in London for the first time.

Spotlight on our Services

UK Wide Support

HIMfertility: This is a male-only group which supports men undergoing a fertility journey. To raise awareness of male fertility, we held an in-person, inaugural event on International Men's Day November 2023 featuring a diverse panel of experts and patients. Panel members consisted of men with lived infertility experiences, and specialists in male fertility. This group has its own mailing list which has 391 contacts to date.

Ethnic Minority Groups

Our ongoing activities have provided valuable insights about the needs of racially marginalised communities. These insights informed the launch of our Muslim Women's Fertility Support Group in November 2023 which had 39 members in its closed Facebook group by the end of the year.



The flyer features a light blue background with a white circular graphic on the right side. At the top right is the Fertility Network UK logo, a circle of blue and green dots with the text 'fertilitynetworkuk' below it. The main title 'UK-Wide Specialist Support Groups' is in large, bold, black font. Below it, the text 'We're here to support you' is in a smaller, black font. A list of support groups is presented in two columns, with each item preceded by a bullet point. At the bottom left is a QR code with a green border and the text 'SCAN ME' above it. At the bottom right, there are two lines of text: 'MONTHLY ONLINE MEETINGS' with a small blue icon of a group of people, and 'CLOSED FACEBOOK GROUPS' with the Facebook 'f' logo. The website address 'www.fertilitynetworkuk.org' is written in a large, green font at the bottom. Small text at the very bottom provides legal information: 'Fertility Network UK is a trading name of The Infertility Network (UK) Company Registration No. 4822073 Charity Registration No. 1109960 Charity Registered in Scotland No. SC230611'.

UK-Wide Specialist Support Groups

We're here to support you

- Treatment Abroad
- Moving on from Treatment
- Fertility Weight Loss
- Pregnancy After Infertility
- Secondary Infertility
- Black Women
- Muslim Women
- Pregnancy Loss
- LGBTQ+ Starting Out
- LGBTQ+
- Single Women
- South Asian
- HIMfertility
- 40 and Over
- More To Life

MONTHLY ONLINE MEETINGS

CLOSED FACEBOOK GROUPS

www.fertilitynetworkuk.org

Fertility Network UK is a trading name of The Infertility Network (UK) Company Registration No. 4822073
Charity Registration No. 1109960 Charity Registered in Scotland No. SC230611

Spotlight on our Services

Support & Information Line

This is run by two former fertility nurses, available five days a week. It has been described as a 'lifeline' by those dealing with fertility issues. Diane and Janet support people through their queries and worries. This year they have handled **1,068 calls**.



Volunteers

We could not do the work we do without our amazing volunteers: we currently have a total of **82 peer support volunteers**, 47 in England, 7 in Scotland, 12 in Wales, 16 in Northern Ireland and **158 media volunteers**. We have **11 student ambassadors**: 10 in Scotland and 1 in Wales. Five volunteer training sessions were delivered during the year with a great session from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) looking at IVF add-ons delivered by and a One Day CPD Workshop Introduction to Counselling and Listening Skills delivered by the British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA).

Our **peer support volunteers** facilitate all the regional support group meetings in England. Many of our UK groups are run by volunteers such as our Black Women's Fertility Group, HIMFertility and our Single Women Fertility Group. Peer support volunteers in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales support staff members hosting meetings but in England it is the volunteers that host these meetings.

Our **Student Ambassadors** assist with the Education Project and our **Media Volunteers** act as case studies within the news.

We created a **Fertility in the Workplace volunteer**. This enables the FiTW team to expand online learning sessions, training volunteers to provide presentations and attend events on our behalf. All our volunteers are provided with listening and counselling skills training, as well as presentation training, and have access to 1:1 support from our team. Most volunteers have investigated the FiTW Workplace Ambassador role within their own workplaces. This allows us to make the FiTW offering much wider than otherwise possible and to reach more workplaces across large geographical area allowing us to scale up our impact through FiTW.

Our Plans for the Future

Initiatives we intend to develop and grow during 2024/25:

- Increase our support and develop the platforms we deliver this support including podcasts, online chat and WhatsApp.
- Seek to diversify our beneficiary base to be more representative of the country's demographics. Including developing our support for the male fertility community.
- Continue to build on our successful work across the UK iwith workplaces.
- Seek to deepen our role as the leading resource for information and support by both patients and health professionals
- Extend our content, developing and hosting webinars facilitated by Fertility Network UK with expert speakers, offered regularly.
- Develop our fundraising team and initiatives to increase income streams and build on awareness raising.
- We hope to further diversify our income, and secure further long term grants from new supporters. Generating a diverse and sustainable income stream in 2024/25 and beyond is critical to the charity's future and on-going success.
- Our website and social channels will continue provide more opportunities to generate income, working closely with existing and new partners.
- We will build our capacity in digital and social media and will resource this to capitalise on increased demand in this space together with technology changes.
- We expect to continue to provide our services in a hybrid way, and continue to deliver many activities digitally and remotely.
- We will ensure our partnerships enhance and expand the good quality information and support we offer our service users. Continuing our work with professional organisations including HFEA, BFS, BICA and RCOG, to highlight the emotional impact, and promote the services offered by the charity.
- Our National Fertility Awareness Week initiative will continue to be a focus for providing support, raising awareness, funds, and changing perceptions. This will take place between 4-8 November 2024. We will develop a new key theme based on feedback from our beneficiaries to engage with audiences across social media.
- We will continue to lobby for increased funding for NHS fertility treatment in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We will continue our campaign to end the unfair 'postcode lottery' across England.

Thank You!

Our supporters

We are extremely grateful for the support from our partners including:

- **The Scottish Government:** To work with clinics and Health Boards on the provision of fertility services in Scotland; to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients; to raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility by working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland, and to provide recruitment and training support for our volunteers.
- **The National Lottery Community Fund Wales:** Five-year project to expand our regional network of support for infertility sufferers in Wales and to deliver the Education project across the country.
- **Health and Social Care Board, Northern Ireland:** To provide support services to local patient groups.
- **St Anne's Cathedral - Sit Out Fund:** Charitable Donation in Northern Ireland
- **The VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund, part of a partnership programme between Department of Health & Social Care, NHS England and UK Health Security Agency:** to improve health and employment outcomes for women and people experiencing reproductive health issues. The support should ensure women facing reproductive health issues can remain in and return to work with the right support.
- **The National Lottery Community Fund, England:** This project will provide increased support and information to increase our reach so that more people are supported on their fertility journey. Dedicating resource to engage and support LGBTQ, Ethnic minority, women over 40 and male community. Increase the number of volunteers in the network especially in geographical areas where there are few.

Thank You!

Our thanks go to all our supporters, including our **corporate and clinic supporters**.

A special thanks to those **small businesses** who are donating a proportion of their proceeds to Fertility Network UK.

Our Fundraisers

We are also particularly grateful to all those individuals who have made donations or carried out fundraising activities for Fertility Network UK.

Massive thanks to all our fantastic fundraisers who raised 5,758.07 this year to help support all those facing fertility challenges. Their wonderful fundraising activities included:

- **10 men, 10km, £10,000 • Race Club**
- **Pen-Y-Fan Challenge • Sky-diving**
- **Inflatable Run**

*Thank
you!*

Thanks to all our amazing donors. Thank you for your help to fund our critical work.

Thanks to volunteers. Thanks to our committed and generous volunteers, including those patients who bravely share their stories for the benefit of all our beneficiaries.

Thanks to staff. We are grateful to our passionate staff who deliver our activities for our beneficiaries.

Thanks to those departing. During 2023/2024 we said goodbye to some of our Trustees and team members. We would like to thank them for their service to Fertility Network UK and wish them all every success in the future.

Structure, Governance & Management

Governance

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by Articles of Association. The number of Trustees shall not be less than 4 and not more than 10 (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects. The Trustees are each members of the company and have no beneficial interest therein and guarantee to contribute £1.00 in the event of a winding up.

Trustees 23-24

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Fiona Erasmus (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 22/03/24)

Michelle Townsend (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 23/02/24)

Hiranjit Rana (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 20/12/23)

Sabi Chawla (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 27/03/24)

Claire Hiron (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 26/03/24)

Kathryn Sparrow Robins (appointed 26/09/23)

Laura-Rose Thorogood (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 27/03/24)

Hannah Waller (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 21/03/24)

Sophie Giddings (appointed 26/09/23)

Andrew Baines-Vosper (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 20/12/23)

Hannah Graham (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 07/09/24)

Holly Atkinson (appointed 26/09/23)

Katherine Raven (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 18/03/24)

Joanna Louise Binding (resigned 31/03/24)

Rachel Bodner (resigned 27/02/24)

Francesca Claire Raine (resigned 21/02/24)

Isla Billett (resigned 23/02/24)

Katie DeLay (appointed 26/09/23, resigned 23/02/24)

Thanks to those Trustees who joined us this year for their contribution and commitment, and to those who departed, we are very grateful for your support, time and energy.

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board meets quarterly and as necessary. The Chief Executive, Catherine Hill (from May 2023 to October 2023), Sarah Fowler (October 2023 to February 2024) and Becky Kearns (February 2024) were appointed by the Board of Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity and have overall responsibility for managing the charity's operations and employees. The Board delegates to the Finance and Risk Committee for further support and scrutiny.

Structure, Governance & Management

Appointment of Trustees

A simple majority of trustees must approve the appointment of any new trustee.

Trustee Induction and training

New trustees undergo orientation to brief them on their obligations under charity law, they receive a trustee handbook (which includes the content of the Articles, description of the committee structures and decision-making processes, and their obligations under charity law), the business plan and documentation of the recent financial performance of the Charity. During the initial period, they meet key employees and other trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Remuneration policy

It is the wish of the Trustees that the charity pay fairly and in-line with the current salary benchmarking guidelines for the sector.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in the charity. Their contribution and enthusiasm is essential for us to deliver the quality of our support services. We offer support to all our volunteers from our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator and regional staff teams. We currently have a total of 226 volunteers, 73 in England, 22 in Scotland, 14 in Wales, 7 in Northern Ireland and 110 media volunteers.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The finance and risk committee meets to provide further support and scrutiny of our finances and our risk register. The key risks identified include: loss of income from our largest donors (grants and trusts), and our governance arrangements including the turnover of Trustees.

Trustees are working with the staff to put in place plans to mitigate these risks and are using designated reserves to provide support and relevant resources. Designated reserves are to be used to support governance improvement and the growth of our impact.

Governance Statement

The Charity made a serious incident report ("RSI") in early 2023, and in the following months the trustees spent considerable time investigating and resolving the matter. The Charity Commission were fully satisfied with the investigation the Board of Trustees took and closed the regulatory compliance case in July 2023.

Financial Review

Financial Review

It is a challenging time for any charity, but as the cost of living crisis impacts not only fertility patients, it also puts pressure on our generous donors. Yet we are proud to report through dedication of an exceptional team of staff and volunteers, our total income for the year was £579,039 enabling the charity to continue with vast levels of impactful work. Compared to income of £638,297 in the previous year this is still an amazing effort.

Income & Expenditure

Of the total income, £432,150 (2023: £463,661) was restricted income. The income change is mostly as a result of a reduction in restricted grants, where the landscape has changed enormously. Total expenditure was £792,533 (2023: £644,363) leading to a deficit for the year of £213,494 (2023: deficit £6,066). This included some one-off exceptional expenditure incurred during the year for unavoidable and necessary HR, legal and professional services.

Total reserves at the year-end were £168,532 (2023: £382,026) of which restricted funds were £96,440 (2023: £188,384), unrestricted funds of £36,112 (2023: £121,078) and designated funds of £35,980 (2023: £72,566).

Reserve Policy

The Board of Trustees revised the Reserves Policy from “6 to 9 months” of normal unrestricted expenditure to “6 months”, which the board has deemed a sufficient time frame to run the organisation without any income. In line with this policy, there were sufficient unrestricted reserves available at 31 March 2024 to achieve this.

The 'free reserves' of the charity (defined as those unrestricted funds not designated for specific purposes or tied up in fixed assets) stood at £35,290 at the yearend (2023: £119,938).

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees 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).

Charity 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Sumer Auditco Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by Sophie Giddings.



Sophie Giddings

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Sophie Giddings, Katy Sparrow Robins, Holly Atkinsons, John O'Neil, Kiren Samra

19 December 2024

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Fertility Network UK (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the following laws and regulations are significant to the entity:

- Those laws and regulations considered to have a direct effect on the financial statements including UK financial reporting standards, Company Law and Charity Law.
- Those laws and regulations for which non-compliance may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the charity and therefore may have a material effect on the financial statements include compliance with charitable objectives, public benefit, fundraising regulations, safeguarding and health and safety legislation.

These matters were discussed amongst the engagement team at the planning stage and the team remained alert throughout the audit.

Audit procedures undertaken in response to the potential risks relating to irregularities (which include fraud and noncompliance with laws and regulations) comprised of: inquiries of management and the Trustees as to whether the entity complies with such laws and regulations; enquiries with the same concerning any actual or potential litigation or claims; inspection of relevant legal correspondence and legal costs incurred; review of Trustee meeting minutes; testing the appropriateness of journal entries; and the performance of analytical review to identify unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters on which we are required to report

The prior year financial statements were not subject to audit and therefore the comparative figures in the financial statements are unaudited.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Maxine Pott
Senior statutory auditor
For and on behalf of Sumer Auditco Limited
Statutory Auditor
Unit 2, Gosforth Park Avenue
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8EG

20 December 2024

Sumer Auditco Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

| Current financial year | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Notes | 2024 £ | 2024 £ | 2024 £ | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 10,326 | - | - | 10,326 | 25,205 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 27,140 | - | 432,150 | 459,290 | 490,139 |
| Investments | 5 | 8,010 | - | - | 8,010 | 576 |
| Other income | 6 | 101,413 | - | - | 101,413 | 122,377 |
| Total income | | 146,889 | - | 432,150 | 579,039 | 638,297 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 205,388 | 36,586 | 550,559 | 792,533 | 644,363 |
| Total expenditure | | 205,388 | 36,586 | 550,559 | 792,533 | 644,363 |
| Net expenditure | | (58,499) | (36,586) | (118,409) | (213,494) | (6,066) |
| Transfers between funds | | (26,465) | - | 26,465 | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | (84,964) | (36,586) | (91,944) | (213,494) | (6,066) |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2023 | | 121,076 | 72,566 | 188,384 | 382,026 | 388,092 |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2024 | | 36,112 | 35,980 | 96,440 | 168,532 | 382,026 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

| Prior financial year | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2023 £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 25,205 | - | - | 25,205 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 26,478 | - | 463,661 | 490,139 |
| Investments | 5 | 576 | - | - | 576 |
| Other income | 6 | 122,377 | - | - | 122,377 |
| Total income | | 174,636 | - | 463,661 | 638,297 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 179,465 | - | 464,898 | 644,363 |
| Total expenditure | | 179,465 | - | 464,898 | 644,363 |
| Net income | | (4,829) | - | (1,237) | (6,066) |
| Transfers between funds | | (124,060) | 72,566 | 51,494 | - |
| Net movement in funds | | (128,889) | 72,566 | 50,257 | (6,066) |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2022 | | 249,965 | - | 138,127 | 388,092 |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2023 | | 121,076 | 72,566 | 188,384 | 382,026 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

| | | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Notes | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | | 822 | | 1,138 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 27,685 | | 12,278 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 202,200 | | 601,298 | |
| | | <u>229,885</u> | | <u>613,576</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 15 | 62,175 | | 232,688 | |
| Net current assets | | | 167,710 | | 380,888 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | <u>168,532</u> | | <u>382,026</u> |
| The funds of the charity | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 20 | 96,440 | | 188,384 | |
| Designated funds | 18 | 35,980 | | 72,566 | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 36,112 | | 121,076 | |
| | | | <u>168,532</u> | | <u>382,026</u> |

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 19 December 2024



Ms S Giddings
Trustee

Company registration number 4822073 (England and Wales)

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

| | Notes | 2024 £ | £ | 2023 £ | £ |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | |
| Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations | 23 | | (404,223) | | 78,887 |
| Investing activities | | | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (2,885) | | (5,147) | |
| Investment income received | | 8,010 | | 576 | |
| Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities | | | 5,125 | | (4,571) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | | - | | - |
| Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents | | | (399,098) | | 74,316 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 601,298 | | 526,982 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | | | 202,200 | | 601,298 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Fertility Network UK is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 23 St Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1HH.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Such funds are subject to certain conditions agreed by the Trustees and used in accordance with the majority decision of the Trustees from time to time.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the charity are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the charity can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of financial activities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising and publicity costs include general advertising and promotion of the charity and its objectives.

Governance costs include costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's activities.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

A liability will arise when the charity is under an obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party. Where costs cannot be attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 20% per annum on a straight line basis |
| F,F&E - grant funded | Fully depreciated in year of purchase |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Donations and gifts | 10,326 | 25,205 |

4 Income from charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ | Restricted funds 2024 £ | Total 2024 £ | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fundraising income | | | | | | |
| Sale of goods | 27,140 | - | 27,140 | 26,478 | - | 26,478 |
| Grants receivable | | | | | | |
| Performance related grants | - | 432,150 | 432,150 | - | 463,661 | 463,661 |
| | <u>27,140</u> | <u>432,150</u> | <u>459,290</u> | <u>26,478</u> | <u>463,661</u> | <u>490,139</u> |

5 Income from investments

| | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Interest receivable | 8,010 | 576 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 Other income

| | Unrestricted funds 2024 £ | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Other income | 350 | - |
| Sponsorship | 87,063 | 108,377 |
| The Fertility Show income | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| | <u>101,413</u> | <u>122,377</u> |

7 Charitable activities

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Staff costs | 473,906 | 412,386 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 316 | 330 |
| Activities undertaken directly | 191,531 | 160,465 |
| | <u>668,585</u> | <u>573,181</u> |
| Share of governance costs (see note 11) | 123,948 | 71,182 |
| | <u>792,533</u> | <u>644,363</u> |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 205,388 | 179,465 |
| Designated funds | 36,586 | - |
| Restricted funds | 550,559 | 464,898 |
| | <u>792,533</u> | <u>644,363</u> |

8 Auditor's remuneration

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Fees payable to the charity's auditor and associates: | | |
| For audit services | | |
| Audit of the financial statements of the charity | 7,200 | 6,000 |
| | <u>7,200</u> | <u>6,000</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number employees (including full time and part time staff) during the year was:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Number |
| | 25 | 22 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Employment costs

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 463,980 | 393,612 |
| Social security costs | 17,721 | 24,309 |
| Other pension costs | 7,680 | 7,321 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Number |
| £60,001 to £70,000 | - | 1 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Key management has been determined to be the trustees and 5 members of the senior management team (2023: 3). Trustees receive no remuneration or benefits.

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aggregate compensation | 150,269 | 133,162 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11 Governance costs

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Staff costs | 15,474 | 12,856 |
| Legal and professional | 108,474 | 58,326 |
| | <u>123,948</u> | <u>71,182</u> |
| Analysed between Charitable activities | <u>123,948</u> | <u>71,182</u> |

All costs are allocated based on estimated actual use of service provision.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

| | Fixtures, fittings & equipment £ |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Cost | |
| At 1 April 2023 | 30,185 |
| Additions | 2,885 |
| | <u>33,070</u> |
| At 31 March 2024 | <u>33,070</u> |
| Depreciation and impairment | |
| At 1 April 2023 | 29,047 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 3,201 |
| | <u>32,248</u> |
| At 31 March 2024 | <u>32,248</u> |
| Carrying amount | |
| At 31 March 2024 | 822 |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>1,138</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14 Debtors

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| Trade debtors | 21,498 | 7,810 |
| Other debtors | 4,327 | 200 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 1,860 | 4,268 |
| | <u>27,685</u> | <u>12,278</u> |

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | Notes | 2024 | 2023 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Other taxation and social security | | 4,111 | 6,665 |
| Deferred income | 16 | 31,657 | 142,563 |
| Trade creditors | | 14,887 | 47,060 |
| Other creditors | | - | 28,240 |
| Accruals | | 11,520 | 8,160 |
| | | <u>62,175</u> | <u>232,688</u> |

16 Deferred income

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other deferred income | 31,657 | 142,563 |
| | <u>31,657</u> | <u>142,563</u> |

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income is included within: | | |
| Current liabilities | 31,657 | 142,563 |
| | <u>31,657</u> | <u>142,563</u> |
| Movements in the year: | | |
| Deferred income at 1 April 2023 | 142,563 | 153,064 |
| Released from previous periods | (110,906) | (10,501) |
| | <u>31,657</u> | <u>142,563</u> |
| Deferred income at 31 March 2024 | <u>31,657</u> | <u>142,563</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £7,680 (2023 - £7,321).

18 Designated funds

To provide funds to deliver a refreshed long-term strategy and business plan for the charity together with governance improvements. This is to ensure that the charity is in robust financial health for the foreseeable future.

| | At 1 April 2023 £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | At 31 March 2024 £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 72,566 | (36,586) | - | 35,980 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Previous year: | At 1 April 2022 £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | At 31 March 2023 £ |
| | - | - | 72,566 | 72,566 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

| | At 1 April 2023 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | Match funding £ | At 31 March 2024 £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| General funds | 121,076 | 146,889 | (205,387) | 17,245 | (43,710) | 36,113 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Previous year: | At 1 April 2022 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | Match funding £ | At 31 March 2023 £ |
| General funds | 249,965 | 174,636 | (179,465) | (124,060) | - | 121,076 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

| | Balance at 1 April 2022 | Movement in funds | | | Balance at 1 April 2023 | Movement in funds | | | Balance at 31 March 2024 |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Match Funding | | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Match Funding | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Health & Social Care Board | 3,564 | 50,800 | (46,276) | - | 8,088 | 40,800 | (42,588) | - | 6,299 |
| Scottish Government Health Board Project & Options | 14,990 | 47,668 | (45,893) | - | 16,766 | 48,768 | (63,162) | - | 2,372 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Education Project | 57,440 | 47,357 | (48,225) | - | 56,572 | 46,235 | (68,446) | - | 28,361 |
| Belfast Cathedral Sit Out Appeal | 1,905 | 920 | - | - | 2,825 | 850 | (362) | - | 3,313 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Network Scotland Projects | 35,000 | 35,599 | (41,491) | - | 29,108 | - | - | - | 29,108 |
| Restricted donations | 12,300 | - | - | - | 12,300 | - | - | (12,300) | - |
| Scottish Volunteer Project | 1,317 | 9,500 | (9,016) | - | 1,801 | 19,098 | (17,672) | - | 3,227 |
| VCSE Health & Wellbeing Fund | - | 97,229 | (97,229) | 14,592 | 14,592 | 110,729 | (141,418) | 15,041 | 1,055 |
| TNL Community Grant | 9,708 | 71,254 | (73,469) | 29,329 | 36,822 | 71,209 | (102,274) | 17,057 | 22,814 |
| Scotland Covid Funding | 1,001 | 9,930 | (10,931) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Match funding for Wales | 901 | - | (901) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TNL Community Fund England | - | 93,403 | (91,466) | 7,573 | 9,509 | 94,460 | (114,637) | 11,612 | 944 |
| | 138,127 | 463,661 | (464,898) | 51,494 | 188,384 | 432,150 | (550,559) | 43,710 | (17,245) |
| | | | | | | | | | 96,440 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Health & Social Care Board - Successful bid for tender to provide a part-time support coordinator, a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and the coordination and delivery of support to local patient groups.

Scottish Government - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Scotland, to work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland, and to produce patient information packs.

Scottish Government Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

St Anne's Cathedral Sit-Out Fund - To run workshops for the More to Life Group in Northern Ireland and provide some funding for Fertility Network Support Groups not covered by other funding.

Scottish Government Project - To work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland and to produce patient information packs.

Scottish Volunteer Project - Match funding from the Scottish Government to employ a Volunteer Coordinator.

VCSE Health & Wellbeing Fund - To improve health and employment outcomes for women and people experiencing reproductive health issues. The support should ensure women facing reproductive health issues can remain in and return to work with the right support. A transfer of £1,055 was required from Unrestricted to cover a deficit in this fund during the year.

TNL Community Grant - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Wales, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Wales. To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Wales to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

TNL Community Grant England - This project will provide increased support and information to increase our reach in order that more people are supported on their fertility journey. Dedicating resource to engage and support LGBTQ, Ethnic minority, women over 40 and male community. Increase the number of volunteers in the network with a focus on geographical areas where there are none.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20 Restricted funds

All of the above grants were received after successful application for funding by Fertility Network UK.

All of the grants are restricted to expenditure as agreed with the grant body during the application process.

(Continued)

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

| | Services received | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | 2024 | 2023 |
| | £ | £ |
| Other related parties | 120 | - |
| | <u>120</u> | <u>-</u> |

LGBT Mummies Ltd, a company in which a trustee during the year is a director, provided services in the form of a webinar for £120. At 31 March 2024 nil was outstanding.

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | 2024 | 2024 | 2024 | 2024 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| At 31 March 2024: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 822 | - | - | 822 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 35,290 | 35,980 | 96,440 | 167,710 |
| | <u>36,112</u> | <u>35,980</u> | <u>96,440</u> | <u>168,532</u> |
| | <u>36,112</u> | <u>35,980</u> | <u>96,440</u> | <u>168,532</u> |
| | | | | |
| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
| | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 | 2023 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| At 31 March 2023: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 1,138 | - | - | 1,138 |
| Current assets/(liabilities) | 119,938 | 72,566 | 188,384 | 380,888 |
| | <u>121,076</u> | <u>72,566</u> | <u>188,384</u> | <u>382,026</u> |
| | <u>121,076</u> | <u>72,566</u> | <u>188,384</u> | <u>382,026</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

| 23 Cash generated from operations | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deficit for the year | (213,494) | (6,066) |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (8,010) | (576) |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 3,201 | 4,513 |
| Movements in working capital: | | |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | (15,407) | 30,421 |
| (Decrease)/increase in creditors | (59,608) | 61,096 |
| (Decrease) in deferred income | (110,906) | (10,501) |
| Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations | (404,224) | 78,887 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1099960

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2022-2023





'My highlight for 2022-2023 was definitely joining the charity! I am really proud we were able

to develop two LGBTQ+ support groups in the reporting period: one for those at the beginning of the journey and another for those who are undergoing treatment. People often tell me how much they value a safe space where they can be all of who they are without needing to explain themselves, and a space where they can seek peer support from others on their journey to parenthood.'

**Bethan Shoemark-Spear, Wales
project worker**

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Welcome



Jo Binding
Chair

Welcome from our Chair

2022/2023 was a year of growth and change for the charity; trustees are proud of the work that has been achieved and are grateful to staff.

After growing our board at the end of March 2022, we embarked on some board training to ensure that trustees and staff understood their responsibilities under charity law. Following that training, the charity embarked on several changes to ensure the governance was as effective as it needed to be to support this incredible charity in its mission.

The board designated funds to support the growth of the charity and to learn new and emerging skills that we would need for the future, including social media and fundraising. This year was focused around delivering that governance reform and the charity embarked on some major

changes to ensure we were delivering against our charitable objects and within charity law.

The charity was supported in this transformation programme by the trustees who dedicated significant amounts of time as well as by specialist charity professionals at CounterCulture LLP and at McPhersons.

We want to thank all of those who supported the charity during this year of change and as we plan for our 20th anniversary.

Thank you

Jo



'My highlight of the year was the Fertility In The Workplace Summit. It was in City Hall in London,

which is an amazing venue, and I got to meet so many incredible people. It was great listening to the MPs who attended, to hear what changes they are trying to make within parliament. It was also positive hearing the policies some companies have put in place, such as the Co-op and Autotrader. I spoke to many organisations that were so enthusiastic about implementing fertility policies based on the lived experiences that were shared on our panels. It felt so rewarding knowing we were helping to make change.'

Sarah Dixon, Fertility in the Workplace project officer

The Trustees present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Included within the Trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. Reference and administrative information set out on page 38 forms part of this report.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 ('Charities SORP').

About Fertility Network UK

Our mission

- Fertility Network UK is the leading charity across the UK in the provision of a comprehensive support network for those facing fertility challenges at all stages of their journey, providing information and education as well as practical and emotional support.

Our objective

- To relieve the suffering from infertility particularly through the provision of information, advice, and support.
- To uphold the provision of an equitable system of publicly-funded fertility treatment throughout the UK for all sufferers of infertility, subfertility, and secondary infertility.

- To support the needs of persons suffering from infertility through the provision of inter alia, a network of local support groups, a support line service, a website and a regular magazine and e-newsletter;
- To advance public education about all aspects of fertility and infertility;
- To raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media and in general, in an informed, responsible manner; and
- To encourage and assist continuing research of the broadest nature into infertility and its various effects.

What we do

Provision of information, advice, and support to people suffering from infertility

Unbiased and free information on our website (www.fertilitynetworkuk.org)

Telephone advice and support via a general 'Information Line' and a 'Support Line' staffed by former fertility nurses.

Network of support groups across the nations, run either by team members or volunteers. Meetings are held at a frequency determined by the members, typically every month.

Online groups and webinars, with all support activities publicised on the website and via social media.

This year we increased services to meet the demand for support. We also post a range of content and support materials on our website.

Workshops in conjunction with organisations to support their employees.

Support the provision of an equitable system of publicly-funded fertility treatment

Represent patients throughout the UK lobbying for fair and equitable access to NHS funding through virtual meetings with policy makers.

We meet with MPs, MSPs, MSs and MLAs and give support for the production of Parliamentary Questions and other briefings.

Meet with the political parties in Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland to build relationships and advocate for our service users.

Advancing public education

We believe that fertility education is essential, not only for those experiencing fertility challenges but also for young people so that they know how to care for their future if they might wish to have children one day.

We are engaged in several activities to raise awareness and educate the public, including working across social media and digital, TV, print and radio.

In Scotland and Wales, the Charity undertakes education and awareness sessions at Freshers events and throughout the academic year in universities and colleges.

To encourage and assist research in its broadest sense into infertility and its various effects

We are widely perceived as the leading national fertility patient organisation, providing patient representation on several professional committees.

We regularly represent the patient voice on many academic and scientific research projects.

We are founder members of the Patient Organisation Stakeholder Group (POSG).

Achievements of the Year

We hosted

21 webinars

with 731 participants and 7,776 views.

A survey of nearly **1,300** patients explored the devastating impact on patients of infertility and its treatment.

Digital impact

We grew our reach and engagement on social and digital channels. We now have approaching 20K followers on Instagram, 15K followers on Facebook and 13.5K followers on twitter.

Our online HealthUnlocked Trying To Conceive (TTC) community has 40,465 active members, our More To Life (MTL) community 914 active members, and our pregnancy support community 4,033 members.

We now have **70** support groups with a total of 12,156 members.

The tenth National Fertility Awareness Week gained widespread attention and support across digital and traditional broadcast media for the five days of the week.

On our website we had on average **27,751** new users each month.

We gained national newspaper coverage for our survey (the Daily Telegraph, the Daily Mail, the Guardian, I News, HuffPost), magazine coverage (HR magazine, People Management) and radio and TV coverage too, including Channel 5 news, ITV News Wales, ITV News Anglia, BBC Radio Solent, BBC Radio Berkshire and others. We gave interviews and coverage featured many of our media volunteers. Woman's Hour presenter Emma Barnett covered our survey in her weekly fertility blog/newsletter.

Our free Support Line is run by two former fertility nurses, available five days a week.

It has been described on many occasions as a 'lifeline' by those dealing with fertility issues. Diane and Janet cannot diagnose but will try to answer and support people through their queries and worries. We supported **4,210** beneficiaries over the year.

Highlights



Securing funding

We were successful in **securing three years of funding** in England with The National Lottery Community Fund – Reaching Communities England. This enabled us to expand and enhance our support services and diversify and grow our England team.

Fertility Network’s ground-breaking **Fertility in the Workplace** initiative, which aims to change the work landscape for all experiencing fertility issues, was successful in securing support from the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund, part of a partnership programme between Department of Health & Social Care, NHS England and UK Health Security Agency.

This will enable us to substantially **expand our vital work** helping small and medium enterprise organisations implement fertility policies and provide support and understanding for women facing fertility treatment.



Raising awareness

In November 2022, we held a **major virtual event** for UK and Ireland healthcare professionals involved in fertility care, political representatives and other key stakeholders from the fertility world, to start a conversation and raise awareness about Trauma in Infertility. The event included presentations from key UK researchers and the British Infertility Counselling Association. This important research project is progressing well, with a major survey planned for the end of 2023.

Fertility Network was invited to speak at the **Fertility 2023 Conference** in January 2023 hosted by the British Fertility Society, the Association of Reproductive & Clinical Scientists and the Society of Reproduction and Fertility. This was held in Belfast and our Northern Ireland coordinator Hilary presented to the conference about NHS funding differences across the UK, highlighting the results from both our Fertility Network Impact Survey and the Trauma in Infertility research project we have initiated.

Team Wales hosted a reception in February 2023 at **the Senedd, the Welsh Parliament**, in Cardiff Bay raising awareness and celebrating the critical work that we

undertake with fertility patients in Wales. The event was sponsored by Russell George MS, Shadow Minister for Health and Chair of the Welsh Parliament's Health and Social Care committee. It was a very well-attended, wonderful day with some truly incredible fertility awareness raised and critical conversations had across the political spectrum. We were thrilled and so very encouraged to see so many people there, willing and eager to collaborate and work together to further support fertility patients in Wales.

During the event, we discussed the critical work being undertaken with **Welsh fertility patients** and essential projects within primary, secondary and tertiary care, as well as highlighting key areas of focus for 2023 and beyond. We also raised awareness of our essential work within education via our Fertility Education Programme – Your Future Fertility.

Fertility Network's '**Recognising Reproductive Health**' summit in March 2023 brought together key campaigners, organisations, and individuals to highlight the future of reproductive health in the workplace and the pressing need for change. Speakers included MPs Nickie Aiken and Alex Davies-Jones and delegates heard about the charity's decades of experience in enhancing understanding of the impact of infertility and its treatment, and in helping organisations large and small develop tailored fertility policies.



Providing valuable help to more people

During the year we welcomed three new England team members:

London Representative: London has far more fertility clinics than any other region of the UK and, as such, the role of the London representative is vital to increasing engagement in London, via fertility clinics, community groups and events and outreach to other relevant stakeholders.

Ethnic Minority Communities Project Worker: to engage with Ethnic Minority Communities and enable increased support to specific minority groups, alongside raising awareness of the different impacts of fertility on these communities.

England Project Worker: to increase engagement and awareness across the rest of England and provide admin support in managing the additional groups and courses we have been able to introduce as part of our funding.

We expanded our **Clinic Ambassador programme**, launched in 2021. Clinic ambassadors provide a bridge between the charity and fertility clinics, promoting awareness about the wide variety of free

support services the charity has to offer. The clinic ambassador role is open to doctors, nurses, embryologists, or counsellors. This programme has established links with 66% of all London based fertility clinics and 87% of all applicable clinics across the rest of England.

We continue to collaborate with **key stakeholders in the sector** including the Royal College of Nursing, Donor Conception Network, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), The British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA), NGA Law, and fertility clinics.

Our feedback in England from participants shows:

- **82%** of people who have attended our meetings or webinars felt they were more knowledgeable about the subject after the meeting than prior to attending.
- **88%** of people felt better after attending a meeting/webinar.
- **85%** of people who were struggling prior to the meeting/webinar felt better equipped to deal with things after attending.
- **97%** of people feel supported by Fertility Network UK.
- **100%** of people would recommend Fertility Network UK meetings to others on a fertility journey.

Team Wales developed a new and exciting **creative project RISE** – a deeply emotional expression of infertility through poetry and photography by the people we support. Professionals in photography and creative writing led a series of four workshops for those looking for a safe space to share and express emotions while on their fertility journey. Some of the incredible work produced at the workshops was showcased during National Fertility Awareness Week and at our Senedd meeting in February 2022.

Team Northern Ireland is collaborating with Queen's University, Belfast to develop a research project '**Trauma in Infertility**', investigating the incidence and impact that fertility issues have on the social and emotional wellbeing of those affected, with particular regard to psychological trauma.



Educating young people

Our project '**Your Future Fertility**' educates young people on lifestyle choices which could impact their future fertility. The project has continued to grow successfully in Scotland and Wales supported by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery Community Fund Wales, respectively.



Campaigning for change

We worked with MP Nickie Aiken supporting her **Fertility Treatment (Employment Rights) Private Member's Bill** which was presented to parliament in June 2022. However, a second reading was interrupted. We are continuing to work with Ms Aiken, supporting her voluntary scheme for organisations – the fertility workplace pledge – which encourages employers to pledge to provide the support and understanding fertility patients need from their workplace.

The UK government published its first **Women's Health Strategy for England** in July 2022, aimed at improving healthcare for women and girls across England. Fertility Network UK made a submission in response to a call for evidence which generated almost 100,000 responses. The responses highlighted a need for greater focus on women-specific health conditions, including fertility and pregnancy loss, and gynaecological conditions such as endometriosis.

As part of the Women's Health Strategy, the Government announced it would remove non-clinical barriers to IVF for

same-sex female couples, something Fertility Network has long campaigned for. This means same-sex female couples will no longer have to pay for artificial insemination to prove their fertility status and gain NHS treatment, with their treatment pathway beginning with six NHS-funded intra-uterine insemination (IUI) cycles, prior to accessing IVF services, if necessary.

However, the Government did not say how or when these changes would be implemented and did not announce plans to tackle **the postcode lottery** across England in accessing treatment beyond providing information on the current patchy provision. This information is already available in a more in-depth format on Fertility Network's website.

In England, we continue to lobby Government to dismantle the IVF postcode lottery and work with integrated care boards (ICBs) to **ensure access to NHS-fertility treatment is fair**. Current changes in the way the NHS is structured with areas coming together to commission treatment means some have been reviewing their fertility policies to align them. We worked with commissioners in North Central and also North East London to help them to ensure patient views are part of their considerations. In North Central London, we were part of the fertility policy steering group and helped

to ensure patient views were taken into consideration at every stage of the policy development. Both areas have come up with policies which will improve the care offered to fertility patients.

We were pleased to hear that, after many years of campaigning, **NHS-funded fertility treatment** is to be reinstated in two areas of Essex – Mid-Essex and Basildon & Brentwood. Elsewhere, Staffs and Stoke ICB announced a consultation on a new policy which would provide just one embryo transfer – one of the worst in England!

We expressed our deep concerns relating to proposed changes to the **fertility policy in Wales** by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) in January 2023. The proposed cuts seek to ration access to NHS fertility treatment for heterosexual couples, will make it harder for same-sex couples to access NHS treatment by increasing the amount of IUI required from six to 12 cycles, will prevent women over 40 and single women and men from accessing NHS fertility help and will also exclude women and men who self-fund fertility preservation from future NHS fertility treatment.

These suggested changes were not being reported by **the media**. We issued a statement and identified media volunteers happy to speak with the press. ITV and

BBC Wales covered the issue on TV, with interviews with our Wales coordinator Emma. BBC Wales radio also covered the topic with Emma giving interviews in English and Welsh.

Thanks to our efforts, working with WHSSC and the media, **WHSSC's consultation** was made available for anyone to respond to on the WHSSC website and the consultation deadline was extended by over a month. We met with Plaid Cymru and Welsh Conservatives and alerted other organisations, including Fair Treatment for Women of Wales, Stonewall Cymru and the RCN, who all followed up with responses to the consultation, as well as ourselves. We are continuing to work to prevent these cuts happening.



Fertility Network in the news

Our **press office** was busier than ever, responding to 235 media requests, and providing 37 interviews, 47 press comments, and 25 press releases / statements. We were mentioned in the media 129 times! Our media volunteers were sharing their stories and 105 new media volunteers joined us.

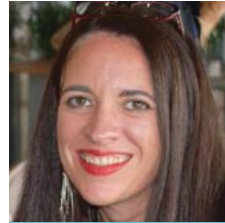
Our **social media team** produced an alternative Mother's Day card for anyone struggling to become a Mum and worked with sister organisations for International Women's Day. We now have an account for Fertility Network-designed cards on Thortful and these cards are promoted on our website.

Our **media team** worked with the cabinet office to provide a representative to speak with the Minister for Women about how female health problems impact in the workplace.



The Fertility Show

We are the charity partner of The Fertility Show, held at Olympia in London at the start of May 2022. The show provides visitors with unparalleled access to the world's leading fertility experts, charities and many service providers under one roof. This year it was the first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic. Team Fertility Network had a stand and also hosted sessions.



'It has been fantastic to work with clinics across England and build their awareness of our

work and it's always rewarding to hear from patients who have found our services as a result of signposting from their clinics. Attending the Senior Infertility Nursing Group (SING) event in Birmingham gave me the opportunity to speak to the fertility nurses who are working directly with patients at their clinics, and it was saddening to hear how few of them were aware of all the services we offer. This, however, gave us a better understanding of the need to link with frontline staff and attend nurses/admin meetings at clinics where possible, to ensure that they are fully aware of everything they can signpost their patients to, and enabled us to continue to improve on our approach and relationships with clinics.'

**Claire Heuclin, England
coordinator**

Report: The Impact of Infertility and its Treatment

We commissioned a major new piece of research with Middlesex University London assessing the impact of infertility. Our survey of approaching 1,300 fertility patients in the UK revealed the devastating toll infertility wreaks on people's mental health, relationships, finances and career and was picked up widely by the media during Fertility Week 2022 and beyond. **The survey found:**

Mental health

- Four out of ten respondents experienced **suicidal feelings**: 30% reported suicidal feelings sometimes or occasionally, while 10% experienced suicidal feelings often or all the time.
- Approaching half (47%) of respondents experienced **feelings of depression** often or all the time, while the vast majority (83%) felt sad, frustrated and worried often or all the time.

Finances

- Two-thirds of patients (63%) **had to pay** for their own medical treatment.
- The average cost of investigations and treatment was **£13,750**, with around one in ten couples (12%) spending more than £30,000.

Career

- More than one in ten respondents (15%) either reduced their hours or **left their job**, and less than half (45%) of respondents felt they received really good support from their employer.
- Over a third (36%) of respondents felt their **career was damaged** as a result of fertility

treatment, and the majority (58%) felt concerned that fertility treatment would affect their career prospects.

- Only a quarter (25%) reported the existence of a **supportive workplace** policy.

Relationships

- The majority of respondents (59%) reported some detrimental impact of fertility problems and/or treatment on **their relationship** with their partner, while 2% of respondents reported their relationship had ended as a result.

Information & Support

- Approaching half (44%) of respondents **sought help** from Fertility Network UK, the nation's leading fertility charity.
- Three-quarters of respondents (75%) felt their GP did not provide **sufficient information** about fertility problems and treatment and 7% were not sure. Less than one-fifth (18%) were satisfied with the information GPs provided.
- The majority of respondents (78%) would have liked to have **counselling** if it was free. Half of respondents (51%) did have counselling, but most of these (59%) had to fund some of it themselves.

Fertility Week

What a week! During National Fertility Awareness Week 2022 we hosted four live Q&A webinars, a Fertility in the Workplace face-to-face event with AutoTrader, released our survey on the impact of infertility and its treatment, showcased 16 blogs on our website from patients and professionals, including representatives from Adoption UK, and the Defence Fertility Network.

We broadcast 27 videos on our social media platforms, from patients and professionals, including:

- Julia Chain, chair of the fertility regulator the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority;
- Raj Mathur, chair of the British Fertility Society;
- Angela Pericleous-Smith, chair of British Infertility Counselling Association;
- Nickie Aiken MP.

We focused on different topics each day. Our timetable is below.

Monday 31 October

#FertilityFairness

Infertility is a recognised disease, yet the majority of UK fertility patients are forced to pay for medical treatment because access to NHS-funded fertility treatment is unfairly rationed. Only Scotland offers the recommended three full IVF cycles. We released a major new survey on the impact of infertility and its treatment.

We hosted a #FertilityFairness webinar with experts from the Human Fertilisation and

Embryology Authority, the British Infertility Counselling Association and the British Fertility Society.

Tuesday 1 November

#FertilityInTheWorkplace

Shockingly, fertility treatment is not recognised by the majority of employers as necessary medical treatment and there is no legal right to time off work for fertility appointments.

We are calling for employers to recognise fertility treatment as a clinical necessity and to provide

appropriate medical leave. We hosted a #FertilityintheWorkplace webinar with Nickie Aiken MP and representatives from AutoTrader.

Wednesday 2 November

#HIMfertility

Male factor fertility problems are the most common reason for a couple to seek fertility treatment, yet far too often men's fertility is not tested in the first stages of a couple seeking medical help, leading to unnecessary delays and distress. We are calling for

Workplace support



We were **one of only 16 organisations** to secure funding from VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund. This was a huge endorsement of the work we have been doing.

Thanks to the funding from VCSE, we welcomed **three new members** of the FITW team at the end of March 2023. Their focus is on supporting women in small-to-medium enterprises, business owners and self-employed women in England by providing free workplace education and support.

The VCSE funding has also enabled us to meet with some **other incredible charities** who have received funding and to reimagine what women's health support could look like overall in the next few years.

We continued to grow our other work helping organisations of any size support both women and men facing fertility struggles. We increased the number of organisations we have worked with, **from 50 to over 100**. They include charities, hospital trusts and government departments, such as the Ministry of Defence. There are also firms we have

worked with for over three years, such as HSBC and BP.

Our aim is to listen to the needs of the organisation first and then **co-design a pathway of support**, while plugging them into the work of the charity to provide long-term, wrap around care. The feedback is consistently positive with people regularly saying what a relief it was to feel less alone, less afraid and more empowered as they progress. From all-staff training to managers' sessions, and specific topic talks, we remain committed to our primary vision that no one should feel isolated at work when facing fertility issues.

Our in-person Recognising Reproductive Health Summit in London saw approaching **100 people** coming together to hear from experts, including Nickie Aiken MP and Alex Davies-Jones MP and organisations we have worked with including the Co-op and AutoTrader.

We continued to campaign for **improved support for fertility patients from their workplace**. As it stands there is no legal right for time off or flexible working for patients seeking the medical support they need for infertility, leaving patients to navigate this issue on an individual basis and with huge variations around experience in the workplace. We reached out to many MPs about this.



'The pandemic drew attention to the health and social inequalities experienced by people from global

majority communities. As the Ethnic Minorities Community Project Worker, I'm committed to bringing into sharper focus the voices and experiences of those who experience inequities in fertility treatment and provision.

In October 2022, I was pleased to coordinate and host Fertility Network UK's first Black History Month event. This event brought together a panel of Black men and members of the Black community, to share their knowledge, value their contributions and to provide a greater understanding of their different intersectional fertility needs.

It was an open and inclusive discussion on some of the key themes and systemic issues which particularly affect the black community.

The webinar event was an opportunity to increase awareness about the shortage of Black donors in the UK and the subsequent impact on fertility clients from Black and/or mixed ethnicity communities. The audience heard how the creation of the first UK Black donor agency helped to bridge the gaps in provision.

The event also centred on the lived and learned experience of one of Fertility Network's community ambassadors, the actor Jonathan Luwagga, who spoke about his personal fertility journey as a Black man. He highlighted an important and often-missing perspective in conversations about infertility.

I was delighted to be able to amplify their voices and provide a safe space to understanding what impacts and influences the fertility journeys of black and racially minoritised people.'

Jenny Okona-Mensah,
Ethnic Minorities Community
Project Worker



Actor Jonathan Luwagga

Our work across the nations and regions

We have team members based across the UK in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales whose focus is to serve the local community with support groups and events.

They had a busy and impactful year.



Fertility Network UK in England

In England, with the support of The National Lottery Community Fund – Reaching Communities England, we have...



We engaged with **5,636** members of our regional groups in England. We now have 36 regional fertility groups and we've introduced **one** additional group this year. We have seen an **87%** increase in engagement with our England regional communities on Facebook and **46%** increase in attendance to our online meetings.



Our outreach and engagement with **Ethnic Minority Communities** across the country has been exceptional. We have taken part in talks, podcasts, events and general outreach work and have had the opportunity to raise awareness with over 700 people across the country.



We now have **13** UK-wide specialist groups. Engagement within our specialist UK wide groups has increased by **72%** with the introduction of two new groups: South Asian Fertility Group & Fertility Treatment Abroad. We are planning an Under 25's group and a Muslim community group.



Our **Wellbeing Programme** in England flourished. We provided a six-week online Yoga for relaxation course, a six-week online Pathway to Parenthood course for the LGBTQ+ community, a four-week Mindfulness course and a four-week nutrition course focused on helping those who need to lose weight to access fertility treatment. We saw a 100% improvement in wellbeing demonstrated through our wellbeing assessments.



We have actively engaged with the majority of fertility clinics across the country, through our **Clinic Ambassador** programme. This programme has established links with 66% of all London-based fertility clinics and 87% of all applicable clinics across the rest of England.



We ran a series of All England **Q&A Sessions** with guest speakers, including the fertility regulator the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and The British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA).



Thanks to our new team we have been able to attend community events and engage with other stakeholder organisations, including **LGBTQ+ community groups** and women's health organisations.



The England team provided one-to-one **information and support**, via text, social media, phone and email to 1,463 individuals and we have

followed up with these contacts on 411 occasions.



The England team hosted 29 **webinars** online. These covered general fertility information and

advice, discussions about specific reports and regulations, focused topics for coping with specific events and information sessions relevant to target audiences.

Fertility Network UK in Wales

In Wales, with the support from The National Lottery Community Fund Wales, we have...



Supported **1,258** people overall with **662** people now in our four private groups (South & West Wales, Shropshire & Mid Wales, North Wales, All-Wales LGBTQ+). Regular meetings of the All-Wales group include both peer support meetings and meetings with expert speakers.



Attended the **Pride Cymru** event in Cardiff where we spoke to many couples who had no idea that they were entitled to NHS fertility treatment in Wales. One male same-sex couple said talking to Fertility Network UK and finding out this information had made their year.



Collaborated with some **brilliant organisations**, such as Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales (FTWW), British Heart Foundation Cymru, Endometriosis UK, Tommy's and Mind Cymru. These collaborations focused on securing the Welsh Government's commitment for the implementation

of the Women's Health Plan for Wales. We contributed to the Women & Girls Health Wales Quality Statement.



We also worked closely with a number of Welsh Health Boards to provide emotional impact training for primary care **mental health teams** and are working with local authorities to further raise awareness.



We launched our Wales **LGBTQ+** fertility peer group and are delighted to say that it grew incredibly fast and is now a UK-wide peer group. Later in the year we launched a second LGBTQ+ group. One group is for those at the beginning of the journey and another for those who are undergoing treatment.



Our **education programme** was busy, with attendance at six freshers events, multiple presentations in healthcare and ongoing exciting work with Aberystwyth University, regarding our

involvement and support in a new degree programme.



Our six-week **LGBTQ+** Pathways to Parenthood course was very well-received and we collaborated with a number of organisations including Donor Conception Network, the Royal College of Nursing and NGA Law. The course looked at a number of topics, including legal implications, lived experience and donor conception support.



Our **information sessions** and groups included mindfulness and coping mechanisms for anxiety, nutrition to improve egg quality and uterine lining, a presentation and Q&A on the IVF process by a fertility consultant, and a mindful eating course for anyone struggling to lose weight for fertility treatment. For our fertility in the workplace activities, we provided ongoing support to North Wales police, South Wales police and Admiral.

Fertility Network UK in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, with the support of the Department of Health via the Belfast Health Trust and the Belfast Cathedral Black Santa Sit-out Fund, we have...



Working closely with the NI Department of Health, the NHS Regional Fertility Clinic and healthcare professionals as part of the NI IVF Project Board, we have lobbied for patients regarding the proposed move towards **three cycles** of publicly-funded IVF fertility treatment. Though delayed due to a lack of devolved NI Government, we hope to see improvement for patients in 2024.



As patient advocates, we represent **patient needs** in both the NHS and private fertility sector, and have continued to develop our

connections with other support services and organisations. We have recently joined a NI Baby Loss consortium to work together to improve support for pregnancy loss.



In Northern Ireland, we continue to have high demand for our **one-to-one support**. Support group meetings for Trying to Conceive, More to Life and AceBabes continue via Zoom with informal chats, and a variety of guest speakers.

Our **#GetFit4Fertility** programme helps women and men on a fertility



journey develop positive lifestyle habits. Nutrition, Mindfulness and Exercise help to optimise their fertility health and wellbeing:

- Magic Mile for Me - to encourage, motivate and maintain a daily habit of walking a mile;
- Nutrition for Fertility course - led by a nutritionist, highlighting benefits of eating well, maintaining steady blood glucose and avoiding insulin spikes;
- Wellbeing – six-week mindfulness programmes, adapted to the challenges of infertility.



considerable endorsement from health professionals. An application was made to the Department of Health and Social Care Core Grant Funding for a 12-month pilot project in NI, but the funding was withdrawn.

Queens University and Belfast City Council are two organisations that have linked with our **Fertility in the Workplace** initiative, which helps employers to offer support and understanding for employees on a fertility journey, whatever the outcome. It is heartening to see increased recognition of infertility as a legitimate health condition and employees seeking time off for medical appointments, granted leave, flexibility and support.



Our education programme '**Your Future Fertility**' which highlights potential risks to future fertility health, has received

Fertility Network UK in Scotland

In Scotland, with the support of the Scottish government, we have...



Celebrated a decade of our education project **Your Fertile Future** in Scotland. This project was the first of its kind in the UK and creates awareness by providing information to a range including colleges, universities, voluntary organisations, GPs, sexual health clinics and many more.



This year also saw us launch our first **TikTok** social media channel as part of our education project. Our handle is @FertilityFuture. We also have

social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). A big push this year was to increase our presence on social media. We worked with volunteers to record a series of videos on how anabolic steroids and recreational drug use can impact fertility. Our total reach across our social media platforms for the period was 59,977.

With pandemic restrictions now fully eased in Scotland for colleges



and universities, we were very happy to return to a full schedule of **Fresher events**. We attended a record 38 Fresher events, talked to lots of students about their future fertility, and distributed around 4000 'Your Wellbeing Your Future' education leaflets.



Overall staff attended **60 events** and completed a record amount of **3,037 questionnaires** for our education project. The survey assesses students' knowledge of what could affect their future fertility. Our support services in Scotland continue to thrive. We now have 707 people in our peer support groups, up from 496 in the previous reporting period. These include seven regional trying to conceive (TTC) WhatsApp groups in Scotland which are sorted by age, region and stage in their TTC journey. We also have six specialist peer support groups.

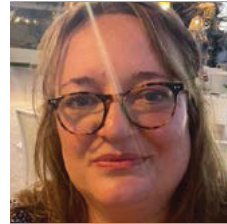


Our **volunteers** continue to play a vital role in the charity. Their contribution and enthusiasm for the cause is essential for the continued delivery of our support services. They include peer support volunteers, More to Life volunteers, student ambassadors and media volunteers.



We continued our work with **sexual health** clinics and gave presentations to medical students and health and social care students. We also continue to work with other organisations including Health

and Social Care Alliance Scotland, Volunteer Scotland, Period Poverty UK, Pride Glasgow, Verity PCOS, Youth Scotland, SHE Scotland, Baby Loss Awareness Week and Endometriosis UK.



'It was great to see attendance of our Freshers events back to pre-pandemic levels,

staff were delighted to be back and the whole team worked extremely hard in reaching as many students as possible. A bumper year for questionnaires! Our requests for support in Scotland continue to grow and the feedback from our beneficiaries is extremely rewarding.'

**Sarah Lindores-Williams,
Scotland Coordinator**



'Working for this charity is an absolute honour, being able to support people facing the loneliness

and isolation of a fertility journey. Facilitating webinars and helping people better understand and take control of their own journey is hugely rewarding.'

**Sharon Martin, Business
Development Manager**

Our supporters

We are extremely grateful for the support from our partners including:

The Scottish Government

To work with clinics and Health Boards on the provision of fertility services in Scotland; to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients; to raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility by working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland. Provide recruitment and training support for our volunteers and support the Scottish Government donor campaign.

The National Lottery Community Fund Wales

Five-year project to expand our regional network of support for infertility sufferers in Wales and to deliver the Education project across the country.

The VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund

Part of a partnership programme between Department of Health & Social Care, NHS

England and UK Health Security Agency – to improve health and employment outcomes for women and people experiencing reproductive health issues.

The support should ensure women facing reproductive health issues can remain in and return to work with the right support.

TNL Community Grant England

This project will provide increased support and information to increase our reach in order that more people are supported on their fertility journey. Dedicated resource to engage and support LGBTQ, Ethnic minority, women over 40 and male community. Increase the number of volunteers in the network with a focus on geographical areas where there are none.

Also: **Health Medica; My Family Tree; Tori Day; Broken Heart Tees; NUA; Melio** and **Sheila Lamb**.

Our thanks go to our corporate and clinic supporters:

Agora
Apricity
BCRM
Bourn Hall Ltd
Bridge Clinic London
Care Fertility Group
Concept Fertility Clinic
Chelmsfield And Sussex Downs
Fertility Centre
The Centre For Reproductive & Genetic
Health (CRGH)
Gennet City
The Hull IVF Unit
Herts And Essex Fertility Clinic

In-Ovo Clinics Ltd
IVF Matters Ltd
London Women's Clinic
Manchester Fertility
Newcastle Centre For Life
NHS Orchard Clinic
Aberdeen Fertility Centre
Dundee Assisted Conception Unit
Edinburgh Fertility Centre
Glasgow Fertility Clinic
Belfast Health And Social Care Trust Regional
Fertility Centre
The Fertility Partnership Clinic Group
The Shropshire And Mid Wales Fertilty Centre

We are particularly grateful to all those individuals who have made donations or carried out fundraising activities for Fertility Network UK.

A special thanks to those small businesses who are donating a proportion of their proceeds to Fertility Network UK including: **HelloTreacle** & **The Pants Project**, and **Notch**.

Our Corporate Partnership Programme has four different levels:

Gold

Ferring
Merck
LogixX
TestHim
The Fertility Show

Silver

Ovogene
Vitabiotics

Bronze

Access Fertility
Cooper Surgical
Cryos
Peppy Health
Pharmasure
BTO Solicitors

Friend

MD Consents
Fertility Family
GAIA

Fundraising

Our incredible fundraisers include:



Dundee Kilt Walk

Fertility Network Scotland are forever grateful to our group of amazing fundraisers who participating in the famous Scottish Kilt Walks raised a staggering £2,671.



Man vs Mountain Challenge

Big thanks to Andrew Dawkins, Head of Andrology at The Doctors Laboratory, who took part in the Rat Race: Man vs Mountain Challenge. Andrew completed the event in seven hours, 3,200 calories lighter, and although the event was extremely tough on both body and mind Andrew is already considering another one!



Burlesquerise UK

Burlesquerise UK instructor Amy Parkes and her team of fabulous dancers held a fundraising event and raised a fantastic leg-kicking £1,555.

Financial review

Review of the year

Total income in 22/23 increased by £186,637 (43%) compared to the previous year and this was due to additional grant income received. We are grateful to both the various grant bodies for this and the staff of the charity who have worked tirelessly towards making successful grant submissions. This has enabled the charity to increase the scope and reach of the work it undertakes. The charity continues to explore ways to diversify income generation to build on this growth for future years.

Income and expenditure

Income in total increased by £186,637 compared to the previous year.

The majority of our expenditure (66% in 22/23) goes on staff salaries, plus expenses related to the cost of delivering our activities. There were higher costs than in previous years on items related to the governance changes, including expenditure on legal advice and other professional advice.

| Income by Source | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Restricted/Unrestricted | 2023 (£) | 2022 (£) |
| Grant income | R | 463,661 | 232,809 |
| Income from fundraising | UR | 26,478 | 44,955 |
| Sponsorship income | UR | 108,377 | 135,618 |
| Donations and gifts | UR | 25,205 | 31,916 |
| Interest receivable | UR | 576 | 3,737 |
| The Fertility Show | UR | 14,000 | 1,275 |
| Advertising income | UR | 0 | 1,350 |
| Other income | UR | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | | 638,297 | 451,660 |

Reserves

The charity previously had a reserves policy in relation to unrestricted reserves of nine months expenditure. This is reviewed annually by the trustees and scrutinised by the finance committee. At the year ended 31 March 2023 unrestricted reserves were just over eight months expenditure for the year. The reserves policy was adjusted to be between six-nine months.

The trustees have previously designated funds to support the delivery of a refreshed strategy and business plan for the charity together with governance improvements. This work continues, working with our accountants and CounterCulture LLP to ensure the charity is in good financial health for the future.



'My highlight was attending 25 different college and university events throughout the

year to promote the Your Future Fertility project and raise awareness of the wellbeing factors that impact fertility. It was great to have the opportunity to speak to so many students in person after the impact of COVID on live events.'

**Anna Paterson, Scotland
education development officer**



'Making the videos has been extremely rewarding as I see what an impact they can have when I use

them in sessions or see the reactions that they receive on social media. In particular, one of the women I filmed was in a difficult place during the RISE project, but ultimately became pregnant and allowed me to make a video with her. The generosity of her actions was stunning. I never cease to be amazed by the strength of some of the women I work with.'

**Michele Wright, Wales education
development officer**

Structure, governance & management

Governance

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by Articles of Association. The number of Trustees shall not be less than four and not more than ten (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects. The Trustees are each members of the company and have no beneficial interest therein and guarantee to contribute £1.00 in the event of a winding up.

Thanks to those Trustees who departed this year, we are very grateful for your support, time and energy.

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board meets quarterly and as necessary. The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year, were: Lucy Thorn (Treasurer), Isabel Traynor, Jo Binding (Chair), Arti Shah, Rachel Bodner, Francesca Raine, Angela Pericleous-Smith, Isla Billett.

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Board of Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity and has

overall responsibility for managing the charity's operations and employees. The Board delegates to the Finance and Risk Committee for further support and scrutiny.

Remuneration policy

It is the wish of the Trustees that the charity pay fairly. The new Board of Trustees commissioned a pay benchmarking report delivered by a third party and those recommendations were considered as part of the financial plan for this year. The Board continues to monitor this.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in the charity. Their contribution and enthusiasm is essential for us to deliver the quality of our support services. We offer support to all our volunteers from our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator and regional staff teams. We currently have a total of 226 volunteers: 73 in England, 22 in Scotland, 14 in Wales and seven in Northern Ireland, and 110 media volunteers.

Fundraising

We have built varied and stable funding streams and developed relationships with key partners. We established relationships with several new organisations as we sought to grow and diversify our income streams.

There are three key sources of income that we rely on:

1. Grants & Trusts

We are incredibly grateful for the grant and trust income we receive, in particular the ongoing support from the Scottish Government, the Northern Ireland Health & Social Care Board, The National Lottery (TNL) Community Fund Wales, St Anne's Cathedral - Sit Out Fund and TNL Community Fund (England). We are thrilled to have secured valuable funds from the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund, part of a partnership programme between Department of Health & Social Care, NHS England and UK Health Security Agency for a five-year project in England.

2. Clinics & other Corporate organisations:

We continue to receive income support through our clinic Patient Pledge and outreach scheme.

3. Individual Giving/ Community Fundraising

As a result of our increasing reach we have seen an increase in the number of individuals who donate to us.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Finance and Risk Committee meets to provide further support and scrutiny of our finances and our risk register.

The key risks identified include:

- The need for a more comprehensive business plan and strategy setting out the charity's plans
- The need for governance improvements including the quality of information provided to the Board to allow them to fully fulfil their duties
- The need to change the governance arrangements so that they are inline with our governing document
- The large turnover of trustees dating back several years
- The trustees are fully committed to the long term success of this charity and believe it has significant potential to deliver more impact for our beneficiaries. The trustees have enlisted the help from CounterCulture LLP to advise the charity.

Our plans for the future

We plan to further diversify our income next year, and secure further long term grants from several new supporters. Generating a diverse and sustainable income stream in 2023/24 and beyond is critical to the charity's future and ongoing success.

Our website and social channels will continue to offer us more opportunities to generate income by working closely with existing partners and recruiting new partners. We will work together to ensure our partnerships enhance and expand the good quality information and support we offer our service users. We will also look at expanding our successful work engaging with fundraisers.

We will build our capacity in digital and social media and will resource this to capitalise on the increased demand in this space together with technology changes.

We expect to continue to provide our services in a hybrid way, and continue to deliver many activities digitally and remotely.

Activities

Five initiatives we will continue to develop and grow during 2023/24:

- We aim to increase our support and seek to diversify our beneficiary base so that it is more representative of society and the UK today. For example, we will build on our support activities for the male fertility community.
- We will continue to build upon successful work already undertaken across the UK in the activities with workplaces.
- We will seek to deepen our role as the leading resource for information and support by both patients and health professionals.
- We will extend our content offered, developing and hosting a series of webinars facilitated by Fertility Network UK with expert speakers, offered each month.

- Our awareness week initiative will once again be a focus for us, providing support, raising awareness and funds, and changing perceptions. This is planned for the week 30th October – 5th November 2023. We will use hashtags to highlight some key objectives during the week as well as our campaign hashtag #Forward4Fertility

Our 20th birthday

Fertility Network will celebrate 20 years of providing free and impartial information and support on 5 July 2023. We will plan activities celebrating our 20th anniversary throughout the year.

Influencing on behalf of patients

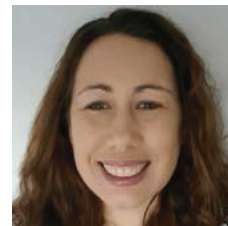
We will continue to lobby for increased funding for NHS fertility treatment in Wales, England, and Northern Ireland. We believe our work in the nations is essential in keeping fertility on the public agenda and the channels for effective dialogue with government and parliamentary representatives open. We will continue our campaign to end the unfair 'postcode lottery' across England and increase provision in Northern Ireland and Wales.

We are proud that our work continues with the Scottish Government as part of the National Infertility Group which has resulted in Scotland having the gold standard in provision of treatment. We will

continue to work with the Health Boards, National Infertility group and subgroups in 2023/24.

We will work to develop a survey assessing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on fertility patients, results will be released during National Fertility Awareness Week.

We will continue our work with all professional organisations including HFEA, BFS, BICA and RCOG, to highlight the emotional impact, and promote the services offered by the charity.



'The Education Project in Scotland is growing on social media which is a great

way to reach young people but it cannot compare to the fabulous response we get from face to face events. It's wonderful that so many young people are interested in our messages and many comment on the importance of the project because there was nothing about what affects fertility taught in their school education.'

Sarah Baird, Scotland education development officer

Thank you

Thanks to donors

Thank you for your help to fund our amazing work.

Thanks to volunteers

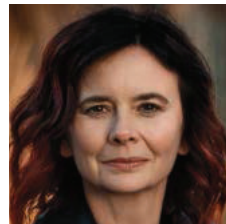
Thanks to our committed and generous volunteers, including those patients who bravely share their stories for the benefit of all our beneficiaries.

Thanks to staff

We are grateful to our passionate staff who deliver our activities for our beneficiaries.

Thanks to those departing

During 2022/2023 we said goodbye to some of our Trustees. We would like to thank them for their service to Fertility Network UK and wish them all every success in the future.



'I am so proud that our work highlighting the detrimental effect on fertility patients

of the proposed new fertility policy in Wales and the fact that the policy had not been made widely available resulted in the consultation deadline being extended and being made more widely available. The result: more people could respond and more voices against the proposed policy were heard. We are still waiting to hear the outcome but it could be positive for fertility patients because of our lobbying efforts!'

Dr Catherine Hill,
communications manager

Statement of Trustees' Responsibility

The Trustees 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).

Charity 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 charity will continue in operation

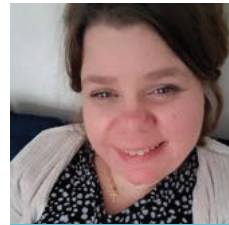
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the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

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by



Jo Binding, Chair of Trustees



'I am so pleased to see the Moving on Group re-established and doubled in membership, an active WhatsApp and with regular meetings and we are currently writing creative poetry in our workshops. I feel this group is often overlooked and is such an important breathing space to think through feelings and process the trauma and grief many of our patients have been through.'

Kimberley Thomas, Wales
project worker



'Bringing together a group of influential health professionals from across the UK at our online event

'Trauma in Infertility' to start an important conversation about how we can collectively learn and create a reduction in trauma for fertility patients... and realising that we had initiated a research journey that could really make a difference'

Hilary Knight, Northern
Ireland coordinator

Financial Statements

| Reference and Administrative Information | |
|--|--|
| Charity name | Infertility Network UK (Trading name - Fertility Network UK.) This was changed to Fertility Network UK on 20 January 2022. |
| Charity no. (England & Wales) | 1099960 |
| Company no. | 4822073 |
| Scottish charity no. | SC039511 |
| Governing Document | Articles of Association, 2016 |
| Registered office | The Forum at Greenwich (2nd floor office), London SE10 9EQ |
| Trustees | Lucy Thorn, Treasurer (resigned 30th April 2023) Isabel Traynor, (Resigned 19/09/22) Jo Binding, Chair Arti Shah (Resigned 16/10/22) Rachel Bodner Francesca Raine Angela Pericleous-Smith (appointed 29/03/22, resigned November 2022) Isla Billet |
| Accountants | McPhersons, 23 St Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1HH |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank, 25 Cornhill, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 3AY |

Please see Financial Statements appended over coming pages.

Charity registration number 1099960 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number SC039511 (Scotland)

Company registration number 4822073 (England and Wales)

**FERTILITY NETWORK UK
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Fertility Network UK for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity 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 Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Fertility Network UK (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the following laws and regulations are significant to the entity:

- Those laws and regulations considered to have a direct effect on the financial statements including UK financial reporting standards, Company Law and Charity Law.
- Those laws and regulations for which non-compliance may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the charity and therefore may have a material effect on the financial statements include compliance with charitable objectives, public benefit, fundraising regulations, safeguarding and health and safety legislation.

These matters were discussed amongst the engagement team at the planning stage and the team remained alert throughout the audit.

Audit procedures undertaken in response to the potential risks relating to irregularities (which include fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations) comprised of: inquiries of management and the Trustees as to whether the entity complies with such laws and regulations; enquiries with the same concerning any actual or potential litigation or claims; inspection of relevant legal correspondence and legal costs incurred; review of Trustee meeting minutes; testing the appropriateness of journal entries; and the performance of analytical review to identify unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters on which we are required to report

The prior year financial statements were not subject to audit and therefore the comparative figures in the financial statements are unaudited.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK**

Maxine Pott

21 December 2023

**Chartered Accountant
Statutory Auditor**

Sumer Auditco Ltd
The Beehive, Beehive Ring Road
Gatwick
RH6 0PA

Sumer Auditco Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

| Current financial year | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 25,205 | - | - | 25,205 | 31,916 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 26,478 | - | 463,661 | 490,139 | 279,114 |
| Investments | 5 | 576 | - | - | 576 | 3,737 |
| Other income | 6 | 122,377 | - | - | 122,377 | 136,893 |
| Total income | | <u>174,636</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>463,661</u> | <u>638,297</u> | <u>451,660</u> |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 179,465 | - | 464,898 | 644,363 | 426,460 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | <u>(4,829)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(1,237)</u> | <u>(6,066)</u> | <u>25,200</u> |
| Transfers between funds | | (124,060) | 72,566 | 51,494 | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | <u>(128,889)</u> | <u>72,566</u> | <u>50,257</u> | <u>(6,066)</u> | <u>25,200</u> |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2022 | | 249,965 | - | 138,127 | 388,092 | 362,892 |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2023 | | <u><u>121,076</u></u> | <u><u>72,566</u></u> | <u><u>188,384</u></u> | <u><u>382,026</u></u> | <u><u>388,092</u></u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

| Unaudited prior financial year | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Notes | 2022 £ | 2022 £ | 2022 £ | 2022 £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3 | 31,916 | - | - | 31,916 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 46,305 | - | 232,809 | 279,114 |
| Investments | 5 | 3,737 | - | - | 3,737 |
| Other income | 6 | 136,893 | - | - | 136,893 |
| Total income | | 218,851 | - | 232,809 | 451,660 |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 186,612 | - | 239,848 | 426,460 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 32,239 | - | (7,039) | 25,200 |
| Transfers between funds | | - | (12,300) | 12,300 | - |
| Net movement in funds | | 32,239 | (12,300) | 5,261 | 25,200 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2021 | | 217,726 | 12,300 | 132,866 | 362,892 |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2022 | | 249,965 | - | 138,127 | 388,092 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

| | | 2023 | | Unaudited 2022 | |
|---|-------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | Notes | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | | 1,138 | | 491 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 12,278 | | 42,712 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 601,298 | | 526,982 | |
| | | 613,576 | | 569,694 | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 15 | 232,688 | | 182,093 | |
| Net current assets | | | 380,888 | | 387,601 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 382,026 | | 388,092 |
| The funds of the Charity | | | | | |
| Designated funds | 18 | 72,566 | | - | |
| Restricted income funds | 20 | 188,384 | | 138,127 | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 121,076 | | 249,965 | |
| | | 382,026 | | 388,092 | |

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 December 2023



J L Binding
Trustee

Company registration number 4822073 (England and Wales)

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

| | Notes | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|---|-------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | |
| Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations | 23 | | 78,887 | | (10,996) |
| Investing activities | | | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (5,147) | | (1,967) | |
| Investment income received | | 576 | | 3,737 | |
| Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities | | | (4,571) | | 1,770 |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | | - | | - |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | | 74,316 | | (9,226) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 526,982 | | 536,208 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | | | 601,298 | | 526,982 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

2 Accounting policies

Charity information

Fertility Network UK is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2nd Floor Office, The Forum at Greenwich, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, London, SE10 9EQ.

2.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

2.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Such funds are subject to certain conditions agreed by the Trustees and used in accordance with the majority decision of the Trustees from time to time.

2.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the charity are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the charity can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of financial activities.

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising and publicity costs include general advertising and promotion of the charity and its objectives.

Governance costs include costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's activities.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

A liability will arise when the charity is under an obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party. Where costs cannot be attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

2.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 20% per annum on a straight line basis |
| F,F&E - grant funded | Fully depreciated in year of purchase |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Accounting policies (Continued)

2.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

2.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Unrestricted funds 2022 £ |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Donations and gifts | 25,205 | 31,916 |

4 Income from charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Restricted funds 2023 £ | Total 2023 £ | Unrestricted funds 2022 £ | Restricted funds 2022 £ | Total 2022 £ |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fundraising income | | | | | | |
| Income within charitable activities | 26,478 | - | 26,478 | 44,955 | - | 44,955 |
| Grants receivable | | | | | | |
| Grants receivable for charitable activities | - | 463,661 | 463,661 | - | 232,809 | 232,809 |
| Advertising income | | | | | | |
| Income within charitable activities | - | - | - | 1,350 | - | 1,350 |
| | <u>26,478</u> | <u>463,661</u> | <u>490,139</u> | <u>46,305</u> | <u>232,809</u> | <u>279,114</u> |

5 Income from investments

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Unrestricted funds 2022 £ |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Interest receivable | 576 | 3,737 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Other income

| | Unrestricted funds 2023 £ | Unrestricted funds 2022 £ |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sponsorship | 108,377 | 135,618 |
| The Fertility Show income | 14,000 | 1,275 |
| | <u>122,377</u> | <u>136,893</u> |

7 Charitable activities

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Staff costs | 412,386 | 312,563 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 330 | 413 |
| Activities undertaken directly | 160,465 | 87,413 |
| | <u>573,181</u> | <u>400,389</u> |
| Share of governance costs (see note 11) | 71,182 | 26,071 |
| | <u>644,363</u> | <u>426,460</u> |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 179,465 | 186,612 |
| Restricted funds | 464,898 | 239,848 |
| | <u>644,363</u> | <u>426,460</u> |

8 Auditor's remuneration

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| Fees payable to the charity's auditor and associates: | | |
| For audit services | | |
| Audit of the financial statements of the charity | 6,000 | - |
| | <u>6,000</u> | <u>-</u> |

9 Trustees

None of the Trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10 Employees

The average monthly number employees (including full time and part time staff) during the year was:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| | Number | Number |
| | 22 | 17 |
| | <u>22</u> | <u>17</u> |

Employment costs

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 393,612 | 300,722 |
| Social security costs | 24,309 | 16,009 |
| Other pension costs | 7,321 | 5,410 |
| | <u>425,242</u> | <u>322,141</u> |

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| | Number | Number |
| £60,001 to £70,000 | 1 | - |
| | <u>1</u> | <u>-</u> |

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.
Aggregate compensation

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | 133,162 | 113,214 |
| | <u>133,162</u> | <u>113,214</u> |

11 Governance costs

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 12,856 | 9,578 |
| Legal and professional | 58,326 | 16,493 |
| | <u>71,182</u> | <u>26,071</u> |
| Analysed between Charitable activities | 71,182 | 26,071 |
| | <u>71,182</u> | <u>26,071</u> |

All costs are allocated based on estimated actual use of service provision.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|---|
| 13 | Tangible fixed assets | | |
| | | | Fixtures, fittings & equipment £ |
| | Cost | | |
| | At 1 April 2022 | | 25,038 |
| | Additions | | 5,147 |
| | At 31 March 2023 | | <u>30,185</u> |
| | Depreciation and impairment | | |
| | At 1 April 2022 | | 24,548 |
| | Depreciation charged in the year | | 4,499 |
| | At 31 March 2023 | | <u>29,047</u> |
| | Carrying amount | | |
| | At 31 March 2023 | | <u>1,138</u> |
| | At 31 March 2022 | | <u>491</u> |
| 14 | Debtors | | |
| | | 2023 | 2022 |
| | Amounts falling due within one year: | £ | £ |
| | Trade debtors | 7,810 | 35,039 |
| | Other debtors | 200 | 2,084 |
| | Prepayments and accrued income | 4,268 | 5,589 |
| | | <u>12,278</u> | <u>42,712</u> |
| 15 | Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | | |
| | | 2023 | 2022 |
| | | £ | £ |
| | Other taxation and social security | 6,665 | 5,544 |
| | Deferred income | 142,563 | 153,064 |
| | Trade creditors | 47,060 | 4,853 |
| | Other creditors | 28,240 | 14,762 |
| | Accruals and deferred income | 8,160 | 3,870 |
| | | <u>232,688</u> | <u>182,093</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16 Deferred income

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Other deferred income | 142,563 | 153,064 |
| | <u>142,563</u> | <u>153,064</u> |

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income is included within: | | |
| Current liabilities | 142,563 | 153,064 |
| | <u>142,563</u> | <u>153,064</u> |
| Movements in the year: | | |
| Deferred income at 1 April 2022 | 153,064 | 171,535 |
| Released from previous periods | (10,501) | (18,471) |
| | <u>142,563</u> | <u>153,064</u> |
| Deferred income at 31 March 2023 | 142,563 | 153,064 |
| | <u>142,563</u> | <u>153,064</u> |

17 Retirement benefit schemes

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

18 Designated funds

To provide funds to deliver a refreshed long-term strategy and business plan for the charity together with governance improvements. This is to ensure that the charity is in robust financial health for the foreseeable future.

| | At 1 April | Transfers | At 31 March |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | 2022 | | 2023 |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| | - | 72,566 | 72,566 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>72,566</u> | <u>72,566</u> |
| Previous year: | | | |
| | At 1 April | Transfers | At 31 March |
| | 2021 | | 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| | 12,300 | (12,300) | - |
| | <u>12,300</u> | <u>(12,300)</u> | <u>-</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

| | At 1 April 2022 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | At 31 March 2023 £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| General funds | 249,965 | 174,636 | (179,465) | (124,060) | 121,076 |
| | <u>249,965</u> | <u>174,636</u> | <u>(179,465)</u> | <u>(124,060)</u> | <u>121,076</u> |
| Previous year: | At 1 April 2021 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | At 31 March 2022 £ |
| General funds | 217,726 | 218,851 | (186,612) | - | 249,965 |
| | <u>217,726</u> | <u>218,851</u> | <u>(186,612)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>249,965</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

20 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

| | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Movement in funds | | | Balance at 1 April 2022 | Movement in funds | | | Balance at 31 March 2023 |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| | £ | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | £ | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Match Funding | £ |
| Health & Social Care Board | 2,842 | 22,946 | (22,224) | - | 3,564 | 50,800 | (46,276) | - | 8,088 |
| Scottish Government Health Board Project & Options | 14,763 | 44,733 | (44,506) | - | 14,990 | 47,668 | (45,893) | - | 16,766 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Education Project | 56,253 | 49,240 | (48,053) | - | 57,440 | 47,357 | (48,225) | - | 56,572 |
| Belfast Cathedral Sit Out Appeal | 1,079 | 1,000 | (174) | - | 1,905 | 920 | - | - | 2,825 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Network Scotland Projects | 43,509 | - | (8,509) | - | 35,000 | 35,599 | (41,491) | - | 29,108 |
| Restricted donations | - | - | - | 12,300 | 12,300 | - | - | - | 12,300 |
| Scottish Volunteer Project | 815 | 9,500 | (8,998) | - | 1,317 | 9,500 | (9,016) | - | 1,801 |
| VCSE Health & Wellbeing Fund | - | - | - | - | - | 97,229 | (97,229) | 14,592 | 14,592 |
| TNL Community Grant | 12,703 | 72,946 | (75,941) | - | 9,708 | 71,254 | (73,469) | 29,329 | 36,822 |
| Scotland Covid Funding | - | 20,460 | (19,459) | - | 1,001 | 9,930 | (10,931) | - | - |
| Match funding for Wales | 901 | - | - | - | 901 | - | (901) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Western Trust | - | 4,991 | (4,991) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Belfast Trust | - | 4,991 | (4,991) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Western Trust | - | 1,000 | (1,000) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Belfast Trust | - | 1,000 | (1,000) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TNL Community Fund England | - | - | - | - | - | 93,403 | (91,466) | 7,573 | 9,509 |
| | 132,866 | 232,808 | (239,846) | 12,300 | 138,127 | 463,661 | (464,898) | 51,494 | 188,383 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

20 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Health & Social Care Board - Successful bid for tender to provide a part-time support coordinator, a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and the coordination and delivery of support to local patient groups.

Scottish Government - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Scotland, to work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland, and to produce patient information packs.

Scottish Government Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

St Anne's Cathedral Sit-Out Fund - To run workshops for the More to Life Group in Northern Ireland and provide some funding for Fertility Network Support Groups not covered by other funding.

Scottish Volunteer Project - Match funding from the Scottish Government to employ a Volunteer Coordinator.

VCSE Health & Wellbeing Fund - To improve health and employment outcomes for women and people experiencing reproductive health issues. The support should ensure women facing reproductive health issues can remain in and return to work with the right support.

TNL Community Grant - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Wales, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Wales. To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Wales to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

TNL Community Grant England - This project will provide increased support and information to increase our reach in order that more people are supported on their fertility journey. Dedicating resource to engage and support LGBTQ+, Ethnic minority, women over 40 and male community. Increase the number of volunteers in the network with a focus on geographical areas where there are none.

Awards for all England - Funding to allow us to expand and improve our digital presence providing support throughout England regardless of your geographical location.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

20 Restricted funds

(Continued)

PHA Clear project Western Trust - Mindfulness for Life 8 week programme for TTC group of up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.

PHA Clear project Belfast Trust - Mindfulness for Life 8 week programme for MTL group of up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.

PHA Clear project Western Trust - Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions to increase mindfulness personal practice for TTC group and introduce mindfulness to some additional new group members.

PHA Clear project Belfast Trust - Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions for MTL group to focus on using mindfulness to address deep grief and loss using resourcing and listening spaces.

All of the above grants were received after successful application for funding by Fertility Network UK.

All of the grants are restricted to expenditure as agreed with the grant body during the application process.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 1,138 | - | - | 1,138 |
| Net current assets/(liabilities) | 119,938 | 72,566 | 188,384 | 380,888 |
| | <u>121,076</u> | <u>72,566</u> | <u>188,384</u> | <u>382,026</u> |

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

23 Cash generated from operations

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| (Deficit)/surplus for the year | (6,066) | 25,200 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities | (576) | (3,737) |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 4,513 | 1,766 |
| Movements in working capital: | | |
| Decrease/(increase) in debtors | 30,421 | (20,952) |
| Increase in creditors | 61,096 | 5,198 |
| (Decrease) in deferred income | (10,501) | (18,471) |
| Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations | <u>78,887</u> | <u>(10,996)</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1099960

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2021-2022



“It’s helpful to know there are others out there who understand how challenging this fertility journey is.

Thank you to Fertility Network for facilitating those connections and providing the validation and support for the struggles involved.”

— Beneficiary

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Welcome

groups to support patients with their emotional needs, mental health, and wellbeing. We grew our reach by 39% this year, giving support and advice to 23,652 beneficiaries.

including pathways and options, fertility treatment processes and what to expect at the clinic, donor conception support and legal implications for modern families, real stories and peer support.

We now have 80 support groups running; an increase of 62% on last year with 5,600 members. In addition to our Trying to Conceive groups (TTC), we grew a number of other groups including weight loss, single women's, HIMfertility male only, Asian, black women, moving on from treatment, loss following treatment, More to Life and secondary infertility.

Thanks to our supporters and our community for all we achieved this year.

Our National Fertility Awareness Week 2021 was extremely well-received and key stakeholders in the field, including the HFEA, BFS, BICA and the RCOG, contributed during the week resulting in significant media coverage of the issues we were highlighting.

We are delighted to see our HIMfertility male only community grow with our male Ambassadors hosting a monthly group offering our 1,606 members a much-needed safe space to speak and receive support.

Our LGBTQ+ community has grown to 508 members. We hosted 15 workshops which were very well received on topics

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Included within the Trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. Reference and administrative information set out on page 33 forms part of this report.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 ('Charities SORP').

Welcome from our Chair

I joined as Chair in January 2022 and first sought to grow the Board with several Trustee appointments who would join the Board from the end of March. We then embarked on some Board training as part of their induction.

This year Fertility Network UK delivered its impactful work in the face of continuing challenges coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. A survey we conducted showed that 58% of respondents had experienced delays being able to access treatment as a result of the pandemic, and a quarter had not been able to access emotional support or counselling.

We responded to the challenges of the pandemic by extending the reach of our one-to-one support and launching new



Jo Binding
Chair

About Fertility Network UK

Our mission

- Fertility Network UK aims to continue being the leading charity across the UK in the provision of a comprehensive support network for those facing fertility challenges at all stages of their journey, providing information, education as well as practical and emotional support.

- To support the needs of persons suffering from infertility through the provision of inter alia, a network of local support groups, a support line service, a website and a regular magazine and e-newsletter;
- To advance public education about all aspects of fertility and infertility;
- To raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media and in general, in an informed, responsible manner; and
- To encourage and assist continuing research of the broadest nature into infertility and its various effects.

Our objective

- To relieve the suffering from infertility particularly through the provision of information, advice, and support.
- To uphold the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK for all sufferers of infertility, subfertility, and secondary infertility.

What we do

Provision of information, advice, and support to people suffering from infertility

Unbiased and free information on our website (www.fertilitynetworkuk.org)

Telephone advice and support line via a general 'Information Line' and a nursing 'Support Line.'

Network of support groups across the nations, run either by team members or volunteers. Meetings are held at a frequency determined by the members, typically every month.

Run online groups and webinars and all support activities are publicised on the website and via social media. This year we increased services to meet the demand for support. We also post a range of content and support materials on our website.

Workshops are undertaken in conjunction with organisations to support their employees.

In Scotland and Wales, the Charity undertakes education and awareness sessions at Freshers events and throughout the academic year in universities and colleges.

Support the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment

Represent patients throughout the UK lobbying for fair and equitable access to NHS funding through virtual meetings with policy makers. We met with MPs, MSP's and MLA's and gave support for the production of Parliamentary Questions and other briefings. In Northern Ireland Stormont was re-established with several MLA's demonstrating their support in Parliament.

Meet with the parties in Scotland and work with the Government to maintain the Gold standard and equitable service currently in place.

Advancing public education

We believe that fertility education is essential, not only for those experiencing fertility challenges but also for young people so that they know how to care for their future if they might wish to have children one day.

We are engaged in several activities to raise awareness and educate the public, including working across TV, print, radio, web and social media.

To encourage and assist research in its broadest sense into infertility and its various effects

We are widely perceived as the leading national fertility patient organisation, providing patient representation on several professional committees.

We regularly represent the patient voice on many academic and scientific research projects. We founded and continue to chair the Association of Fertility Patient Organisations, AFPO.

Achievements of the Year

We gave support and advice to **23,652** people this year which is a 39% increase on last year.

We ran four **six-week** mindfulness sessions.

We now have **80** support groups running, an increase of 62% on our previous year – a total of 5,600 members.

We grew our reach and engagement on social and digital channels, **growing by a third on Facebook** and making big gains on Twitter and Instagram.

Our free Supportline is run by two former fertility nurses, available five days a week. We supported **5,431** beneficiaries over the year.

A survey of nearly **400** patients explored the devastating impact of the COVID pandemic on those waiting for fertility treatment.

We hosted **17 webinars** over the year reaching 5,170 people.

Working across the nations and regions of the UK to **deliver locally.**

The 9th annual National Fertility Awareness Week (NFAW) 2021. We had widespread attention and support across digital and traditional broadcast media for the five days of the week; including being high up the agenda on ITV lunchtime news (despite COP26) and on Sky News. We were also

featured on ITV Wales, Channel 5 news, BBC Look Northwest and in the HuffPost, Pink News and Daily Mail together with a South Asian and Indian online news channel. We were featured on Woman's Hour, ITN News, BBC News, Talk Radio, BBC Worldwide and multiple BBC local and other network radio shows.

Highlights



Providing valuable help to more people

We **expanded our groups offering** to include topics like weight loss, moving on from treatment, loss following treatment, More to Life and secondary infertility groups as well as groups for single women, HIMfertility male only, as well as groups for asian beneficiaries and for black women. Our forums are moderated by the supportline team.

Our groups are growing in engagement with 931 members in More to Life and 449 members in our Pregnancy support forum which commenced in December 2021. We have 51,484 TTC group members which is a 56% increase from 20/21.

Our free **Supportline** is run by two former fertility nurses, available five days a week. It has been described on many occasions as a 'lifeline' by those dealing with fertility issues. Diane and Janet cannot diagnose but will try to answer and support people through their queries and worries. We supported 5,431 beneficiaries over the year.

We **hosted 17 webinars** over the year reaching 5,170 people with the recordings available on our YouTube page. The content was highly valued by patients and the top three most engaged with webinars were The Two Week Wait (1,259), HIMfertility Fireside chat (488) and Preparing for Fertility Treatment (527).

Over the course of the year, we continued to host **health and wellbeing workshops** to help empower our community to better manage their health and journey, by providing Yoga, Mindfulness and Nutrition programmes.

We ran four 6-week **mindfulness sessions** which were delivered on zoom by Veronica Ellis. The programme included a course e-manual along with recordings of the mindfulness practices to use each week at home between sessions. Many of the 80 participants have remarked on the feeling of connection and intimacy that they have experienced from attending the online meditations and classes.

Diet is an important tool for both men and women when trying to conceive. Whether someone is trying to improve their reproductive health or reaching a target weight for treatment, nutritional therapist Sarah Trimble discussed ways to stay healthy and improve reproductive health, including advice for nutritious comfort food, exercise

and sleep during this 4/6/7-week course. This compliments our Fertility Weight loss group with 308 participants, as many of our beneficiaries struggle with BMI.



Growing our digital services

We **grew our reach** and engagement on social and digital channels, growing by a third on Facebook and making big gains on Twitter and Instagram.

On our **website** we had on average 24,000 unique visitors each month.



Leveraging the profile of Fertility Week to highlight key issues and drive engagement

The 9th annual **National Fertility Awareness Week** (NFAW) 2021 continued as a platform for the charity to raise awareness and provide support to all those struggling with fertility problems. It was extremely well-received and key stakeholders in the field, including the HFEA, BFS, BICA and the RCOG worked with us during the week.

We had widespread attention and support across **digital and traditional broadcast media** for the five days of the week; including being high up the agenda on ITV lunchtime news (despite COP26) and on Sky News. We were also featured on ITV Wales, Channel 5 news, BBC Look Northwest and in the HuffPost, Pink News and Daily Mail together with a South Asian and Indian online news channel.

We were **featured** on Woman's Hour, ITN News, BBC News, Talk Radio, BBC Worldwide and multiple BBC local and other network radio shows.

On **social media**, we saw increases in our reach on Twitter, Facebook (up 178%) and on Instagram (up 62.4%) including one tweet that had 140K impressions. We created content that would drive engagement with each day having a themed topic and hashtag for people to join in and engage with.

We created a range of **content** including original surveys and videos and collaborated with other stakeholders and influencers to amplify and extend the conversation, including several volunteers who bravely shared their stories. This valuable work saw our engagement on social media platforms increase dramatically: up 299% on Facebook and 64% on Instagram.

Fertility Week

We focused on different topics each day. Our timetable is below.

Monday 1 November 2021 #FertilityFairness

A call for fair access to NHS-funded fertility treatment for all eligible patients regardless of postcode, race or sexuality. We conducted a survey on access to NHS IVF, provided information on fertility treatment and success rates for Black, Asian and other ethnic minority fertility patients and heard the experiences of the LGBTQ+ community.

We hosted a #FertilityFairness webinar with Dr Raj Mathur, Chair of the British Fertility Society.

Tuesday 2 November 2021 #DonorDay

On #DonorDay we highlighted the work of the national donor recruitment campaign in Scotland, raised awareness of the need for ethnic minority gamete and embryo donors, and encouraged the public to consider gamete donation

and fertility patients who have completed their IVF family to consider embryo donation.

We hosted a #DonorDay webinar, with Nina Barnsley of the Donor Conception Network.

Wednesday 3 November 2021 #HIMFertility

#HIMFertility is all about male fertility. Men are half of the fertility equation, and their experiences, thoughts and feelings matter equally.

Rhod Gilbert hosted a webinar in conjunction with our Ambassadors Toby Trice and Ian Stone.

Thursday 4 November 2021 #FertilityEd

Fertility education was the focus on Thursday. We highlighted our education initiatives: Your Future Fertility which aims to

inform young people about the factors that can affect fertility, and Fertility in the Workplace which encourages employers to provide a supportive work environment and helps employees to know their rights.

We hosted a #FertilityEd webinar, with Professor Joyce Harper, co-founder of the British Fertility Society's Fertility Education Initiative.

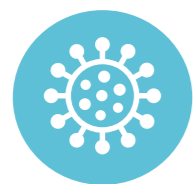
Friday 5 November 2021 #TalkFertility

This celebrated patient voices and highlighted coping strategies for fertility patients and for people who are childless not by choice. We shared the results of our research which showed that all of England's clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) were rationing access to NHS-funded fertility treatment by introducing arbitrary, non-clinical criteria or redefining what constitutes an IVF cycle.



The Fertility Show

We are the **charity partner** of The Fertility Show, normally held at Olympia in London at the end of Fertility Week. The show provides visitors with unparalleled access to the world's leading fertility experts, charities and many services providers under one roof. This year it was a digital summit in September 2021. We hosted four sessions per day over a 4-day period hosting 16 live talks with over 2000 views.



Responding to the continuing pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic

As **Tertiary Services for Fertility Treatment** began to resume normally, other NHS services pre-IVF treatment continued to be impacted by COVID-19. We conducted a survey to gauge the impact on our beneficiaries. A survey of nearly 400 patients explored the devastating impact of the COVID pandemic on those waiting for fertility treatment. A majority (58%) had experienced delays being able to access treatment as a result of the pandemic, and a quarter had not been able to access emotional support or counselling.

Patients reported **widespread delays** in diagnostic testing, including blood tests and semen analysis and a range of surgical procedures from laparoscopy to surgical sperm retrieval. Delays ranged from months to more than two years. Many patients had to repeat tests which were out of date by the time they were able to access treatment, and reported appointments being repeatedly cancelled.

In December 2021 Scotland had taken the decision to pause treatment for anyone **unvaccinated** due to the growing number of pregnant women in ICU. This decision was reversed in late February 2022 as data suggested a significant reduction in both COVID-19 cases and ICU admissions.

We continued to respond to the challenge to **support the community** by extending our one-to-one support, together with groups and content on social and digital channels to support patients with their emotional needs, mental health, and wellbeing.

We continued to be represented in numerous **meetings** with BFS/ARCS guidance group, clinics, and Government led groups to resolve challenges that both patients and clinics faced. We envisage this trend will continue into 2022/2023 as some NHS services remain under

pressure whilst trying to recover from the backlog of patients created as a result of the Pandemic. Those who are currently waiting on referrals/further investigations continue to report lengthy waiting times in some areas of the UK.

The **digital transformation** of the NHS during and looking at post Covid-19 has meant that the majority of GP/clinical consultations have been delivered remotely. There continues to be a great need to ensure people can access at the earliest opportunity the appropriate educational and support information for their condition. We continue to offer support content on the Healthinote app which is used by over 3,000 GP practices across the UK, serving 29 million patients. This helps to provide support to patients at the earliest stage of their journey via digital prescription.



Educating young people

Our project '**Your Future Fertility**' educates young people on lifestyle choices which could impact their future fertility. The project has continued to grow successfully in Scotland supported by the Scottish Government and in Wales supported by The National Lottery Community Fund Wales.

Although some physical **Fresher events** during 2021/22 remained cancelled, we worked with 35 educational establishments and reached 1,753 students. We successfully provided the content to students in digital formats and created lots of information to be used on social and digital channels, participating in Facebook and Instagram live sessions. We recruited 18 student ambassadors who assisted in producing an educational video that was shared across social media.



Fertility in the Workplace

We seek to raise awareness and educate **employers** on fertility issues; the challenges faced by their employees and how they can support them, their partners, and colleagues. Through our workshops, we highlight the benefits to employers and employees of having a fertility policy in place and offer support to the employees. We offer consultation on establishing or improving a fertility policy in the workplace.

This year we worked with 55 organisations reaching **1,200 employees**. They included Tesco Bank, Unilever CGI, Pepsi-co, Auto trader, local authorities and Police forces around the country. We also recruited 17 Workplace Ambassadors.



Shining a light on the provision of care across the UK

We carried out an audit of the **provision of care** offered by CCG's which revealed a stark and damning picture of fertility care in England, the results were released on the first day of National Fertility Awareness Week 2021.

- **90%** of CCGs don't offer the recommended three full IVF cycles to clinically eligible women under 40;
- **72%** of CCGs don't offer the recommended one full IVF cycle to clinically eligible women aged between 40-42;
- **one in five** CCGs have redefined what an IVF cycle constitutes and offer partial or reduced cycles instead of full IVF cycles where all fresh and frozen viable embryos are transferred;
- **over 90%** of CCGs deny help if an infertile individual's partner has a child from a previous relationship;
- **approaching one in four** CCGs (23.3%) have introduced additional age hurdles for women, with six CCGs refusing to offer help to women over 35;
- **over two-thirds** of CCGs (69%) refuse to treat single women; and
- **over a quarter** of CCGs (26.6%) deny access to same-sex couples. Of the

CCGs who do offer fertility treatment to same-sex couples, the majority withhold treatment until couples have proved their infertility by paying privately for six or 12 rounds of intrauterine insemination (IUI).

We worked with a number of CCGs on their **fertility policy reviews**. We were closely involved with the review in North Central London, where they have now opted to improve access to fertility services to offer up to six transfers where the majority of their CCGs were previously offering just one fresh and one frozen transfer.



Working with clinics on the quality of support offered

This year we worked with clinics across the country to seek to influence the appropriate **emotional care and support** offered and to make patients aware of the free support services of Fertility Network UK.

This year we introduced a new **Clinic Ambassador** role, open to doctors, nurses, embryologists, andrologists, counsellors or any other interested member of clinic staff who will work with us to try to improve the patient experience. The Ambassadors will help to raise awareness of Fertility Network UK with patients and fellow clinicians, acting as a liaison between the charity and

colleagues in the clinic. In this first year of the new initiative, we recruited 40 clinic ambassadors from 34 clinics.



Advocating for patients by influencing in the sector

In January 2022, we participated and delivered a presentation for the **Joint Conference of the UK Fertility Societies:** the Association of Clinical Embryologists, British Fertility Society, and the Society for Reproduction & Fertility. The conference provides the opportunity annually to hear from leading experts, and to provide delegates with CPD and education and the chance to discuss key issues.

We were honoured to be invited to speak at the **RCN Fertility Nurses conference**, the British Fertility Society Study Week, round table session on assisted conception organised by Public Policy Projects and at the RCOG/BFS joint course on assisted conception. We are often invited to speak at conferences and events, including Progress Educational Trust, the Royal Society of Medicine, Fertility conference, RCOG, BICA and at several other conferences, student midwife and GP events. We were proud to support the fifth annual award of the 'Iwan Lewis-Jones Memorial Prizes' for Young Scientist and Young Clinician.

We continue to work in close collaboration with **the regulator** of the UK fertility industry, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). We have had regular meetings, attended Authority meetings, and continued to be part of the treatment 'add on' group both with the HFEA and Consumer and Marketing Authority providing feedback as appropriate. As well as working with British Fertility Society, European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology (ESHRE), British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA), British Andrology Society (BAS), Association of Clinical Embryologists (ACE), Association of Biomedical Andrologists (ABA), Royal College of Nursing (RCN), Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) and Senior Infertility Nurse Group (SING).

"We ran an initial session hosted by Anya as an 'introduction to fertility', which was incredibly well-attended, followed by a session specifically targeted at managers to help them offer the right support to anyone in their team going through infertility or miscarriage."

Our work across the nations and regions

Fertility Network UK in England



We have team members based across the UK in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales whose focus is to serve the local community with support groups and events.

They had a busy and impactful year.



We supported **7,509** people and engaged with **4,657** members of our regional groups in England. We have **35** regional fertility groups covering **41** regions/counties and we've introduced two additional groups this year and expanded others to extend our reach to a further **six** counties. Group membership has grown by **1,122** over the past year.



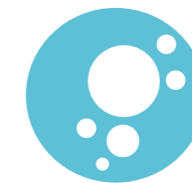
We now have **13** UK-wide specialist groups with a total membership of **1,573** growing a **third** since last year. Some of the specialist groups have been particularly active, such as the Black Women's group which holds regular monthly meetings with speakers organised by an excellent volunteer. The Secondary Infertility group has **466** members and two volunteers running the group. A member fundraised to provide a mindfulness course for this group.



We worked with the HFEA on a range of projects. We jointly organised a **webinar to promote their report** into ethnic diversity in fertility treatment and worked with them on questions on add-ons for patients to ask at clinics



Presented on the patient perspective at the British Fertility Society Study week, at a BFS course for GPs and at the RCOG/BFS Management of Subfertility and Assisted Conception course.



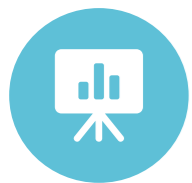
Continue to provide **representation** on the RCOG's Genomics Task Force and on the Reproductive Medicine group within the Task Force. We are also a member of the RCOG's Reproductive Medicine (Fertility) Clinical Study Group.

"I'm about to begin my first round. I think joining this network has really helped me to be a bit more realistic about my expectations of the treatment. And it has been so helpful in terms of getting information and recommendations from others here."

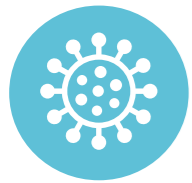
— Beneficiary

Fertility Network UK in Scotland

In Scotland, with the support of the Scottish government, we have...



Delivered presentations to the Community Link workers to ensure our reach to patients at GP Level, distributed **2,500** Patient Packs to the four NHS Clinics.



Attended **COVID response groups** and continued to attend regular meetings with the ACU, Complex Case, and subgroups ensuring that patients are represented.



Supported **6,483** people in 17 active support groups. The LGBTQ+ group is one of the fastest growing groups with 147 members.



Miscarriage Round Table - this is a partnership organisation with The Scottish Government, the Scottish Perinatal Network and the Fertility Scotland National Network, Public Health Scotland and Tommy's.



Attended **Scottish Government** meetings, including Improvement work of the National Fertility group and subgroups to ensure Scotland leads the way in having the Gold Standard in IVF treatment in the UK.

“I heard about Fertility Network through the ‘Big Fat Negative’ podcast that a friend recommended. Ever since getting in touch for the first time Fertility Network has been a saving grace for me. I was due to start fertility tests etc. in 2020 and due to the pandemic this was obviously all put on hold, with nowhere to turn my mental health took a nosedive. It wasn’t until reaching out to Fertility Network and finding out about all the support that was available that my mindset changed, and I realised I was far from alone. A massive thank you to Fertility Network Scotland and all the volunteers from my husband and I.”

— Beneficiary

Fertility Network UK in Wales

In Wales, with the support from The National Lottery Community Fund Wales, we have...



Delivered **emotional impact training** to Aneurin Bevan UHB Primary Care Mental Health Services Team and Carmarthenshire County Council among others.



For our **fertility in the workplace** activities, we provided ongoing support to South & North Wales Police and ran an event with Darwin Gray's Head of Employment & HR, Wales Fertility Institute, and the IVF Essentials. 19 organisations took part including Shiseido EMEA, Hawarden Wellness Centre, Backbase, Mudiad Meithrin and Wales National Opera.



Arranged several special **information sessions** on POI with the Daisy Network and a couples' support session with Toby Trice and counsellor Wendy Martin.



Supported **2,235** people with 516 now in our four private groups (South & West Wales, Shropshire & Mid Wales, North Wales). Regular meetings of the All Wales group including both peer support meetings and meetings with expert speakers.



Worked closely with **Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales**, and took part in the RCN 'From Fertility to Maternity' work.



Provided **wellbeing support** through our Mindfulness courses and Mindful Eating courses. We provided follow-up support to this with the Fertility Weight Loss group which is run by the Wales team, and which currently has 308 members. We continue to recruit new volunteers to work alongside the staff team.



Participated in a **family planning** options for women with chronic conditions event with Bangor University and the Kidney Research Unit Wales. We worked with Diabetes UK Cymru to discuss how to offer the best support fertility patients with diabetes



We Inputted into the **Women & Girls' Wales** health plan and attended Coalition meetings.

Fertility Network UK in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, with the support of the Health & Social Care Board, PHA Clear Fund in Belfast/Western and Belfast sit-out fund we have been able to increase our support to 2,315 people, including:



Representing patients on the new IVF Support Board with the NI Department of Health, NHS Regional Fertility Clinic, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders to look at the potential pledge to move to three cycles of IVF as stated in the new agreement for the reinstatement of the Stormont Executive. This has been agreed in principle with the devolved executive in Stormont and is likely to be a phased implementation as capacity allows.



Made a submission to the Department of Health 10-year **Mental Health Strategy Consultation** to highlight the impact of infertility on mental health and the need to plan for provision to provide appropriate counselling services.



Consulted with the Northern Trust about becoming a Community Partner on their **Wellness Hub** which would feature our information across the UK and will also be able to offer this information to the NI Education Authority.



Collaborated with Queen's University Belfast in the development of a **research project** to investigate the impact of fertility issues on the social and emotional wellbeing of prospective parents and those living with fertility issues with particular regard to psychological trauma.



Hosted several successful **Health and Wellbeing programmes** including Qi Gong, Mindfulness connections, CBT programmes (Living Life to the Full) for both our More to Life and Trying to conceive communities.

Our supporters

We are extremely grateful for the support from our partners including:

The Scottish Government

To work with clinics and Health Boards on the provision of fertility services in Scotland; to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients; to raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility by working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland and to support our volunteers.

The National Lottery Community Fund Wales

Five-year project to expand our regional network of support for infertility sufferers in Wales and to deliver the Education project across the country.

Health and Social Care Board, Northern Ireland

To provide support services to local patient groups.

St Anne's Cathedral

Sit Out Fund.

PHA Clear Project

Western Trust to provide mindfulness support. Belfast Trust to provide mindfulness support.

Also: **Health Medica; My Family Tree; Tori Day; Broken Heart Tees; NUA; Melio** and **Sheila Lamb**.

Our thanks go to our corporate and clinic supporters:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Aberdeen Fertility Centre | I-Trust/Sussex Downs Clinic |
| AGORA | IN-OVO Clinics |
| Apricity Fertility UK LTD | IVF Matters |
| ARCG | IVF Spain |
| BCRM | LogiXx |
| Bourn Hall | MD Consents |
| CARE Fertility | Merck |
| Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health | Ninewells ACU |
| Chelsea and Westminster | NUA |
| Concept Fertility | Orchard Clinic |
| CREATE | Origio Ltd. / Cooper Surgical |
| Cryos International | Peanut |
| Edinburgh Fertility Centre | Pharmasure |
| Ferring | The Hull IVF Unit |
| Fertifa | The London Women's Clinic |
| Gennet City London | The Shropshire and Mid-Wales Fertility |
| Guerbet Laboratories Ltd | Centre CRGW Wales |
| Hearts and Essex | Vitabiotics |

We are particularly grateful to all those individuals who have made donations or carried out fundraising activities for Fertility Network UK.

A special thanks to those small businesses who are donating a proportion of their proceeds to Fertility Network UK including:

HelloTreacle & The Pants Project, and **Notch.**

Financial review

Review of the year

During 2021/22 financial year we continued to look for ways to diversify our income generation. Although our efforts helped us to retain funding from The Health and Social Care Board in Northern Ireland and from the Scottish Government, fertility issues continue not to be a priority for the government in Westminster. We continue to receive a further 3 year's funding in Wales through the TNL Community Fund. In March 2021 we were successful in achieving 3 years funding from TNL Community Fund England.

Income and expenditure

Income dropped slightly this year but this was due to the £44,995 received (and spent) re 'Tampon Tax fund' in the previous year, if you ignore for this, income has actually grown by 7%.

The majority of our expenditure (75%) goes on staff salaries, plus expenses related to the cost of delivering our activities.

“Thank you so much, I truly enjoyed and have learnt and taken so much from it. It is changing my life. And you are wonderful Veronica, thank you so much.”

— Beneficiary

“For many years I have tried mindfulness, ‘self-taught’ using various apps. However, the course really taught me what mindfulness is and how to practise. The 2 key factors for me were being taught by someone so experienced; and the second was doing it in a group. I think the enquiry sessions reinforced what happens when you practise.”

— Beneficiary

| Income by Source | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Restricted/Unrestricted | 2022 (£) | 2021 (£) |
| Grant income | R | 232,809 | 269,731 |
| Income from fundraising | UR | 44,955 | 44,183 |
| Sponsorship income | UR | 135,618 | 134,121 |
| Donations and gifts | UR | 31,916 | 15,741 |
| Interest receivable | UR | 3,737 | 705 |
| The Fertility Show | UR | 1,275 | 0 |
| Advertising income | UR | 1,350 | 1,860 |
| Other income | UR | 0 | 1,382 |
| Total Income | | 451,660 | 467,723 |

Review of designated funds

During the year the Trustees undertook a review of the amounts allocated to designated funds in the previous year's accounts which involved liaising with the donor of these funds. As a result of this review the Trustees determined that these funds should be classified as restricted funds rather than designated funds and therefore a transfer of £12,300 was made to show these funds as restricted funds at the year end. None of the reallocated funds have been used yet, and the Trustees will ensure this is spent as specified by the donor as required.

Reserves

The charity has a reserves policy of 9 months expenditure. This is reviewed annually by the Trustees and scrutinised by the finance committee.

On reviewing the financial plan for 2022/23 it was highlighted that the amount held in reserve was in excess of the policy and the Trustees designated the excess funds as soon as they were made aware. This will be reflected in 2022/23 financial statements.

These designated funds are to be used to support the growth of the charity and the finance committee are working with the staff to recommend how these should be used to support the charity's ambitions.

This work continues in 2022/23. Funds are expected to be spent in 22/23 and 23/24.

Structure, governance & management

Governance

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by Articles of Association. The number of Trustees shall not be less than 4 and not more than 10 (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects. The Trustees are each members of the company and have no beneficial interest therein and guarantee to contribute £1.00 in the event of a winding up.

Appointment & induction of Trustees

This year a new Board was appointed with the new Chair Jo Binding joining in January and five new Trustees joining in March.

Thanks to those Trustees who departed this year, we are very grateful for your support, time and energy.

Organisational structure & decision making

The Board meets quarterly and as necessary. Please see p33 for a full list of Trustees.

The Chief Executive, Gwenda Burns is appointed by the Board of Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of

the charity and has overall responsibility for managing the charity's operations and employees. The Board delegates to the Finance and Risk Committee for further support and scrutiny.

Remuneration policy

It is the wish of the Trustees that the charity pay fairly. The new Board of Trustees commissioned a pay benchmarking report delivered by a third party and those recommendations were considered as part of the financial plan for 2022/23.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in the charity. Their contribution and enthusiasm is essential for us to deliver the quality of our support services.

We offer support to all our volunteers from our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator and regional staff teams.

We currently have a total of 110 active volunteers, 60 in England, 12 in Scotland, 11 in Wales and 27 in Northern Ireland.

Fundraising

We increased our capacity in Fundraising with the appointment of a Business

Development Manager. This enabled us to build varied and stable funding streams and to develop relationships with key partners. We established relationships with several new organisations as we seek to grow and diversify our income streams.

There are 3 key sources of income that we rely on:

1. Grants & Trusts

We are incredibly grateful for the grant and trust income we receive, in particular the on-going support from the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Health & Social Care Board. We are thrilled to have secured valuable funds from The National Lottery (TNL) Community Fund Wales for a five-year project in Wales. During the year we also successfully applied for grants from PHA CLEAR Funding Belfast and PHA Clear Funding Western in Northern Ireland. We have been successful in securing 3 years funding from TNL Community Fund (England), for a project beginning on 1st April 2022.

2. Clinics & other Corporate organisations:

We continue to receive income support through our clinic patient pledge and outreach scheme. The Patient Pledge remained a challenge in 2021/2022 as participating clinics who make a donation to the charity to support our on-going work had lost income from 2020/21.

3. Individual Giving/ Community Fundraising

As a result of our increasing reach we have seen an increase in the number of individuals that donate to us. However, due to the pandemic the majority of fundraising events were again cancelled. Our HimFertility volunteers amazingly did complete the Everest Challenge in March 2021. Over the coming year, now restrictions have lifted events can resume.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The finance and risk committee meets to provide further support and scrutiny of our finances and our risk register.

The key risks identified include: loss of income from our largest donors (grants and trusts), the continuation of COVID-19 which has an impact on our ability to conduct our activities and our governance arrangements including the turnover of Trustees.

Trustees are working with the staff to put in place plans to mitigate these risks and are using designated reserves to provide support and relevant resources. Designated reserves are to be used to support governance improvement and the growth of our impact.

Our plans for the future

We hope to further diversify our income next year, and secure further long term grants from several new supporters. Generating a diverse and sustainable income stream in 2022/23 and beyond is critical to the charity's future and on-going success.

Our website and social channels will continue to offer us more opportunities to generate income by working closely with existing partners and recruiting new partners. We will work together to ensure our partnerships enhance and expand the good quality information and support we offer our service users. We will also look at expanding our successful work engaging with fundraisers.

We will build our capacity in digital and social media and will resource this to capitalise on the increased demand in this space together with technology changes.

We expect to continue to provide our services in a hybrid way, and continue to deliver many activities digitally and remotely.

Activities

Five initiatives we will continue to develop and grow during 2022/23:

- We aim to increase our support and seek to diversify our beneficiary base so that it is more representative of society and the UK today. We will build on our support activities for the Male fertility community.
- We will continue to build upon successful work already undertaken across the UK in the activities with workplaces.
- We will seek to deepen our role as the leading resource for information and support by both patients and health professionals
- We will extend our content offered, developing and hosting a series of webinars facilitated by Fertility Network UK with expert speakers, offered each month.

Our awareness week initiative will once again be a focus for us, providing support, raising awareness and funds, and changing perceptions. This is planned for the week 31st October – 4th November 2022. We will use hashtags to highlight some key objectives during the week as well as our campaign hashtag #Fighting4Fertility

Get #Fit4Fertility with us during November 2022

The challenge is to complete four #5KFriday's during November – running, walking, cycling or swimming. The first #5KFriday is Friday 4 November.

Influencing on behalf of patients

We will continue to lobby for increased funding for NHS fertility treatment in Wales, England, and Northern Ireland. We believe our work in the Nations is essential in keeping fertility on the public agenda and the channels for effective dialogue with government and parliamentary representatives open. We will continue our campaign to end the unfair 'postcode lottery' across England and increase provision in Northern Ireland and Wales.

We are proud that our work continues with the Scottish Government as part of the National Infertility Group which has resulted in Scotland having the Gold Standard in provision of treatment. We will continue to work with the Health Boards, National Infertility group and subgroups in 2022/23.

We will work in collaboration with Middlesex University to develop an emotional impact survey, results will be released during National Fertility Awareness Week.

We will continue our work with all professional organisations including HFEA, BFS, BICA and RCOG, to highlight the emotional impact, and promote the services offered by the charity.

“Thank you for the chance to be part of this amazing community. I’m learning so much from all you amazing women.”

— Beneficiary

Thank you

Thanks to donors

Thank you for your help to fund our amazing work.

Thanks to volunteers

Thanks to our committed and generous volunteers, including those patients who bravely share their stories for the benefit of all our beneficiaries.

Thanks to staff

We are grateful to our passionate staff who deliver our activities for our beneficiaries.

Thanks to those departing

During 2021/2022 we said goodbye to some of our Trustees. We would like to thank them for their service to Fertility Network UK and wish them all every success in the future.

“The pandemic has been very isolating for me, as for many others, and it has been very positive to make new friends via the network. The mindfulness course was genuinely life-changing for me. I’ve tried counselling many times and whilst useful, it really doesn’t compare to what I have gained from Veronica’s course.”

— Beneficiary

Statement of Trustees' Responsibility

The Trustees 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).

Charity 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity 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
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group 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.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by



Jo Binding, Chair of Trustees

“My wife and I found the series hugely beneficial. It was great to hear from other couples in our situation as we do not know anyone personally who is going through fertility treatment as a same sex couple.”

— Beneficiary

“I just wanted to message on the back of my fourth yoga session with Annie online tonight to thank you for making this fertility yoga accessible in this way. Even with our cancelled FET after all other hurdles on our fertility journey, this ability to relax and feel strong is invaluable. I really appreciate it and hope that these continue.”

— Beneficiary

Financial Statements

Please see Financial Statements appended over coming pages.

| Reference and Administrative Information | |
|--|--|
| Charity name | Infertility Network UK (Trading name - Fertility Network UK.) Changed to Fertility Network UK by resolution on 20/01/22. |
| Charity no. (England & Wales) | 1099960 |
| Company no. | 4822073 |
| Scottish charity no. | SC039511 |
| Governing Document | Articles of Association, 2016 |
| Registered office | The Forum at Greenwich (2nd floor office), London SE10 9EQ |
| Trustees | Hannah Grinsted, Chair (Resigned 24/01/22) Ella Norden, (Resigned 29/03/22) Bala Karunakaran (Resigned 01/02/22) Vicky Hayes (Resigned 29/03/22) Lucy Thorn, Treasurer (Appointed 21/07/21) Isabel Traynor, (Appointed 27/10/21, resigned 19/09/22) Jo Binding, Chair (Appointed 20/01/2021) Arti Shah (Appointed 29/03/22, resigned 16/10/22) Rachel Bodner (Appointed 29/03/22) Francesca Raine (Appointed 29/03/22) Angela Pericleous-Smith (Appointed 29/03/22, resigned 29/11/22) Isla Billet (Appointed 29/03/22) |
| Key Management | Gwenda Burns, CEO Kate Brian, Operations Manager Sharon Martin, Business Development Manager Catalina Chinkousky Head Office Manager Catherine Hill, Communications Manager |
| Accountants | McPhersons, 23 St Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1HH |
| Bankers | Lloyds Bank, 25 Cornhill, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 3A |

Charity registration number 1099960

Company registration number 4822073 (England and Wales)

FERTILITY NETWORK UK
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF FERTILITY NETWORK UK**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Fertility Network UK (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Ainsley Gill BA FCA BFP
McPhersons Chartered Accountants
23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH



Dated: 20/12/22

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|-------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 3 | 31,916 | - | - | 31,916 | 15,741 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 46,305 | - | 232,809 | 279,114 | 315,774 |
| Investments | 5 | 3,737 | - | - | 3,737 | 705 |
| Other income | 6 | 136,893 | - | - | 136,893 | 135,503 |
| Total income | | 218,851 | - | 232,809 | 451,660 | 467,723 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | 186,612 | - | 239,848 | 426,460 | 349,910 |
| Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers | | 32,239 | - | (7,039) | 25,200 | 117,813 |
| Gross transfers between funds | | - | (12,300) | 12,300 | - | - |
| Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds | | 32,239 | (12,300) | 5,261 | 25,200 | 117,813 |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2021 | | 217,726 | 12,300 | 132,866 | 362,892 | 245,080 |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2022 | | 249,965 | - | 138,127 | 388,092 | 362,893 |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

| | Notes | 2022 | | 2021 | |
|---|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11 | | 491 | | 290 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 42,712 | | 21,761 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 526,982 | | 536,208 | |
| | | 569,694 | | 557,969 | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 13 | (182,093) | | (195,366) | |
| Net current assets | | | 387,601 | | 362,603 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 388,092 | | 362,893 |
| Income funds | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 15 | 138,127 | | 132,866 | |
| Designated funds: | | - | | 12,300 | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 249,965 | | 217,727 | |
| | | 388,092 | | 362,893 | |

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20.12.22.



L E Thorn
Trustee

Company Registration No. 4822073

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

1 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

2 Accounting policies

Charity information

Fertility Network UK is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2nd Floor Office, The Forum at Greenwich, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, London, SE10 9EQ.

2.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Such funds are subject to certain conditions agreed by the Trustees and used in accordance with the majority decision of the Trustees from time to time.

2.3 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2 Accounting policies (Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the charity are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the charity can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of financial activities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2 Accounting policies (Continued)

2.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising and publicity costs include general advertising and promotion of the charity and its objectives.

Governance costs include costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's activities.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

A liability will arise when the charity is under an obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party. Where costs cannot be attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 20% per annum on a straight line basis |
|--------------------------------|--|

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

2.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2 Accounting policies (Continued)

2.8 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

3 Voluntary income

| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Total 2022 | Total 2021 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations and gifts | 31,916 | - | 31,916 | 15,741 |
| For the year ended 31 March 2021 | 3,441 | 12,300 | | 15,741 |

**FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

| 4 Charitable activities | Fundraising income receivable for charitable activities | | Grants receivable for charitable activities | | Advertising income | | Total | |
|---|---|---------|---|---------|--------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | 2022 | 2021 | 2022 | 2021 | 2022 | 2021 | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income within charitable activities | 44,955 | - | - | - | 46,305 | 44,183 | 46,043 | 46,043 |
| Grants receivable for charitable activities | - | 232,809 | 232,809 | 269,731 | 232,809 | - | 269,731 | 269,731 |
| | 44,955 | 232,809 | 232,809 | 269,731 | 279,114 | 44,183 | 315,774 | 315,774 |
| Analysis by fund | | | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 44,955 | - | - | - | 46,305 | 44,183 | 46,043 | 46,043 |
| Restricted funds | - | 232,809 | 232,809 | 269,731 | 232,809 | - | 269,731 | 269,731 |
| | 44,955 | 232,809 | 232,809 | 269,731 | 279,114 | 44,183 | 315,774 | 315,774 |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5 Investments

| Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 2022 | 2021 |
| £ | £ |
| Interest receivable | 705 |
| <u>3,737</u> | <u>705</u> |

6 Other income

| Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 2022 | 2021 |
| £ | £ |
| Other income | 1,382 |
| Sponsorship | 134,121 |
| The Fertility Show income | - |
| <u>136,893</u> | <u>135,503</u> |

7 Charitable activities

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 312,563 | 259,444 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 413 | 843 |
| Activities undertaken directly | 87,413 | 65,611 |
| | <u>400,389</u> | <u>325,898</u> |
| Share of governance costs (see note 9) | 26,071 | 24,012 |
| | <u>426,460</u> | <u>349,910</u> |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 186,612 | 77,406 |
| Restricted funds | 239,848 | 272,504 |
| | <u>426,460</u> | <u>349,910</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8 Trustees

None of the Trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

9 Governance costs

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 9,578 | 9,342 |
| Legal and professional | 16,493 | 14,670 |
| | <u>26,071</u> | <u>24,012</u> |
| Analysed between Charitable activities | <u>26,071</u> | <u>24,012</u> |

All costs are allocated based on estimated actual use of service provision.

10 Employees

The average monthly number employees (including full time and part time staff) during the year was:

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Number | Number |
| | <u>17</u> | <u>18</u> |
| Employment costs | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | <u>322,141</u> | <u>268,786</u> |

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

| 11 Tangible fixed assets | Fixtures, fittings & equipment | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | £ | |
| Cost | | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 23,072 | |
| Additions | 1,967 | |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>25,039</u> | |
| Depreciation and impairment | | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 22,782 | |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 1,766 | |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>24,548</u> | |
| Carrying amount | | |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>491</u> | |
| At 31 March 2021 | <u>290</u> | |
| | | |
| 12 Debtors | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ |
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| Trade debtors | 35,039 | 19,412 |
| Other debtors | 2,084 | 238 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 5,589 | 2,111 |
| | <u>42,712</u> | <u>21,761</u> |
| | | |
| 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ |
| Other taxation and social security | 5,544 | 4,245 |
| Deferred income | 153,064 | 171,535 |
| Trade creditors | 19,615 | 15,716 |
| Accruals | 3,870 | 3,870 |
| | <u>182,093</u> | <u>195,366</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

| 14 Deferred income | 2022 | 2021 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income received in advance | <u>153,064</u> | <u>171,535</u> |

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

| | Balance at 1 April 2020 | Movement in funds Incoming resources | Resources expended | Balance at 1 April 2021 | Movement in funds Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2022 |
|---|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Health & Social Care Board | - | 20,671 | (17,830) | 2,842 | 22,946 | (22,224) | - | 3,564 |
| Scottish Government Health Board Project & Options | 12,000 | 40,913 | (38,149) | 14,763 | 44,733 | (44,506) | - | 14,990 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Education Project | 45,731 | 49,240 | (38,718) | 56,253 | 49,240 | (48,053) | - | 57,440 |
| Belfast Cathedral Sit-Out Appeal | 535 | 735 | (191) | 1,079 | 1,000 | (174) | - | 1,905 |
| Scottish Government Additional | 10,075 | - | (10,074) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scottish Government Fertility Network Scotland Projects | 54,001 | - | (10,492) | 43,509 | - | (8,509) | - | 35,000 |
| Restricted donations | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12,300 | 12,300 |
| Scottish Volunteer Project | 852 | 8,998 | (9,035) | 815 | 9,500 | (8,998) | - | 1,317 |
| Tampoon Tax | 1,160 | 8,829 | (9,989) | - | - | - | - | - |
| TNL Community Grant | 7,063 | 76,167 | (70,527) | 12,703 | 72,946 | (75,941) | - | 9,708 |
| Scotland Covid Funding | - | - | - | - | 20,460 | (19,459) | - | 1,001 |
| Match funding for Wales | 901 | - | - | 901 | - | - | - | 901 |
| London Tax Fund | - | 6,500 | (6,500) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tampoon Tax fund | - | 44,995 | (44,995) | - | - | - | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Western Trust | - | 4,936 | (4,936) | - | 4,991 | (4,991) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Belfast Trust | - | 4,936 | (4,936) | - | 4,991 | (4,991) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Western Trust | - | 1,414 | (1,414) | - | 1,000 | (1,000) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Belfast Trust | - | 1,395 | (1,395) | - | 1,000 | (1,000) | - | - |
| Awards for All England | 3,323 | - | (3,323) | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 135,639 | 269,730 | (181,525) | 132,866 | 232,808 | (239,846) | 12,300 | 138,127 |

(Continued)

15 Restricted funds

Health & Social Care Board - Successful bid for tender to provide a part-time support coordinator, a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and the coordination and delivery of support to local patient groups.

Scottish Government - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Scotland, to work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland, and to produce patient information packs.

Scottish Government Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

St Anne's Cathedral Sit-Out Fund - To run workshops for the More to Life Group in Northern Ireland and provide some funding for Fertility Network Support Groups not covered by other funding.

Scottish Volunteer Project - Match funding from the Scottish Government to employ a Volunteer Coordinator.

TNL Community Grant - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Wales, to provide patient awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Wales to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

Awards for all England - Funding to allow us to expand and improve our digital presence providing support throughout England regardless of your geographical location.

**FERTILITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

15 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Tampou Tax - Community funding to build social networks for women and girls, build skills and confidence and improve health and well-being.
 Wesleyan - Fertility Yoga - Funding towards a project to promote positive health and well-being.
 Tampou Tax Fund - for wellbeing projects. All projects for Fertility Yoga, Qi Gong and Mindfulness and 2 CBT 'Living life to the full' programmes.
 PHA Clear project Western Trust - Mindfulness for Life 8 week programme for TTC group of up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.
 PHA Clear project Belfast Trust - Mindfulness for Life 8 week programme for MTL group of up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.
 PHA Clear project Western Trust - Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions to increase mindfulness personal practice for TTC group and introduce mindfulness to some additional new group members.
 PHA Clear project Belfast Trust - Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions for MTL group to focus on using mindfulness to address deep grief and loss using resourcing and listening spaces.
 All of the above grants were received after successful application for funding by Fertility Network UK.
 All of the grants are restricted to expenditure as agreed with the grant body during the application process.

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total £ |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 491 | - | - | 491 |
| Net current assets/(liabilities) | 249,474 | - | 138,127 | 387,601 |
| | <u>249,965</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>138,127</u> | <u>388,092</u> |

17 Related party transactions


Remuneration of key management personnel

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| | 2022 |
| | £ |
| Aggregate compensation | <u>113,214</u> |

18 Donated services and gifts in kind

There were no donated services and gifts in kind provided to the charity during the year.

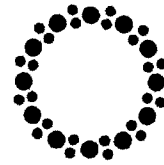


Design and typesetting
Tom Hampson, reforma.london

FERTILITY NETWORK UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1099960

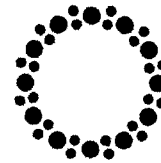
Accounts



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ANNUAL REPORT

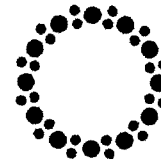
APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021



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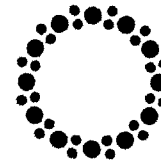
1. Reference & Administrative Information
2. Structure, Governance & Management
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4. Chair Report
5. Operating Highlights
 - 5.1 Income
 - 5.2 Influence
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 - 9.1 Operating Activities
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 - 9.4 Funding & Business Development
 - 9.5 Staffing & Recruitment
 - 9.6 Business Planning
10. Trustee Responsibilities



fertilitynetworkuk

1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Charity name | Infertility Network UK (Trading name – Fertility Network UK) |
| Charity number (England and Wales) | 1099960 |
| Company number | 4822073 |
| Scottish charity number | SC039511 |
| Governing Document | Articles of Association, 2016 |
| Registered office | The Forum at Greenwich (2 nd floor office) Greenwich London SE10 9EQ |
| Reporting accountants | McPhersons 23 St. Leonards Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH |
| Bank | Lloyds Bank 25 Cornhill Bridgwater Somerset TA6 3A |
| HR Advice | Wirehouse Employer Services St James Business Centre, Wilderspool Causeway Warrington, Cheshire WA4 6PS |



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2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by Articles of Association. The number of Trustees shall not be less than 4 and not more than 10 (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects. The Trustees are each members of the company and have no beneficial interest therein and guarantee to contribute £1.00 in the event of a winding up. The Board meets quarterly and as necessary. The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year, were:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Richard Broughton | Resigned 31/10/20 |
| Sally Hinks | Resigned 21/07/21 |
| Hannah Grinsted | Chair |
| Lucy Thorn | Treasurer Appointment 21/07/21 |
| Ella Norden | |
| Vicky Hayes | |
| Sarah Gilchrist | Resigned 11/12/21 |
| Bala Karunakaran | |
| Isabel Traynor | Appointment 27/10/21 |

Plans to recruit new Trustees are currently being pursued.

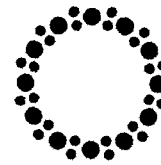
The Chief Executive, Gwenda Burns is appointed by the Board of Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity and has overall responsibility for managing the charity's employees.

3. OUR MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Fertility Network UK aims to continue being the leading charity across the UK in the provision of a comprehensive support network for those facing fertility challenges at all stages of their journey, providing information, education as well as practical and emotional support.

The charity's objectives are subject to review each year to ensure it continues to deliver value to the individuals, couples, communities, and entities it supports.

- ❖ To relieve the suffering from infertility particularly through the provision of information, advice, and support.
- ❖ To uphold the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK for all sufferers of infertility, sub-fertility, and secondary infertility.
- ❖ To support the needs of persons suffering from infertility through the provision of inter alia, a network of local support groups, a support line service, a website and a regular magazine and e-newsletter;
- ❖ To advance public education about all aspects of fertility and infertility;



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- ❖ To raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media and in general, in an informed, responsible manner; and
- ❖ To encourage and assist continuing research of the broadest nature into infertility and its various effects.

A summary of the activities undertaken by the charity are as follows:

Provision of information, advice, and support

- ❖ The charity provides unbiased and free information via its website (www.fertilitynetworkuk.org)
- ❖ Telephone advice and support is provided via a general 'Information Line' and a nursing 'Support Line.'
- ❖ Support is provided through multiple online and UK-wide face-to-face support groups.
- ❖ Workshops are undertaken in conjunction with organisations to support employees.
- ❖ In Scotland and Wales, the Charity undertakes education and awareness sessions at Freshers events and throughout the academic year in universities and colleges.

Support persons suffering from infertility

Fertility Network has a network of support groups in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales. The groups are either run by team members or volunteers. Special groups are dedicated to supporting those people childless not through choice (More to Life), pregnancy following treatment group and those who have had a child through assisted conception (AceBabes in Northern Ireland). Meetings are held at a frequency determined by the members, typically every month. Furthermore, we increased support via online groups and webinars. All support activities are publicised on the website and via Facebook and other social media channels. During 2020 Fertility Network continued to increase all services to meet a huge increase in demand for support due to COVID-19.

The charity website, provides information for all stages of a person's fertility journey:

- ❖ for those considering their future fertility
- ❖ for those trying to become parents
- ❖ for those facing the challenges of childlessness
- ❖ for those successful after fertility issues

Support the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment

- ❖ During 2020 the charity continued to represent patients throughout the UK lobbying for a fair and equitable access to NHS funding through virtual meetings with policy makers.
- ❖ Fertility Network continued to meet with MPs, MSP's and MLA's and give support with the production of Parliamentary Questions and other briefings. In Northern Ireland Stormont was re-established with several MLA's demonstrating their support in Parliament.
- ❖ Fertility Network continued to meet with the parties in Scotland and work with the Government to maintain the Gold standard and equitable service currently in place.



Advance public education

Fertility Network UK believes that fertility education is essential, not only for those experiencing fertility challenges but also as an education project for young people so that they know how to care for their future if they might wish to have children one day. We are engaged in several activities to raise awareness and educate the public, including:

- ❖ Fertility Network's Education Project in Scotland was replicated in Wales and where resources allowed, we introduced this in other parts of the UK
- ❖ active member of the British Fertility Society's Education project
- ❖ via our website and social media channels
- ❖ Through working with Employers and educating on the importance and benefits of understanding and supporting employees who are going through the fertility journey.

Raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility

Fertility Network UK is active within the media and press, and this includes in social media with accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We have a Communication Manager that regularly provides press statements on issues related to fertility and infertility. Each year, in late October/early November we hold Fertility Week (that focuses on a different aspect of fertility each day).

To encourage and assist research in its broadest sense into infertility and its various effects

Fertility Network UK is widely perceived as the leading national fertility patient organisation, providing patient representation on several professional committees. The charity regularly represents the patient voice on many academic and scientific research projects. The charity founded and continues to be a part of the Association of Fertility Patient Organisations, AFPO.

4. CHAIR REPORT

Welcome

2020/21 has been a successful and a significant year for Fertility Network UK including the need to adapt and increase all support services across the UK. The year brought significant challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for both the charity and the community we support. In response, we increased our staff team and resources, including a new Operations Manager covering the UK, and three new members of staff.

A selection of the key highlights of the year are described below:



COVID-19

The cancellation of fertility treatments and the closure of clinics saw a significant increased number of patients seeking advice, information, and emotional support with many describing themselves at crisis point. Patients who were part way through cycles of treatment or about to embark on a cycle, were left bereft and emotionally vulnerable. We responded to the challenge by introducing many new digital services to support patients with their emotional needs, mental health, and wellbeing.

Fertility Network UK was represented in numerous meetings with BFS/ARCS guidance group, clinics, and Government representatives to resolve challenges that both patients and clinics faced. This trend will continue into 2021/2022 as some NHS services remain under pressure whilst trying to recover from the back log of patients created as a result of the Pandemic. Those who are currently waiting on referrals/further investigations have reported lengthy waiting times.

Fertility Conference 2021

The Chief Executive participated and recorded a presentation for the Joint Conference of the UK Fertility Societies: the Association of Clinical Embryologists, British Fertility Society, and the Society for Reproduction & Fertility. The conference provides the opportunity annually to hear from leading experts, and to provide delegates with CPD and education and the chance to network, with friends, colleagues, and industry partners

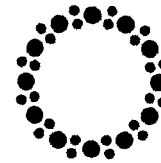
Support

During 20/21 support and advice was given by regional staff to 10,090 people through our supportline with our 'health unlocked' forum reaching 5492, patients. We now have over 50 support groups running in UK, which now have a total of 5,600, members. In addition, we also have a number of specialist groups including single women's, HIMfertility male only, Asian, black women, moving on from treatment, More to Life and secondary infertility groups.

Our 'Health Unlocked' online support forum currently has 32,915 members and is growing at more than 1,000 new members a month, with a 13% increase in members month on month. We are actively promoting more of our activities on the 'Health Unlocked' forum to ensure members are aware of all Fertility Network UK has to offer.

We ran 30 webinars over the year which reached 9075, participants, including some with our partners. The webinar recordings were made available on our webinar page via YouTube and proved very popular. Our information from the sector was highly valued by patients and a COVID update with the HFEA and BFS had over 1,000 views.

There is a real lack of support for men experiencing male fertility issues, FNUK had worked with the HIMfertility campaign, which was set up by comedian Rhod Gilbert, to encourage men to talk about



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fertility problems and signpost them and their partners to much-needed support. We are delighted to say that in 2020/2021 HIMfertility found a new home and has become part of Fertility Network UK. We will be continuing to work with Rhod to spread awareness of male fertility causes and impacts.

We are delighted with the positive feedback from our support services, some of these are shared below:

"I also just wanted to say thank you for everything. I think that's four times now I've been at a complete loss with no idea what to do next and after a call with you have had a clear head, clear plan in place and a new perspective. Also, thanks for making me feel like nothing was a bother and I could ask as many questions as I needed. The support you have given me is worth more than its weight in gold and I am so grateful."

"The support from the group has been invaluable and supporting others has also been therapeutic too. I love that there is so much positivity and laughter too, which makes it a safe, friendly place to get support."

"The support group is a huge lifeline, to hear other guys in a similar position. Learning so much on each group meeting."

Working with clinics – The Patient Pledge

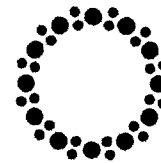
Fertility Network have continued to work and support clinics in 2020/2021 which proved to be a challenging time for both clinics and patients. Clinics had to close for a period of approximately 6 weeks due to the pandemic, however it proved equally as challenging for clinics to reopen the services with strict guidance in place. We supported clinics to ensure that patients are provided with the appropriate emotional care and support and are aware of the free support services of Fertility Network.

During 2020/21 we continued and increased activity in supporting the clinics which is aligned with the emphasis placed on patient support within the new Code of Practice V9, launched by the HFEA in 2019. <https://www.hfea.gov.uk/media/2793/2019-01-03-code-of-practice-9th-edition-v2.pdf>

Fertility in the Workplace

1 in 6 couples are impacted by fertility issues meaning they will form a core element of every employer's workforce. Our research has shown that 19% of people facing infertility reduce their hours or leave employment completely; therefore, it is vital that employers can fully support those impacted, so they remain engaged, fully productive and staff losses are minimised.

Fertility in the Workplace is an initiative to educate and raise awareness with employers of fertility issues; the challenges faced by their employees and how they can support those employees, their partners, and colleagues. Through our workshops, we highlight the benefits to employers and employees of having a fertility policy in place and offers support to the employees.



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The initiative offers consultation on establishing or improving a fertility policy and awareness sessions within the workplace.

Over the course of 2020/2021 staff provided numerous sessions to Employers, who we will continue to work with over 2021/2022

Education

The education project “your future fertility” educates young people on lifestyle choices which could impact their future fertility. The project has continued to grow successfully in Scotland supported by the Scottish Government and in Wales supported by TNL community fund Wales. Although Fresher events were cancelled in 2020/21 due to lockdown restrictions

- ❖ staff were able to attend some face-to-face presentations and workshops.
- ❖ Staff successfully provided the education project to students in digital formats and created lots of information for Education establishments to share via their social media pages and their websites and staff participated in Facebook and Instagram live sessions.
- ❖ Fertility Network UK have successfully recruited student ambassadors who are currently assessing the use of different platforms such as tik-tok where students are active.
- ❖ Colleges and Universities are currently actively signing up for 2021 Fresher face- to-face events.

We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Healthinote platform. The platform is for doctors and other members of health care teams to share personalised, trusted health information with patients as digital information prescriptions.

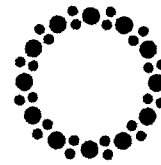
The digital transformation of the NHS during Covid-19 has meant that the majority of GP/clinical consultations have been delivered remotely. There is a great need to ensure people can access at the earliest opportunity the appropriate educational and support information for their condition. The digital prescription helps ensure that vital information and services of FNUK are received by patients, which enables patients to seek support and advice at the earliest stage of their journey and helps to inform and empower them. Over 3,500 GP Practices across the UK have signed up to the platform.

Health and Wellbeing

Over the course of the year, we hosted numerous Health and wellbeing workshops throughout the UK including Yoga, Mindfulness and Nutrition which were well received:

Yoga is an excellent therapy for reducing stress which is helpful to everyone. One focus for example was on *breathing techniques* for stress reduction. The yoga postures are all suitable for trying to conceive. Each class finishes with a relaxation and meditation technique.

Mindfulness can help to build resilience, stability, and connection. It can help to find balance and even joy amidst uncertainty and worry. Through the practice of mindfulness, you learn how to take care of our stress so that it does not overwhelm us and in so doing learn how to take care of each other.



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Diet is an important tool for both men and women when trying to conceive. Whether someone is trying to improve their reproductive health or reaching a target weight for treatment, the nutrition workshops are designed to inform, motivate, and help people stay on track.

“Really enjoyed the course and found it very informative. I feel like we received a lot of information that we wouldn’t be able to get from surfing the internet and we also wouldn’t normally get as a free resource. Money is tight at the moment so I wouldn’t have been in a position to pay for such information - what I am trying to say that it’s been great because it’s helped to reach out to people that may not have had finances to access such resources and would have therefore gone without.”

“I love these classes! The husband & I decided Annie is our person of 2020 ❤️ honestly these classes just lift my spirit so much!”

“Such an informative and helpful class. I hope more can be scheduled.”

Social media, media, and press coverage

2020/21 saw an increase in awareness of Fertility Network UK, press and media coverage was more challenging, however, there was a large growth in our social media presence.

We now reach over 304,809 (compared with 149,000 in 2019/2020) across our social channels and have over 19,000 people per month visiting our website from across the globe.

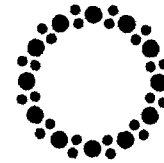
- ❖ We were proud to be the charity partner for the 4th year running for the Raconteur ‘Understanding Fertility’ published in the Times Newspaper in March 2021.
- ❖ Many other press stories across many newspapers and news outlets including increased coverage of the HIMfertility campaign.
- ❖ We were also invited to speak on many broadcast media including Women’s Hour, ITN News, BBC News, talk Radio, BBC Worldwide and multiple BBC local and other network radio shows.
- ❖ Numerous outlets covered Covid-19 and the closure of clinics

Fertility Week

The 8th annual National Fertility Awareness Week (NFAW) 2020 continued as a platform for the charity to raise awareness and provide support to all those struggling with fertility problems. The week was extremely well-received and key stakeholders in the field, including the HFEA, BFS, BICA, Scottish Government and the RCOG, worked with the charity during the week. Media coverage was a challenge as NFAW fell at a time when COVID rates were rising and a new lockdown was announced, however, patients and the public engaged well with the week on social media and feedback was very positive. During the week, we focused on different topics each day:

Monday 2nd November #FertilityInequalities

To kick-start this important week, we launched our campaign for fair access to fertility treatment for all. We want to see fair and equitable access to NHS fertility treatment regardless of where you live,



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your race or your sexuality. We highlighted the unacceptable rationing of treatment throughout the UK, the difference in provision between each of the four nations and the postcode lottery in England. We raised awareness of inequalities in access based on ethnicity and sexuality, of the differences in outcomes for some ethnic groups, and called for fairness for everyone who needs treatment.

Tuesday 3rd November #MentalHealthMatters

Infertility is not only about physical health but can take a toll on mental health too. The impact of COVID-19 with clinic closures and reduced capacity on reopening increased distress for many patients, making our #MentalHealthMatters day more important than ever. We shared testimonials from our community as well as tips from mental health experts about how best to look after yourself. The day was about raising awareness of fertility and mental health and offered solutions to help fertility patients navigate this challenging journey.

Wednesday 4th November #MenMatter

Men are half the fertility equation, but their voices are not always heard. Men can find it harder to express their feelings, and during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, men reported feeling forgotten and overlooked. During our #MenMatter day, we spotlighted men's voices with testimonials from our male community and experts in the field. We highlighted the need for more tailored support and advice for men and publicised some of Fertility Network UK's new initiatives aimed specifically at our male community.

Thursday 5th November #FertilityEducation #FertilityInTheWorkplace

Our Fertility Education day explained why our society needs to be more informed and educated about fertility. We asked why young people are still not aware of the lifestyle factors that could affect their fertility. We shared the results from our own Fertility Education project #FutureFertility, which is funded by the Scottish Government and introduced our new project in Wales.

We highlighted the need for more education for all, including healthcare professionals and employers. We raised awareness of the importance of our #FertilityInTheWorkplace initiative, encouraging employers to provide a supportive work environment and employees to know their rights. As part of the day, we shared research findings and heard from employers why #FertilityInTheWorkplace matters.

The Fertility Show

We are charity partners at The Fertility Show, normally held in Olympia, London at the end of Fertility Week. The show provides visitors with unparalleled access to the world's leading fertility experts, UK fertility charities and many fertility services providers under one roof. Unfortunately, in 2020 the show was postponed due to the COVID pandemic.



Goodbye and Farewells

During 2020/2021 we said goodbye to some of our longer standing Trustees. We would like to thank them for their service to Fertility Network UK and wish them all every success in the future.

Thank you

The Trustees and the Chief Executive are all extremely grateful to the staff who consistently go above and beyond in order to support our beneficiaries. Our thanks also go to our volunteers, our supporters, our professional and other partner organisations for all their continued support for Fertility Network UK.

5. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

During the period 2020/21, our services continued to be in demand. As in the previous year, our operations can be categorised into three key areas, income growth, increasing influence and extending reach.

The paragraphs below include some of the highlights and achievements in this period:

5.1 Income

The most significant and far-reaching operating highlight impacting Fertility Network UK and our ability to continue providing the vital support and services we offer, remains our income generation. There are 3 key sources of income that we rely on:

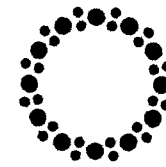
a. Grants & Trusts

We are incredibly grateful for the grant and trust income we receive, in particular the on-going support from the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Health & Social Care Board as well as successfully securing funds from The National Lottery (TNL) Community Fund Wales (for a five-year project in Wales). During the year we successfully applied for grants from TNL Covid-19 short-term fund, the London Funders, PHA CLEAR Funding Belfast and PHA Clear Funding Western in Northern Ireland. Our stage 1 application to TNL Community Fund (England) was successful in March 2021.

b. Clinics & other Corporate organisations:

We continue to receive income support through our clinic partner and outreach scheme. The Patient Pledge was a challenge in 2020/2021 as participating clinics who make a donation to the charity to support our on-going work had to close operations for a period of 6 weeks thereafter conducting treatment cycles at a reduced capacity for the majority of the year which affected their income. We established relationships with several new corporate organisations and will continue to grow and diversify over time.

The Fertility in the Workplace forms another element of our corporate relationships.



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c. Individual Giving/Community Fundraising:

As a result of the increased awareness and support of Fertility Network UK we have seen an increase in the number of individuals that donate to us. However, due to the pandemic the majority of fundraising events were cancelled. In the coming year this will remain challenging due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, and we enter 2021/2022 with the expectation of at least some fundraising events being cancelled.

5.2 Influence

Fertility Network UK has continued to work proactively with the media to raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility. Many of our team members and media volunteers have taken part in media interviews and spoken at other fertility related digital conferences and events. We are frequently called upon to provide comment, opinion, and advice from the patient perspective to the media, professional bodies, and research groups.

We were very proud to have worked with and be selected by Rhod Gilbert, as the charity to adopt the HIMfertility campaign. The social media campaign encouraged males to 'share' their stories around their experiences and emotions when going through the fertility journey.

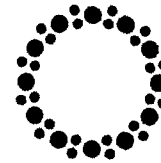
Fertility Network works in close collaboration with the regulator of the UK fertility industry, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). We have had regular meetings, attended Authority meetings, and continue to be part of the treatment "add on" group both with the HFEA and Consumer and Marketing Authority providing feedback as appropriate. As well as working with British Fertility Society, European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology (ESHRE), British Infertility Counselling Association (BICA), British Andrology Society (BAS), Association of Clinical Embryologist (ACE), Association of Biomedical Andrologists (ABA), Royal College of Nursing (RCN), Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG), Senior Infertility Nurse Group (SING).

Fertility Network UK were pleased to be able to continue to support numerous medical research and other trials, including LOCI (Letrozole for improving fertility in women with polycystic ovary syndrome), TEAM OHSS (Early active management of OHSS), E-Freeze (elective freezing of embryos in assisted conception), DrawingOut (Visualising invisible diseases through art), LEAF (Fibroid/Polyp removal for treatment of infertility/recurrent miscarriage), Endometrial Scratch.

Many of the team members have been invited to speak at conference and events, including amongst many, Progress Educational Trust, Dumfries House, the Royal Society of Medicine, Fertility conference and at several other conferences, student midwife and GP events. We were proud to support the fourth annual award of the 'Iwan Lewis-Jones Memorial Prizes' for Young Scientist and Young Clinician.

5.3 Reach

Fertility Network UK have team members based across the UK in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales whose focus is to serve the local community with support groups and events. In addition to providing support group services, support to local clinics, and delivery of Fertility in The Workplace presentations, some of the highlights from the regional teams are as follows.



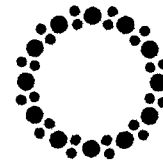
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In Scotland we are incredibly grateful to receive funding directly from the Scottish Government:

- ❖ Continued engagement with our partners including Alliance Network to promote our services.
- ❖ Delivered presentations to the Community Links workers to ensure our reach to patients at primary care.
- ❖ Connected with VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) who are now sharing FNS information both digitally and to the community.
- ❖ Partnership working with Endometriosis – Glasgow (UK) Support Group delivering presentations and working together to support patients.
- ❖ NHS clinics shared the contact details of staff on their website to ensure patients were supported during an extremely difficult year.
- ❖ Partnership established with Western Isles Senior Health Promotion Officer (Sexual Health, BBV & Youth Health)
- ❖ Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) – Delivered a presentation to 32 employers.
- ❖ HSBC Bank– delivered a presentation to staff UK wide on the emotional impact of pregnancy loss during fertility treatment.
- ❖ A digital support leaflet was created detailing the extra support mechanisms FNS had established.
- ❖ Created a News & Events Newsletter specifically for Scotland.
- ❖ Ongoing peer support group meetings being delivered via Zoom. Hosted webinars with the Aberdeen and Glasgow NHS Counsellors to provide patients with “Coping Skills” during treatment and “Coping with Xmas.”
- ❖ Hosted three webinars followed by Q&A sessions with the NHS clinics in Scotland.
- ❖ Mindfulness Session for 20 patients started in March 2021.
- ❖ LGBTQ+ 6-week Webinar programme.
- ❖ The Chief Executive continued to attend all Scottish Government meetings, including The National Infertility Group.

In Northern Ireland, with the support of the Health & Social Care Board, PHA Clear Fund in Belfast/Western and Belfast sit-out fund we have been able to increase our support for patients including:

- ❖ Representing patients on the new IVF Support Board to look at the potential pledge to move to three cycles of IVF as stated in the new agreement for the re-instatement of the Stormont Executive.
- ❖ Continued to work with the CMA on the consultation on Patient Consumer Law Guidelines and attended meetings regarding the development of patient guidance for the fertility sector.
- ❖ Submitted feedback and comments to the Northern Ireland Mental Health Consultation to develop a 10-year Mental Health Strategy. Highlighted the need for better provision of fertility services and for better provision of mental health services for those suffering from mental ill-health as a result of fertility loss and associated trauma. Worked with the new NI Interim Mental Health Champion who is keen to promote our cause and the charity to the Health Executive at Stormont.



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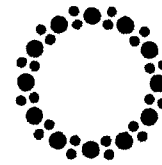
- ❖ Carried out a small survey to identify mental health issues amongst our patients and to start to identify the level of traits associated with trauma. The survey highlighted a serious level of anxiety and difficulty for patients during postponement of treatments due to COVID. In discussion with Queen's University Belfast on the area of aspects of trauma in fertility journeys, with a view to commencing a piece of research into Trauma and Infertility in the near future. With the University we have secured some funding to run a Scoping event with stakeholders in the early autumn 2021.
- ❖ Hosted several successful Health and Wellbeing programmes including Qi Gong, Mindfulness connections, CBT programmes (Living Life to the Full) for both our More to Life and Trying to conceive communities.
- ❖ Continue to support our Trying to Conceive, More to Life and Acebabes groups in NI with tailored programmes.

In Wales, with the support from The National Lottery Community Fund Wales, we have:

- ❖ Produced four different online resources, focusing on the impact on mental health, fertility in the workplace, anxiety during pregnancy, NHS treatment criteria and the importance of accessing support. These four resources were shared and viewed more than 4,500 times.
- ❖ Delivered six 'emotional impact' awareness sessions focusing on the emotional impact of fertility treatment, loss, eligibility criteria, and support available. 135 GPs, O & G Consultants and Registrars, and tertiary fertility clinic staff took part.
- ❖ Hosted a men's event focusing solely on the emotional impact on men. A recording was shared and viewed 1,020 times.
- ❖ Facilitated an educational event for the relatives and friends of those affected by infertility. 'Life on Hold' focused on the physical and emotional impact of fertility investigations and treatment; and provided the opportunity for family to learn a more about what their loved ones are going through.
- ❖ Collaborated with FTWW and Endometriosis UK to deliver an endometriosis and fertility pathway event.
- ❖ Facilitated 61 online fertility group meetings, more than 20 of these meetings were information or Q&A sessions with experts in the field.
- ❖ As part of our Health and Wellbeing programme we facilitated a six-week nutrition series with Sarah Trimble.
- ❖ 465 people are now in our four private FB groups (South & West Wales, Shropshire & Mid Wales, North Wales, Fertility Weight loss)

In England with limited staff resources to meet the increase demand and with support from the London Funders – 3 months emergency fund and The National Lottery Covid Response Fund – 6 months

- ❖ We worked with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on a range of projects. We jointly organised a webinar to promote their report into ethnic diversity in fertility treatment. We worked with them on questions on add-ons for patients to ask at clinics and organised a webinar to promote this.
- ❖ Presented on the patient perspective at the British Fertility Society Study week, at a BFS course for GPs and at the RCOG/BFS Management of Subfertility and Assisted Conception course.



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- ❖ Presented on the patient experience at City Pregnancy Counselling and Psychotherapy.
- ❖ Worked with the British Infertility Counselling Association to source speakers for webinars and on regular updates from Fertility Network UK for the Journal of Fertility Counselling.
- ❖ Spoke at a Progress Educational Trust event on the patient experience of remaining embryos after fertility treatment.
- ❖ Worked with the RCN on their policy statement on the provision of fertility treatment and will *provide lay representation for their new fertility to pregnancy group.*
- ❖ Attended and provided lay input to the North London CCGs on their ART policy and Greater Manchester working group.
- ❖ We provided patient representation to the Competition and Markets Authority for their work on fertility.
- ❖ We have agreed to provide representation to the RCOG Green Top Guideline on OHSS.
- ❖ We offered a tailored webinar for the National LGBT Partnership's LBT women's health week on legal issues for LBT women starting a family.
- ❖ Continue to provide representation on the RCOG's Genomics Task Force and on the Reproductive Medicine group within the Task Force.
- ❖ Member on the RCOG's Reproductive Medicine (Fertility) Clinical Study Group.

Education Project – Your Future Fertility

Although Fresher events were cancelled in 2020/21 due to lockdown restrictions, staff were able to attend some face-to-face presentations and workshops. Staff successfully provided the education project to students in digital formats and created lots of information for Education establishments to share via their social media pages and their websites and staff participated in Facebook and Instagram live sessions. Fertility Network in both Scotland and Wales have successfully recruited student ambassadors who are currently assessing the use of different platforms such as tik-tok where students are active.

Highlights of the activities undertaken during the year:

- ❖ Speaker at Progress Educational Trust event on 'Fertility Facts: What Do Young People Need to Know and When?'
- ❖ Secured listings in the University's "welcome back" (digital freshers' fair)
- ❖ Presentations to Midwifery students at Napier University, Edinburgh, and Cardiff. Feedback was very positive, and presentation covered fertility treatments, NHS criteria and the impact on mental health.
- ❖ Digital packs sent to all Colleges and Universities Re-Freshers Event held digitally.
- ❖ Presentation to Fife colleges.
- ❖ Attended 'live' social media events, Q&A to promote the Project.
- ❖ Collaborated and presented at Period Poverty events at Dundee & Angus College.
- ❖ Attended virtual Freshers at Caledonian University, Strathclyde University and University of the West of Scotland.
- ❖ Developed a digital format of the student questionnaire which could be accessed via a QR code.
- ❖ Produced two online education resources. One was a film involving Welsh Rugby player Ken Owens who talked about the risks to reproductive health associated with smoking and the other involved nine other volunteers discussing the key factors involved in fertility. These two resources were viewed more than 2,250 times.



6. OUR SUPPORTERS

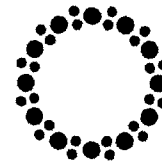
Fertility Network UK receives no guaranteed funding and can only continue its work due to the generous financial support from many individuals and organisations.

We are extremely grateful for, and would like to acknowledge all our supporters, including:

- ❖ Scottish Government - to work with clinics and Health Boards on the provision of fertility services in Scotland; to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients and to provide patient information packs; As part of the Fertility Education Project to raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility by working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland; Part funding for volunteer co-ordinator
- ❖ The National Lottery Community Fund Wales 5-year project to continue and expand our regional network of support providing information for infertility sufferers in Wales and to launch the Education project.
- ❖ Health and Social Care Board, Northern Ireland - to provide part-time support co-ordinator and the delivery of support services to local patient groups
- ❖ St Anne's Cathedral Sit out
- ❖ London Funders – 3 months emergency fund
- ❖ The National Lottery Covid Response Fund – 6 months
- ❖ 1B - Tampon Tax Fund for wellbeing projects. All projects for Fertility Yoga, Qi Gong and Mindfulness and 2 CBT 'Living Life to the Full' programmes
- ❖ PHA Clear project Western Trust to provide Mindfulness for Life 8-week programme for TTC group up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.
- ❖ PHA Clear project Belfast Trust to provide mindfulness for Life 8-week programme for MTL group up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.
- ❖ PHA Clear project Western Trust Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions to increase Mindfulness personal practice for TTC group and introduce mindfulness to some additional new group members.
- ❖ PHA Clear project Belfast Trust Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions for MTL group to focus on using mindfulness to address deep grief and loss using resourcing and Listening Spaces.
- ❖ Tampon Tax in Northern Ireland

Our thanks go to our Corporate and Clinic supporters in 2020/2021

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Vitabiotics | Merck |
| Pharmasure | CREATE |
| Ferring | The International Fertility Company |
| Guerbet Laboratories Ltd | Origio Ltd. / Cooper Surgical |
| Peanut | Coast Science |
| Fertifa | NUA |



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| | |
|---|--|
| AGORA | Apricity Fertility UK LTD |
| Regional Fertility Centre Belfast | Bourn Hall |
| CARE Fertility | CREATE |
| Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health – CRGH | |
| The Ewell | Gennet City London |
| GCRM | The Hull IVF Unit |
| IN-OVO Clinics | The London Women’s Clinic |
| Leicester Fertility Centre | Newcastle Centre for Life |
| Orchard Clinic | Aberdeen Fertility Centre |
| Ninewells ACU | Edinburgh Fertility Centre |
| Jessop Fertility | The Shropshire and Mid-Wales Fertility Centre CRGW Wales |
| Embryo clinic Greece | IVF Spain |

We are particularly grateful to all those individuals who have made donations or carried out fundraising activities for Fertility Network UK.

A special mention to all the small businesses who are donating a proportion of their proceeds to Fertility Network UK which include: HelloTreacle & The Pants Project, Bear Face Prints, My Family Tree, Tori Day, Harls & Ted in collaboration with Defining Mum, Broken Heart Tees, Sheila Lamb.

7. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The 2020/21 financial year found us continuing to look for ways to diversify our income generation. Although our efforts helped us to retain funding from The Health and Social Care Board in Northern Ireland and from the Scottish Government, fertility issues continue not to be a priority for the government in Westminster. Accordingly, we have been unable to secure any funding from them over the past nine years. We continue to receive a further 4 year’s funding in Wales through the TNL Community Fund.

We are continuing with our income diversification initiatives with the aim to safeguard against the trend in decreasing funding for fertility-related charitable work, especially in England where the funding gap is most pronounced. We continue to be extremely grateful for the support of all those organisations and funders that continue to support us and enable us to sustain and develop the services we offer.

The Trustees have recognised the need to invest in plans and people with the aim to achieve the goal of income growth and diversification and recognise the lead time required to meet these aims.

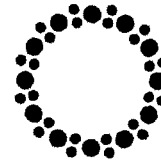


8. OUR RESERVES POLICY

In order to continue supporting those with fertility issues it is key that the charity has a reserves policy that can support the organisation in the eventuality of its use. The trustees considered the potential financial risks, taking account of its own historic experience, experiences elsewhere in the charity sector and other scenario planning. The trustees considered both the costs of addressing these risks and other potential outcomes, including the worst-case scenario of an orderly closure. In previous years, the trustees concluded its reserves policy should be 9 months operating expenditure.

The Trustees have reviewed this policy and concluded that it remains appropriate. At 31 March 2021, reserves met this target. The Trustees are reviewing charity activity with the aim of having appropriate resources to meet the future short-term and long-term requirements.

As noted in previous years, reserves are held in cash with UK institutions and spread so that the charity does not hold more than the Financial Services Compensation Scheme government guaranteed balance in any individual institution.



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9. LOOKING FORWARD

Fertility Network is extremely grateful to all the organisations and individuals that provide financial support to the Charity. However, the recent and current economic environment means income generation for all charities is becoming even more challenging. Generating a diverse and sustainable income stream in 2021/22 and beyond is critical to the charity's future and on-going success. This will be extremely challenging due to the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic.

9.1 Operating Activities

Four initiatives we will continue to develop and grow during 2021/22:

- ❖ Fertility in the Workplace
Continue to build upon successful work already undertaken across the UK.
- ❖ The Patient Pledge
Continue to encourage clinics to undertake the patient pledge that puts patients at the centre of all their operations, including the support of Fertility Network UK to enable us to continue delivering much needed support to their patients.
- ❖ Webinar Series
Develop and host *Trying to Conceive & More to Life* webinars facilitated by Fertility Network UK with expert speakers each month.
- ❖ An improved website

Our awareness week initiative will once again be a focus for us, providing support, raising awareness and funds, and changing perceptions. This is planned for week 1st November– 5th November 2021. We will use #tags to highlight some key objectives during the week:

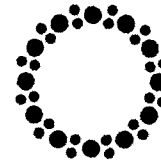
#YOUARENOTALONE #FERTILITYWEEK

- ❖ #FertilityFairness
- ❖ #DonorDay
- ❖ #HIMFertility
- ❖ #FertilityEd
- ❖ #TalkFertility

We will continue our work with all professional organisations including HFEA, BFS, BICA and RCOG, to highlight the emotional impact, and promote the services offered by the charity.

9.2 Campaigning Work

We will continue to lobby for increased funding for NHS fertility treatment in Wales, England, and Northern Ireland. We believe our work in these regions is essential in keeping fertility in the public agenda



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and the channels for effective dialogue with government and parliamentary representatives open. We will also continue our campaign to end the unfair 'postcode lottery' across England and increase provision in Northern Ireland and Wales. We are proud that our work continues with the Scottish Government as part of the National Infertility Group which has resulted in Scotland having the Gold Standard in provision of treatment. We will continue to work with the Health Boards, National Infertility group and subgroups in 2021/22.

9.3 Media & Communication

We will seek to maintain and build on the excellent relationships we have with the media to educate and influence professionals, policy makers and individuals. We will engage with employers, informing them of the need to better support their employees. Talks and information sharing with clinics will continue to be undertaken by regional staff in areas where we have coverage.

9.4 Funding and New Business Development

Our website will continue to offer us more opportunities to generate income by working closely with existing partners and recruiting new partners. We will work together to ensure our partnerships enhance and expand the good quality information and support we offer our service users. We will also look at expanding our successful work engaging with fundraisers.

9.5 Staffing and Recruitment

As part of our objective to maintain and increase our reach and impact, we will focus on seeking funding in England, and Northern Ireland. We will complete and submit Stage 2 of The National Community Fund England. We will continue to apply for funding to allow us to make a greater impact with our harder to reach groups.

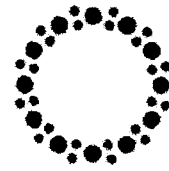
We will continue to reinvest income from our corporate and clinic partnerships to maintain and expand the services we provide.

9.6 Business Planning

We will continue to look for ways to work creatively with organisations both within and out with the fertility sector, raising awareness of fertility issues, highlighting the need to support those who remain childless, as well as tackling the need for more fertility education particularly for young people.

Future projects planned are subject to funding being available and will include, improving our digital presence and extending the success of the support line.

We will be building on all the foundations laid down during 2020/21, particularly the significantly increased profile and awareness of the charity.



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10. OUR TRUSTEES & TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

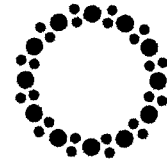
Trustee Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make sound judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



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11. Annual Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1099960

Company Registration No. 4822073 (England and Wales)

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Infertility Network (UK) (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Ainsley Gill BA FCA BFP
McPhersons Chartered Accountants
23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

Dated: 10 Dec 2021

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| | | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | Total 2021 | Total 2020 |
|---|-------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Notes | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Income and endowments from:</u> | | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 3 | 3,441 | 12,300 | - | 15,741 | 22,755 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 46,043 | - | 269,731 | 315,774 | 204,538 |
| Investments | 5 | 705 | - | - | 705 | 757 |
| Other income | 6 | 135,503 | - | - | 135,503 | 95,743 |
| Total income | | <u>185,692</u> | <u>12,300</u> | <u>269,731</u> | <u>467,723</u> | <u>323,793</u> |
| <u>Expenditure on:</u> | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 7 | <u>77,406</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>272,504</u> | <u>349,910</u> | <u>361,111</u> |
| Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds | | <u>108,286</u> | <u>12,300</u> | <u>(2,773)</u> | <u>117,813</u> | <u>(37,318)</u> |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2020 | | <u>109,441</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>135,639</u> | <u>245,080</u> | <u>282,398</u> |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2021 | | <u><u>217,727</u></u> | <u><u>12,300</u></u> | <u><u>132,866</u></u> | <u><u>362,893</u></u> | <u><u>245,080</u></u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

| | Notes | 2021 £ | £ | 2020 £ | £ |
|---|-------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11 | | 290 | | 813 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 12 | 21,761 | | 26,114 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 536,208 | | 405,668 | |
| | | <u>557,969</u> | | <u>431,782</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 13 | <u>(195,366)</u> | | <u>(187,515)</u> | |
| Net current assets | | | 362,603 | | 244,267 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | <u>362,893</u> | | <u>245,080</u> |
| Income funds | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 15 | | 132,866 | | 135,639 |
| Designated funds: | | | 12,300 | | - |
| Unrestricted funds | | | 217,727 | | 109,441 |
| | | | <u>362,893</u> | | <u>245,080</u> |

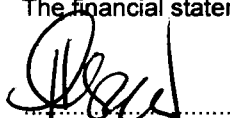
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 9.12.2021


Mrs H R Grinsted
Trustee

Company Registration No. 4822073

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK) TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK' BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

1 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

2 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Infertility Network (UK) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2nd Floor Office, The Forum at Greenwich, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, London, SE10 9EQ.

2.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

2.2 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Such funds are subject to certain conditions agreed by the Trustees and used in accordance with the majority decision of the Trustees from time to time.

2.3 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the charity are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the charity can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of financial activities.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2 Accounting policies

(Continued)

2.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising and publicity costs include general advertising and promotion of the charity and its objectives.

Governance costs include costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's activities.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

A liability will arise when the charity is under an obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party. Where costs cannot be attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 20% per annum on a straight line basis |
|--------------------------------|--|

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

2.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2 Accounting policies (Continued)

2.8 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3 Voluntary income

| | Unrestricted funds | Designated funds | Total 2021 | Total 2020 |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations and gifts | 3,441 | 12,300 | 15,741 | 22,755 |
| For the year ended 31 March 2020 | <u>10,255</u> | <u>12,500</u> | | <u>22,755</u> |

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4 Charitable activities

| | Fundraising income | Grants receivable for charitable activities | Advertising income | Total 2021 | Fundraising income | Grants receivable for charitable activities | Advertising income | Total 2020 |
|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| | 2021 | 2021 | 2021 | | 2020 | 2020 | 2020 | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income within charitable activities | 44,183 | - | 1,860 | 46,043 | 33,887 | - | 1,000 | 34,887 |
| Grants receivable for charitable activities | - | 269,731 | - | 269,731 | - | 169,651 | - | 169,651 |
| | <u>44,183</u> | <u>269,731</u> | <u>1,860</u> | <u>315,774</u> | <u>33,887</u> | <u>169,651</u> | <u>1,000</u> | <u>204,538</u> |
| Analysis by fund | | | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 44,183 | - | 1,860 | 46,043 | 33,887 | - | 1,000 | 34,887 |
| Restricted funds | - | 269,731 | - | 269,731 | - | 169,651 | - | 169,651 |
| | <u>44,183</u> | <u>269,731</u> | <u>1,860</u> | <u>315,774</u> | <u>33,887</u> | <u>169,651</u> | <u>1,000</u> | <u>204,538</u> |

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5 Investments

| | Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2021 | 2020 |
| | £ | £ |
| Interest receivable | 705 | 757 |
| | <u>705</u> | <u>757</u> |

6 Other income

| | Unrestricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2021 | 2020 |
| | £ | £ |
| Other income | 1,382 | 590 |
| Sponsorship | 134,121 | 80,153 |
| The Fertility Show income | - | 15,000 |
| | <u>135,503</u> | <u>95,743</u> |

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
 TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

7 Charitable activities

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 259,444 | 236,876 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 843 | 613 |
| Activities undertaken directly | 65,611 | 99,445 |
| | <u>325,898</u> | <u>336,934</u> |
| Share of governance costs (see note 9) | 24,012 | 24,177 |
| | <u>349,910</u> | <u>361,111</u> |
| Analysis by fund | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 77,406 | 167,086 |
| Designated funds | - | 12,500 |
| Restricted funds | 272,504 | 181,525 |
| | <u>349,910</u> | <u>361,111</u> |

8 Trustees

None of the Trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

9 Governance costs

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 9,342 | 3,502 |
| Legal and professional | 14,670 | 20,675 |
| | <u>24,012</u> | <u>24,177</u> |
| Analysed between Charitable activities | <u>24,012</u> | <u>24,177</u> |

All costs are allocated based on estimated actual use of service provision.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10 Employees

The average monthly number employees (including full time and part time staff) during the year was:

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Number |
| | 18 | 13 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Employment costs | 2021 | 2020 |
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 268,786 | 240,378 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £45,000 or more.

11 Tangible fixed assets

| | Fixtures, fittings & equipment |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | £ |
| Cost | |
| At 1 April 2020 | 16,166 |
| Additions | 6,906 |
| | <u> </u> |
| At 31 March 2021 | 23,072 |
| | <u> </u> |
| Depreciation and impairment | |
| At 1 April 2020 | 15,353 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 7,429 |
| | <u> </u> |
| At 31 March 2021 | 22,782 |
| | <u> </u> |
| Carrying amount | |
| At 31 March 2021 | 290 |
| | <u> </u> |
| At 31 March 2020 | 813 |
| | <u> </u> |

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12 Debtors

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| Trade debtors | 19,412 | 24,263 |
| Other debtors | 238 | 254 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 2,111 | 1,597 |
| | <u>21,761</u> | <u>26,114</u> |

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | Notes | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| Other taxation and social security | | 4,245 | 1,868 |
| Deferred income | 14 | 171,535 | 151,556 |
| Trade creditors | | 15,716 | 30,431 |
| Accruals | | 3,870 | 3,660 |
| | | <u>195,366</u> | <u>187,515</u> |

14 Deferred income

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income received in advance | 171,535 | 151,556 |
| | <u>171,535</u> | <u>151,556</u> |

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

| | Movement in funds | | | Movement in funds | | | | Balance at 31 March 2021 £ |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Balance at 1 April 2019 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Balance at 1 April 2020 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Transfers £ | |
| Health & Social Care Board | 1,168 | 20,671 | (21,840) | - | 20,671 | (17,830) | - | 2,842 |
| Scottish Government Health Board Project & Options | 9,899 | 39,860 | (37,759) | 12,000 | 40,913 | (38,149) | - | 14,763 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Education Project | 38,611 | 48,240 | (41,120) | 45,731 | 49,240 | (38,718) | - | 56,253 |
| Belfast Cathedral Sit Out Appeal | 750 | - | (215) | 535 | 735 | (191) | - | 1,079 |
| Scottish Government Additional | 28,197 | - | (18,123) | 10,075 | - | (10,074) | - | - |
| Scottish Government Additional Events Funding | 902 | 8,800 | (8,850) | 54,001 | - | (10,492) | - | 43,509 |
| Scottish Government Project Funding | 67,098 | - | (13,097) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scottish Volunteer Project | 888 | 9,849 | (10,737) | 852 | 8,998 | (9,035) | - | 815 |
| Big Lottery Wales | - | 2,000 | (1,099) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tampon Tax | - | 1,160 | - | 1,160 | 8,829 | (9,989) | - | - |
| TNL Community Grant | - | 26,662 | (19,599) | 7,063 | 76,167 | (70,527) | - | 12,703 |
| Wesleyan Foundation Grant | - | 2,440 | (2,440) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Match funding for Wales | - | - | - | 901 | - | - | - | 901 |
| London Funder | - | - | - | - | 6,500 | (6,500) | - | - |
| Tampon Tax fund | - | - | - | - | 44,995 | (44,995) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Western Trust | - | - | - | - | 4,936 | (4,936) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Belfast Trust | - | - | - | - | 4,936 | (4,936) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Western Trust | - | - | - | - | 1,414 | (1,414) | - | - |
| PHA Clear project Belfast Trust | - | - | - | - | 1,395 | (1,395) | - | - |
| Awards for All England | - | 9,968 | (6,646) | 3,323 | - | (3,323) | - | - |
| | <u>147,513</u> | <u>169,650</u> | <u>(181,525)</u> | <u>135,639</u> | <u>269,730</u> | <u>(272,505)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>132,866</u> |

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

15 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Health & Social Care Board - Successful bid for tender to provide a part-time support coordinator, a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and the coordination and delivery of support to local patient groups.

Scottish Government - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Scotland, to work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland, and to produce patient information packs.

Scottish Government Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

St Anne's Cathedral Sit-Out Fund - To run workshops for the More to Life Group in Northern Ireland and provide some funding for Fertility Network Support Groups not covered by other funding.

Scottish Volunteer Project - Match funding from the Scottish Government to employ a Volunteer Coordinator.

The Big Lottery Wales - Received to expand our current regional network to provide support and information at local level for infertility sufferers in Wales.

TNL Community Grant - Funding to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Wales, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups and increase awareness of the services offered in Wales. To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Wales to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

Awards for all England - Funding to allow us to expand and improve our digital presence providing support throughout England regardless of your geographical location.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

15 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Tampon Tax - Community funding to build social networks for women and girls, build skills and confidence and improve health and well-being.

Wesleyan - Fertility Yoga - Funding towards a project to promote positive health and well-being.

Tampon Tax - Fund for wellbeing projects. All projects for Fertility Yoga, Qi Gong and Mindfulness and 2 CBT 'Living life to the full' programmes.

PHA Clear project Western Trust - Mindfulness for Life 8 week programme for TTC group of up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.

PHA Clear project Belfast Trust - Mindfulness for Life 8 week programme for MTL group of up to 20 people with 6 weekly follow on sessions.

PHA Clear project Western Trust - Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions to increase mindfulness personal practice for TTC group and introduce mindfulness to some additional new group members.

PHA Clear project Belfast Trust - Enhancement funding of 4 weekly additional sessions for MTL group to focus on using mindfulness to address deep grief and loss using resourcing and listening spaces.

All of the above grants were received after successful application for funding by The Infertility Network (UK) trading as 'Fertility Network UK'.

All of the grants are restricted to expenditure as agreed with the grant body during the application process.