

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

England & Wales · Charity number 1112065

Details

Other names	GBS SUPPORT, GBSS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05587535
Registered	2005-11-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Group B Strep Support J Y W House Bridge Road Haywards Heath RH16 1UA
Phone	0330 120 0795
Email	admin@gbss.org.uk
Website	www.gbss.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3. THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") ARE:-(A) TO RELIEVE SUFFERING CAUSED BY GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS (GBS) BY MAKING HELP, SUPPORT AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY GBS IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT;(B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT OF GBS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FAMILY;(C) TO SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS PROMOTING RESEARCH INTO GBS AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH;(D) TO FULFIL SUCH OTHER PURPOSES WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND ARE CONNECTED WITH THE CHARITABLE WORK OF THE TRUST.

Activities: Group B streptococcus (GBS) is the UK's commonest life-threatening infection in newborn babies. Without preventative medicine, GBS infects approximately 700 babies a year: 75 die & 40 survivors have long-term problems. Most GBS infections are preventable by offering higher-risk women antibiotics in labour. GBSS informs pregnant women and health professionals how to do this, saving tiny lives.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD.
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£388,755	£376,925	-	-
2023-12-31	£367,564	£427,063	-	-
2022-12-31	£382,098	£349,093	-	-
2021-12-31	£374,126	£353,289	-	-
2020-12-31	£261,565	£289,832	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Eddy		2020-11-28
Alison Ruth Bedford Russell		2025-11-28
Amy Marie Trenter		2025-11-28
Daniel Richard Lloyd Hobster		2018-06-30
Deborah Crohn		2023-03-21
Diane Jones		2020-11-28
Dr Edward Patrick Morris		2020-11-28
Geoffrey Martin Baldock		2025-11-28
Jane Plumb		
Robert Plumb		
Stuart William Bramley		2017-07-17

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1112065

Accounts

Company registration number: 05587535
Charity number: 1112065

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

GROUP B STREP
SUPPORT
(A company limited by
guarantee)

MENZIES
BRIGHTER THINKING

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

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GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees	Mr S Bramley Mrs A Eddy Mrs D Forwood (resigned 20 July 2024) Dr K Gutteridge (resigned 15 October 2024) Mr D Hobster Mrs D Jones Dr E Morris CBE Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive Mr R Plumb Mrs D Crohn
Company registered number	05587535
Charity registered number	1112065
Registered office	JYW House Bridge Road Haywards Heath England RH16 1UA
Chief Executive	Mrs J Plumb MBE
Secretary to the Trustees	Mr O Plumb
Independent examiner	Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP Chartered Accountants Magna House 18-32 London Road Staines-Upon-Thames TW18 4BP

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS
TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
	HSBC 40 South Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 4LA
	Nationwide Building Society Kings Park Road Moulton Park Northampton NN3 6NW
	Charity Bank Fosse House 182 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Introduction by the Chair and Chief Executive

We are pleased to present the Group B Strep Support Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

This year has been one of significant progress and impact. Our mission - to prevent group B Strep infections in babies and support affected families - has never been more urgent, and we are proud of the strides we've made. From expanding our helpline and information services to launching our free CPD-accredited eLearning module for healthcare professionals, we've worked tirelessly to ensure that every baby has the best possible start in life.

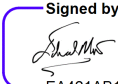
We were honoured to host our annual Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Conference in May 2024, which brought together over 400 delegates and leading experts to share the latest research and clinical insights. The stories shared by families affected by group B Strep infection were powerful reminders of why our work matters so deeply.

Our advocacy efforts gained momentum, with growing public and professional support for routine antenatal testing and for group B Strep to be made a notifiable disease. We submitted evidence to the Lord Darzi NHS Review and participated in high-level discussions with policymakers, including the WHO's roadmap to defeat meningitis by 2030.

Financially, we ended the year in a strong position, with a surplus of £11,830 and total funds carried forward of £409,931. This reflects the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our fundraising community, who took on marathons, bake sales and challenge events across the UK to raise vital funds.

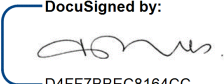
As we look ahead to 2025, we remain committed to expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and continuing to support families with compassion and expertise. We are grateful to our Trustees, staff, volunteers, funders, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to our cause.

Together, we are making a difference.

Signed by:

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Dr E Morris CBE, Chair

Date: 08-Sep-2025

DocuSigned by:

D4FF7BBEC8164CC...

Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 08-Sep-2025

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements comply with statutory requirements, including the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the charity's governing document requirements.

Structure, governance, and management

Group B Strep Support (GBSS) is a charity registered in England and Wales and incorporated on 10 October 2005 as a company limited by guarantee, continuing the activities of an unincorporated charity of the same name formed in 1996. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The strategic direction and policies of the charity are determined by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Chief Executive. The implementation of the business plan is delegated to the Chief Executive. Progress is reviewed at regular board meetings.

In 2024, the meetings were held on 27 January, 27 April, 20 July, 26 October and 14 December. The meetings are a mix of video calls and face-to-face meetings.

The Trustees continue to implement the recommendations of the strategy review carried out in 2021, which has since been updated.

The charity makes its supporters and networks aware of the opportunity for suitably skilled persons to join the Board of Trustees. The Trustees operate several committees for greater efficiency, including finance, governance and diversity and inclusion. Trustees collectively remain accountable for all Trustee activity and decisions.

The charity actively participates in various UK-wide committees and working groups relevant to group B Strep. These committees and working groups operated a mix of online and face-to-face in 2024. Charity employees worked partly in the office and partly from home.

Risk policy

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces that might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objectives. We review these risks in advance of each Trustee meeting. We continue to monitor our financial position carefully. The Trustees are confident that these actions will enable the charity to continue operating. Therefore, it is the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparing the accounts continues to be appropriate.

Public benefit

All of the charity's purposes and activities are for the public benefit. The board confirms that it has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Vision and mission

The charity's vision is to eliminate group B Streptococcal (GBS) infection in babies in the UK. The charity's mission is to provide high-quality information and support relating to GBS to all new and expectant families and health professionals in the UK and to campaign for improved national GBS prevention strategies.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Strategic objectives

The charity's strategic objectives are:

1. **Families:** To relieve the suffering caused by GBS by making help, support and information available to those affected by GBS in the UK.
2. **Education:** To advance the education of the UK medical profession and the general public about GBS and its implications for the family.
3. **Research:** To support organisations promoting research into GBS and to publish the useful results of such research.

Achievement and performance

Group B Strep is still the leading cause of severe infection in newborn babies and meningitis in babies under three months. On average, in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, every month:

- 66 babies are diagnosed with group B Strep infection
- 56 babies make a full recovery
- 6 babies survive with long-term physical or mental disabilities
- 4 babies die from their group B Strep infection

The charity's overarching objective is to reduce the pain and suffering caused by group B Strep infection in babies and their families. Our aims show how we work towards achieving that:

Family support and information about Group B Strep in the UK

At the core of our charity lie the stories of families who have been affected by group B Strep. Through a range of channels, including social media and our helpline, we strive to be a compassionate and informative presence for everyone seeking our help. Whether this is a concerned parent seeking more information on GBS or someone whose baby has experienced the harrowing effects of GBS sepsis or meningitis, we are available to listen and support them every step of the way.

We provide the latest guidance on GBS prevention and treatment, so that pregnant women and people, and new parents can make informed decisions about their and their babies' health. We offer a variety of resources, including online information, phone support, and printed materials, to empower families to work collaboratively with their healthcare providers and make the best choices for themselves and their babies.

The GBSS Helpline

At the forefront of our charity's support network is our highly valued Helpline, which is popular with families across the country. Whether people contact us by phone, email, online, or even by post, we provide a listening ear, valuable information, and unwavering support to families affected by or concerned about group B Strep.

In 2024, we received over 800 enquiries from families, demonstrating just how vital the service is. Families find us through recommendations and online searches.

Our Helpline is also a trusted resource for health professionals, who depend on us to provide the most up-to-date guidance on group B Strep and who recommend it to families in their care. Through our helpline, we also provide information materials to families and to NHS health professionals, maternity units, neonatal units and GP practices with essential information materials on request.

In 2024 we worked hard to build relationships with maternity units, arranging for them to be sent regular orders of the information materials.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The impact of our Helpline and information services cannot be overstated, and we are proud to have received countless expressions of gratitude from those who have used our resources.

In our latest survey results:

- 94% said they were very likely to recommend our helpline to someone else,
- 67% said they completely got the information and support they needed, and
- 33% said they mostly did

Because of the generosity of our donors and funders, everything we provide, including our Helpline and information materials, comes at no cost to families or NHS health professionals.

Here are a couple of examples of the Helpline support we provided during 2024:

Correcting confusion

In January 2024, a pregnant woman contacted us who had carried group B Strep in both of her previous pregnancies. Both of her previous children were born safe since the GBS carriage had been picked up in pregnancy and preventive antibiotics were given in labour. It is now her third pregnancy, and her midwife was saying that she would not be given antibiotics when she goes into labour.

The pregnant woman said to us, *"I have friends whose children have died from GBS. How can I make them listen to me and give me antibiotics in labour?"*

We were able to give her information on the guidelines from the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, and what steps she could take if she felt she needed to. Following our response, she got back in touch to say, *"Thank you for this. This is exactly the information/ guidelines I needed to be able to take to my appointment on Monday."*

Grateful parent

We spoke a number of times with a Mum whose firstborn unexpectedly developed a serious group B Strep infection. Thankfully the baby made a good recovery and we were again in touch with Mum when she became pregnant again. Her second baby was born safe and well.

The Mum messaged us to say, *"After my firstborn recovered from an unexpected and scary group B Strep infection, your invaluable support helped my family prepare for my second child's safe arrival, and helped me advocate for a brilliant birth experience for us both."*

Raising Awareness of Group B Strep

Our efforts to raise public awareness of group B Strep have been highly successful, with coverage across the broadsheet and tabloid national newspapers, national news television programmes, and many regional and local news outlets, as well as online

Throughout the year, we engaged in many national and international awareness campaigns, including our very own Group B Strep Awareness Month. These occasions provided an opportunity to share the poignant stories of families impacted by group B Strep and express gratitude to the remarkable midwives, doctors and volunteers who support our cause. Our Group B Strep Awareness Month featured a range of activities to raise awareness and help people to understand the importance of testing for group B Strep during pregnancy.

Our online presence was significant in 2024, and we undertook updates to the key pages on our website. It is gratifying that so many people look to us for information and guidance on group B Strep, and we remain committed to providing information and resources to help families feel empowered to make informed choices about their care. We continue to advocate for more reliable statistics on the rate of group B Strep infection. The GBS3 trial results, due in 2025, will provide insights on improving the prevention of group B Strep infection in newborn babies.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GBSS shares the stories of babies and families affected by group B Strep — we thank the brave parents for sharing their stories and giving us permission to share them widely. These stories inspire us ever onwards in our work to stop group B Strep infection in babies.

Our Annual Group B Strep Pregnancy & Babies Conference in May was another success, with 520 delegates from around the world, hearing from expert speakers on all aspects of group B Strep.

The 'godmother of group B Strep prevention' and our Global Vaccine Engagement Adviser, Dr Carol J Baker, gave the keynote speech. Families shared their experiences, and other speakers gave updates on the GBS3 trial, the latest on efforts to develop a group B Strep vaccine and improvements in testing for group B Strep carriage.

The feedback from the conference was excellent and we are very grateful to all of our supporters, who generously sponsored the conference.

These events offer obstetricians, midwives and other health professionals an opportunity to access the latest evidence and information about group B Strep.

Our CEO, Jane Plumb, is widely admired in the charity sector, and her influence reaches far beyond GBSS. She continues to represent Europe on the Advisory Council of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations — a group that shares many of our goals and values.

Jane also leads as the Women's Voices Lead and Chair of the Women's Network at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Through these roles, she's helped ensure that group B Strep prevention stays firmly on the radar of key decision-makers.

GBSS has over the years produced training materials which are used by some hospitals. In 2024, GBSS secured funding for an e-learning module on group B Strep aimed at midwives and other health professionals to enable maternity units to meet the requirements of the Core Competency Framework v2 (CCF2). Our e-learning module was ready in July, and by year-end over 1376 healthcare professionals had registered.

Supporting research into group B Strep

The charity has been actively supporting the GBS3 trial, which is assessing the practice of routinely testing for group B Strep. The charity played a vital role in ensuring that a sufficient number of hospitals took part, and the trial is now nearing completion. The trial is due to include 320,000 pregnant women and their babies by the time recruitment ends in March 2025. The trial will compare the current approach to preventing early-onset group B Strep infections with testing all pregnant women and people for group B Strep carriage, either at 35-37 weeks of pregnancy or the start of labour. It is due to report findings in 2025.

The charity is committed to supporting ethical research into group B Strep and is involved providing patient and public involvement representatives on several group B Strep research studies and policy development committees.

Through its support of research, advocacy, and education, the charity is making a significant impact on the prevention and treatment of group B Strep.

Vaccine development

Progress continues on developing a safe and effective vaccine, which GBSS wholeheartedly supports. It has taken a long time to get to this point, but we are getting closer.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Fundraising

We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and creativity of our fundraising community. Our supporters have taken part in a wide range of events to raise vital funds and awareness for Group B Strep Support (GBSS). Their efforts not only help sustain our work but also honour the families affected by group B Strep. Here are just a few standout examples:

Leeds Marathon – Matt and Jess's Story

Matt and Jess ran the Leeds Marathon in support of GBSS after their newborn daughter, Hettie, developed sepsis, pneumonia, and meningitis caused by group B Strep. The couple faced significant emotional and physical challenges, including Jess's diagnosis of PTSD following the traumatic experience. Despite the demands of training while working full-time and parenting, they were driven by a powerful goal: to raise awareness and prevent other families from experiencing similar heartbreak.

Jess told us: *'Marathon training is not for the faint-hearted! But if doing so saves even just one family from the heartache this infection causes, it will always be worth it.'*

In Memory Fundraising – Remembering Rhodi Family Fun Day

In memory of their son Rhodi, who tragically died from group B Strep infection in January 2024, Jasmine and her family launched the "Remembering Rhodi" initiative. They organised a Family Fun Day in Tiverton, bringing together their local community to raise awareness and funds for GBSS. The event featured a wide range of activities, from raffles and performances to games and character visits, and raised an incredible £4,760.

Jasmine told us *'Rhodi dying was by far the hardest thing my family have had to deal with, but knowing his name is saving lives makes us so incredibly proud of him.'*

Inflatable 5K Run

Simon, Pixie, and David completed a 5K inflatable obstacle course to raise funds for GBSS after baby Sophie, born in January 2024, was diagnosed with a group B Strep infection shortly after birth. Thanks to swift medical intervention, Sophie recovered well. The trio tackled 32 inflatable obstacles together and were thrilled with the support they received. Simon and Pixie plan to continue fundraising for GBSS in the future, inspired by Sophie's journey.

Clinical Advisory Panel

At Group B Strep Support, we take great pride in ensuring that all of the information we provide is of the highest quality and accuracy. To achieve this, we rely on the expertise of our distinguished Clinical Advisory Panel, made up in 2024 of renowned medical professionals Professor Philip Steer, Dr Alison Bedford Russell, Dr Guduru Gopal Rao OBE, Mrs Philippa Cox and Dr Sonali Kochhar. Their vast knowledge and experience in the field of group B Strep infection are invaluable to us, and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to providing us with outstanding advice and support. Their contributions play a crucial role in enabling us to deliver the most up-to-date and reliable information to the families and health professionals we serve, and we thank them for their dedication to our cause.

Financial review

In 2024, Group B Strep Support recorded a total income of £388,755, an increase from £367,564 in 2023. This included £136,470 from donations and legacies, £240,625 from charitable activities, and £11,452 from investments. Expenditure for the year amounted to £376,925, resulting in a surplus of £11,830 - an encouraging turnaround from the £59,499 deficit recorded in 2023.

The charity's financial health reflects the continued generosity of donors, the success of fundraising initiatives, and prudent cost management. Notably, staff costs were reduced year-on-year, and awareness and professional fees were carefully controlled. These results demonstrate the charity's resilience and its ability to sustain and grow its services in a challenging economic environment.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reserves policy

The Trustees have set a reserves policy that aims to maintain unrestricted and undesignated reserves equivalent to six months' expenditure, recognising the volatility of income from donations and fundraising events. As of 31 December 2024, the charity's free reserves stood at £102,431, representing approximately 3.26 months of expenditure (2023: 3.06 months).

In addition to general reserves, the charity holds designated funds totalling £307,500 to support specific strategic priorities, including an emergency reserves fund, information and outreach, digital infrastructure, research and advocacy and our annual conference.

The Trustees are satisfied that the current level of reserves provides a sound financial foundation for the charity's ongoing operations and future plans. The charity's aim to broaden our income streams and increase income has been successful in a sometimes challenging economic environment. We plan to continue this diversification in the coming years.

Pay and Expenses

The Trustees consider the charity's key management personnel to include the Board of Trustees and the Chief Executive, who are responsible for the strategic direction and day-to-day operations of the charity. All Trustees, except for the Chief Executive, volunteer their time and received no remuneration or reimbursement for expenses during the year. The Chief Executive, Jane Plumb MBE, received a salary of £52,055 in 2024 (2023: £78,826), which is reviewed annually and benchmarked against comparable roles in similar-sized charities.

The Clinical Advisory Panel also provides its expertise on a voluntary basis and is not remunerated.

The Trustees are committed to transparency and fairness in remuneration, ensuring that pay reflects responsibility while safeguarding the charity's resources.

Plans for 2025

Looking ahead, Group B Strep Support will continue to prioritise its core mission of preventing group B Strep infections in babies and supporting affected families. Key plans for 2025 include:

- expanding the reach of the charity's Helpline and online support services;
- promoting the uptake of the newly launched eLearning module for healthcare professionals;
- advocating for the implementation of routine antenatal testing for group B Strep.
- supporting the dissemination and impact of the GBS3 trial results once published (expected in 2025);
- continuing to campaign for group B Strep to be made a notifiable disease
- planning another virtual Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Conference for May 2025, building on the success of previous years.
- recruiting additional members to the charity's Clinical Advisory Panel and to its Board of Trustees

Through these initiatives, the charity aims to deepen its impact, strengthen partnerships, and ensure that every baby has the best possible start in life.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees 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).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

.....D4FF7BBEC3184CC.....
Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 08-Sep-2025

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

MENZIES
BRIGHTER THINKING

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Group B Strep Support ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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 Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company'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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: 
634F24DE92A4471...
Janice Matthews FCA

Dated: 09-Sep-2025

Menzies LLP
Chartered Accountants
Magna House
18-32 London Road
Staines-Upon-Thames
TW18 4BP

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	2	136,470	136,470	118,080
Charitable activities	3	240,625	240,625	241,318
Investments	4	11,452	11,452	8,166
Other income	5	208	208	-
Total income		388,755	388,755	367,564
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	33,686	33,686	37,478
Charitable activities	7	343,239	343,239	389,585
Total expenditure		376,925	376,925	427,063
Net movement in funds		11,830	11,830	(59,499)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		398,101	398,101	457,600
Net movement in funds		11,830	11,830	(59,499)
Total funds carried forward		409,931	409,931	398,101

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 05587535

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,862	3,150
		<u>1,862</u>	<u>3,150</u>
Current assets			
Stocks		639	1,245
Debtors	11	47,921	24,433
Cash at bank and in hand		398,565	395,560
		<u>447,125</u>	<u>421,238</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(39,056)	(26,287)
Net current assets		<u>408,069</u>	<u>394,951</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>409,931</u></u>	<u><u>398,101</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	13	-	-
Unrestricted funds	13	409,931	398,101
Total funds		<u><u>409,931</u></u>	<u><u>398,101</u></u>

The Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

.....D4FF7BBEC81640C.....
Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 08-Sep-2025

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Group B Strep Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees are committed to ensuring Group B Strep Support's long-term sustainability. We regularly assess and manage potential risks that could impact our ability to achieve our charitable goals. Our financial health is strong, with a healthy reserve and consistent funding streams. This robust financial position allows us to continue operations and deliver on our mission of improving maternity safety and preventing Group B Strep infection in babies. We remain vigilant, conducting regular financial monitoring and maintaining a commitment to responsible management practices. We also actively seek ways to generate sustainable income sources. With these proactive measures in place, the Trustees are confident that Group B Strep Support will continue to operate effectively for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the Trustees believe the "going concern" basis for preparing these accounts remains appropriate.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	-	33% Straight line
Office equipment	-	33% Straight line

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations				
Corporate	21,070	-	21,070	1,797
Individual	15,446	-	15,446	35,623
Regular individual	11,544	-	11,544	10,161
Gift Aid	20,823	-	20,823	19,258
Honorarium/research	34,339	-	34,339	8,625
In Memory	7,519	-	7,519	28,366
Charitable Trusts & Foundations and Government Grants				
Trusts and foundations	25,729	-	25,729	14,250
	136,470	-	136,470	118,080
<i>Total 2023</i>	116,080	2,000	118,080	

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
General fundraising	130,727	130,727	130,174
Sponsorships	108,794	108,794	110,630
Merchandise income	1,104	1,104	514
	240,625	240,625	241,318
<i>Total 2023</i>	241,318	241,318	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	11,452	11,452	8,166
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>8,166</i>	<i>8,166</i>	

5. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other income	208	208	-

6. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Website trading	5,280	5,280	5,078
Merchandise	635	635	3,328
Other fundraising costs	27,771	27,771	29,072
	33,686	33,686	37,478
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>37,478</i>	<i>37,478</i>	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Expenditure	343,239	343,239	389,585
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>389,585</i>	<i>389,585</i>	

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	231,531	231,531	242,444
Depreciation	2,705	2,705	3,853
Premises, rent and stationery	23,563	23,563	22,519
Office running costs	15,985	15,985	14,026
Awareness	41,337	41,337	66,742
Entertainment and travel	2,383	2,383	5,375
Bank charges and interest	241	241	415
Management and professional fees	13,719	13,719	30,211
Trustees expenses	920	920	-
Governance - independent examiner's fee	4,650	4,650	4,000
Awareness eLearning	6,205	6,205	-
	343,239	343,239	389,585
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>389,585</i>	<i>389,585</i>	

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration amounts to an independent examiner and accounts preparation fee of £4,240 (2023 - £4,000).

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

9. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	208,407	218,425
Social security costs	16,395	17,066
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	6,729	6,953
	<u>231,531</u>	<u>242,444</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Administration	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1

During the year, one trustee received emoluments (including pension contributions) of £52,055 (2023 - £78,826) for acting as Chief Executive. No remuneration is paid for acting as trustee. Authority for these payments is contained in the memorandum of association. The Chief Executive is considered to be the key management personnel of the charity.

During the year, there were no trustee expenses claimed (2023: There were no reimbursed costs during the year).

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2024	4,592	18,665	23,257
Additions	-	1,417	1,417
Disposals	-	(2,270)	(2,270)
At 31 December 2024	4,592	17,812	22,404
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	4,073	16,034	20,107
Charge for the year	271	2,434	2,705
On disposals	-	(2,270)	(2,270)
At 31 December 2024	4,344	16,198	20,542
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	248	1,614	1,862
At 31 December 2023	519	2,631	3,150

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due after more than one year		
Prepayments and accrued income	21	308
	21	308
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	21,665	196
Prepayments and accrued income	26,235	23,929
	47,921	24,433

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,755	1,868
Other taxation and social security	4,561	824
Other creditors	-	345
Accruals and deferred income	30,740	23,250
	<u>39,056</u>	<u>26,287</u>

. Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income brought forward	19,250	13,830
Amount released to income	(19,250)	(13,830)
Amounts deferred during the year	26,000	19,250
Deferred income at 31 December 2024	<u>26,000</u>	<u>19,250</u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Emergency reserves fund	138,600	-	-	(3,600)	135,000
Information & outreach fund	30,000	-	-	10,000	40,000
IT services fund	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Research & advocacy fund	35,000	-	-	25,000	60,000
Website and internal IT review fund	50,000	-	-	(50,000)	-
Conference fund	17,500	-	-	-	17,500
Digital infrastructure fund	-	-	-	55,000	55,000
	286,100	-	-	21,400	307,500
General funds					
General Fund	112,001	388,755	(376,925)	(21,400)	102,431
Total Unrestricted funds	398,101	388,755	(376,925)	-	409,931

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Emergency reserves fund	111,500	-	-	27,100	138,600
Information & outreach fund	50,000	-	-	(20,000)	30,000
IT services fund	25,000	-	-	(10,000)	15,000
Research & advocacy fund	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Website and internal IT review fund	62,000	-	-	(12,000)	50,000
Conference fund	17,500	-	-	-	17,500
	<u>301,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,900)</u>	<u>286,100</u>
General funds					
General Fund	98,710	365,564	(367,173)	14,900	112,001
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>399,710</u>	<u>365,564</u>	<u>(367,173)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>398,101</u>
Restricted funds					
Sussex Community Foundation	7,000	-	(7,000)	-	-
Big Give Campaign	50,890	-	(50,890)	-	-
The Hospital Saturday Fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
	<u>57,890</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>(59,890)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total of funds	<u>457,600</u>	<u>367,564</u>	<u>(427,063)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>398,101</u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated Funds:

The designated reserves for 2024 are:

Emergency reserves fund

The running costs reserve was set up to safeguard against major fluctuations in income or significant short-term funding issues.

Information & Outreach Fund

Supports updates to the 'After Your Baby's GBS Infection' leaflet and its translation, outreach to maternity and neonatal units, and completion of PIF TICK Certification to ensure trusted health information.

Research and Advocacy Fund

Supports GBSS involvement in clinical trials and maximising the impact of the GBS3 Trial results. Includes collaboration with communications experts.

Conference Fund

Funds bursaries for UK student midwives and international professionals to attend the annual virtual conference. Capped at 500 free tickets.

Digital Infrastructure Fund

Covers IT equipment upgrades, software tools, Cyber Essentials, website overhaul, chatbot integration, and internal systems review.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,862	1,862
Debtors due after more than one year	21	21
Current assets	447,104	447,104
Creditors due within one year	(39,056)	(39,056)
Total	409,931	409,931

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,150	3,150
Debtors due after more than one year	308	308
Current assets	420,930	420,930
Creditors due within one year	(26,287)	(26,287)
Total	398,101	398,101

15. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2024 the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts payable		
Not later than 1 year	16,514	8,394
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	24,863	-
	41,377	8,394

16. Related party transactions

Oliver Plumb, the son of Jane Plumb (a trustee), is employed by the charity. During the year he received remuneration of £43,010 (2023: 39,000). He also received employer pension contributions of £1,720 (2023: £1,537). Oliver received no other expenses or benefits from the charity in either year.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1112065

Accounts

Company registration number: 05587535
Charity number: 1112065

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023

GROUP B STREP
SUPPORT
(A company limited by
guarantee)

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

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GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Trustees	Mr S Bramley Mrs A Eddy Mrs D Forwood Dr K Gutteridge Mr D Hobster Mrs D Jones Dr E Morris CBE Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive Mr R Plumb Mrs D Crohn (appointed 21 March 2023)
Company registered number	05587535
Charity registered number	1112065
Registered office	JYW House Bridge Road Haywards Heath England RH16 1UA
Chief executive	Mrs J Plumb MBE
Secretary to the Trustees	Mr O Plumb
Independent examiner	Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP Chartered Accountants Magna House 18-32 London Road Staines-Upon-Thames TW18 4BP

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
	HSBC 40 South Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 4LA
	Nationwide Building Society Kings Park Road Moulton Park Northampton NN3 6NW
	Charity Bank Fosse House 182 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Patrons	Dr Chris Steele MBE Baron Soames of Fletching Mr James Roby

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Introduction from the Chair and Chief Executive

We are delighted to present the 2023 Report & Accounts for Group B Strep Support, describing our progress and challenges in the past year.

The year showed an increase in activity and spending, aimed at raising the profile of group B Strep prevention, which has meant hard work and dedication on the part of many people. We thank our staff and supporters for their dedication.

We remain committed to raising awareness, providing information and support to affected families, and advocating for better identification, prevention, testing and treatment protocols.

We continued with external fundraising events, and our third annual virtual conference for health professionals was a major success in May 2023, with world-class experts presenting to over 500 delegates. Feedback showed that they rated the conference very highly. The conference generated a surplus because of sponsorship and ticket sales, and we are grateful to the sponsors.

We also continued with face-to-face training, speaking at key events and exhibiting at conferences.

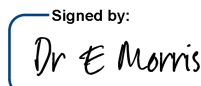
Our media coverage again reached many national and local outlets. In May, the plotline of Emmerdale included a baby who developed bacterial meningitis, most likely caused by group B Strep. ITV helpfully provided a link to Group B Strep Support so that viewers could easily obtain more information.

Our prudent management of funds donated by our supporters allowed us to keep a close eye on expenditure and increase our income. We planned for a deficit, as we felt it appropriate to spend a portion of our reserves on accelerating our work. In the event, the deficit was less than anticipated.

Looking ahead, we are encouraged by the progress of the GBS3 Trial, which is well underway and expected to report in the summer of 2025. We are also excited about the prospect of a group B Strep vaccine and the World Health Organization's focus on group B Strep as an integral part of their Defeat Meningitis by 2030 Roadmap. There can be no defeating meningitis without also defeating group B Strep infection.

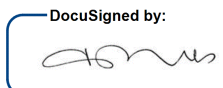
Despite our successes, the heartbreaking reality remains that, on average, two babies a day develop group B Strep infection in the UK, and one baby dies and another is left with a long-term disability every week. This highlights the continued importance of our work in raising awareness, supporting families, and campaigning for change.

We extend our thanks to our staff members, supporters, donors, partners, trustees, members of our Medical Advisory Panel, our Parent Advisory Panel, our Legal Panel, and to testing and pharmaceutical firms who support us and provide testing services or are working towards a vaccine. Their steadfast support has allowed us to continue delivering our vital services.

Signed by:

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Dr E Morris CBE, Chair

Date:
28-Aug-2024

DocuSigned by:

D4FF7BBEC8164CC...

Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date:
02-Sep-2024

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements comply with statutory requirements, including the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the charity's governing document requirements.

Structure, governance, and management

Group B Strep Support (GBSS) is a charity registered in England and Wales and incorporated on 10 October 2005 as a company limited by guarantee, continuing the activities of an unincorporated charity of the same name formed in 1996. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The strategic direction and policies of the charity are determined by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Chief Executive. The implementation of the business plan is delegated to the Chief Executive. Progress is reviewed at regular board meetings. In 2023, the meetings were held on March 11, June 3, September 16 and December 9. The meetings are a mix of video calls and face-to-face meetings.

The Trustees continued to implement the recommendations of the strategy review it carried out in 2021 and has updated since then.

The charity makes its supporters and networks aware of the opportunity for suitably skilled persons to join the Board of Trustees. We benefitted throughout the year from the valuable guidance of our Board and Parent Advisory Panel. During the year, the Trustees, in consultation with the Parent Advisory Panel, decided to close the Parent Advisory Panel, expressing sincere thanks to its members; we anticipate a larger group will replace it, whose terms of reference are yet to be developed and agreed.

The Trustees operate several committees for greater efficiency, including finance, fundraising, governance, communication and external affairs, and diversity and inclusion. The committees have proved a success. The Trustees collectively remain accountable for all Trustee activity and decisions.

The charity actively participates in various UK-wide committees and working groups relevant to group B Strep. These committees and working groups operated a mix of online and face-to-face in 2023. Charity employees worked partly in the office and partly from home.

Risk policy

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces that might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objectives. We review these risks in advance of each Trustee meeting. We monitored our financial position carefully throughout the Covid pandemic and will continue to do so. The Trustees are confident that these actions will enable the charity to continue operating. Therefore, it is the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparing the accounts continues to be appropriate.

Public benefit

All of the charity's purposes and activities are for the public benefit. The board confirms that it has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Vision and mission

The charity's vision is to eliminate group B Streptococcal (GBS) infection in babies in the UK.

The charity's mission is to provide high-quality information and support relating to GBS to all new and expectant families and health professionals in the UK and to campaign for improved national GBS prevention strategies.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Strategic objectives

The charity's strategic objectives are:

1. **Families:** To relieve the suffering caused by GBS by making help, support and information available to those affected by GBS in the UK.
2. **Education:** To advance the education of the UK medical profession and the general public about GBS and its implications for the family.
3. **Research:** To support organisations promoting research into GBS and to publish the useful results of such research.

Achievement and performance

Group B Strep is still the leading cause of severe infection in newborn babies and meningitis in babies under three months. On average, in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, every month 66 babies are diagnosed with group B Strep infection

- 56 babies make a full recovery
- six babies survive with long-term physical or mental disabilities
- four babies die from their group B Strep infection

The charity's overarching objective is to reduce the pain and suffering caused by group B Strep infection in babies and their families. Our aims show how we work towards achieving that:

Family support and information about Group B Strep in the UK

At the core of our charity lies the stories of families who have been affected by group B Strep. Through a range of channels, including social media and our helpline, we strive to be a compassionate and informative presence for everyone seeking our help. Whether this is a concerned parent seeking more information on GBS or someone whose baby has experienced the harrowing effects of GBS sepsis or meningitis, we are available to listen and support them every step of the way.

We provide the latest guidance on GBS prevention and treatment, so that pregnant women and people, and new parents can make informed decisions about their and their babies' health. We offer a variety of resources, including online information, phone support, and printed materials, to empower families to work collaboratively with their healthcare providers and make the best choices for themselves and their babies.

The GBSS Helpline

At the forefront of our charity's support network is our highly valued Helpline, which is popular with families across the country. Whether people contact us by phone, email, online, or even by post, we provide a listening ear, valuable information, and unwavering support to families affected by or concerned about group B Strep. In 2023 alone, we received over 1,000 enquiries from families, demonstrating just how vital the service is – families find us through recommendations or online searches. Our Helpline is also a trusted resource for health professionals, who depend on us to provide the most up-to-date guidance on group B Strep and who recommend it to families in their care.

Through our helpline, we also provide information materials to families and also to NHS health professionals, maternity units, neonatal units, and GP practices with essential information materials on request. In 2023 we worked hard to build relationships with maternity units, arranging for them to be sent regular orders of the information materials.

The impact of our Helpline and information services cannot be overstated, and we are proud to have received countless expressions of gratitude from those who have used our resources:

- 94% of those who responded to our survey said they were very likely to recommend our helpline to someone else.
- 67% said they completely got the information and support they needed, and 33% said they mostly did.

Because of the generosity of our donors and funders, everything we provide, including our Helpline and information materials, comes at no cost to families or NHS health professionals.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Raising Awareness of Group B Strep

Our efforts to raise public awareness of group B Strep have been highly successful, with coverage across the broadsheet and tabloid national newspapers, national news television programmes, and many regional and local news outlets, as well as online.

Throughout the year, we engaged in many national and international awareness campaigns, including World Sepsis Day, World Meningitis Day, Volunteers Week, Baby Loss Awareness Week, and our very own Group B Strep Awareness Month. These occasions provided an opportunity to share the poignant stories of families impacted by group B Strep and express gratitude to the remarkable midwives, doctors and volunteers who support our cause. Our Group B Strep Awareness Month featured a range of activities to raise awareness and help people to understand the importance of testing for group B Strep during pregnancy.

Our online presence was significant in 2023, and we undertook updates to the key pages on our website, and refreshed the strategies for social media content, focussing particularly on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. It is gratifying that so many people look to us for information and guidance on group B Strep, and we remain committed to providing the latest information and resources to help families feel empowered to make informed choices about their care.

We continue to advocate for more reliable statistics on the rate of group B Strep infection and mortality across demographic indicators and worked with other charities during the year, asking the Department of Health & Social Care to make group B Strep a notifiable disease. No decision has yet been made. This would improve our understanding the scale of the problem, which is crucial to tailoring our support to the needs of different groups. We will continue to press the NHS to collect and publish this information. The GBS3 trial results will also provide key insights on how to improve the prevention of group B Strep infection in newborn babies.

In July, the charity published the results of a survey of 529 respondents it had commissioned from Savanta. The survey asked about the information on group B Strep provided to new and expectant UK parents. It found that:

- Two thirds (66%) would like to learn more about group B Strep from their healthcare professional
- Fewer than two-thirds (62%) felt confident recognising symptoms in a baby
- Over nine out of ten supported the introduction of national testing for group B Strep during pregnancy

Despite the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists recommending in 2017 that everyone should be provided with information about group B Strep during their pregnancy, fewer than a quarter (24%) said they were given information about group B Strep by a health professional during pregnancy. The survey results show there remain challenges ahead in ensuring that pregnant women and people are truly informed about group B Strep.

GBSS shares the stories of babies and families affected by group B Strep – we thank the brave parents for sharing their stories, and giving us permission to share them more widely. These stories inspire us ever onwards in our work to stop group B Strep infection in babies.

Jamie-Leigh, mum to Theodore, told us “The first time I had heard of group B Strep was when Theo was born. I had reached my due date of 21 October, and my waters had started to go the day after. I was told to stay at home until the contractions became unbearable. A couple of days later, I went into the induction ward and my boy was born on 24 October.

Straightaway, he was rushed off for oxygen with no explanation as to what was happening. I was in labour for 46 hours in total after my waters had gone.

My baby had been taken to the NICU and I wasn't allowed to see him for four hours. I had to wait until my antibiotics had finished and my epidural had worn off until I was finally allowed to be taken to the NICU.

Finally, it was time to see my boy, but unfortunately, it wasn't all happy and exciting. It was an upsetting scene that I will never forget; seeing my little baby boy hooked up to a ventilator and all these wires helping him breathe and being pumped with all these antibiotics to fight all sorts of infections. Unbeknown to us at the time, he had group B Strep infection.

Theodore spent seven days in hospital in total, with a ventilator at first, then high-flow oxygen and feeding tubes. I felt useless, not being able to do anything except hold my baby when they would take him out of his incubator.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Finally, my boy was strong enough to be off the oxygen and back on a normal ward for two days before coming home to his family. An experience I will never forget."

Amy, Mum to Teddy, bravely shares their story. "The day Teddy turned one month old was like any other day. I had spent the afternoon at my mum's and left around 6pm. Teddy started to cry at around 7pm, which wasn't anything out of the ordinary as he was quite a colicky baby. He fell to sleep in my arms, and we went to bed around 10pm. He didn't have his bottle like normal. I woke up at midnight and had the urge to take his temp. It was 39 degrees. I packed a bag and went to A&E.

His condition worsened in the 15 mins it had taken me to get to the hospital. His breathing had now gone strange, and his skin had changed colour. They immediately knew something was wrong and got him hooked up to oxygen and antibiotics.

Teddy was then sedated and blue-lighted to a nearby children's intensive care unit. Here we were told that Teddy's blood cultures had returned positive for strep B sepsis with suspected meningitis. It was very very hit-and-miss as his heart rate was super high. He also had two blood transfusions. Eventually, all his stats came back to normal.

We were told that Teddy was on the road to recovery, so we were over the moon. However, that happiness soon turned to sadness as his soft spot (fontanelle) started to swell, and he was taken for an MRI. Here we came to realise that the infection had affected his whole brain.

We got taken into a side room and knew it wouldn't be good news. We were told that the damage to his brain was so bad that as soon as the machines were all turned off his body wouldn't be able to breathe on its own.

Teddy fought right to the very end. His dad, Jack, and I had to make the heart-breaking decision to turn off his machines. Even after this, Teddy fought longer than what the doctors thought. Unfortunately, Teddy passed away in our arms, being only five weeks old. Leaving us all devastated."

Annual Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Conference

Our annual online conference in May was another success, with 520 delegates from around the world, hearing from expert speakers on all aspects of group B Strep.

The conference was chaired by two eminent figures in the world of obstetrics, gynaecology and midwifery: Eddie Morris, Chair of Trustees at GBSS and immediate past president of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, and Kathryn Gutteridge, a GBSS trustee and past president of the Royal College of Midwives.

The 'godmother of group B Strep prevention' and our Global Vaccine Engagement Adviser, Dr Carol J Baker, gave the keynote speech. Families shared their lived experiences, and other speakers gave updates on the GBS3 trial, the latest on efforts to develop a group B Strep vaccines and improvements in testing for group B Strep carriage. The feedback from the conference was excellent and we are very grateful to all of our supporters, including Cepheid, Hologic, Leigh Day, MinervaX and Slater + Gordon who generously supported the conference as Silver Sponsors, Irwin Mitchell who supported it as a Bronze Sponsor and to Pfizer, whose educational grant enabled us to offer bursary places to student midwives and relevant health professionals in low- and middle-income countries.

International Symposium of Streptococcus Agalactiae Disease (ISSAD)

In October, Jane Plumb, GBSS CEO, and Oliver Plumb, GBSS Advocacy & Information Manager, were invited to attend the biannual ISSAD (International Symposium of Streptococcus Agalactiae Disease) conference on group B Strep. Jane co-led the parent and patient stream at the conference, and presented during the opening session.

Training

Throughout the year, the charity and its dedicated volunteers demonstrated their commitment to raising awareness about group B Strep by participating in various healthcare educational meetings, webinars, and conferences. Whether conducted in-person or virtually, these events offered obstetricians, midwives, and other health professionals an opportunity to access the latest evidence and information about group B Strep.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Our CEO, Jane Plumb, is a respected figure in the charity world, and her influence extends beyond GBSS. She continues to serve as the Chair of the Advisory Council of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations and as a Trustee of the Meningitis Research Foundation, both of which have much common interest with GBSS. In February, she was also appointed Women's Voices Lead and Chair of the Women's Network of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, further improving opportunities for group B Strep prevention to be on the agenda of relevant groups. Her relentless endeavours have unquestionably had a substantial impact, and her ongoing engagement with these organisations speaks to her steadfast dedication to advancing public health.

In May 2023, NHS England made it a requirement for training in "group B Strep in labour" to be provided to all maternity and neonatal staff as part of the Core Competency Framework (CCF2). This can only help to raise standards. GBSS has over the years produced videos and other training materials which are used by some hospitals. GBSS will work to secure funding to create an elearning module on group B Strep aimed at midwives and other health professionals to enable maternity units to meet the requirements of the CCF2.

Supporting research into group B Strep

The charity has been actively supporting the £4.2m GBS3 trial, which is assessing the practice of routinely testing for group B Strep. The charity played a vital role in ensuring that a sufficient number of hospitals took part, and the trial is now well underway. The trial will eventually include 320,000 pregnant women and their babies and is comparing the current approach to preventing early-onset group B Strep infections with testing all women for group B Strep carriage, either at 35-37 weeks of pregnancy or the start of labour. It is due to report findings in 2025.

The charity is committed to supporting ethical research into group B Strep and is involved providing patient and public involvement representatives on several group B Strep research studies and policy development committees.

The charity is committed to funding up to £15,000 of the costs of the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit to conduct an enhanced surveillance survey of invasive CBS disease in babies under 3 months. This survey will provide a more accurate reflection of the number of group B Strep infections in babies aged 0-90 days and will be the first external research project for which the charity is providing funding.

These efforts are all part of the charity's mission to raise awareness and improve outcomes for babies and families affected by group B Strep. Through its support of research, advocacy, and education, the charity is making a significant impact on the prevention and treatment of group B Strep.

Vaccine development

Progress continues on developing a safe and effective vaccine, which GBSS wholeheartedly supports.

A peer-reviewed study was published in March finding that, if introduced globally, a reasonably-priced vaccine would be likely to be a cost-effective intervention, along with having a large impact on infant death and long-term disability.

In the summer, Pfizer published promising results from their trials of a group B Strep vaccine they are developing. The results were that the vaccine is safe for mothers and babies, with no significant side effects.

It has taken a long time to get to this point, but a safe and effective vaccine is getting closer.

Fundraising

We are grateful for the continuing dedication of our community of fundraisers, who have consistently shown their support for our cause over many years. Our supporters have undertaken a range of events aimed at raising crucial funds for our charity. Here are some highlights:

Digital Fundraising:

As part of our digital fundraising strategy, we have continued to develop our Facebook Challenge virtual events to engage with our supporters and create a sense of community around our cause. Throughout the year, we focused on maximising efficiency and delivering the best value for our resources while providing fun and engaging experiences for our participants.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

In March, we launched our Walk 100K challenge, encouraging our supporters to walk 100 km throughout the month. This was followed by two more virtual events later in the year, which together raised over £35,000 for the charity.

The feedback we received from our virtual challenges has been overwhelmingly positive, with one participant stating, "After my daughter Willow was born with group B Strep meningitis and sepsis, I received invaluable support from the charity. I was pleased to have raised £592 by taking part in the October skipping challenge last year," while another shared, "It gave me focus that month to think of something other than the grief I have for my son."

London Landmarks Half Marathon

In April, our team attended the exhilarating London Landmarks Half Marathon – we had 36 runners who bravely took on the 13.1 miles around London's most iconic landmarks. With breathtaking views of Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, the Gherkin, and the Tower of London, our runners felt the buzz of London's rich history and celebrated the city's vibrant heritage.

We are thrilled to share that our runners raised over £16,000 to support group B Strep research, advocacy, and awareness, and we couldn't be prouder of their remarkable achievement. We were on the sidelines, cheering them on with all our might, and the positive feedback from the event was overwhelming. One runner, Jack, told us "Yesterday was a great day with an incredible atmosphere throughout the course once again! Was a great motivation seeing everyone at the Group B Strep Support cheer station as well! Always a pleasure supporting such an incredible charity!"

Thank you to our corporate partners Irwin Mitchell, Slater + Gordon, and MWE for putting teams together.

The TCS London Marathon

Team GBSS for 2023 comprised five runners, some experienced, some first-time marathon runners, and some who have been waiting since 2020 to run! They all took to the streets of London, each with their personal story about why they chose to run for Group B Strep Support. And they all made us proud!

Our five TCS London Marathon runners raised over £7,000: thank you to them and everyone who donated.

Charity of the Year

After two families at Greenhalghs Craft Bakery experienced the devastating effects that group B Strep can cause, there was no hesitation in GBSS being chosen as the charity to run for at the Great Manchester 10K and half marathon in 2023. The team of 56 raised over £12,000 along with vital awareness of group B Strep.

Finance Director, Ray, shared his story: "When my grandson, Zachary, was 33 days old, he developed a group B Strep infection, which later turned to sepsis. We were so lucky that he received the lifesaving care he needed in time. Thankfully, he was well enough to return home after ten days and later made a full recovery, but we know just how lucky we were. He is now nearly two and half years old."

Great North Run

Tommy and Beth ran the 13.1 miles of the Great North Run on the 10 September, each with their own story about why they wanted to run for Group B Strep Support. Beth told us, "I participated in the Great North Run to raise money for Group B Strep Support, a charity that's very close to our hearts. My son Cruz contracted group B Strep sepsis shortly after birth and has now been diagnosed with autism, global delay, and is non-verbal. The charity provided invaluable support to me and continues to help me whenever I have questions. Thank you, GBSS, for all that you do. Participating in the Great North Run was an amazing experience, and I loved every second of it." Together, they raised £1,880.

July's Group B Strep Awareness Month

During Group B Strep Awareness Month, over 30 families shared their stories with us, and we want to say a massive thank you to each and every one of them! Their stories are so important: by sharing them, they are improving awareness and supporting others going through similar experiences.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Families across the country showed their support through various activities, including Jon and Becki, who took on a 50km trek around the Peak District after their daughter, Ruby, developed group B Strep meningitis. They raised an incredible £1,375 and told us "The trek was very tough with plenty of blisters to act as painful memories, but so glad we did it and proud of our achievement."

As a result of these amazing events, crucial awareness and funds have been raised towards GBSS's mission to prevent group B Strep infections in babies. We are grateful to all the supporters, runners, and volunteers who helped make these events successful.

Baby Loss Awareness Week and In memory fundraising

Our MuchLoved dedication page in honour of Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October) received 25 dedications from supporters wanting to leave a dedication to their babies and raised £105.

The MuchLoved platform is a memorial website, where families can share memories, thoughts, and stories with family and friends as well as light virtual candles, and add music, photos, and videos. In 2023, seven tribute pages were set up which raised over £15,000. Families can grow their tributes by organising fundraising events and linking them to their tribute pages, like Amy Wilkins. Amy organised a charity walk in memory of her son Teddy.

Amy told us, "The day was bittersweet. We were overwhelmed with all the support and love that was shown to us but of course, was also incredibly sad as Teddy wasn't here with us.

This is just the start of our fundraising attempts and raising awareness of group B Strep. We refuse to let Teddy's death be in vain and will do everything we can to keep his memory alive and, in turn, hopefully let other families know about group B Strep in pregnancy and newborn babies and the signs to look out for once their baby has been born."

The Big Give

Our application was successful to the Women and Girls funding stream. The campaign ran between midday on 11 October and midday on 18 October and achieved a total of 48 donations from 44 individuals, which the Big Give matched. In total, we received £10,529.25 through this campaign.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated, shared, and supported our cause. The funds raised will make a tangible difference in expanding and improving our information and support services for women and families affected by group B Strep.

Medical Advisory Panel

At Group B Strep Support, we take great pride in ensuring that all of the information we provide is of the highest quality and accuracy. To achieve this, we rely on the expertise of our distinguished Medical Advisory Panel, made up of renowned medical professionals Professor Philip Steer, Dr Alison Bedford Russell, Dr Guduru Gopal Rao OBE, Mrs Philippa Cox and Dr Sonali Kochhar.

Their vast knowledge and experience in the field of group B Strep infection is invaluable to us, and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to providing us with outstanding advice and support. Their contributions play a crucial role in enabling us to deliver the most up-to-date and reliable information to the families and health professionals we serve, and we thank them for their dedication to our cause.

Financial review

During the year, income of £367,564 was received (2022: £382,098). The expenditure was £427,063 (2022: £349,093). The deficit was £59,499 (2022: surplus of £33,005).

We also reviewed our financial controls, which we do annually as part of good governance.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reserves policy

The charity is funded primarily by volunteer fundraisers' participation in events and by donations, which are volatile. The Trustees have set the reserves policy accordingly. The Trustees aim to maintain unrestricted and undesignated reserves to cover six months' expenditure. On 31st December 2023, the charity's free reserves represented 3.06 months' (2022: 3.17 months') expenditure: £108,851.

The charity is budgeting for deficit spending for this and next year. Our running costs may include implementing some of the projects for which we are holding designated funds. The Trustees are therefore comfortable that the reserves we hold in total would see the charity through six months of running.

The charity's aim to broaden our income streams and increase income has been successful in a sometimes challenging economic environment. We expect to continue this diversification in the coming years.

Pay and Expenses

The directors consider that the charity's Trustees, including the Chief Executive, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity daily. Except for the Chief Executive, all trustees give their time freely, and none received remuneration in the year. Similarly, the Medical Advisory Panel is not remunerated. Although Trustees can claim their travelling expenses to attend Board meetings, none were claimed during 2023.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually against the mid-point of pay levels for similar roles in other small charities.

Plans for 2024

GBSS will:

- continue to work with the Royal Colleges and other professional bodies to ensure our information materials are appropriate for their members and the families in their care
- develop and improve the support we offer to families; through our Helpline, social media platforms and other online services
- press for all women and people who are pregnant to be provided with information about group B Strep so they can make an informed choice about testing and treatment
- improve group B Strep training and awareness for obstetricians, midwives, health visitors and GPs and encourage more hospitals to use our leaflets and posters so that expectant and new parents are fully informed about group B Strep and able to make informed decisions about their care
- encourage ethical research, support it whenever possible, and be involved as patient and public involvement representatives on group B Strep research studies and policy development committees. We will look to influencing and accelerate the pace of research and vaccine development where we can
- support the GBS3 trial and other clinical trials that will lead to better group B Strep prevention, identification and treatment
- campaign and engage with politicians, government bodies and other decision-makers across the UK to ensure group B Strep is a top priority and all babies are given the best start in life
- undertake research into forming a replacement body for the Parent Advisory Panel to enable us to best support affected families and draw on the abilities of families affected by group B Strep
- work tirelessly to stop group B Strep infection in babies and to support families who have been affected

We will hold another conference on Group B Strep in Pregnancy and Babies in May 2024. It will again be an entirely virtual conference, aimed chiefly at health professionals.

There continues to be great need for our services, and we will continue to provide and improve them.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees 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).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 business.

The trustees are responsible keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:



.....DAFF7BBEC816ACC.....

Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 02-Sep-2024

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

MENZIES
BRIGHTER THINKING

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Group B Strep Support ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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 Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company'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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

DocuSigned by:
Janice Matthews
634F24DE92A4471...

Dated: 06-Sep-2024

Janice Matthews FCA

Menzies LLP

Chartered Accountants
Magna House
18-32 London Road
Staines-Upon-Thames
TW18 4BP

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	116,080	2,000	118,080	142,056
Charitable activities	3	241,318	-	241,318	237,897
Investments	4	8,166	-	8,166	2,145
Total income		365,564	2,000	367,564	382,098
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	37,478	-	37,478	28,560
Charitable activities		329,695	59,890	389,585	320,533
Total expenditure		367,173	59,890	427,063	349,093
Net movement in funds		(1,609)	(57,890)	(59,499)	33,005
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		399,710	57,890	457,600	424,595
Net movement in funds		(1,609)	(57,890)	(59,499)	33,005
Total funds carried forward		398,101	-	398,101	457,600

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 05587535

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	3,150	6,590
		3,150	6,590
Current assets			
Stocks		1,245	1,280
Debtors	10	24,433	53,016
Cash at bank and in hand		395,560	418,493
		421,238	472,789
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(26,287)	(21,779)
Net current assets		394,951	451,010
Total net assets		398,101	457,600
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	12	-	57,890
Unrestricted funds	12	398,101	399,710
Total funds		398,101	457,600

The Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

D4FF78B0EC8184CC
Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 02-Sep-2024

The notes on pages 16 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Group B Strep Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees are committed to ensuring Group B Strep Support's long-term sustainability. We regularly assess and manage potential risks that could impact our ability to achieve our charitable goals. Our financial health is strong, with a healthy reserve and consistent funding streams. This robust financial position allows us to continue operations and deliver on our mission of improving maternity safety and preventing Group B Strep infection in babies. We remain vigilant, conducting regular financial monitoring and maintaining a commitment to responsible management practices. We also actively seek ways to generate sustainable income sources. With these proactive measures in place, the Trustees are confident that Group B Strep Support will continue to operate effectively for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the Trustees believe the "going concern" basis for preparing these accounts remains appropriate.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	-	33% Straight line
Office equipment	-	33% Straight line

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations				
Corporate	1,797	-	1,797	20,123
Individual	35,623	-	35,623	32,495
Regular individual	10,161	-	10,161	15,971
Gift Aid	19,258	-	19,258	13,843
Honorarium/research	8,625	-	8,625	317
In Memory	28,366	-	28,366	18,933
Charitable Trusts & Foundations and Government Grants				
Trusts and foundations	12,250	2,000	14,250	40,374
	116,080	2,000	118,080	142,056
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>84,166</i>	<i>57,890</i>	<i>142,056</i>	

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
General fundraising	130,174	130,174	126,705
Sponsorships	110,630	110,630	110,589
Merchandise income	514	514	603
	241,318	241,318	237,897
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>237,897</i>	<i>237,897</i>	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Investment income	8,166	8,166	2,145
<i>Total 2022</i>	2,145	2,145	

5. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Website trading	5,078	5,078	3,277
Merchandise	3,328	3,328	352
Other fundraising costs	29,072	29,072	24,931
	37,478	37,478	28,560
<i>Total 2022</i>	28,560	28,560	

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Expenditure	389,585	389,585	320,533
<i>Total 2022</i>	320,533	320,533	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	242,444	242,444	215,172
Depreciation	3,853	3,853	5,007
Premises, rent and stationery	22,519	22,519	21,306
Office running costs	14,026	14,026	6,358
Awareness	66,742	66,742	57,699
Entertainment and travel	5,375	5,375	1,994
Bank charges and interest	415	415	379
Management and professional fees	30,211	30,211	9,059
Trustees expenses	-	-	659
Governance - independent examiner's fee	4,000	4,000	2,900
	<u>389,585</u>	<u>389,585</u>	<u>320,533</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>320,533</u>	<u>320,533</u>	

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the Company's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Company's annual accounts	<u>4,000</u>	<u>2,900</u>

8. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	218,425	194,323
Social security costs	17,066	15,305
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	6,953	5,544
	<u>242,444</u>	<u>215,172</u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Administration	7	6

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	-

During the year, one trustee received emoluments (including pension contributions) of £78,826 (2022 - £73,775) for acting as Chief Executive. No remuneration is paid for acting as trustee. Authority for these payments is contained in the memorandum of association. The Chief Executive is considered to be the key management personnel of the charity.

During the year, there were no trustee expenses claimed (2022: There were no reimbursed costs during the year).

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2023	4,592	18,252	22,844
Additions	-	413	413
At 31 December 2023	4,592	18,665	23,257
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	3,802	12,452	16,254
Charge for the year	271	3,582	3,853
At 31 December 2023	4,073	16,034	20,107
Net book value			
At 31 December 2023	519	2,631	3,150
At 31 December 2022	790	5,800	6,590

10. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due after more than one year		
Prepayments and accrued income	308	-
	308	-
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	196	4,836
Prepayments and accrued income	23,929	48,180
	24,433	53,016

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,868	158
Other taxation and social security	824	4,226
Other creditors	345	345
Accruals and deferred income	23,250	17,050
	<u>26,287</u>	<u>21,779</u>

. Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income brought forward	13,830	9,000
Amount released to income	(13,830)	(9,000)
Amounts deferred during the year	19,250	13,830
Deferred income at 31 December 2023	<u>19,250</u>	<u>13,830</u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserves	111,500	-	-	27,100	138,600
Information products update	50,000	-	-	(20,000)	30,000
IT services fund	25,000	-	-	(10,000)	15,000
GBS Research impact fund	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Website and internal IT review fund	62,000	-	-	(12,000)	50,000
Conference Fund	17,500	-	-	-	17,500
	301,000	-	-	(14,900)	286,100
General funds					
General Fund	98,710	365,564	(367,173)	14,900	112,001
Total Unrestricted funds	399,710	365,564	(367,173)	-	398,101
Restricted funds					
Sussex Community Foundation	7,000	-	(7,000)	-	-
Big Give Campaign	50,890	-	(50,890)	-	-
The Hospital Saturday Fund	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
	57,890	2,000	(59,890)	-	-
Total of funds	457,600	367,564	(427,063)	-	398,101

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserves	121,000	-	-	(9,500)	111,500
Information products update	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
IT services fund	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
GBS Research impact fund	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Covid recovery Fund	35,000	-	-	(35,000)	-
Website and internal IT review fund	-	-	-	62,000	62,000
Conference Fund	-	-	-	17,500	17,500
	<u>266,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>301,000</u>
General funds					
General Fund	158,595	324,208	(349,093)	(35,000)	98,710
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>424,595</u>	<u>324,208</u>	<u>(349,093)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>399,710</u>
Restricted funds					
Sussex Community Foundation	-	7,000	-	-	7,000
Big Give Campaign	-	50,890	-	-	50,890
	<u>-</u>	<u>57,890</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,890</u>
Total of funds	<u>424,595</u>	<u>382,098</u>	<u>(349,093)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>457,600</u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated Funds:

The designated reserves for 2023 are:-:

Running costs reserves

The running costs reserve was set up to safeguard against major fluctuations in income or significant short-term funding issues.

Information products update

The Information Fund includes producing, promoting and disseminating key GBS information in English and other languages.

IT Services Fund

The IT services fund was created to cover the costs of integrating a new database with the IT system and website, and to improve the website particularly in the light of the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase traffic to the site. The funds will also be used to cover the costs of additional updates to helpdesk, including monitoring and evaluation, and replacement of IT equipment to allow for agile working.

GBS Research Impact Fund

The GBS research impact fund was created to cover additional costs associated with the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase use of the charity's existing information materials (particularly the leaflet co-written with the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists), creating new information materials and the need to provide additional support via the charity's helplines and forums. The pandemic forced the delay of the trial by 12 months.

Website and internal IT review fund

A review of our IT infrastructure is long overdue and has been on hold since the start of the pandemic. A hybrid of home and office working is now the norm. Increasingly our beneficiaries are expecting to be able to access all the information they need when they need it, and using multiple platforms. We need to adapt the charity's services and ways of working to address these changes.

Conference Fund

Our virtual conferences in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been very successful. For 2024, we want to build on this success and offer bursary places to student midwives in the UK, plus midwives and other health professionals involved in maternity and neonatal care from low and middle-income countries. We will approach potential funders for this particularly the international element, but will also set aside funds for UK student midwives. This will increase knowledge and education about group B Strep among midwives, one of the targets highlighted in our strategy refresh in 2021.

Restricted Funds:

Sussex Community Foundation

The charity received £7,000 in the prior year from the Sussex Community Foundation towards our Helpline services, including targeted work to reach families in Sussex with information and support around GBS.

Big Give Campaign

The charity raised £25,000 from public donations (matched by £25,000 of funding from the DCMS Tampon Tax fund) towards the running of its Helpline service, providing information and support to families affected by GBS.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. Statement of funds (continued)

The Hospital Saturday Fund

The charity received £2,000 for The Hospital Saturday Fund toward the running of its Helpline service.

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,150	3,150
Debtors due after more than one year	308	308
Current assets	420,930	420,930
Creditors due within one year	(26,287)	(26,287)
Total	398,101	398,101

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,590	-	6,590
Current assets	414,899	57,890	472,789
Creditors due within one year	(21,779)	-	(21,779)
Total	399,710	57,890	457,600

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2023 the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts payable		
Not later than 1 year	8,394	16,514
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	8,394
	<u>8,394</u>	<u>24,908</u>

15. Related party transactions

Oliver Plumb, the son of Jane Plumb (a trustee), is employed by the charity. During the year he received remuneration of £39,000 (2022: 32,930). He also received employer pension contributions of £1,537 (2022: £958). Oliver received no other expenses or benefits from the charity in either year.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1112065

Accounts

Company registration number: 05587535
Charity number: 1112065

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022

GROUP B STREP
SUPPORT
(A company limited by
guarantee)

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

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GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Trustees	Mr S Bramley Mrs E Cook (resigned 1 December 2022) Mrs A Eddy Mrs D Forwood Dr B Greene (resigned 18 April 2023) Dr K Gutteridge Mr D Hobster Mrs D Jones Dr E Morris Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive Mr R Plumb Mrs D Crohn (appointed 21 March 2023)
Company registered number	05587535
Charity registered number	1112065
Registered office	JYW House Bridge Road Haywards Heath England RH16 1UA
Chief executive	Mrs J Plumb MBE
Secretary to the Trustees	Mr O Plumb
Independent examiner	Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP Chartered Accountants Centrum House 36 Station Road Egham Surrey TW20 9LF

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

HSBC
40 South Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 4LA

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Charity Bank
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1BE

Patrons

Dr Chris Steele MBE
Sir Nicholas Soames MP
Mr James Roby

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Introduction from the Chair and Chief Executive

We are delighted to present to you the 2022 Report & Accounts for Group B Strep Support, which showcases our charity's progress and achievements in the past year. Our dedication and hard work have resulted in a small surplus in the financial year 2022, and we are proud to share this accomplishment with our supporters and stakeholders.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we have made significant strides in our efforts towards preventing Group B Strep (GBS) infection in babies. Our unwavering commitment to raising awareness, providing information and support to affected families, and advocating for better prevention, testing, and treatment protocols has continued throughout the year.

We resumed external fundraising events, and our second annual virtual conference for health professionals was a resounding success, with world-class experts presenting to 568 delegates and rave reviews from attendees. We also resumed face-to-face training, speaking at key events and exhibiting at conferences.

Our media coverage reached national and local outlets, and we successfully led a grassroots campaign asking people to email their MPs to encourage their local maternity hospitals to participate in the GBS3 Trial. This work has resulted in hitting our target for sites taking part by the end of 2023.

Our prudent management of funds donated by our supporters allowed us to keep a close eye on expenditure and increase our income. We extend our thanks to our supporters, partners, Legal Panel members, and testing and pharmaceutical firms who continue to support us.

Looking ahead, we are encouraged by the progress of the GBS3 Trial, which is well underway and expected to report in mid-2025. We are also excited about the prospect of a GBS vaccine and the World Health Organization's focus on GBS as a key cause of meningitis.

Despite our successes, the heartbreaking reality remains that on average, two babies a day develop GBS infection in the UK, and one baby dies and another is left with a long-term disability every week. This highlights the continued importance of our work in raising awareness, supporting families, and campaigning for change.

We extend our gratitude to our staff members, supporters, donors, partners, trustees, members of our Parent Advisory Panel, and Medical Advisory Panel. Their unwavering support has allowed us to continue delivering our life-changing and life-saving services.

DocuSigned by:

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Dr E Morris, Chair
Date: 19-Sep-2023

DocuSigned by:

D4FF7BBEC8164CC...
Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive
Date: 19-Sep-2023

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements comply with statutory requirements, including the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the charity's governing document requirements.

Structure, governance, and management

Group B Strep Support (GBSS) is a charity registered in England and Wales and incorporated on 10 October 2005 as a company limited by guarantee, continuing the activities of an unincorporated charity of the same name formed in 1996. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The strategic direction and policies of the charity are determined by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Chief Executive. The implementation of the business plan is delegated to the Chief Executive. Progress is reviewed at board meetings, held five times yearly. In 2022, the meetings were held on February 19, May 14, July 23, September 24 and December 3.

The Trustees continued to implement the recommendations of the strategy review it had carried out in 2021.

The charity makes its supporters and networks aware of the opportunity for suitably skilled persons to join the Board of Trustees. We benefitted throughout the year from the valuable guidance of our Board and Parent Advisory Panel.

The Trustees operate several committees for greater efficiency, including finance, fundraising; governance; communication and external affairs; and diversity and inclusion. Trustees lead each with members of the Parent Advisory Panel each joining at least one committee. The committees have proved a success.

The charity actively participates in various UK-wide committees and working groups relevant to GBS. These committees and working groups operated online throughout 2022. Charity employees worked partly in the office and partly from home.

Risk policy

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces that might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objectives. We review these risks in advance of each Trustee meeting. We monitored our financial position carefully throughout the Covid pandemic and will continue to do so. The Trustees are confident that these actions will enable the charity to continue operating. Therefore, it is the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparing the accounts continues to be appropriate.

Public benefit

All of the charity's purposes and activities are for the public benefit. The board confirms that it has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission..

Vision and mission

The charity's vision is to eliminate group B Streptococcal (GBS) infection in babies in the UK.

The charity's mission is to provide high-quality information and support relating to GBS to all new and expectant families and health professionals in the UK and to campaign for improved national GBS prevention strategies.

Strategic objectives

The charity's strategic objectives are:

1. **Families:** To relieve the suffering caused by GBS by making help, support and information available to those affected by GBS in the UK.
2. **Education:** To advance the education of the UK medical profession and the general public about GBS and its implications for the family.
3. **Research:** To support organisations promoting research into GBS and to publish the useful results of such research.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Achievement and performance

Group B Strep is still the leading cause of severe infection in newborn babies and meningitis in babies under three months. On average, in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, every month 66 babies are diagnosed with group B Strep infection

- 56 babies make a full recovery
- six babies survive with long-term physical or mental disabilities
- four babies die from their group B Strep infection

The charity's overarching objective is to reduce the pain and suffering caused by group B Strep infection in babies and their families. Our aims show how we work towards achieving that:

Family support and information about GBS in the UK

At the core of our charity lies the stories of families who have been affected by group B Strep. Through a range of channels, including social media and our helpline, we strive to be a compassionate and informative presence for everyone seeking our help. Whether this is a concerned parent seeking more information on GBS or someone whose baby has experienced the harrowing effects of GBS sepsis or meningitis, we are available to listen and support them every step of the way.

We provide the latest guidance on GBS prevention and treatment, so that pregnant women and people, and new parents can make informed decisions about their and their babies' health. We offer a variety of resources, including online information, phone support, and printed materials, to empower families to work collaboratively with their healthcare providers and make the best choices for themselves and their babies.

The GBSS Helpline

At the forefront of our charity's support network is our highly valued Helpline, which has become a popular resource for families across the country. Whether people reach out to us by phone, email, online, or even by post, we are here to provide a listening ear, valuable information, and unwavering support to families affected by or concerned about GBS. In fact, in 2022 alone, we received almost 2,500 enquiries, demonstrating just how vital our services are.

Our Helpline has become a trusted source of information for new and expectant parents, as well as health professionals who rely on us for the latest guidance on GBS. Families often find us through word of mouth or internet searches, and health professionals frequently signpost the families in their care to us. In addition to offering information to families, we also provide health professionals, maternity units, neonatal units, and GP practices with essential information materials on request.

The impact of our Helpline and information services cannot be overstated, and we are proud to have received countless expressions of gratitude from those who have used our resources. Best of all, thanks to the donations and funding we received, everything we offer, from our Helpline to our information materials, is completely free of charge to families and to NHS health professionals, and NHS organisations.

Raising Awareness of GBS

Our efforts to raise public awareness of GBS have been highly successful, with coverage secured across a range of national and local media outlets, including some of the most respected names in journalism such as BBC Panorama, ITV News, The Guardian, and The Independent. We are proud to have shared our message with audiences across the UK, from The Mail and Mail Online to The Mirror, The Sun, and Wales Online, and countless regional and local news outlets.

Throughout the year, we participated in a variety of national and international awareness campaigns, including World Meningitis Day, International Day of the Midwife, Volunteers Week, Baby Loss Awareness Week, and our own Group B Strep Awareness Month. These events provided a platform to share moving stories of families affected by GBS and to thank the incredible midwives and volunteers who support our mission.

Our Group B Strep Awareness Month in July was a particularly significant success, with a range of activities designed to raise awareness and help pregnant women and people understand the importance of testing for GBS. Our #BumplOn theme was a big hit, encouraging everyone to share their knowledge of GBS with pregnant women and people to help them make informed choices about their care.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Our online presence grew significantly in 2022, with more visitors to our website and social media platforms than ever before. We are delighted that so many people are looking to us for information and guidance on GBS, and we remain committed to providing the latest information and resources to help families feel empowered to make informed choices about their care.

We continue to advocate for more reliable statistics on the rate of GBS infection and mortality across demographic indicators. We firmly believe that understanding the scale of the problem is crucial to tailoring our support to the needs of different and diverse communities, and we are pressing the NHS to collect and publish this information. We are hopeful that the GBS3 trial results will provide us with the insights we need to make a real difference.

Sharing stories:

GBSS shares the stories of babies and families affected by group B Strep.

Heath: Mum Amy writes, "My son Heath was born on 12.12.22. I was luckily swabbed for group B Strep at 37 weeks of pregnancy due to my local hospital, Derriford in Plymouth participating in a trial. I had not heard of GBS and was very disappointed to find out that I tested positive and could no longer go ahead with my planned homebirth. I felt that the risks involved were too high and felt it was better to be at the hospital.

During my labour I was given antibiotics, but my labour was too fast and I didn't receive the full amount required, so I was informed my baby would have to stay in for 12 hours of observation. Shortly after Heath was born, the midwife noticed his breathing wasn't quite right and he was immediately taken for an X-ray, which revealed a slight cloud over one lung. Due to the circumstances, we stayed in hospital for 5 days so Heath could have antibiotics to fight whatever infection he had.

Although we don't know for sure what infection Heath had, I'm just glad I knew about GBS beforehand so we could prepare for it. If we had not known about GBS who knows what might have happened. I'm very grateful to the hospital for participating in the trial and for their quick action and care for our son. Heath is now 6 weeks old and he is perfect. I want other mothers out there to know that whilst the concept of having GBS is scary and worrying; it is 100% better to know whether you have it or not."

I'm so glad I found the GBSS website when I was pregnant. It has provided me with lots of information and I just wanted to thank you for your charity and support. So often we hear the horror stories and awful circumstances that families find themselves faced with due to this not being publicised enough in pregnancies today."

Eleanor: parents, Jane and David write, "Our daughter, Eleanor died at two days old from sepsis caused by a group B Strep infection. She was our third child, having had no previous issues with our other two children. GBS was not raised in any of my maternity appointments and whilst it was something I was vaguely aware of, testing was not discussed with me and I did not ask questions about it.

Eleanor was born at full term and there were none of the other risk factors connected to infection, so we were sent home after six hours following a straightforward birth. With hindsight, Eleanor had started to become unsettled whilst we were in the hospital and when at home continued to be so and started to refuse to feed. She also had a strange cry. All of this was flagged explicitly on three phone calls to the maternity triage line expressing our concern, but we were told to wait at home for a midwife on her standard day one visit. When the midwife arrived at home, she called an ambulance immediately, but the damage done to Eleanor by the infection was too great and she died the next day.

Today, 6th December 2022 should have been Eleanor's first birthday celebrating her first milestones with friends and family but instead we are left with just those photos from the first two days and a massive hole in our lives. We will miss her forever.

Early-onset GBS infection should not be underestimated, in the first hours when you are getting to know your baby it is hard to know if there have been changes in their behaviour or skin colour because you do not know what normal is. Please be alert to the signs of sepsis in your newborn and if you have any concerns head to hospital. Whilst it is uncommon and we know we were unlucky, one baby a week dies from something that if caught early enough can be cured by simple antibiotics."

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Education and Training

Annual GBS Conference

Our hybrid conference on 12 and 13 July was a resounding success, bringing together over 568 delegates from across the globe to hear from 40 expert speakers on all aspects of group B Strep. Whether attending in person or online, delegates had the opportunity to learn from leading voices in the field, gaining insight into the latest developments in GBS detection, treatment, and prevention.

The conference was chaired by two eminent figures in the world of GBSS, Eddie Morris, the Chair of GBSS, and Kathryn Gutteridge, a GBSS trustee and midwife. Over the course of two days, the speakers covered a range of topics, including updates on the development of GBS vaccines, insights into how GBS testing is working in practice, and the latest information on the prevention and treatment of GBS.

One of the highlights of the conference was the announcement that Dr Carol J Baker, widely known as the godmother of group B Strep prevention, had agreed to become GBSS's Global Vaccine Engagement Adviser, a move that was met with enthusiasm from attendees.

The feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive, with 94% of attendees indicating that they would recommend the event to colleagues, and 99% reporting that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the conference content. Delegates praised the conference as "informative and relevant to practice," "a wealth of knowledge and experience about Group B Strep presented in an accessible manner," and "extremely well organised and executed."

In addition to providing valuable education and networking opportunities for medical professionals and students, the conference also helped raise much-needed funds for GBSS's ongoing work. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters, including Cepheid, Irwin Mitchell, and Leigh Day, who generously supported the conference as Silver Sponsors, and to Pfizer, whose educational grant enabled us to offer bursary places to student midwives and relevant health professionals in low- and middle-income countries.

Training

Throughout the year, the charity and its passionate volunteers showcased their dedication to raising awareness about GBS by presenting and exhibiting at several healthcare educational meetings, webinars, and conferences. Whether it was in-person or virtual, these events provided a platform for obstetricians, midwives, and other health professionals to engage with the latest evidence and information on GBS.

The CEO of the charity, Jane Plumb MBE, is a respected figure in the charity world, and her expertise extends beyond GBSS. She continues to serve as the Chair of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations and as a Trustee of MRF, both of which have much common interest with GBSS. Her tireless efforts in the field have undoubtedly made a significant impact in the field, and her continued involvement with these organisations is a testament to her unwavering commitment to promoting public health.

Supporting research into group B Strep

GBS3 trial of routine testing for GBS

The charity has been actively supporting the £4.2m GBS3 trial, which aims to test routine testing for GBS. The trial team initially faced difficulties in getting enough participating hospitals, but the charity's advocacy and supporters' efforts paid off, and the trial is now underway with 71 participating hospitals. The trial will include 320,000 pregnant women and their babies and will compare the current approach to preventing early-onset GBS infections with testing all women for GBS carriage, either at 35-37 weeks of pregnancy or the start of labour.

The charity is committed to supporting ethical research into GBS and is involved providing patient and public involvement representatives on several GBS research studies and policy development committees.

The charity continues to encourage hospitals to use the best test for detecting GBS, the ECM test, and our CEO has met with senior NHS leaders to increase the proportion of hospitals using it.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

In 2023, the charity will fund up to £15,000 of the costs of the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit to conduct an enhanced surveillance survey of invasive GBS disease in babies under 3 months. This survey will provide a more accurate reflection of the number of GBS infections in babies aged 0-90 days and will be the first external research project funded by the charity.

These efforts are all part of the charity's mission to raise awareness and improve outcomes for babies and families affected by GBS. Through its support of research, advocacy, and education, the charity is making a significant impact on the prevention and treatment of GBS.

Fundraising

At Group B Strep Support, we are truly grateful for the support of our dedicated and passionate community of fundraisers who have continued to show their unwavering commitment to our cause over the past year. Despite the challenging circumstances we have all faced, our supporters have rallied together to organise a variety of events to raise vital funds for our charity. Here are just a few of the highlights:

Digital Fundraising:

As part of our digital fundraising strategy, we have continued to develop our Facebook Challenge virtual events to engage with our supporters and create a sense of community around our cause. Throughout the year, we focused on maximizing efficiency and delivering the best value for our resources while providing fun and engaging experiences for our participants.

In March, we launched our Walk 100K challenge, encouraging our supporters to walk 100 kilometers throughout the month. This was followed by two more virtual events later in the year, which together raised over £40,000 for our charity. Our team is excited about the potential for growth within this area going forward.

The feedback we received from our virtual challenges has been overwhelmingly positive, with one participant stating, "I loved having a reason to get outside and how much everyone on the Facebook page supported each other throughout the whole month," while another shared, "It was amazing, and it really helped me feel less alone about my son's infection."

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our team of volunteer champions who helped to manage the Facebook group and support our participants. Our volunteers are a crucial part of our charity, and without them, we would not be able to reach as many people, raise as much awareness, or funds. As Lois, one of our volunteers, put it, "I'm a teacher, so I recognise that knowledge is power. These challenges help raise funds that will help save babies' lives."

Community Fundraising

Ange's 16 swims in January

Supporter Ange shared the success of the fundraising event she held in memory of her daughter, Daisy.

"On the 2nd of January 2022, our youngest child Daisy would have celebrated her 16th birthday. We felt we needed to do something special to mark the occasion and with this in mind, we decided we would like a new challenge to raise funds and awareness of group B Strep. Having started sea swimming in early 2021 we decided to do 16 sea swims/dips in her honour during the month of January.

Our first swim began on her birthday with just three of us going into the chilly waters of Eastbourne seafront! Over the course of the month with swims at sunrise and sunset, being joined by kids, pets, and various home-baked delights and the odd G&T our swimming group grew very quickly, the most we had swimming at one time was 20 people, and raised £2,115.

We also noticed that a lot of people were also looking into group B Strep as most had never heard of it before so more awareness has been raised and will hopefully help to save tiny lives."

London Landmarks Half Marathon

In April, our team attended the exhilarating London Landmarks Half Marathon where we had 13 runners who bravely took on the 13.1 miles around London's most iconic landmarks. With breathtaking views of Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, the Gherkin, and the Tower of London, our runners felt the buzz of London's rich history and celebrated the city's vibrant heritage.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

We are thrilled to share that our runners raised over £8,000 to support Group B Strep research, advocacy, and awareness, and we couldn't be prouder of their remarkable achievement. We were on the sidelines cheering them on with all our might and the positive feedback from the event was overwhelming. One runner, Jasmine, shared with us that the experience of running for Group B Strep Support was "truly meaningful, worthwhile, and honestly a day I will never forget."

July's Group B Strep Awareness Month

In July, Group B Strep Support had a busy month raising awareness and funds for their #BumpltOn campaign during Group B Strep Awareness Month. Families across the country showed their support through various activities such as trike rides and garden parties.

One inspiring individual, Aimee, who uses a wheelchair and cannot sit, stand, walk or talk, did a sponsored trike ride and raised an impressive £225 for GBSS. Her mother, Charlotte, said "Group B Strep Support has been a massive help in raising awareness of group B Strep and supporting me through those first few days when Aimee was ill. I will be forever grateful for them."

The TCS London Marathon 2022, 2 October 2022, marked a special

The TCS London Marathon on October 2, 2022, was a significant event for the charity, with nine runners participating and raising over £18,000 for GBSS. Among them was Peter Morris, inspired by his father (and Chair of the GBSS Board of Trustees), Dr. Edward Morris. Peter raised £2,650 for the cause. Volunteers from GBSS were stationed at mile 17, providing cheering, wine gums, support and motivation to the runners.

These events were crucial in raising awareness and funds for GBSS's mission to prevent group B Strep infections in babies. The charity is grateful to all the supporters, runners, and volunteers who helped make these events successful.

Baby Loss Awareness Week

During Baby Loss Awareness Week, Group B Strep Support created a dedicated MuchLoved page to provide a shared space for families to honour and remember those who have lost their lives due to group B Strep infection. This page allowed families to share their stories, pictures, and thoughts, while also providing an opportunity to donate to the cause.

Debbie, whose baby daughter Ada died, shared her experience with us: "It has been a great comfort to us to raise money for GBSS through MuchLoved in memory of our daughter Ada, creating something positive out of the tragedy of her death. I love that we can use it as a central place to gather memories of her, that we can come back to year after year."

The MuchLoved page has served as a beautiful and meaningful tribute to the babies who have sadly died, while also raising awareness and funds for GBSS.

The Big Give

We are thrilled that thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we achieved our ambitious target of £50,000 in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2022. This fundraising campaign was a huge success, with donations being matched by the Women and Girls Match Fund, resulting in a phenomenal total of £50,000.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated, shared, and supported our cause. The funds raised will make a tangible difference in expanding and improving our information and support services for women and families affected by group B Strep. With these resources, we can work towards preventing, spotting, and treating these infections in babies, ultimately saving more lives.

Thank you to all of our supporters for making this possible. Your kindness and generosity will help us continue our vital work."

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Medical Advisory Panel

At Group B Strep Support, we take great pride in ensuring that all of the information we provide is of the highest quality and accuracy. To achieve this, we rely on the expertise of our distinguished Medical Advisory Panel, which includes renowned medical professionals including Professor Philip Steer, Dr Alison Bedford Russell, Dr Guduru Gopal Rao OBE, Mrs Philippa Cox, and Dr Sonali Kochhar.

Their vast knowledge and experience in the field of group B Strep infection is invaluable to us, and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to providing us with outstanding advice and support. Their contributions play a crucial role in enabling us to deliver the most up-to-date and reliable information to the families and health professionals we serve, and we thank them for their dedication to our cause.

Financial review

During the year, income of £382,098 was received (2021: £374,126). The expenditure was £349,093 (2021: £353,936). The surplus was £33,005 (2021: £20,190).

We also reviewed our financial controls, which we do annually as part of good governance.

Reserves policy

The charity is funded primarily by volunteer fundraisers' participation in events and by donations, which are volatile. The Trustees have set the reserves policy accordingly. The Trustees aim to maintain unrestricted and undesignated reserves to cover six months' expenditure. On 31st December 2022, the charity's free reserves represented 3.4 months' (2021: 5.37 months') expenditure: £98,710.

The charity's aim to broaden our income streams and increase income has been quite successful in a sometimes challenging economic environment. We expect to continue this diversification in the coming years.

Pay and Expenses

The directors consider that the charity's Trustees, including the Chief Executive, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity daily. Except for the Chief Executive, all trustees give their time freely, and none received remuneration in the year. Similarly, the Medical Advisory Panel is not remunerated. Although Trustees can claim their travelling expenses to attend Board meetings, none were claimed during 2022 for the one in-person Board meeting.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually against the mid-point of pay levels for similar roles in other small organisations. The Trustees have recommended each year since 2009 an increase to the Chief Executive's net pay. Each time, the Chief Executive has declined to accept any salary increase or rebated any increase back to the charity.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Plans for 2023

GBSS will:

- > continue to work with the Royal Colleges and other professional bodies to ensure our information materials are appropriate for their members and the families in their care
- > continue to engage with our Parent Advisory Panel on how best to support affected families, and act accordingly
- > develop and improve the support we offer to families; through our Helpline, social media platforms and other online services
- > press for all pregnant women to be provided with information about GBS so they can make an informed choice about testing and treatment
- > improve GBS training and awareness for obstetricians, midwives, health visitors and GPs and encourage more hospitals to use our leaflets and posters so that expectant and new parents are fully informed about GBS and able to make informed decisions about their care
- > continue to encourage ethical research, support it whenever possible, and be involved as patient and public involvement representatives on GBS research studies and policy development committees. We will look to accelerate the pace of research and vaccine development where we can
- > support the GBS3 trial and other clinical trials that will lead to better GBS prevention, identification and treatment
- > campaign and engage with politicians, government bodies and other decision-makers across the UK to ensure GBS is a top priority and all babies are given the best start in life
- > work tirelessly to stop GBS infection in babies and to support families who have been affected

We are excited to be organising a conference on Group B Strep in Pregnancy and Babies in May 2023. It will be an entirely virtual conference, aimed chiefly at health professionals, though we know that some families will also be interested.

Our services are needed more than ever, and we are determined to continue to provide them, and improve them.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees 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).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 business.

The trustees are responsible keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:


.....D4FF78BEC8164CC.....
Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 19-Sep-2023

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

MENZIES
BRIGHTER THINKING

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Group B Strep Support ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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 Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company'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 (enter body here), 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:  634F24DE92A4471...

Dated: 22-Sep-2023

Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP

Chartered Accountants
Centrum House
36 Station Road
Egham
Surrey
TW20 9LF

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	84,166	57,890	142,056	134,272
Charitable activities	3	237,897	-	237,897	238,416
Investments	4	2,145	-	2,145	696
Other income	5	-	-	-	742
Total income		324,208	57,890	382,098	374,126
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	28,560	-	28,560	30,082
Charitable activities		320,533	-	320,533	323,854
Total expenditure		349,093	-	349,093	353,936
Net movement in funds		(24,885)	57,890	33,005	20,190
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		424,595	-	424,595	404,405
Net movement in funds		(24,885)	57,890	33,005	20,190
Total funds carried forward		399,710	57,890	457,600	424,595

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 05587535

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	6,590	8,415
		6,590	8,415
Current assets			
Stocks		1,280	1,145
Debtors	11	53,016	15,345
Cash at bank and in hand		418,493	417,613
		472,789	434,103
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(21,779)	(17,923)
Net current assets		451,010	416,180
Total net assets		457,600	424,595
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	13	57,890	-
Unrestricted funds	13	399,710	424,595
Total funds		457,600	424,595

The Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

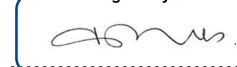
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:



.....D4FF7BEEC8164CC.....
Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 19-Sep-2023

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Group B Strep Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces which might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objects. The coronavirus pandemic created significant uncertainty and the charity was not immune to this although, at this stage, it is not possible to reliably forecast what the long-term impact of this may be. The trustees are confident, however, that the charity will be able to see through any further uncertainty as we work to develop new income streams. We are taking action to control costs where appropriate and we will continue to monitor the position carefully. The trustees believe these actions will enable the charity to continue in operational existence. Therefore, it is the trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	-	33%
Office equipment	-	33%

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations				
Corporate	20,123	-	20,123	1,555
Individual	7,305	25,190	32,495	17,130
Regular individual	15,971	-	15,971	31,561
Gift Aid	13,843	-	13,843	28,500
Honorarium/research	317	-	317	1,583
In Memory	18,933	-	18,933	6,222
Charitable Trusts & Foundations and Government Grants				
Trusts and foundations	7,674	32,700	40,374	47,721
	<u>84,166</u>	<u>57,890</u>	<u>142,056</u>	<u>134,272</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>134,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,272</u>	

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
General fundraising	126,705	126,705	149,662
Sponsorships	110,589	110,589	87,464
Merchandise income	603	603	1,290
	<u>237,897</u>	<u>237,897</u>	<u>238,416</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>238,416</u>	<u>238,416</u>	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Investment income	2,145	2,145	696
<i>Total 2021</i>	696	696	

5. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Other income	-	-	742
<i>Total 2021</i>	742	742	

6. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Website trading	3,277	3,277	2,894
Merchandise	352	352	13,557
Other fundraising costs	24,931	24,931	13,631
	28,560	28,560	30,082
<i>Total 2021</i>	30,082	30,082	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Expenditure	320,533	320,533	323,854
<i>Total 2021</i>	323,854	323,854	

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	215,172	215,172	202,628
Depreciation	5,007	5,007	3,526
Premises, rent and stationery	21,306	21,306	18,534
Office running costs	6,358	6,358	7,308
Awareness	57,699	57,699	66,485
Entertainment and travel	1,994	1,994	103
Bank charges and interest	379	379	140
Management and professional fees	9,059	9,059	22,505
Trustees expenses	659	659	-
Governance - independent examiner's fee	2,900	2,900	2,625
	320,533	320,533	323,854
<i>Total 2021</i>	323,854	323,854	

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2022 £	2021 £
Fees payable to the Company's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Company's annual accounts	2,900	2,625

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

9. Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	194,323	183,652
Social security costs	15,305	13,797
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	5,544	5,179
	215,172	202,628

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Administration	6	6

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

During the year, one trustee received emoluments (including pension contributions) of £73,775 (2021 - £73,527) for acting as Chief Executive. No remuneration is paid for acting as trustee. Authority for these payments is contained in the memorandum of association. The Chief Executive is considered to be the key management personnel of the charity.

During the year, there were no trustee expenses claimed (2021: There were no reimbursed costs during the year).

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2022	10,766	35,925	46,691
Additions	812	2,369	3,181
Disposals	(6,986)	(20,042)	(27,028)
At 31 December 2022	4,592	18,252	22,844
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	10,610	27,666	38,276
Charge for the year	178	4,828	5,006
On disposals	(6,986)	(20,042)	(27,028)
At 31 December 2022	3,802	12,452	16,254
Net book value			
At 31 December 2022	790	5,800	6,590
At 31 December 2021	156	8,259	8,415

11. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	4,836	100
Prepayments and accrued income	48,180	15,245
	53,016	15,345

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	158	213
Other taxation and social security	4,226	5,110
Other creditors	345	-
Accruals and deferred income	17,050	12,600
	21,779	17,923

. Deferred income

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income brought forward	9,000	7,950
Amount released to income	(9,000)	(7,950)
Amounts deferred during the year	13,830	9,000
Deferred income at 31 December 2022	13,830	9,000

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserves	121,000	-	-	(9,500)	111,500
Information products update	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
IT services fund	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
GBS Research impact fund	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Covid recovery Fund	35,000	-	-	(35,000)	-
Website and internal IT review fund	-	-	-	62,000	62,000
Conference Fund	-	-	-	17,500	17,500
	<u>266,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>301,000</u>
General funds					
General Funds	158,595	324,208	(349,093)	(35,000)	98,710
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>424,595</u>	<u>324,208</u>	<u>(349,093)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>399,710</u>
Restricted funds					
Sussex Community Foundation	-	7,000	-	-	7,000
Big Give Campaign	-	50,890	-	-	50,890
	<u>-</u>	<u>57,890</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,890</u>
Total of funds	<u>424,595</u>	<u>382,098</u>	<u>(349,093)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>457,600</u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserves	90,000	-	-	31,000	121,000
Information products update	20,000	-	-	30,000	50,000
IT services fund	29,000	-	-	(4,000)	25,000
GBS Research impact fund	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Promotion/dissemination of non- English language leaflets	21,000	-	-	(21,000)	-
Covid recovery Fund	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
	<u>195,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>266,000</u>
General funds					
General Funds	208,758	374,126	(353,289)	(71,000)	158,595
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>403,758</u>	<u>374,126</u>	<u>(353,289)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>424,595</u>
Restricted funds					
National lottery funding	647	-	(647)	-	-
Total of funds	<u><u>404,405</u></u>	<u><u>374,126</u></u>	<u><u>(353,936)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>424,595</u></u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated Funds:

The designated reserves for 2022 are:-:

Running costs reserves

The running costs reserve was set up to safeguard against major fluctuations in income or significant short-term funding issues.

Information products update

The Information Fund includes producing, promoting and disseminating key GBS information in English and other languages.

IT Services Fund

The IT services fund was created to cover the costs of integrating a new database with the IT system and website, and to improve the website particularly in the light of the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase traffic to the site. The funds will also be used to cover the costs of additional updates to helpdesk, including monitoring and evaluation, and replacement of IT equipment to allow for agile working.

GBS Research Impact Fund

The GBS research impact fund was created to cover additional costs associated with the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase use of the charity's existing information materials (particularly the leaflet co-written with the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists), creating new information materials and the need to provide additional support via the charity's helplines and forums. The pandemic forced the delay of the trial by 12 months.

Website and internal IT review fund

A review of our IT infrastructure is long overdue and has been on hold since the start of the pandemic. A hybrid of home and office working is now the norm. Increasingly our beneficiaries are expecting to be able to access all the information they need when they need it, and using multiple platforms. We need to adapt the charity's services and ways of working to address these changes.

Conference Fund

Our virtual conferences in 2020 and 2021 have been very successful. For 2022, we want to build on this success, and offer bursary places to student midwives in the UK, plus to midwives and other health professionals involved maternity and neonatal care from low and middle income countries. We will approach potential funders for this particularly the international element, but will set aside funds for UK student midwives. This will increase knowledge and education about group B Strep among midwives, one of the targets highlighted in our strategy refresh in 2021.

Restricted Funds:

Sussex Community Foundation

The charity received £7,000 from the Sussex Community Foundation towards our Helpline services, including targeted work to reach families in Sussex with information and support around GBS.

Big Give Campaign

The charity raised £25,000 from public donations (matched by £25,000 of funding from the DCMS Tampon Tax fund) towards the running of its Helpline service, providing information and support to families affected by GBS.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,590	-	6,590
Current assets	414,899	57,890	472,789
Creditors due within one year	(21,779)	-	(21,779)
Total	399,710	57,890	457,600

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	8,415	8,415
Current assets	434,103	434,103
Creditors due within one year	(17,923)	(17,923)
Total	424,595	424,595

15. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2022 the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts payable		
Not later than 1 year	16,514	16,514
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	8,394	24,908
	24,908	41,422

16. Related party transactions

Oliver Plumb, the son of Jane Plumb (a trustee), is employed by the charity. During the year he received remuneration of £32,930 (2021: 34,083). He also received employer pension contributions of £958 (2021: £945). Oliver received no other expenses or benefits from the charity in either year.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1112065

Accounts

Company registration number: 05587535
Charity number: 1112065

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021

GROUP B STREP
SUPPORT
(A company limited by
guarantee)

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

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GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Trustees

Ms D Abbotts (resigned 31 December 2021)
Mrs C Barlow (resigned 11 May 2021)
Mr S Bramley
Mrs E Cook
Mrs A Eddy
Mrs D Forwood (appointed 11 July 2021)
Dr B Greene
Dr K Gutteridge
Mr D Hobster
Mrs D Jones
Dr E Morris
Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive
Mr R Plumb

Company registered number 05587535

Charity registered number 1112065

Registered office JYW House
Bridge Road
Haywards Heath
England
RH16 1UA

Chief executive Mrs J Plumb MBE

Secretary to the Trustees Mr O Plumb

Independent examiner Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP
Chartered Accountants
Centrum House
36 Station Road
Egham
Surrey
TW20 9LF

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

HSBC
40 South Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 4LA

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Charity Bank
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1BE

Patrons

Dr Chris Steele MBE
Sir Nicholas Soames MP
Mr James Roby

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Introduction from the Chair

With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing through 2021, it was a challenging year for everyone – the families we support, partners we work with, people who fundraise for us, our volunteers, our staff and our Board. However, alongside these challenges were opportunities and significant achievements.

In 2021, the charity turned 25 years old. To mark this we published a report, covered in the Daily Telegraph, highlighting that England's rate of group B Strep infection in babies has risen nearly 80% over the last 25 years. On average, one baby dies from group B Strep infection every week in the UK, and another is left with a long-term disability. These awful statistics demonstrate why our work raising awareness, supporting families, and campaigning for change is so vital.

Carrying over learnings from 2020, the charity continued to work remotely all year, leading to further development of our ways of working together as a team and with external stakeholders. We are deeply proud of our staff and volunteers who have pulled together to ensure the families and health professionals we serve would continue to receive the information, education, and support they need.

We also worked to raise awareness of group B Strep and our information and support services through the media, with coverage in national and regional news outlets like the Daily Mail and The Times. Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, we were able to translate our critical information on group B Strep from English into 14 languages, available at no cost to download from our website.

Unable to deliver face-to-face training for health professionals due to lockdown, we held what we intend to be an annual virtual conference for health professionals. This was a huge success, with world-class experts presenting to over 350 delegates, and rave reviews from attendees. Our particular thanks to long-standing partner Irwin Mitchell which was the event's Gold Sponsor.

Thanks to prudent financial management, we limited the impact of the Covid pandemic on our budget and a forecasted loss of £44k by reducing our expenditure and exploring new opportunities to generate income. Our heartfelt thanks to all our generous supporters and partners, including the law firms who form our valued Legal Panel and the testing and pharmaceutical firms who supported us through several initiatives. This work has led to the charity seeing a surplus of £20k at the end of the year, leaving us in a strong financial position as we implement our new 2022-2024 strategy and strengthen the team.

We are indescribably proud of how Group B Strep Support has adapted at speed during this very challenging time and look forward with optimism to the opportunities 2022 will bring

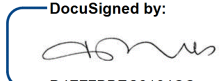
- The long-awaited GBS3 trial is underway and will provide data to inform future GBS prevention strategies.
- A GBS vaccine is coming ever closer and this will prevent more GBS infections in babies, pregnant women and new mothers than anything else can.
- The World Health Organization has focused in on group B Strep as a key cause of meningitis and singles it out as a target to tackle in its Defeating Meningitis by 2030 roadmap, to which we contributed extensively

We'd like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank each and every one of our staff members, supporters, donors, partners, Trustees and Parent Advisory Panel members – your support has allowed us to continue to deliver our life-changing and saving services.

DocuSigned by:

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Dr E Morris, Chair

16-Aug-2022

DocuSigned by:

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Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

16-Aug-2022

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements comply with statutory requirements, including the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102), and the charity's governing document requirements.

Structure, governance, and management

Group B Strep Support (GBSS) is a charity registered in England and Wales and incorporated on 10 October 2005 as a company limited by guarantee, continuing the activities of an unincorporated charity of the same name formed in 1996. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The strategic direction and policies of the charity are determined by the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Chief Executive. The implementation of the business plan is delegated to the Chief Executive. Progress is reviewed at board meetings, held four to five times each year. In 2021, the meetings were held on January 30, April 10, July 17, October 16 and December 11.

The Trustees commissioned a strategy review, including independent interviews with many key stakeholders and a survey of hundreds of other contacts. The purpose was to get external views on what we do well and where we could improve. We thank the participants and have drawn on the results to help set our future priorities.

The charity makes its supporters and networks aware of the opportunity for suitably skilled persons to join the Board of Trustees. We benefitted throughout the year from the enlargement of the Board and creating a Parent Advisory Panel in 2020.

The Trustees set up several other committees for greater efficiency and to support the charity, including finance, fundraising; governance; communication and external affairs; and diversity and inclusion. Trustees lead each with members of the Parent Advisory Panel each joining at least one committee. The committees have proved a success and have benefitted from the active participation of the Parent Advisory Panel members.

During the year, we said thank you and goodbye to our treasurer, long-time trustee, and supporter, Dawn Abbotts. We also said thank you and goodbye to Trustee Claire Barlow. We welcomed a new Trustee, Debbie Forwood.

The charity actively participates in various UK-wide committees and working groups relevant to GBS. These committees and working groups continued operating online throughout 2021. Charity employees mostly worked from home.

Risk policy

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces that might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objectives. We review these risks in advance of each Trustee meeting. We have monitored our financial position carefully throughout the Covid pandemic and will continue to do so, considering the uncertain economic outlook caused by the pandemic and other factors. The Trustees are confident that these actions will enable the charity to continue operating. Therefore, it is the Trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparing the accounts continues to be appropriate.

Public benefit

All of the charity's purposes and activities are for the public benefit. The board confirms that it has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Vision and mission

The charity's vision is to eliminate group B Streptococcal (GBS) infection in babies in the UK.

The charity's mission is to provide high-quality information and support relating to GBS to all new and expectant families and health professionals in the UK and to campaign for improved national GBS prevention strategies.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Strategic objectives

The charity's strategic objectives are:

1. **Families:** To relieve the suffering caused by GBS by making help, support and information available to those affected by GBS in the UK.
2. **Education:** To advance the education of the UK medical profession and the general public about GBS and its implications for the family.
3. **Research:** To support organisations promoting research into GBS and to publish the useful results of such research.

Achievement and performance

20th September 2021 marked 25 years since GBSS was registered as a charity by Jane and Robert Plumb, six months after their baby Theo died aged 17 and a half hours from group B Strep infection.

Jane reflected on the anniversary: "Robert and I are so grateful to everyone who has supported the charity over the last 25 years. But we don't want the charity to need to be here in another 25 years – we want to have eradicated GBS infection in babies and close. We continue to need support as we move into what we hope will be the final phase of the charity – with routine screening on the horizon, and a GBS vaccine likely in the next decade – where we will be able, once and for all, to drive change and stop these awful infections in babies."

Group B Strep is still the leading cause of severe infection in newborn babies and meningitis in babies under three months. On average, in the UK and Republic of Ireland, every month

- 66 babies are diagnosed with group B Strep infection
- 56 babies make a full recovery
- six babies survive with long-term physical or mental disabilities
- four babies die from their group B Strep infection

In July 2021, the Daily Mirror ran an article (Mum's warning over killer baby infection after three-day-old son almost dies) highlighting Albie's case. The summary is:

Mum, Gemma, explained how she almost lost her baby son and wanted to warn others about GBS, which most new parents have no idea about. She added that GBS could be detected in pregnancy with a test which costs the NHS less than £20 - but many parents are unaware of it until their baby has died or is critically ill moments after birth, as Albie was. Thankfully he made a full recovery.

Gemma added: "I'd never heard of GBS until it almost killed our son, and I'd urge all mothers-to-be and their families to find out about GBS and make sure they know the signs for it."

Gemma also raised money for GBSS by participating in our 3,000 squat challenge in July to mark GBS Awareness Month, an annual campaign highlighting the importance of GBS awareness, education and research.

Public Health England Data confirmed that England's rate of GBS infection in babies had risen by 77 per cent from 1996 to 2020. More babies are developing life-threatening GBS infections despite most cases being preventable.

Group B Strep Support calls for urgent action to reverse this trend and protect little lives. Chief executive Jane Plumb said: "I am also deeply frustrated that the UK still lags behind the rest of the developed world on GBS prevention. These new data from Public Health England show that so many more babies are developing what is often preventable disease and that the pace of change is slow. Urgent action is needed."

Referring to our aims:

Family support and information about GBS in the UK

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The GBSS Helpline

Our Helpline is a popular and valuable resource for families nationwide. We provide information, a listening ear and support to families affected by or concerned about GBS by phone, email, online and post. In 2021, despite the Covid pandemic's impact, we provided regular access to information during standard office hours, receiving around 200 enquiries per month.

New and expectant parents and health professionals rely on the information we provide. Families who seek information or support on GBS are often signposted to us by health professionals or find us through word of mouth or internet searches. In addition to providing information to families, we also provide information materials on request to health professionals, maternity units, neonatal units and GP practices.

Our Helpline and associated information services are highly regarded, and we received many expressions of thanks. Clare told us: "Thank you, GBSS, for giving me the information I needed and for putting my mind at rest when I was concerned."

All the charity's information materials are free to families, NHS health professionals, and NHS organisations.

Raising Awareness of GBS

We continued to raise public awareness of GBS, securing coverage on national and local TV, radio, newspapers, and online.

In June, the Daily Telegraph ran an article highlighting the number of babies developing deadly but usually preventable, GBS infection had risen by 80 per cent. It highlighted that campaigners like GBSS are calling for routine antenatal testing for GBS, warning that hospital staff are not on the lookout for the disease. The summary is:

On average, a baby dies from the infection every week in the UK, and another is left with a long-term disability. The rate is currently more than double that of many other high-income countries. The new figures follow earlier findings that showed widespread failures to follow medical guidelines intended to combat the disease in UK hospitals.

GBS carriage in pregnancy is easily detectable using a swab test. However, only 13 per cent of NHS trusts were recently found to be using the correct Enrichment Culture Medium test. Meanwhile, 51 per cent of trusts did not provide pregnant women with information on group B Strep.

GBSS is calling for all expectant parents to be informed about group B Strep, for all doctors and midwives to be fully informed, and for all hospitals to use the recommended test for GBS carriage. An ongoing trial involving 320,000 pregnant women and their babies is examining the merits of testing for GBS carriage during pregnancy or labour compared with the UK's current risk-based approach to preventing these infections in newborn babies.

We participated in several national and international awareness campaigns: World Meningitis Day in April, International Day of the Midwife in May; Volunteers Week in June; and Baby Loss Awareness Week in October.

For World Meningitis Day, we shared many moving stories of families affected by GBS meningitis. International Day of the Midwife provided an opportunity to thank all midwives for their work, particularly for supporting families and babies throughout the pandemic. Volunteers Week provided the focus to celebrate all the wonderful volunteers who gave their time and commitment to GBSS, including trustees, members of our medical advisory panel and those raising funds and awareness. During Baby Loss Awareness Week, we remembered all the babies who have sadly died too soon, including those from GBS infection, helping raise awareness about pregnancy and baby death caused by GBS.

July featured GBSS's own GBS Awareness Month, which saw a vast range of awareness-raising activities. A vital part of the charity's work is educating and training doctors and midwives about GBS, so we hosted a webinar where experts presented essential information about GBS. It also highlighted the major trial into GBS testing in the UK (GBS3) and the challenges that GBS presents for midwives caring for families. The webinar was aimed at midwives and those working in maternity care and attracted 160 participants. Our expert panel included: Professor Philip Steer MD FRCOG (Chair of GBSS' Medical Advisory Panel & Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics, London); Dr Kate Walker (Clinical Associate Professor in Obstetrics, Nottingham); and Philippa Cox (Member of GBSS' Medical Advisory Panel & Consultant Midwife, London).

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

We partnered with Bounty in a new survey on awareness about GBS among women and new mothers. It found that only 25% of the 3,460 survey participants reported they had found all the information they needed on GBS. 98% believed that all pregnant women should be informed about GBS by their doctor or midwife, and 92% would have wanted to be tested for GBS when they were pregnant.

The charity regularly surveys the levels of awareness of GBS in key stakeholder groups. For example, in 2006, a Pregnancy & Birth magazine survey reported that only 10% of readers had heard of GBS. In 2015, a Bounty survey of pregnant and new mothers found this had increased to 47%; by 2017, this had risen to an encouraging 80%. We are proud that we have improved awareness of GBS in the UK and significantly increase the ability of new and expectant parents to make informed choices about their and their babies' care.

In September, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched their Defeating Meningitis by 2030 global road map - and highlighted GBS as one of the leading causes of meningitis in babies worldwide. GBSS is proud to have contributed to this strategy.

In November, the WHO published a report on the global impact of GBS - Full Value of Vaccines Assessment Report on Group B Streptococcus (GBS) - highlighting the urgent need for a GBS vaccine. It reported that the global burden of GBS is far higher than previously recognised, estimating for 2015 that 319,000 infants under 3 months developed invasive GBS disease, at least 10,000 children survived with moderate to severe disability after their GBS, 57,000 babies' stillbirths were attributable to GBS and 90,000 babies died from GBS infection. The report calculated that a GBS vaccine could reduce the number of babies who contract GBS infection globally by 214,100 and the number of babies who are stillborn or die as a result of GBS by 54,100. In addition to saving lives, this would also save money.

The charity's online presence grew in 2021, with more visitors to our website looking for information and guidance on GBS. This increased by nearly 40%. Our social media platforms also experienced an increase in followers, traffic and communications.

We advocated for more reliable statistics on the rate of GBS infection and mortality by a range of demographic indicators, including geographical location, age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic group. This vital information is not readily available but would be useful to understand better the scale of the problem, as well as help us tailor our support to the needs of different and diverse communities.

Education and Training

Annual GBS Conference

Our virtual conference in June included leading speakers on GBS who gave authoritative presentations to more than 350 participants. Speakers included Dr Carol J Baker (Professor of Pediatrics, McGovern Medical School, University of Texas, Sabin Gold Medal winner, National Academy of Sciences, USA), Prof Androulla Efstratiou (Imperial College London and Director, WHO Global Collaborating Centre for Diphtheria & Streptococcal Infections), Prof Paul Heath (Professor of Paediatric Infectious Diseases at St George's University, London) and Prof Anne Mackie (Director of Programmes for the UK National Screening Committee, Public Health England), along with members of our Medical Advisory Panel.

Feedback for our conference was very positive. Suzi said she liked the "variety of approaches" to the issue of GBS at the conference. Nishel liked the "collection of expert speakers providing so much useful information." Carole said she liked the virtual conference as "I could watch the conference back at a time to suit myself" and added, "it was wonderful to hear that progress is being made towards testing all pregnant women for GBS, and towards developing a vaccine." Zoe told us she was pleased to be "learning more about GBS so that I can feel better informed to tell women that I care for." Aimee found it very useful "listening to parent stories which helped link theory to practice."

As well as highlighting the latest and most reliable information about GBS to medical professionals and students, our conference also helped the charity raise vital funds for its work. Our sincere thanks go to all our conference supporters, especially Irwin Mitchell, for their support as the conference's Gold Sponsor.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Training

The charity and its volunteers presented at several healthcare educational meetings held virtually. These provided obstetricians, midwives, and other health professionals with an opportunity to hear and engage with the latest evidence and information around GBS.

In April, our CEO gave an online training session to Sheffield Hallam's Student Midwives, where she was joined by Louisa Harris, who bravely shared the loss of her baby from a GBS infection. Louisa made a massive difference to the experience and understanding of all the midwives present, and we are delighted she has joined our Parent Advisory Panel.

We worked with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RCOG) to improve the education and knowledge of pregnant women about GBS, including translating the Group B Streptococcus in Pregnancy & Newborn Babies leaflet into 14 additional languages. The leaflet was written in partnership with the RCOG and the translation was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. It is aimed mainly at pregnant women and new parents.

Our CEO, Jane Plumb MBE, was appointed Chair of the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations following its merger with the Meningitis Research Foundation (MRF). She also accepted a position as a Trustee of MRF, which has much in common with GBSS.

In October, Jane was recognised for her work in baby health, receiving a prestigious Fellowship Honoris Causa from the RCOG. Honorary Fellowships are the highest awards the RCOG grant. They are given following rigorous screening to those who demonstrate the highest level of support for the development of women's healthcare services.

We pledged our support for the Pregnancy & Baby Charities' Network (PBCN) manifesto in November. GBSS has been a member of PBCN for over 15 years; it is an important partnership working to save babies' lives and support families.

Our CEO was pleased to join the Scientific Committee and lead the Parent Power stream at the International Symposium on Streptococcus Agalactiae Disease (ISSAD) in November. This global conference brought together researchers, leading experts and families to share their knowledge, expertise and experiences of GBS. Families from around the world shared their moving stories about how GBS affected them, alongside presentations from renowned experts, including Prof Shabir Madhi (Professor of Vaccinology and Director of the MRC Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand), Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus (Director-General, World Health Organization), and a keynote from Dr Kate O'Brien (Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biological, WHO)

Supporting research into group B Strep

GBS3 trial of routine testing for GBS

The charity continues to support the £4.2m GBS3 trial of routine testing for GBS, working closely with the trial team and the Department for Health and Social Care. This trial was funded following campaigning and advocacy by the charity, and our CEO is a co-applicant.

This trial is an NIHR-funded cluster-randomised control trial (RCT) which will involve 80 hospitals and 320,000 pregnant women and their babies. It will compare the effectiveness of the UK's current approach to preventing early-onset GBS infections (identifying pregnant women with 'risk factors' for their newborn baby developing the infection) with testing all women for GBS carriage, either at 35-37 weeks of pregnancy or the start of labour.

Due to the pandemic, randomising sites and recruiting pregnant women to the trial has suffered delays, and the results are now expected to be in the public domain in 2025.

Report – Preventing GBS infections in babies: failure to turn national recommendations into local guidelines

In February, we published our report on how many UK hospitals followed the RCOG's (2017) guidelines on preventing GBS infection in newborn babies. The findings were disappointing, with nearly 90% of hospitals reporting that they are not using the recommended test for GBS carriage. We hope the report and associated publicity will encourage more hospitals to engage with this urgent problem and adhere to these critical recommendations. We attracted considerable attention from the media and the broader community, including health authorities and politicians.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

We were delighted that the then Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care (Nadine Dorries MP) supported the report's findings, writing to the CEOs of all NHS trusts in England about GBS and advising them that they should "ensure they are using the ECM testing." We are very grateful to her for her support.

Our CEO attended regular All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings on Baby Loss, chaired by MPs Jeremy Hunt and Cheryllyn Mackrory. She shared information about GBS, ECM testing and the GBS3 trial, facilitating a presentation by Prof Philip Steer, chair of the charity's Medical Advisory Panel. They requested the APPG consider including prevention and ensuring ECM testing is offered in line with national guidance in their 2021 policy targets. This is under review.

We continue to encourage ethical research into GBS and support it whenever possible. Our Chief Executive and volunteers are involved as patient and public involvement representatives on several GBS research studies and policy development committees.

Fundraising

Former Olympic sprinter and UK 400m record holder, Iwan Thomas MBE, ran an epic 100-mile race along the South Downs Way in June to raise £25,000 for GBSS. Iwan's son, Teddy, developed a GBS infection shortly after birth.

2021 saw the launch of our Facebook challenge events. These fully virtual events saw 456 fundraisers taking on various challenges during March, July, and November, raising more than £70,000 for the charity.

In support of our GBS Awareness Month in July, 270 supporters took part in our 3000 Squats in July challenge and raised an incredible £24,469. Many also shared their profoundly moving stories explaining why they were taking part.

Lois took part in the challenge to raise vital funds after her daughter sadly passed away from a late-onset GBS infection 13 years ago. The first time she even heard of GBS was when she received the report from the coroner. She told us: "I believe in the purpose and Markeshia's short life has enabled me to educate others about GBS. I'm a teacher by trade. So I recognise that knowledge is power. The money I raised will have helped to save babies' lives and support those families whose lives are touched by GBS."

We were delighted that the National Lottery Community Fund provided funding for our project to translate the Group B Streptococcus in Pregnancy & Newborn Babies leaflet into 14 additional languages, which are available to download. The leaflet was written in partnership with the RCOG and is aimed mainly at pregnant women and new parents.

Medical Advisory Panel

All of the written information we provide is vetted by our eminent Medical Advisory Panel, which consists of Professor Philip Steer (chair), Dr Alison Bedford Russell, Dr Gopal Rao OBE, Mrs Philippa Cox and Dr Sonali Kochhar. We are grateful to them for their excellent advice and support.

Financial review

During the year, the income of £374,126 was received (2020: £261,565). The expenditure was £353,936 (2020: £289,832). The surplus was £20,190 (2020: deficit of £28,267).

We were able to limit the impact of the Covid pandemic on our budget and a forecasted loss of £44,486 both by reducing our expenditure while taking as many opportunities as possible to generate income. This was a great team effort, and thanks go to our dedicated staff team, our volunteers and many supporters and partners, including the law firms who form our valued Legal Panel and the testing and pharmaceutical firms who supported us through several initiatives.

We also reviewed our financial controls, which we do annually as part of good governance.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Reserves policy

The charity is funded primarily by volunteer fundraisers' participation in events and by donations, which are volatile. The Trustees have set the reserves policy accordingly. The Trustees aim to maintain unrestricted and undesignated reserves to cover six months' expenditure. On 31st December 2021, the charity's free reserves represented 5.37 months' (2020: 8.64 months') expenditure: £158,585.

The charity's aim to broaden our income streams and increase income has been quite successful given the challenging economic environment. We expect to continue this diversification in the coming years.

During the pandemic, the stress case on the charity's funding has been intense. However, both due to good planning and prudent financial management, our expenditure has not significantly outstripped our income in either 2020 or 2021.

We therefore do not feel the need to continue with a reserves policy of 9 months' expenditure. Earlier this year, the Board unanimously agreed to change our Reserves Policy to a target of 6 months' free reserves from 9 months.

Pay and Expenses

The directors consider that the charity's Trustees, including the Chief Executive, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity daily. Except for the Chief Executive, all trustees give their time freely, and none received remuneration in the year. Similarly, the Medical Advisory Panel is not remunerated. Although Trustees can claim their travelling expenses to attend Board meetings, none were claimed during 2021.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually against the mid-point of pay levels for similar roles in other small organisations. The Trustees have recommended each year since 2009 an increase to the Chief Executive's net pay. Each time, the Chief Executive has declined to accept any salary increase or rebated any increase back to the charity.

Plans for 2022

GBSS will:

- > continue to work with the Royal Colleges and other professional bodies to ensure our information materials are appropriate for their members and the families in their care
- > continue to engage with our Parent Advisory Panel on how best to support affected families, and act accordingly
- > develop and improve the support we offer to families; through our Helpline, social media platforms and other online services
- > press for all pregnant women to be provided with information about GBS so they can make an informed choice about testing and treatment
- > improve GBS training and awareness for obstetricians, midwives, health visitors and GPs and encourage more hospitals to use our leaflets and posters so that expectant and new parents are fully informed about GBS and able to make informed decisions about their care
- > continue to encourage ethical research, support it whenever possible, and be involved as patient and public involvement representatives on GBS research studies and policy development committees. We will look to accelerate the pace of research and vaccine development where we can
- > support the GBS3 trial and other clinical trials that will lead to better GBS prevention, identification and treatment
- > campaign and engage with politicians, government bodies and other decision-makers across the UK to ensure GBS is a top priority and all babies are given the best start in life
- > work tirelessly to stop GBS infection in babies and to support families who have been affected

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

We are excited to be organising our first two-day virtual conference on GBS – Group B Strep in Pregnancy and Babies - on 12 and 13 July 2022. It will be an entirely virtual conference, aimed chiefly at health professionals, though we know that some families will also be interested.

Our services are needed more than ever, and we are determined to continue to provide them, and improve them.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees 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).

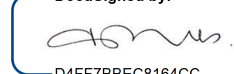
The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:



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Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 16-Aug-2022

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

MENZIES
BRIGHTER THINKING

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Group B Strep Support ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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 Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company'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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

DocuSigned by:

Signed: 634F24DE92A4471...
Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP
Chartered Accountants
Centrum House
36 Station Road
Egham
Surrey
TW20 9LF

Dated: 16-Aug-2022

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	134,272	-	134,272	115,968
Charitable activities	3	238,416	-	238,416	144,911
Investments	4	696	-	696	686
Other income	5	742	-	742	-
Total income		374,126	-	374,126	261,565
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	30,082	-	30,082	17,808
Charitable activities		323,207	647	323,854	272,024
Total expenditure		353,289	647	353,936	289,832
Net movement in funds		20,837	(647)	20,190	(28,267)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		403,758	647	404,405	432,672
Net movement in funds		20,837	(647)	20,190	(28,267)
Total funds carried forward		424,595	-	424,595	404,405

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 05587535

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	8,415	3,836
		8,415	3,836
Current assets			
Stocks		1,145	14,330
Debtors	11	15,345	15,972
Cash at bank and in hand		417,613	386,656
		434,103	416,958
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(17,923)	(16,389)
Net current assets		416,180	400,569
Total assets less current liabilities		424,595	404,405
Total net assets		424,595	404,405
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	13	-	647
Unrestricted funds	13	424,595	403,758
Total funds		424,595	404,405

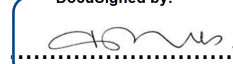
The Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs J Patten MBE, Chief Executive

Date: 16-Aug-2022

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Group B Strep Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces which might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objects. The coronavirus pandemic created significant uncertainty and the charity was not immune to this although, at this stage, it is not possible to reliably forecast what the long-term impact of this may be. The trustees are confident, however, that the charity will be able to see through any further uncertainty as we work to develop new income streams. We are taking action to control costs where appropriate and we will continue to monitor the position carefully. The trustees believe these actions will enable the charity to continue in operational existence. Therefore, it is the trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	- 33% straight line
Office equipment	- 33% straight line

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations				
Corporate	1,555	-	1,555	615
Individual	17,130	-	17,130	40,960
Regular individual	31,561	-	31,561	29,869
Gift aid	28,500	-	28,500	19,449
Honorarium/research	1,583	-	1,583	2,375
Charitable Trusts & Foundations and Government Grants				
Trusts and foundations	47,721	-	47,721	12,700
Subtotal detailed disclosure	134,272	-	134,272	105,968
Government grants	-	-	-	10,000
	134,272	-	134,272	115,968
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>105,968</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>115,968</i>	

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
General fundraising	149,662	149,662	92,944
Sponsorships	87,464	87,464	50,550
Merchandise income	1,290	1,290	1,417
	238,416	238,416	144,911
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>144,911</i>	<i>144,911</i>	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Investment income	696	696	686
<i>Total 2020</i>	686	686	

5. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Other income	742	742	-

6. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Website trading	2,894	2,894	2,444
Merchandise	13,557	13,557	125
Other fundraising costs	13,631	13,631	15,239
	30,082	30,082	17,808
<i>Total 2020</i>	17,808	17,808	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Expenditure	323,854	323,854	272,024
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>272,024</i>	<i>272,024</i>	

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable activities 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Staff costs	202,628	202,628	192,947
Depreciation	3,526	3,526	2,015
Premises, rent and stationery	18,534	18,534	18,017
Office running costs	7,308	7,308	8,582
Awareness	66,485	66,485	38,251
Entertainment and travel	103	103	146
Bank charges and interest	140	140	80
Management and professional fees	22,505	22,505	9,486
Governance - independent examiner's fee	2,625	2,625	2,500
	323,854	323,854	272,024
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>272,024</i>	<i>272,024</i>	

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2021 £	2020 £
Fees payable to the Company's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Company's annual accounts	2,625	2,500

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

9. Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	183,652	170,749
Social security costs	13,797	17,236
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	5,179	4,962
	202,628	192,947

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Administration	6	6

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

During the year, one trustee received emoluments (including pension contributions) of £73,527 (2020 - £73,535) for acting as Chief Executive. No remuneration is paid for acting as trustee. Authority for these payments is contained in the memorandum of association. The Chief Executive is considered to be the key management personnel of the charity.

During the year, there were no trustee expenses claimed (2020: There were no reimbursed costs during the year).

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2021	10,766	27,820	38,586
Additions	-	8,105	8,105
At 31 December 2021	10,766	35,925	46,691
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2021	10,585	24,165	34,750
Charge for the year	25	3,501	3,526
At 31 December 2021	10,610	27,666	38,276
Net book value			
At 31 December 2021	156	8,259	8,415
At 31 December 2020	181	3,655	3,836

11. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	100	9,150
Other debtors	-	110
Prepayments and accrued income	15,245	6,712
	15,345	15,972

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	213	817
Other taxation and social security	5,110	5,122
Accruals and deferred income	12,600	10,450
	<u>17,923</u>	<u>16,389</u>

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserves	90,000	-	-	31,000	121,000
Information products update	20,000	-	-	30,000	50,000
IT services fund	29,000	-	-	(4,000)	25,000
GBS Research impact fund	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Promotion/dissemination of non- English language leaflets	21,000	-	-	(21,000)	-
Covid recovery Fund	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
	<u>195,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>266,000</u>
General funds					
General Funds	208,758	374,126	(353,289)	(71,000)	158,595
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>403,758</u>	<u>374,126</u>	<u>(353,289)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>424,595</u>
Restricted funds					
National lottery funding	647	-	(647)	-	-
Total of funds	<u>404,405</u>	<u>374,126</u>	<u>(353,936)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>424,595</u>

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserves	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Information products update	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
IT services fund	25,000	-	-	4,000	29,000
GBS Research impact fund	33,500	-	-	1,500	35,000
Promotion/dissemination of non- English language leaflets	-	-	-	21,000	21,000
	<u>168,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,500</u>	<u>195,000</u>
General funds					
General Funds	<u>264,172</u>	<u>251,565</u>	<u>(280,479)</u>	<u>(26,500)</u>	<u>208,758</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>432,672</u>	<u>251,565</u>	<u>(280,479)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>403,758</u>
Restricted funds					
National lottery funding	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(9,353)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>647</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>432,672</u></u>	<u><u>261,565</u></u>	<u><u>(289,832)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>404,405</u></u>

Designated Funds:

The designated reserves for 2022 are:-:

Running costs reserves

The running costs reserve was set up to safeguard against major fluctuations in income or significant short-term funding issues.

Information products update

The Information Fund includes producing, promoting and disseminating key GBS information in English and other languages.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

IT Services Fund

The IT services fund was created to cover the costs of integrating a new database with the IT system and website, and to improve the website particularly in the light of the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase traffic to the site. The funds will also be used to cover the costs of additional updates to helpdesk, including monitoring and evaluation, and replacement of IT equipment to allow for agile working.

GBS Research Impact Fund

The GBS research impact fund was created to cover additional costs associated with the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase use of the charity's existing information materials (particularly the leaflet co-written with the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists), creating new information materials and the need to provide additional support via the charity's helplines and forums. The pandemic forced the delay of the trial by 12 months.

Covid Recovery Fund

A review of our IT infrastructure is long overdue, and has been put on hold since the start of the pandemic. The world has changed, and we need to adapt the charity's services and ways of working to address these changes and this fund has been created to reflect the cost of these changes.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	8,415	8,415
Current assets	434,103	434,103
Creditors due within one year	(17,923)	(17,923)
Total	424,595	424,595

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,836	-	3,836
Current assets	416,311	647	416,958
Creditors due within one year	(16,389)	-	(16,389)
Total	403,758	647	404,405

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

15. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2021 the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts payable		
Within 1 year	16,514	16,514
Between 1 -5 years	24,908	41,422
	41,422	57,936

16. Related party transactions

Oliver Plumb, the son of Jane Plumb (a trustee), is employed by the charity. During the year he received remuneration of £34,083 (2020: 31,000). He also received employer pension contributions of £945 (2020: £930). Oliver received no other expenses or benefits from the charity in either year.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1112065

Accounts

Company registration number: 05587535
Charity number: 1112065

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 December 2020

GROUP B STREP
SUPPORT
(A company limited by
guarantee)

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

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GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Trustees	Ms D Abbotts Mrs E Cook (appointed 28/11/2020) Mr D Hobster Mrs J Plumb MBE, Chief Executive Mr R Plumb Mr S Bramley Mrs A Eddy (appointed 28/11/2020) Dr B Greene (appointed 28/11/2020) Mrs C Barlow (appointed 28/11/2020) Dr K Gutteridge (appointed 28/11/2020) Mrs D Jones (appointed 28/11/2020) Dr E Morris (appointed 28/11/2020) Mrs S Gregory (resigned 12/9/2020) Mrs C Stables (resigned 12/9/2020) Mr T Howe (resigned 6/10/2020)
Company registered number	05587535
Charity registered number	1112065
Registered office	JYW House Bridge Road Haywards Heath England RH16 1UA
Secretaries to the trustees	Mr R Plumb (resigned 31/03/2020) Mr A Harding (appointed 04/04/2020, resigned 16/11/2020)
Chief executive	Mrs J Plumb MBE
Independent examiner	Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP Chartered Accountants Centrum House 36 Station Road Egham Surrey TW20 9LF
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ HSBC 40 South Road Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 4LA

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS
TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Patrons

Dr Chris Steele MBE
Sir Nicholas Soames MP
Mr James Roby

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Introduction from the Chair

Group B Strep Support (GBSS) is the world's leading charity working to eradicate group B Strep infection in babies. Group B Streptococcus (GBS or Strep B) is the most common cause of severe infection in newborn babies, causing sepsis, pneumonia, or meningitis. On average, every day in the UK, two babies develop GBS infection, one of those sick babies dies every week, and one survivor recovers with long-term disability.

Like many other charities, we have been significantly affected by COVID-19 and saw a significant drop in income in 2020, mainly due to the cancellation or postponement of many challenge events and the severe restrictions on community fundraising. Although we kept a tight grip on our expenditure, the fall in income resulted in an overall deficit of just over £28,000. Although we had not predicted such a shortfall at the start of 2020, by March it was apparent that the pandemic would hit income hard across the charity sector.

Some years ago, the charity introduced measures to cope with unexpected and significant falls in income. We were especially grateful for this in 2020. In 2019, we had started to broaden our income streams, and this accelerated during 2020. It is vital we can continue to deliver our life-saving work to improve the education and knowledge about these infections in the UK, to improve prevention and treatment, and to support families affected by group B Strep.

I am immensely proud that despite being under significant pressure and stress, the charity has continued to make real progress in key areas. Highlights during 2020 included the launch of an online learning module on group B Strep produced with the Royal College of Midwives; July's publication of a national learning report by the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) highlighting failures to follow GBS guidelines; and November's launch of the WHO Roadmap to Defeat Meningitis, which prioritised GBS as a key target. Each of these will make a real difference to the families of the future.

There is much to look forward to in 2021 and beyond. However, last summer I made the decision to step down as Chair after five exciting, rewarding and productive years. I am delighted to have handed that baton on to Dr Edward Morris, current President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, who I'm sure will lead the charity through the challenges ahead. Two other trustees also stood down, Chloe Stables and Tim Howe, and I pay a huge tribute to them, and to all the trustees I have worked with over the years. Each has made a significant contribution to the charity with differing gifts and skills.

Group B Strep Support is an amazing charity, and I'm delighted to be leaving the charity in such a strong position, working towards our goal of stopping group B Strep infection in babies.

Susan Gregory, Chair

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020, which has been a challenging year for everyone.

The financial statements comply with statutory requirements including the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102) and with the requirements of the charity's governing document.

Structure, governance and management

Group B Strep Support is a charity registered in England and Wales and was incorporated on 10 October 2005 as a company limited by guarantee, continuing the activities of an unincorporated charity of the same name formed in 1996. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The strategic direction and policies of the charity are determined by the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Chief Executive. The execution of the business plan is delegated to the Chief Executive. Progress is reviewed at board meetings, held four to five times each year. In 2020, the meetings were held on 29 January, 4 April, 13 June, 12 September and 28 November.

The charity makes its supporters and networks aware of the opportunity for suitably-skilled persons to join the trustee board. In June 2020 the existing trustees decided to recruit new trustees, including a new chair. We were delighted with the response and appointed 7 new trustees with a range of backgrounds and experiences in November, including our new chair Edward Morris, who is also the current President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The new trustees bring additional expertise in medicine, fundraising, the law, organisational psychology and communications. At the same time, we created a Parents' Advisory Panel which will be chaired by our new trustee Kathryn Gutteridge, who is also the current President of the Royal College of Midwives. We said goodbye to our previous trustee chair Susan Gregory after years of loyal trusteeship, and to two other trustees, Chloe Stables and Tim Howe, who also stood down during the year, and we thank them for their service.

One trustee, Dawn Abbotts, was reappointed as a trustee in 2020. As she had served more than 9 years on the board, in line with the charity governance code we considered this reappointment carefully in the light of the need for progressive refreshing of the board. As she is an active trustee and as we have recently refreshed the board with 7 new trustees, we had no hesitation accepting her offer to serve another term.

The charity is an active participant on various UK-wide committees and working groups relevant to group B Strep. These committees and working groups continued operating on-line after the arrival of Covid-19. Charity employees worked from home – none was furloughed.

The charity buys in various professional services. Following a review, we appointed Menzies in early 2020 to provide accounting services. We are grateful to them for enabling us, despite the pandemic, to produce our accounts, examine them and file them more quickly than in any previous year.

Risk policy

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces which might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objects. We had just concluded a horizon-scanning exercise at the start of 2020 when Covid-19 arrived and we revisited our risk analysis accordingly. We took immediate action to reduce costs and to look for new sources of income and will continue to monitor the financial position carefully. The trustees are confident that these actions will enable the charity to continue operating. Therefore, it is the trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

Public benefit

All of the charity's purposes and activities are for the public benefit. The board confirms that it has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Vision and mission

The charity's vision is to eliminate group B Strep infection in babies in the UK. The charity's mission is to provide high-quality information and support around group B Strep to all families and health professionals and to campaign for improved national group B Strep prevention strategies.

Strategic objectives

The charity's strategic objectives are:

1. Families: To relieve suffering caused by group B Streptococcus (GBS) by making help, support and information available to those affected by GBS in the UK.
2. Education: To advance the education of the UK medical profession and the general public about GBS and its implications for the family.
3. Research: To support organisations promoting research into group B Strep and to publish the useful results of such research.

Achievement and performance

Although much remains to be done, much has been achieved. Referring to our aims:

Family support and information about group B Strep in the UK.

Pregnant women, parents and health professionals rely on the information we provide. Those who seek information or support are often signposted to us by health professionals or find us through word of mouth or internet searches. We provide information over the phone, online and by post.

During 2020 we worked with Public Health England to include information on group B Strep in their Start4Life week-by-week pregnancy guide.

Our telephone helplines remain an important resource for families national to access information on group B Strep and for health professionals to request information materials for their maternity units and GP practices, and we operate to standard office hours, which continued in 2020 despite lockdown.

The charity's online presence has continued to grow, including significant growth on social media – both in followers and, increasingly, people contacting us online. During 2020 we set up a quarterly series of new Facebook support groups for women expecting a child in the next 3 months.

The charity provides a listening ear both to families affected by, or concerned about, group B Strep. Our support services are highly-regarded and we received many expressions of thanks. All the charity's information materials are provided free of charge to families and to the NHS.

We raised awareness in the public by continuing to secure coverage in national and local newspapers, television and radio and online.

Awareness and funds were raised through volunteers' events. We track the level of awareness. In 2006, a survey by Pregnancy & birth magazine found that 10% of their readers had heard of GBS. In 2015, a Bounty survey of pregnant and new mothers found that 47% of new mothers had heard of GBS. In 2017, Bounty found that 80% of them had heard of GBS.

Again, the charity ran Group B Strep Awareness Month in July, improving awareness and knowledge of GBS, particularly via social media.

In October, we observed Baby Loss Awareness Week, remembering families whose babies sadly died as a result of group B Strep infection, and raising awareness about pregnancy and baby death in the UK, including that related to group B Strep.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Education and Training

During the year, the charity and its volunteers presented at a number of national healthcare conferences, including those aimed specifically at obstetricians, midwives and other health professionals and conducted training sessions for qualified and student midwives. Those were physical meetings during the first 3 months of the year and virtual after that.

We were pleased that Health Minister Nadine Dorries MP, a long-standing supporter of the charity from her time on the backbenches, made group B Strep prevention her top priority, and we worked with her throughout the year to seek improvements in GBS prevention.

We partnered with the Royal College of Midwives to produce an evidence-based group B Strep module which was made available in July on their i-learn platform (on-line training free to their members).

We engaged with leaders in the field of group B Strep, and other relevant stakeholders. We worked with the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists to improve education and knowledge of pregnant women about group B Strep. We worked with other relevant charities, including meningitis charities and those in the Pregnancy & Baby Charities' Network, of which we are one of the longest-standing members.

Supporting research into group B Strep

We continue to encourage ethical research and support it whenever possible. Our Chief Executive and volunteers are involved as patient and public involvement representatives on several group B Strep research studies and policy development committees.

The ground-breaking GBS3 Trial, for which our Chief Executive is a co-applicant, should have started randomising trusts to research arms in March 2020 but, due to the pandemic, will now start in the Spring of 2021. The trial will compare the effectiveness of the UK's current approach to preventing early-onset group B Strep infections (identifying pregnant women with 'risk factors' for their newborn baby developing the infection) with testing all women for group B Strep carriage, either at 35-37 weeks of pregnancy or at the start of labour. The plan is that it will involve 80 hospitals and 320,000 pregnant women.

During 2020, following pressure from GBSS, the NHS Resolution introduced a new code to facilitate monitor of GBS-related clinical negligence claims made, and how much they have cost. This will produce useful data in highlighting the burden of GBS disease.

Also during 2020, we conducted research into how many hospitals were following RCOG's 2017 guidelines on GBS prevention. The findings were disappointing and we published the results early in 2021, attracting considerable press and political attention. The Health Minister is following up on the findings.

Medical Advisory Panel

All of the written information we provide is vetted by our eminent Medical Advisory Panel which consists of Professor Philip Steer (chair), Dr Alison Bedford Russell, Dr Guduru Gopal Rao OBE, Mrs Philippa Cox and Dr Sonali Kochhar. We are grateful to them for their excellent advice.

Financial review

During the year, income of £261,565 was received (2019 - £314,574). Expenditure was £289,832 (2019 - £213,196). The deficit was £28,267 (2019 – surplus of £101,378). Considering the pandemic, we were very pleased that the deficit was as small as it was. When we revisited our budget in March 2020, we expected to be facing a much larger deficit by year-end. The better-than-expected result was due to cost-cutting, heroic fundraising efforts by supporters and staff, and faithful support from the law firms and the pharmaceutical firm who are our financial partners. During the year we reviewed our financial controls, which we do annually as part of good governance.

Reserves policy

The charity is funded primarily by volunteer fundraisers' participation in events and by donations, which are volatile. The trustees have set the reserves policy accordingly. The trustees aim to maintain unrestricted and undesignated reserves sufficient to cover 9 months' expenditure.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The charity's aim to broaden our income streams and increase income was starting to make an impact in 2020 and we will continue along that path in 2021. At 31 December 2020, the free reserves represented 8.64 months' (2019 – 9.1 months') expenditure.

Pay and Expenses

The directors consider that the charity's trustees, including the Chief Executive, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. Except for the Chief Executive, all trustees give of their time freely and none received remuneration in the year. Similarly, the Medical Advisory Panel is not remunerated. Although trustees are able to claim their travelling expenses to attend Board meetings, again in 2020 none were claimed, as disclosed in note 8.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually against the mid-point of pay levels for similar roles in other small organisations. The trustees have recommended each year since 2009 an increase to the Chief Executive's net pay. Each time, the Chief Executive has declined to accept any salary increase, or rebated any increase back to the charity.

Plans for 2021

To help families affected by group B Strep, we will engage with our new Parents Advisory Panel on how best to support affected families, and act accordingly. We anticipate that we will:

- develop and improve the support we offer to families; through our helplines, social media platforms and other online services;
- develop better links with specialist intensive care units throughout the UK and ensure they have the information they need to support families in their care affected by group B Strep.
- We will continue to improve the support we offer to women and families (which now extends to full office hours) and will keep our information up to date, and to campaign for improvements in health policies.

To advance the education of the medical profession and the general public on group B Strep, we will:

- press for all pregnant women to be provided with information about group B Strep so they can make an informed choice about testing and treatment;
- continue to improve group B Strep training for obstetricians, midwives, health visitors and GPs;
- follow up on the results of our research into practice relating to group B Strep prevention and treatment in the UK to seek a significant increase in how many hospitals are following RCOG guidelines;
- continue to deepen relationships with relevant medical Royal Colleges and other bodies to ensure health professionals have appropriate information about group B Strep;
- continue to develop and run training sessions on group B Strep for health professionals.

To support organisations promoting research into group B Strep infections

- We will continue to encourage ethical research and support it whenever possible, and be involved as patient and public involvement representatives on group B Strep research studies and policy development committees. We will look to accelerate the pace of research and vaccine development where we can.
- Our services are needed more than ever, and we are determined to improve them, and continue to provide them.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Law requires the trustees, who are also the directors for company law purposes, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the net income or expenditure of the charitable company for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and 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 financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report, incorporating the Strategic report, was approved by the Trustees, in their capacity as company directors, and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mrs J Plumb, Chief Executive

Date: 04-May-2021

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

MENZIES
BRIGHTER THINKING

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Group B Strep Support ('the Company')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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 Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company'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 (enter body here), 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

This report is made solely to the Company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Company's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: *Janice Matthews*
Janice Matthews, FCA Menzies LLP
Chartered Accountants
Centrum House
36 Station Road
Egham
Surrey
TW20 9LF

Dated: 06-May-2021

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	105,968	10,000	115,968	54,598
Charitable activities	3	144,911	-	144,911	259,631
Investments	4	686	-	686	345
Total income		251,565	10,000	261,565	314,574
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	17,808	-	17,808	18,460
Charitable activities		262,671	9,353	272,024	194,736
Total expenditure		280,479	9,353	289,832	213,196
Net movement in funds		(28,914)	647	(28,267)	101,378
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		432,672	-	432,672	331,294
Net movement in funds		(28,914)	647	(28,267)	101,378
Total funds carried forward		403,758	647	404,405	432,672

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 12 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 05587535

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	3,836	3,531
		<u>3,836</u>	<u>3,531</u>
Current assets			
Stocks		14,330	11,454
Debtors	10	15,972	27,069
Cash at bank and in hand		386,656	398,621
		<u>416,958</u>	<u>437,144</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(16,389)	(8,003)
Net current assets		<u>400,569</u>	<u>429,141</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>404,405</u>	<u>432,672</u>
Total net assets		<u>404,405</u>	<u>432,672</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	12	647	-
Unrestricted funds	12	403,758	432,672
Total funds		<u>404,405</u>	<u>432,672</u>

The Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

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

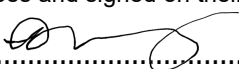
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


.....

Mrs J Plumb MBE

Date: 04-May-2021


.....

Ms D Abbotts

Date: 04-May-2021

The notes on pages 12 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Group B Strep Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees regularly assess and manage the risks the charity faces which might impact its ability to pursue its charitable objects. The coronavirus pandemic is creating significant uncertainty and the charity is not immune to this although, at this stage, it is not possible to reliably forecast what the long-term impact of this may be. The trustees are confident, however, that the charity will be able to see through the current uncertainty as we work to develop new income streams not affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We are taking action to control costs where appropriate and we will continue to monitor the position carefully. Given the uncertainties that exist, the trustees believe these actions will enable the charity to continue in operational existence. Therefore, it is the trustees' opinion that the going concern basis of preparation of the accounts continues to be appropriate.

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Company to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Company; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	- 33% straight line
Office equipment	- 33% straight line

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Donations				
Corporate	615	-	615	3,962
Individual	40,960	-	40,960	10,052
Regular individual	29,869	-	29,869	9,536
Gift aid	19,449	-	19,449	16,544
Honorarium/research	2,375	-	2,375	12,754
Charitable Trusts & Foundations and Government Grants				
Trusts and Foundations	12,700	-	12,700	1,750
Subtotal detailed disclosure	105,968	-	105,968	54,598
Government grants	-	10,000	10,000	-
Subtotal	-	10,000	10,000	-
	105,968	10,000	115,968	54,598
<i>Total 2019</i>	<i>54,598</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>54,598</i>	

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
General fundraising	92,944	92,944	182,776
Sponsorships	50,550	50,550	75,075
Corporate fundraising	-	-	16
Merchandise income	1,417	1,417	1,764
	144,911	144,911	259,631
<i>Total 2019</i>	<i>259,631</i>	<i>259,631</i>	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Investment income	686	686	345
<i>Total 2019</i>	345	345	

5. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Website trading	2,444	2,444	2,448
Merchandise	125	125	2,231
Other fundraising costs	15,239	15,239	13,781
	17,808	17,808	18,460
<i>Total 2019</i>	18,460	18,460	

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Expenditure	272,024	272,024	194,736
<i>Total 2019</i>	<i>194,736</i>	<i>194,736</i>	

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable activities 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Staff costs	192,947	192,947	103,510
Depreciation	2,015	2,015	4,054
Premises, rent and stationery	18,017	18,017	18,217
Office running costs	8,582	8,582	11,039
Awareness	38,251	38,251	40,741
Entertainment and travel	146	146	2,712
Bank charges and interest	80	80	72
Management and professional fees	9,486	9,486	12,761
Governance - independant examiner's fee	2,500	2,500	1,630
	272,024	272,024	194,736
<i>Total 2019</i>	<i>194,736</i>	<i>194,736</i>	

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2020 £	2019 £
Fees payable to the Company's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Company's annual accounts	2,500	2,500

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8. Staff costs

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	170,749	93,353
Social security costs	17,236	7,803
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	4,962	2,354
	<u>192,947</u>	<u>103,510</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Administration	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-

During the year, one trustee received emoluments (including pension contributions) of £73,535 (2019 - £37,605) for acting as Chief Executive. No remuneration is paid for acting as trustee. Authority for these payments is contained in the memorandum of association. The Chief Executive is considered to be the key management personnel of the charity.

During the year, there were no trustee expenses claimed (2019: There were no reimbursed costs during the year).

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2020	10,409	26,003	36,412
Additions	357	1,817	2,174
At 31 December 2020	10,766	27,820	38,586
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2020	9,881	23,000	32,881
Charge for the year	704	1,165	1,869
At 31 December 2020	10,585	24,165	34,750
Net book value			
At 31 December 2020	181	3,655	3,836
At 31 December 2019	528	3,003	3,531

10. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	9,150	-
Other debtors	110	13,000
Prepayments and accrued income	6,712	14,069
	15,972	27,069

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	817	2,723
Other taxation and social security	5,122	436
Accruals and deferred income	10,450	4,844
	16,389	8,003

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserves	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Information products update	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
IT services fund	25,000	-	-	4,000	29,000
GBS Research impact fund	33,500	-	-	1,500	35,000
Promotion/dissemination of non- English language leaflets	-	-	-	21,000	21,000
	168,500	-	-	26,500	195,000
General funds					
General Funds	264,172	251,565	(280,479)	(26,500)	208,758
Total Unrestricted funds	432,672	251,565	(280,479)	-	403,758
Restricted funds					
National lottery funding	-	10,000	(9,353)	-	647
Total of funds	432,672	261,565	(289,832)	-	404,405

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2019 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Running costs reserve	45,000	-	-	45,000	90,000
Information products update	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
IT services fund	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
GBS research impact fund	10,000	-	-	23,500	33,500
Moving offices	7,000	-	(4,000)	(3,000)	-
	<u>107,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>	<u>65,500</u>	<u>168,500</u>
General funds					
General Funds	<u>224,294</u>	<u>314,574</u>	<u>(209,196)</u>	<u>(65,500)</u>	<u>264,172</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>331,294</u>	<u>314,574</u>	<u>(213,196)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>432,672</u>

The running costs reserve was set up to safeguard against major fluctuations in income or significant short-term funding issues.

The information products update fund was created to cover the costs of updating information products following the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists' guideline review and to include working with other relevant bodies, such as the Royal College of Midwives, and Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health to develop information materials appropriate for their audiences. In the future the charity is looking to use these funds to cover the costs of developing an online educational module, and working with IHV and RCPCH on producing leaflets relevant for health visitors and neonatal units.

The IT services fund was created to cover the costs of integrating a new database with the IT system and website, and to improve the website particularly in the light of the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase traffic to the site. The funds will also be used to cover the costs of additional updates to helpdesk, including monitoring and evaluation, and replacement of IT equipment to allow for agile working.

The GBS research impact fund was created to cover additional costs associated with the new trial of GBS prevention strategies which will increase use of the charity's existing information materials (particularly the leaflet co-written with the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists), creating new information materials and the need to provide additional support via the charity's helplines and forums. The project has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic but it is anticipated that these funds will be spent in 2021.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

12. Statement of funds (continued)

The Promotion/dissemination of non-English language leaflets fund was set up to cover the costs of a new project which recognises the need to reach the more vulnerable expectant/new parents, particularly those for whom English is not their first language. The GBSS/RCOG leaflet will be translated into 14 languages and will be available on the charity's website. The charity's aim is to ensure all UK maternity units plus relevant charities, user groups (eg MVPs) are aware that these translations exist, and can be accessed/downloaded from the website. In highlighting the availability of this leaflet in other languages, the charity will create more demand for the leaflet in English, and for the charity's other information materials.

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,836	-	3,836
Current assets	416,311	647	416,958
Creditors due within one year	(16,389)	-	(16,389)
Total	403,758	647	404,405

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,531	3,531
Current assets	437,144	437,144
Creditors due within one year	(8,003)	(8,003)
Total	432,672	432,672

GROUP B STREP SUPPORT

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

14. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2020 the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts payable		
Within 1 year	16,514	16,514
Between 1 -5 years	41,422	57,936
	57,936	74,450

15. Related party transactions

Oliver Plumb, the son of Jane Plumb (a trustee), is employed by the charity. During the year he received remuneration of £31,000 (2019: 29,185). He also received employer pension contributions of £930 (2019: £780). Oliver received no other expenses or benefits from the charity in either year.

Camilla Plumb, the daughter of Jane Plumb (a trustee), is also employed by the charity. During the year she received remuneration of £214 (2019: £3,617). Camilla received no other expenses or benefits from the charity in either year.