

# THE EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1136933

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Trust

**Registered** 2010-07-16

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Equilibrium Financial Planning  
Ascot House  
Epsom Avenue  
Handforth  
Wilmslow  
SK9 3DF

**Phone** 01614862250

**Email** [charity@equilibrium.co.uk](mailto:charity@equilibrium.co.uk)

**Website** [www.equilibrium.co.uk](http://www.equilibrium.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE AND ASSIST, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF GRANTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND OTHER CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS WHICH MAY BE NOMINATED BY THE STAFF AND CLIENTS OF EQUILIBRIUM ASSET MANAGEMENT LLP. IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, TO PROMOTE OR ASSIST ANY CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OR ORGANISATIONS WHICH;1) PROVIDE CARE OR HOUSING FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.2) RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, SICKNESS AND POOR HEALTH AMONGST ELDERLY PEOPLE.3) RELATE TO THE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE .4) HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR CAPABILITIES THAT THEY MAY GROW TO FULL MATURITY AS INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.5) HELP TO RELIEVE POVERTY, DISTRESS OR SUFFERING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND6) PROMOTE AND ASSIST THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND CURE OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS.

**Activities:** The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better, by supporting charitable causes, with a particular focus on the North West of England. We support a wide range of organisations, with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities, and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£192,855	£173,883	-	-
2023-08-31	£196,054	£211,077	-	-
2022-08-31	£162,682	£200,974	-	-
2021-08-31	£150,187	£99,263	-	-
2020-08-31	£132,947	£131,442	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Sarah Warburton</b>	Chair	2019-12-12
ANDREW EVANS		2021-09-01
Ben Rogers		2018-11-01
COLIN ANTONY LAWSON		2010-07-16
DEBBIE JUKES		2010-07-16

**THE EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136933

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# Accounts

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# Making people's lives better

The Equilibrium Foundation report  
September 2023 - August 2024



EQUILIBRIUM  
FOUNDATION

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# Introduction from Sarah Warburton



Since 2010, the Equilibrium Foundation has been dedicated to making people's lives better. This year, we were thrilled to reach a major milestone: raising over £1 million since we began. This incredible achievement has helped us expand our impact, with a continued focus on supporting charities across the North West.

One of the highlights of the year was welcoming local charities into our offices for "lunch and learn" sessions. These informal events gave our team the chance to hear directly from the people driving change in our communities and left us feeling truly inspired.

We also spent time developing a blueprint to evolve our free financial literacy programme for primary schools. Our aim is to reach more year groups and create digital resources so we can support even more schools across the country.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters, we raised £192,855 this year. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who made this possible, helping us to reach more people and support more of the causes that matter most.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Warburton', with a long, sweeping underline.

**Sarah Warburton**

Chair of the Equilibrium Foundation

# Making people's lives better

**£192,855**

raised for good causes this year

**£1,128,850**

raised since 2010

**96**

charity days were taken by the team

Donations made to over

**50 charities**

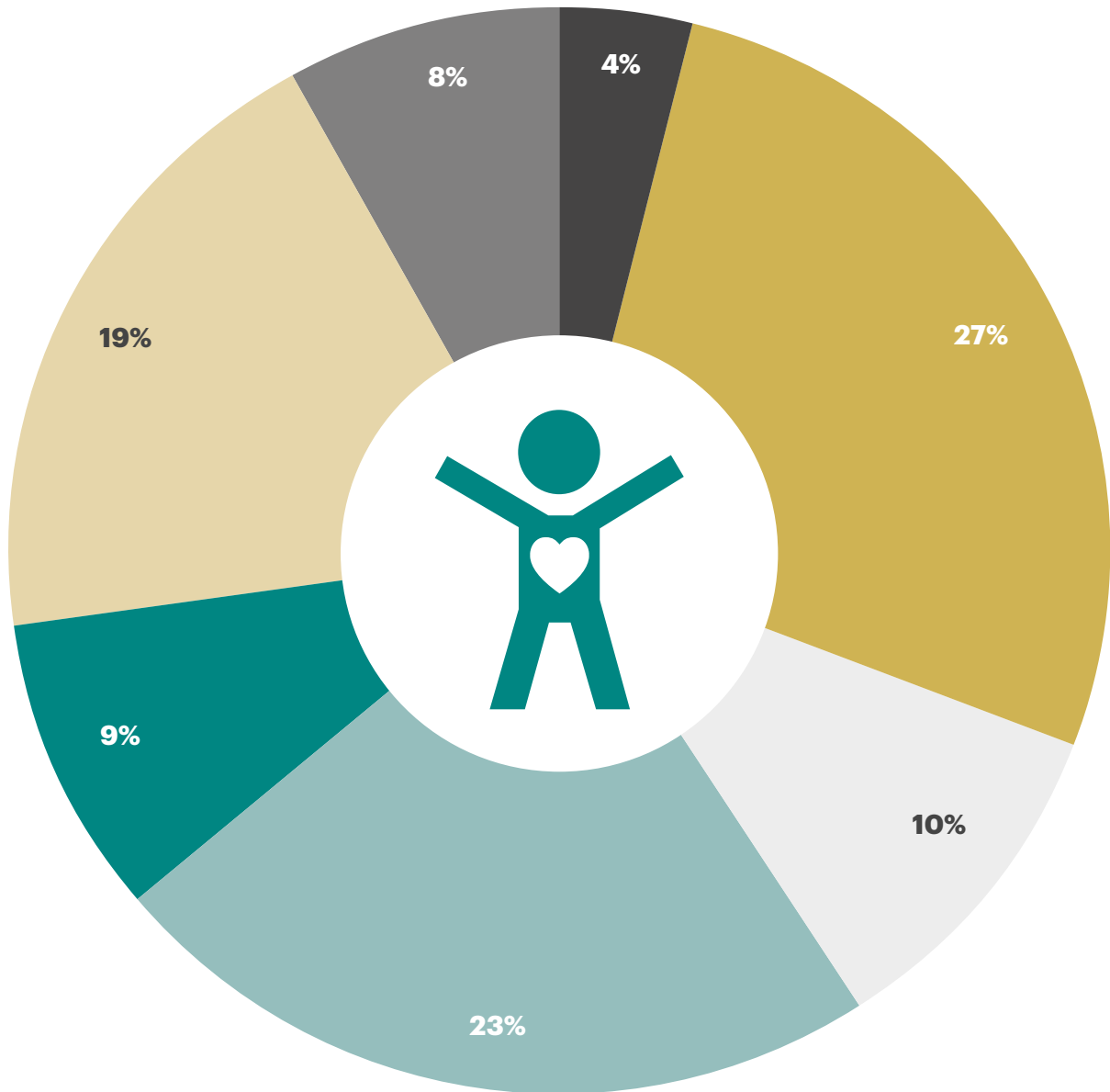
**10 x £500**








grants were given to local charities as part of our community support scheme

**Over 40%**

of our team giving through Give As You Earn, securing us Diamond Status again!

# Breakdown of sectors



-  Animal
-  Community
-  Education
-  Healthcare & research
-  Mental health & wellbeing
-  Poverty relief
-  Sports

# How we made a difference

This year, we've had the privilege of supporting over 50 incredible charities that are making a real difference in our community. Here's a look at some of the meaningful ways we've been able to contribute.

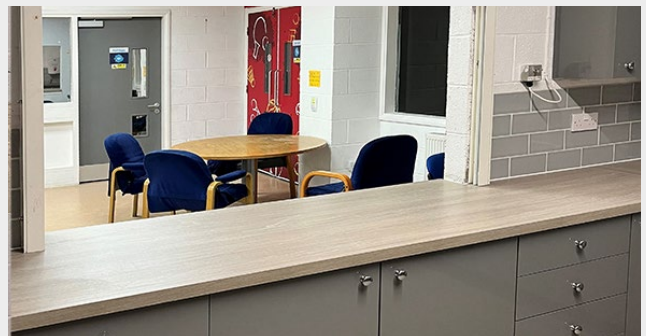
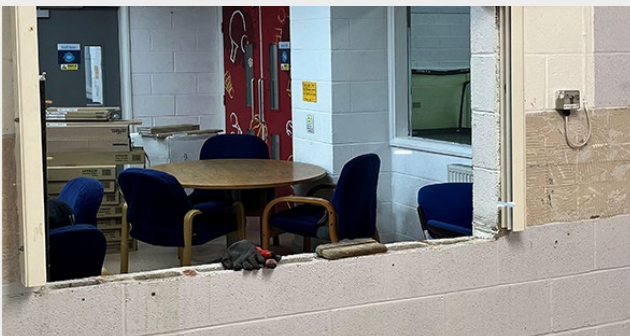
## Norbrook Youth Club

Norbrook Youth Club in Wythenshawe has recently upgraded its kitchen facilities, focusing on healthy cooking education, thanks to the Equilibrium Foundation Grant Award it received. This upgrade is part of the club's ongoing efforts to promote healthy living among local young people.

Gavin Evans, Norbrook Youth Club Chairman said:

"We have achieved so much in the last few years at Norbrook with the help of caring sponsors just like The Equilibrium Foundation, yet maintaining and modernising a youth club always presents us with a new challenge.

"Upgrading the kitchen was at the top of our list, with such a big impact to the children and staff using the premises, as well as the educational role it plays towards building healthier eating habits. Being awarded the Equilibrium Foundation Grant Award could not have come at a better time; it will make a huge difference to all."



## The Toy Appeal

Equilibrium hosts four festive client Christmas lunches, where clients are invited to participate in a prize draw to raise funds for The Toy Appeal. This charity provides toy sacks to underprivileged children in Manchester and Cheshire who would otherwise go without gifts at Christmas. As demand for The Toy Appeal's services continues to grow, we're proud to have raised £10,000 through generous client donations, with the added support of matched funding from the Equilibrium Foundation.

In addition to our financial contributions, the Equilibrium team volunteered for a charity day, helping to pack thousands of gifts for delivery. It's always a privilege to support such a meaningful cause and make a real difference to the lives of children in our local community.

## Libby

We've continued to invest in our financial skills initiative, Libby's Big Aeroplane Adventure, which helps equip teachers with the resources they need to teach KS2 children about finance in a fun and engaging way.

The project has continued to grow this year, resulting in us delivering free financial literacy workshops to over 1,200 children.

Additionally, we've collaborated with a group of teachers to create a blueprint for evolving the programme, with plans to expand its reach. Our goal is to introduce the programme to more year groups, develop digital resources, and ensure that our materials are inclusive of children with special educational needs. This will allow us to support even more schools across the country in providing vital financial education.



## Winter Fuel Fund

For the last five years, the Equilibrium winter fuel fund has enabled our clients to help local elderly and vulnerable residents by pledging some or all of their winter fuel payment.

In this year's *Age UK Cold at Home: How winter cost of living pressures continue to impact older people* report, they explained that cost of living pressures continue to stretch the household finances of older people and while some people have begun to adjust to the cost of living, for millions of older people the situation remains completely unmanageable. Almost half (48%) of people aged 60+ are still worried about their ability to heat their home and 45% are similarly worried about paying their bill – equivalent to 7.7 million and 7.2 million people respectively.

This financial strain has profoundly affected the lives of many vulnerable individuals, especially during the harsh winter months. In response, £5,276 was raised in funds and were allocated this year to support three well-deserving organisations: Friends of the Elderly, The Wishing Well and Age UK Cheshire East.

Our donation to Friends of the Elderly supported eight older people living in poverty. This included helping with heating costs, boiler repairs and giving a new mattress to one of their recipients so they had somewhere warm and comfortable to sleep.

Miriam Willmott, Senior Grants Officer at Friends of the Elderly, highlighted the importance of the work they do, explaining, "Every day we receive grant applications from older people who are isolated, and often tell us they go for days without seeing – or even speaking – to anybody." This isolation is something that many recipients of the grants have expressed has a profound impact on their lives. One such recipient shared her personal experience, saying, "she is 'feeling alive'. She isn't embarrassed in inviting people around anymore so can have more company." This demonstrates how the grants not only provide financial support but also offer the opportunity to combat loneliness.



## Caledonian Canal

Four members of the Equilibrium team embarked on an incredible challenge, successfully canoeing the 100km stretch of the Caledonian Canal from Fort William to Inverness, and tackling the ascent of Ben Nevis while they were at it. The journey was undoubtedly gruelling at times, with minimal sleep and plenty of physical strain, but they all found the experience deeply rewarding in support of their chosen causes.



## Reuben's Retreat

Reuben's Retreat provides vital support to families who have lost a child or are caring for a child with a complex illness, offering them a much-needed sanctuary.



## Hope for Justice

Hope for Justice works globally to combat human trafficking, supporting victims and survivors, and implementing community initiatives to help prevent modern slavery before it happens.

To ensure that every penny raised goes directly to these causes, each team member covered the costs of their trip out of their own pocket. Additionally, every pound raised was matched by The Equilibrium Foundation, meaning that each charity will receive a remarkable £3,062.34.

# Team charity days

At Equilibrium, we believe in giving back to the community, which is why we offer all employees three days each year to volunteer. They can choose to support a charity close to their heart or join team volunteer days, organised by our dedicated Charity Champions, at local organisations.

This year, an impressive 15 volunteer days were organised, supporting 11 different charities, with 96 team members providing 720 hours of volunteer time.

Towards the end of the year, the Foundation launched an exciting new initiative to encourage even more team members to take part. For every employee who volunteered, a £100 donation was made to the charity they supported, resulting in £1,700 being donated across three fantastic causes.

It's been a rewarding year of giving, and we're proud of the positive impact our team has made.



# Community support scheme

Our community scheme provides grants of up to £500 to charities based in the North West every six months. Here are this year's winners...

**Alsager Wesley Place  
Methodist Church**

**Basically Cheer**

**Black Autism Manchester**

**Gaydio**

**Men Behaving Dadly**

**Platform for Life**

**Reddish Men in Sheds**

**Stand Up Sisters**

**Tom's Trust**

**W27 Outreach**

## Platform for Life

*"Your grant of £500 will enable a child, young person or adult to access 10 free community-based therapy sessions which will help to make such a difference to their life."*

**- Ceri George, CEO**



## Reddish Men in Sheds

*"We rely almost entirely on funding as the income from the bikes (approx. £2,000 p.a.) cannot meet our outgoings of rent and utilities (approx. £12,000 p.a.). This grant will help us to 'Keep on pedalling!' Through common purpose and shared activity we can find a way out of isolation and inactivity for the older men that attend our group."*

**- Mary Lorigan, Administrator**





## Basically Cheer CIC

*"It means so much to us having support like this available to help with these initial startup costs. We are incredibly excited for the future and will be forever grateful that you have provided us with this grant."*

*"By receiving this grant, it means that we can move forward with our plans quicker and get the ball rolling with our new premises."*

**- Lianne Bruce, Founder**



# A look ahead

As we reflect on the past year, we're excited to look ahead to what the next one holds. Having raised over £1,000,000, we're now planning to take a more structured approach, offering larger grants to targeted sectors.

In the coming year, we'll be relaunching our Grant Awards scheme, which we aim to make an annual event, with a fresh focus each year.

Despite our ongoing growth, we remain committed to maintaining the flexibility to respond quickly, ensuring we can address urgent needs as they arise.

We're eager to see the positive impact the Foundation will continue to have in the years ahead.



## Objectives and activities

The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better by supporting charitable causes with a particular focus on the North West of England.

We support a wide range of organisations with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.

The principal objective of the charity is to promote and assist, through the provision of grants and other financial assistance, charitable activities and other charitable organisations which may be nominated by the staff and clients of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

We want to have the maximum possible impact, so we mostly support new and smaller charities (typically with incomes of less than £100,000 a year). Grants are normally between £2,000 and £10,000 and we sometimes offer support for more than one year.

In supporting the activities of our fundraisers and in making charitable donations, the trustees have been mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

## Structure and governance

The governing document is a trust deed dated 8 June 2010. The charity is constituted a trust. Trustees who are employed by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP are appointed or reappointed on a five-year basis. External trustees are appointed or reappointed every three years.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration or benefits. No

charges or costs are paid by the charity as all these are borne by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

An in-house finance team oversee the finances for the trust and there is minimal risk of fraud. Professional insurance is in place to mitigate risks and provide indemnity cover for the trustees, public liability cover and legal expenses.

## Financial review

### Brief statement on the charity's policy reserves

It is the charity's policy that any balance held by The Foundation in excess of £2,000 (surplus cash over and above any restricted donations or committed funds) is to be distributed. The trustees will ask the staff of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP to suggest suitable charitable recipients.

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report

**Signature(s):** 

**Full name:** Sarah Warburton

**Position:** Chair

**Date:** 30 May 2025

# Reference and administration details

**Charity name:** The Equilibrium Foundation

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

**Charity's principal address:** Ascot House, Epsom Avenue, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3DF

**Accountants:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

**Auditors:** Azets Audit Services, Fleet House, New Road, Lancaster LA1 1EZ

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
A Evans			
D Jukes			
C Lawson			
B Rogers			
S Warburton	Chair		

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation, sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you, in connection with your examination of the charity's receipts and payments account (the 'account') and a statement of assets and liabilities (the 'statement') as its annual statement of account for the year ended 31 August 2024.

1. We acknowledge, as trustees our collective responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 for presenting the account and statement and confirm that we have approved the account and statement for the year ended 31 August 2024. We also acknowledge our responsibility for making accurate representations to you. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your assignment and all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records

and related information, including minutes of all trustee and management meetings, have been made available to you.

2. We confirm that the charity is entitled to prepare receipts and payments accounts and is eligible for an independent examination of its account and statement, and that there are no circumstances which we should draw to your attention which would invalidate this eligibility. We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

3. All grants, donation and other incoming resources, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period in the application of such incoming resources.

4. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets except as disclosed to you.

5. Other than those disclosed, the charity has not entered into any transactions or has balances outstanding involving trustees, officers or other related parties, which require disclosure under the law. If relevant, appropriate disclosure has been made of the control of the charity.

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implantation of internal controls to prevent and detect errors or fraud, and have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the account and statement may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We are unaware of any irregularities, including fraud and suspected fraud, involving management, employees or others who have significant roles in internal

control, or those employed by the charity where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice.

7. We are unaware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the charity's constitution which might result in the charity suffering significant penalties or other loss. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice. We confirm that the charity has had no non-routine communication with Charity Commission during or since the period of which you are unaware.

8. We have reviewed the affairs of the charity and confirm that no income is subject to income or capital gains tax. We have also reviewed the VAT treatment in relation to contractual services provided by the charity and confirm that VAT has been correctly accounted for.

9. The account and statement have been prepared on the going concern basis as we believe that adequate cash and resources will be available to cover the charity's requirements for working capital and capital expenditure for at least the next twelve months.

10. There have been no events since the reporting date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the account and statement or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

# Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/09/23 to 31/08/24

## Receipts and payments accounts

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts	64,105	128,750	0	192,855	196,054
A2 Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>64,105</b>	<b>128,750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>192,855</b>	<b>196,054</b>
A3 Payments	19,241	154,642	0	173,883	211,077
A4 Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>19,241</b>	<b>154,642</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173,883</b>	<b>211,077</b>
<b>Net of receipts (payments)</b>	<b>44,864</b>	<b>-25,892</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,972</b>	<b>-15,023</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-27,291	27,291	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,127	6,375	0	14,502	29,525
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>7,774</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,474</b>	<b>14,502</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	25,700	7,774	-
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	-	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	-	-	-	-

Signed:

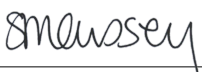


Name: Debbie Jukes

Date: 30 May 2025

# Independent examiner's report

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	The Equilibrium Foundation
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 August 2024
<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1136933
<b>Set out on pages</b>	16
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,</li><li>• to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and</li><li>• to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</li></ul>
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p>
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and</li><li>• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or</li></ul></li><li>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li></ol>

<b>Signed:</b> 	<b>Name:</b> Susanna Cassey	<b>Date:</b> 25 June 2025
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<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:</b>	Chartered Accountant
<b>Address</b>	Azets Audit Services Fleet House, New Road, Lancaster LA1 1EZ



# EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION

Registered charity number: 1136933

## Head Office

Ascot House, Epsom Avenue,  
Handforth, Wilmslow,  
Cheshire SK9 3DF

## Chester Office

19a Telford Court,  
Chester Gates Business Park,  
Chester CH1 6LT

0161 486 2250

[askus@equilibrium.co.uk](mailto:askus@equilibrium.co.uk)

[www.equilibrium.co.uk](http://www.equilibrium.co.uk)

**THE EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136933

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# Accounts

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# Making people's lives better

The Equilibrium Foundation report  
September 2022 - August 2023



EQUILIBRIUM  
FOUNDATION

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# Introduction from Sarah Warburton



Since its founding in 2010, the Equilibrium Foundation has been dedicated to making people's lives better. This year has been particularly impactful, with a focus on expanding our reach and resources within the North West of England.

We're proud to announce the successful widening of our biannual community support scheme, now encompassing the entire North West region. This has allowed us to reach a greater number of local causes. Additionally, I'm thrilled to introduce the first Equilibrium Foundation Grant Awards, where our panel selected seven exceptional charities focused on combating child poverty in the North West, receiving a combined sum of £60,000.

We are continually inspired by the generosity of a growing number of clients who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy by pledging to the Foundation through their wills. Their thoughtful planning will allow us to continue our important work well into the future.

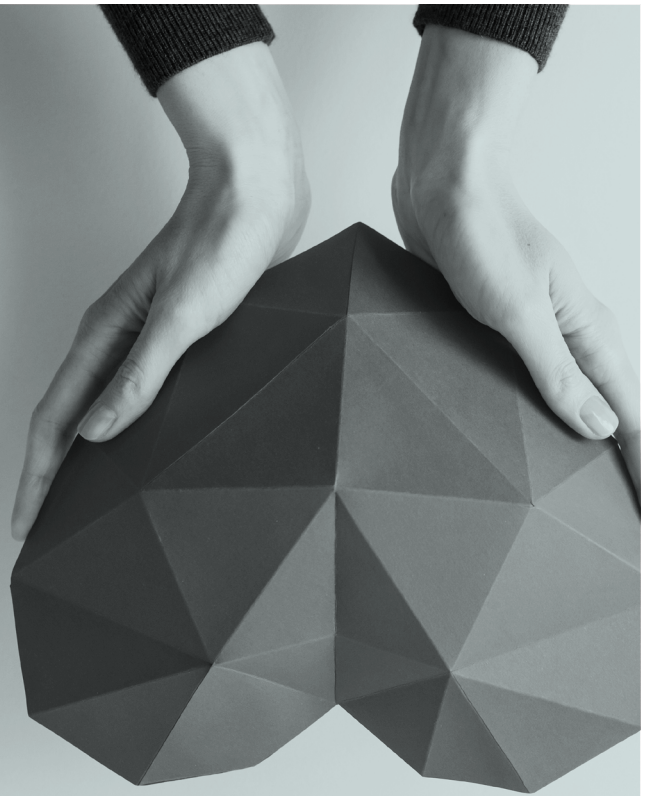
Thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, we're delighted to share that we raised £194,747 this year. This incredible achievement allows us to continue supporting even more worthy charities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah Warburton'.

**Sarah Warburton**

Chair of the Equilibrium Foundation

# Making people's lives better



**£194,747**

raised for good causes this year

**£968,799**

raised since 2010

**78**

charity days were used by the team

**9**

grants were given to local charities as part of our community support scheme

**£60,000**

given to charities combatting child poverty in the North West

**5**

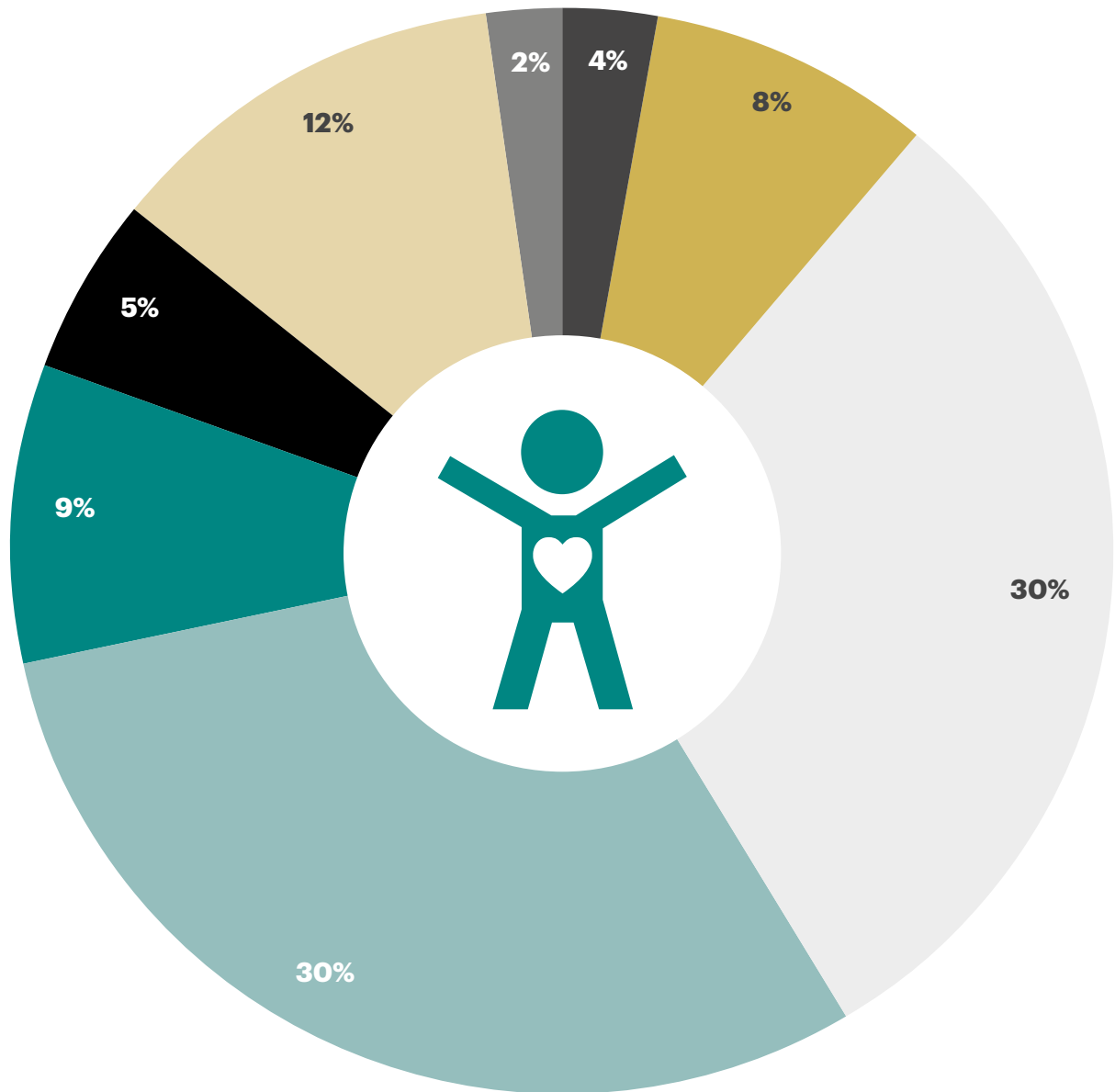
charities nominated by our team received a share of

**£25,000**

**Over 40%**

of the team giving through Give As You Earn, securing us Diamond Status again!

# Breakdown of sectors



- Animal
- Community
- Education
- Healthcare & research
- Mental health & wellbeing
- Overseas aid
- Poverty relief
- Sports

# How we made a difference

**This year we have supported over 70 charities who are all doing incredible work in our community. Here's just a glimpse of the ways we've been able to make a meaningful impact.**

## Hollow Heart

Hollow Heart launched in 2022 with the vision of giving people the confidence to start having conversations about their mental health and wellbeing sooner, so they did not feel alone and would be able to find the support they needed. To encourage this Hollow Heart developed a heart shaped pin to be worn as a symbol of openness and to signify a willingness to listen.

Through a close collaboration this year, Equilibrium has provided Hollow Heart with valuable guidance on becoming a Community Interest Company (CIC). Additionally, an Equilibrium philanthropy advisor assisted them in outlining their future goals.

To further solidify their support, the Equilibrium Foundation donated £2,000 to the newly formed CIC. These funds will be used to purchase a stock of heart-shaped pins, raising awareness for Hollow Heart's cause and helping them achieve their vision.

## The Toy Appeal

Each year Equilibrium host three client Christmas lunches. Clients are invited to take part in a prize raffle to raise money for The Toy Appeal, who provide toy sacks for underprivileged children across Manchester and Cheshire who would otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas. The charity has seen demand increase year on year, so we are thrilled to have raised £13,435.63 through client donations and matched funding from the Foundation.

The Equilibrium team further supported The Toy Appeal by rolling up their sleeves for an organised a charity day where they tackled the impressive task of packing thousands of gifts for delivery.

**Prize raffle**

**Give a child a gift this Christmas**

Help The Toy Appeal provide even more Christmas Day toy sacks for underprivileged children across Manchester and Cheshire by entering our prize raffle.

**Cash donation**

- 1 Put your donation into the envelope provided.
- 2 Write your name on the front of the envelope.

**Online donation**

- 1 Scan the QR code on the right or go to [equilibrium.link/toyappeal](https://equilibrium.link/toyappeal) and select the 'give now' button to make your donation.
- 2 Once payment has been confirmed, write your name and that you've made an online donation on the envelope provided.

Pass your envelope to the Equilibrium team member on your table before dessert to be entered in the prize raffle. If there is no team member on your table, we will collect it from you.

## Libby

We have continued to invest in our financial skills project, 'Libby's Big Aeroplane Adventure' which is designed to provide teachers with the materials they need to effectively teach KS2 children about finance in a fun, engaging way.

The project has continued to grow this year and we have been able to reach over 500 children with our free financial literacy workshops.

In the face of the cost-of-living crisis, educating the next generation about finances is more important than ever. Over the next year, we'll be developing new resources for early years and primary school children, all designed to be inclusive of special educational needs. These engaging digital learning materials will allow us to reach more children than ever before.

***"The class were presented with a relatable budgeting task and had the opportunity to use their own mathematical reasoning skills to tackle this. The children were given the right level of support but were also given time to talk through the task and discuss with a partner. The resources given out were bright and colourful and pitched at the right level for the class."***

**Helen Roberts, Broadheath Primary School**



## Winter fuel fund

Launched in 2019, the Equilibrium winter fuel fund enables our clients to help local elderly and vulnerable residents by pledging their winter fuel payment. This year typical household energy bills increased by around 59% above their winter 2021/22 levels (UK Parliament). These donations supported those who may otherwise have to make the impossible choice between heating or eating over the winter.

This year an outstanding £5,825 was raised for the following charities:

**The Wishing Well** – supporting their vital meals and welfare service that reaches around 150 of the most vulnerable people in our community every day, particularly those who live alone or face challenges in preparing their own meals.

**Friends of the Elderly** – Their grant service provides older people struggling to make ends meet with the essentials they need to live with dignity and in comfort. This included the purchase of a new fridge freezer for a bedbound 92-year-old lady, allowing her carer to batch cook and freeze meals for her.

**Age UK Stockport** – Donations this year covered the cost of hot meals and resources such as flasks and blankets. Age UK's Chief Executive poignantly noted, "The pressure here is relentless – people are so worried and anxious."

***"It made a huge, huge, huge difference. I don't know how to describe it, but I feel relieved. I feel happier. I feel more organised – I have clean clothes; it's made life a lot easier."***

**James, age 67, Friends of the Elderly grant recipient**



## Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

Equilibrium Partner and Financial Planner, Jason Lowe pushed himself to his limits by taking on Mount Kilimanjaro this year whilst raising money for four very worthwhile causes – Reubens Retreat, East Cheshire Hospice, Cancer Research UK and Nightingale Hospice House.

After months of training, Jason, along with his friend, Mark Dunn, crossed six ecological zones, from lush rainforest to the harsh, beautiful Arctic zone. After six gruelling days of ascension, they arrived at the summit – the temperature, a mere -22°.

Jason smashed his original target of £10,000 and was truly humbled by everyone who had supported him:

“This must have been the toughest challenge that I have done so far. You can only train so much for a trek like this and whilst I felt like I had done enough, the mental strain of keeping pushing on my legs, when my lungs were screaming at me, was extremely tough, especially on the last climb.”

I am constantly amazed by the generosity of our clients, friends, team and family for the amazing support, without which none of this would be possible. With the fantastic support of The Equilibrium Foundation, its matched funding on contributions and gift aid, we have raised a tremendous £32,000, giving a much-needed boost of £8,000 to each of our chosen charities. Thank you all so much!”



# £25,000 to local charities



The Equilibrium team nominated five charities to receive a share of a £25,000 donation.

## Anthony Nolan

Anthony Nolan supports patients battling blood cancer and blood disorders every step of the way. They find them lifesaving stem cell matches, fund research for better treatments, and ensure the best possible experience before, during, and after transplants.

## St Rocco's Hospice

St Rocco's Hospice goes beyond end-of-life care. They provide holistic support, addressing the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of patients with life-limiting illnesses. Their focus is on maximising quality of life for both patients and their loved ones.

## Just Drop In Macclesfield

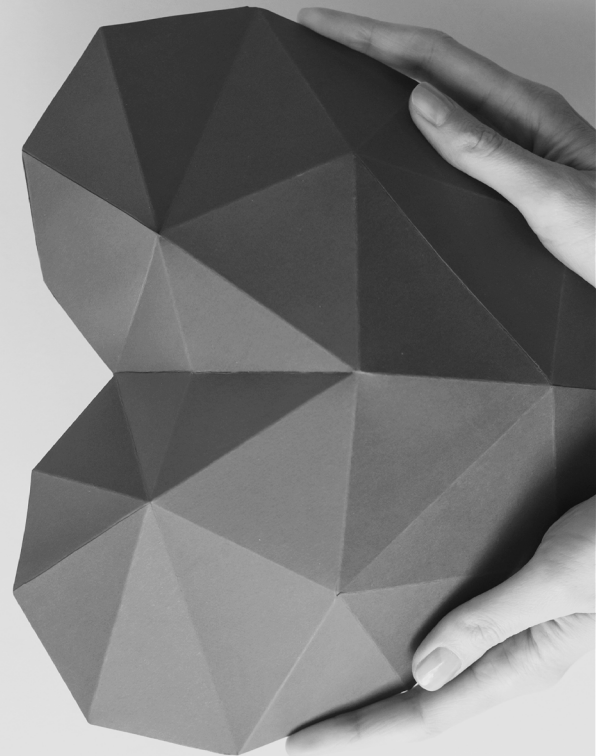
Just Drop In is a welcoming space offering free support to children and young adults in the community. They provide counselling and wellbeing services to help young people navigate challenges and build emotional resilience, as well as support available for parents and carers

## Barnabus

Barnabus, a homeless charity, offers a lifeline to hundreds each week. Their Beacon Centre provides daily drop-in sessions with vital resources. People can come to them to access assistance in looking for jobs, housing, healthcare, and recovery, plus essentials like food and clothing. The centre empowers them to build a future.

## Chester Zoo

Chester Zoo work with endangered wildlife and are a major wildlife charity making a vital contribution to tackling the global extinction crisis at a time when it's needed most. The zoo plays a vital role in the future of wildlife on this planet.



# Equilibrium Foundation Grant Awards



**With a staggering 34% of children in the North West of England living in poverty (BBC), the decision to centre our first grant awards on supporting charities that alleviate child poverty in the region was both compelling and imperative.**

We were delighted to receive a huge number of applications from such well-deserving organisations. Despite the fact that our judging panel (consisting of Equilibrium client Chris Fox, The Bursary Foundation founder Jenny Hopkinson, Andrew Evans of Think Philanthropy and several team members) had an extremely tough job deciding on the winners. However, after careful consideration, we take immense pride in revealing the recipients of this year's awards who all received a share of £60,000:

## **Bare Necessities, Wilmslow**

Addressing hygiene poverty, Bare Necessities is a toiletry bank that collects and distributes essential products to a network of charities. The grant will support their Give a Smile and Give a Wash Day projects, providing toothbrushes, toothpaste and laundry detergents. These initiatives play a pivotal role in bolstering self-esteem and overall wellbeing for children and their families.

## **Bolton Toy Library**

Dedicated to enriching disadvantaged children's lives up to the age of eight, Bolton Toy Library facilitates interactive play, lending toys, books, and specialised resources. It serves as a nurturing space for vulnerable families, offering essential support services alongside play opportunities. A Diversity Support Worker will be appointed using the grant, focusing on aiding non-native English-speaking families out of poverty.

## **Children Today, Chester**

Children Today provides grants, advice and guidance that allow children and young people (up to the age of 25) living with disabilities to access specialised equipment (including trikes, adapted buggies, powered wheelchairs, lightweight wheelchairs, bubble tubes, seating systems and tough beds).



## **Home-Start Trafford, Salford and Wigan**

With a mission to provide support to families with young children during challenging times, Home-Start has built a community network of trained volunteers and experts. Their grant will provide targeted aid for local families facing poverty and debt. The funds will also sustain a part-time position dedicated to organising and distributing essential items.

## **Norbroke Youth Club, Wythenshawe**

This youth club empowers young people aged 6 – 18 through a range of weekly sessions in a secure environment. Their grant will be channelled towards enhancing kitchen facilities used for healthy cooking classes. Notably, these improvements will focus on ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

## **Prevent2Protect, Salford**

This organisation tackles the pressing issue of safeguarding young people through educational workshops. Notably, their GANG for LIFE? project addresses gang-related concerns among those aged 9-16. The grant will allow them to expand the reach and frequency of these workshops.

## **Swinton Lions Community Sports Foundation**

Promoting healthy lifestyles and sports engagement, Swinton Lions Community Sports Foundation leverages Rugby League as a medium for empowerment. The grant will support the development of innovative programs across four targeted community hubs in Manchester, catering to those aged 7-18. The awards will have a different theme for each round of awards, enabling us to spotlight a range of issues depending on what we believe to be most relevant at the time.

# Community support scheme

Our community scheme provides grants of up to £500 to charities based in the North West every six months. Here are this year's winners...

## Bridging the Gap

Theodora Children's Charity

Children Today Charitable Trust

Child Bereavement UK

## Missing People's Helpline

Citywise

Just Drop In

The Countess Charity



*"We are thrilled to have the support of the Equilibrium community support scheme, which will go towards our Character Mentoring Programmes in schools in Rusholme and Moss Side. Children are paired with volunteer mentors, mainly university students, who work together to boost their confidence, build their resilience and grow in character strengths to help them succeed in all areas of their lives"*  
**Jess Roper, Manchester Programmes Manager, Citywise**

*"This winter we have seen a 51% increase in the number of people needing our support. The cost-of-living crisis has hit our communities harder than we could have imagined and, sadly, it shows no sign of abating. Support from the Equilibrium Community Support Scheme will help us to react quickly to the increased needs of our community and remain a constant support during such unprecedented and unpredictable times. Thank you!"*

**Heidi Exell, Project Manager, Bridging The Gap**

The logo for Bridging The Gap, featuring the words "Bridging The Gap" in a green font with a stylized orange and green bridge graphic.



*We're very grateful to Equilibrium for their support again. This grant will mean we're able to support even more children with our pathways services and vital adapted equipment including funding towards an adapted trike and bubble tube. This equipment is often truly life-changing for the children we support and their families, offering more opportunities to spend quality time together. Children like Cody, from Ellesmere Port, who's now able to join in playing with his brother and cousins thanks to his adapted trike."*  
**Sarah Hampton, Fundraiser, Children Today Charitable Trust**

# Team charity days

To give back to the community, Equilibrium offers all employees three days each year to volunteer. They can either choose their own charity or participate in team volunteer days organised by our dedicated Charity Champions at local organisations.

These team efforts have ranged from painting and decorating to raising awareness through leaflet drops. Just this year, our team has made a positive difference at Friends for Leisure, East Cheshire Hospice, The Toy Appeal, Cash for Kids, Just Drop In, The Wingate Centre, and The Message Community Charity.

Well done team!



# A look ahead

The Equilibrium Foundation's future continues to look bright.

As we edge closer to raising £1,000,000, we now look to offer a more structured approach in providing larger grants to specific sectors. With the support of our trustee and philanthropy expert, Andrew Evans, we will seek to do this in a way that ensures maximum impact.

Despite our continuous growth we will still retain the ability to pivot quickly, which will allow us to focus on immediate areas of need as they arise.

We can't wait to see all the positive impacts the Foundation will have over the next few years.



## Objectives and activities

The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better by supporting charitable causes with a particular focus on the North West of England.

We support a wide range of organisations with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.

The principal objective of the charity is to promote and assist, through the provision of grants and other financial assistance, charitable activities and other charitable organisations which may be nominated by the staff and clients of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

We want to have the maximum possible impact, so we mostly support new and smaller charities (typically with incomes of less than £100,000 a year). Grants are normally between £2,000 and £10,000 and we sometimes offer support for more than one year.

In supporting the activities of our fundraisers and in making charitable donations, the trustees have been mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

## Structure and governance

The governing document is a trust deed dated 8 June 2010. The charity is constituted a trust. Trustees who are employed by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP are appointed or reappointed on a five-year basis. External trustees are appointed or reappointed every three years.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration or benefits. No

charges or costs are paid by the charity as all these are borne by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

An in-house finance team oversee the finances for the trust and there is minimal risk of fraud. Professional insurance is in place to mitigate risks and provide indemnity cover for the trustees, public liability cover and legal expenses.

## Financial review

### Brief statement on the charity's policy reserves

It is the charity's policy that any balance held by The Foundation in excess of £2,000 (surplus cash over and above any restricted donations or committed funds) is to be distributed. The trustees will ask the staff of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP to suggest suitable charitable recipients.

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report

**Signature(s):** 

**Full name:** Sarah Warburton

**Position:** Chair

**Date:** 1 February 2024

# Reference and administration details

**Charity name:** The Equilibrium Foundation

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

**Charity's principal address:** Ascot House, Epsom Avenue, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3DF

**Accountants:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

**Auditors:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
A Evans			
D Jukes			
C Lawson			
B Rogers			
S Warburton	Chair		

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation, sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you, in connection with your examination of the charity's receipts and payments account (the 'account') and a statement of assets and liabilities (the 'statement') as its annual statement of account for the year ended 31 August 2023.

1. We acknowledge, as trustees our collective responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 for presenting the account and statement and confirm that we have approved the account and statement for the year ended 31 August 2023. We also acknowledge our responsibility for making accurate representations to you. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your assignment and all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records

and related information, including minutes of all trustee and management meetings, have been made available to you.

2. We confirm that the charity is entitled to prepare receipts and payments accounts and is eligible for an independent examination of its account and statement, and that there are no circumstances which we should draw to your attention which would invalidate this eligibility. We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

3. All grants, donation and other incoming resources, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period in the application of such incoming resources.

4. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets except as disclosed to you.

5. Other than those disclosed, the charity has not entered into any transactions or has balances outstanding involving trustees, officers or other related parties, which require disclosure under the law. If relevant, appropriate disclosure has been made of the control of the charity.

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implantation of internal controls to prevent and detect errors or fraud, and have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the account and statement may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We are unaware of any irregularities, including fraud and suspected fraud, involving management, employees or others who have significant roles in internal

control, or those employed by the charity where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice.

7. We are unaware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the charity's constitution which might result in the charity suffering significant penalties or other loss. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice. We confirm that the charity has had no non-routine communication with Charity Commission during or since the period of which you are unaware.

8. We have reviewed the affairs of the charity and confirm that no income is subject to income or capital gains tax. We have also reviewed the VAT treatment in relation to contractual services provided by the charity and confirm that VAT has been correctly accounted for.

9. The account and statement have been prepared on the going concern basis as we believe that adequate cash and resources will be available to cover the charity's requirements for working capital and capital expenditure for at least the next twelve months.

10. There have been no events since the reporting date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the account and statement or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

# Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023

## Receipts and payments accounts

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts	86,013	110,041	-	196,054	162,682
A2 Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>86,013</b>	<b>110,041</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>196,054</b>	<b>162,682</b>
A3 Payments	69,070	142,007	-	211,077	200,974
A4 Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>69,070</b>	<b>142,007</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>211,077</b>	<b>200,974</b>
<b>Net of receipts (payments)</b>	<b>16,943</b>	<b>-31,966</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-15,023</b>	<b>-38,292</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-37,479	37,479	-	-	-38,292
A6 Cash funds last year end	28,663	862	-	29,525	67,817
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>8,127</b>	<b>6,375</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,502</b>	<b>29,525</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	8,127	6,375	-
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	-	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	-	-	-	-

Signed:



Name: Debbie Jukes

Date: 3 June 2024

# Independent examiner's report

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	The Equilibrium Foundation
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 August 2023
<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1136933
<b>Set out on pages</b>	18
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,</li><li>• to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and</li><li>• to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</li></ul>
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p>
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and</li><li>• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or</li></ul></li><li>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li></ol>

<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:</b>	Chartered Accountant
<b>Address</b>	Azets Audit Services Fleet House, New Road, Lancaster LA1 1EZ



# EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

## **Head Office**

Ascot House, Epsom Avenue,  
Handforth, Wilmslow,  
Cheshire SK9 3DF

## **Chester Office**

19a Telford Court,  
Chester Gates Business Park,  
Chester CH1 6LT

0161 486 2250

0808 168 0748

[askus@equilibrium.co.uk](mailto:askus@equilibrium.co.uk)

[www.equilibrium.co.uk](http://www.equilibrium.co.uk)

**THE EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136933

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# Accounts

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# Making people's lives better

The Equilibrium Foundation report  
September 2021 - August 2022



EQUILIBRIUM  
FOUNDATION

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# Introduction from Debbie Jukes



The Equilibrium Foundation started in 2010 to make people's lives better. This year we have continued to do this by supporting many charitable causes, with a particular focus on the North West of England.

Over the past 12 months, we have seen significant challenges both nationally and globally, including the Taliban's ascent to power in Afghanistan, the continued coronavirus pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the cost of living crisis. During this time, we have donated £199,187, which has allowed us to support many causes that help those directly affected by these challenges when they need it the most.

I am delighted to share that we have raised £162,682 over the past year, and I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has supported the Equilibrium Foundation over the last 12 months. As we look forward to the next year, we aim to bring our grand total of money raised to £1,000,000, so we can reach even more charitable causes than ever.

## **Debbie Jukes**

Chair of the Equilibrium Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Jukes', written in a cursive style.

# Making people's lives better



**£162,682**

raised for good causes this year

**£774,000**

raised since 2010

**89**

charity days were used by the team

**12**

grants were given to local charities as part of our community support scheme

**£3,755**

raised from team give as you earn donations

**£6,000**

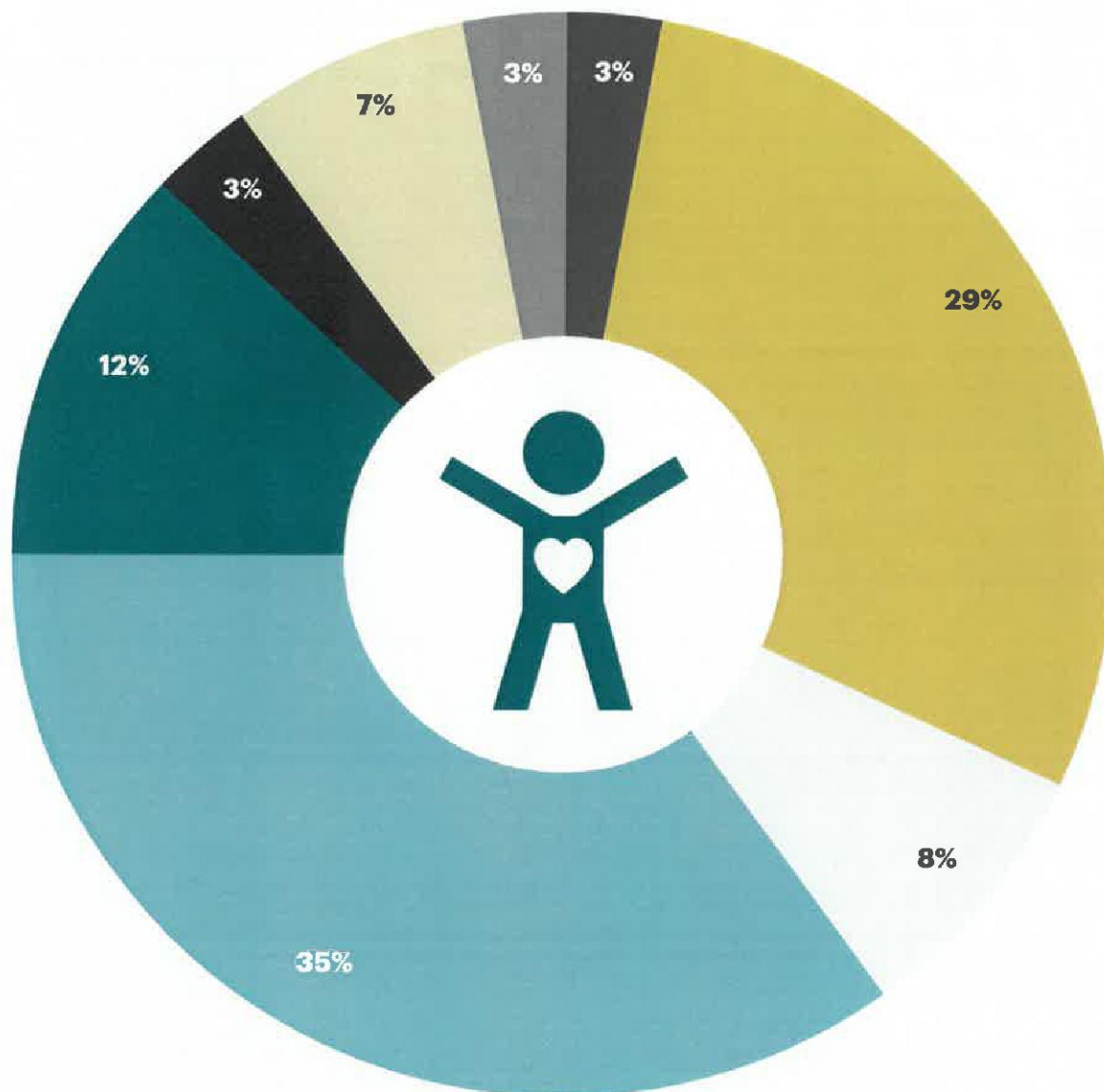
raised by clients for our winter fuel fund

**5**

charities nominated by our team received a share of

**£65,000**

# Breakdown of sectors



- Animal
- Community
- Education
- Healthcare & research
- Mental health & wellbeing
- Overseas aid
- Poverty relief
- Sports

# How we made a difference

We supported over 77 charities this year who are all doing incredible work in our community. These are just some of the ways we have been able to make an impact.

## Libby

We have continued to invest in our financial skills project, 'Libby's Big Aeroplane Adventure' which is designed to provide teachers with the materials they need to effectively teach KS2 children about finance in a fun, engaging way.

The project has continued to grow this year and we have been able to reach over 550 children with our free financial literacy workshops. Towards the end of the year, we put plans in place for a more targeted approach to reaching primary schools local to us and we have already begun to make new connections with area coordinators, and we look forward to sharing the results from this in next year's report.



***"A very engaging learning session that was purposeful to the curriculum. The 'real life' storytelling made this more relevant to pupils which allowed for discussions and development of numeracy"*** Claire Carter, Ysgol Penmorfa

## Portugal peddlers

Three Equilibrium advisers completed a mammoth cycling challenge across Portugal's mountains to raise money for three charities: Reuben's Retreat - supports families of complexly poorly children and families of child loss, Claire's House - a children's hospice and My Name's Doddie which seeks to help sufferers of motor neurone disease.

Andrew Hirst, Jason Lowe and David McKendrick spent six days cycling from Chaves in the country's north to Faro in the south - a route that totalled 456 miles, reaching elevations of 960m, in temperatures up to 32 degrees.

Their challenge raised a total of £21,000 which was split equally between the three charities. Andrew Hirst, Financial Planner at Equilibrium Financial Planning, said: *"We are truly proud of our cycling achievement, but knowing we've made a difference to each charity is exceptionally humbling. The pandemic and lockdowns had such a detrimental impact on charities' funds and being able to play a part in supporting them made the hills and flat tyres worth it."*



## Winter fuel fund

We launched this campaign in 2019 with our clients to enable them to easily donate their winter fuel payment to help those that need it most. The Equilibrium winter fuel fund was created so clients could support the elderly and most vulnerable in our local area so that they didn't have to make the impossible choice between heating or eating over the winter.

Donations meant we could support AGE UK Stockport with their Winter Warmth campaign; Wishing Well with their delivery of services to vulnerable elderly people across South Cheshire; and Friends of the Elderly where our grant was able to help 12 older people who were struggling to cope.

***"Thanks to your ongoing support we can continue bringing warmth, comfort and joy to older people living in poverty."***  
**Friends of the Elderly**



## Party for Afghan children

In August 2021, 19 planes with Afghan nationals on board arrived at Manchester Airport with their lives in the bags they carried. Following this many of the people on board continued to live in a hotel at the airport including 72 children aged under 10.

When Head of Marketing Strategy, Rachel Griffiths, learned of this she reached out to the council's dedicated team who were helping them build their lives here to offer to arrange an evening where the children were given a chance to play and have fun and have a party at a soft play centre. Rachel was told that the children hadn't had anything like this since they arrived and very little fun during the last 18 months in Afghanistan.

This was made possible with sponsorship from the Equilibrium Foundation and another generous sponsor.

## Wilmslow Youth

Wilmslow Youth began in 2016 by bringing together teenagers, parents, teachers, police, community groups and charities to have one big community conversation to help them understand the self-expressed needs of our local young people. The charity now offers young people free counselling, mentoring, wellbeing workshops and alternative education programmes.

The need for this kind of support is now greater than ever with referrals for their one-to-one support service doubling since the pandemic. The Equilibrium Foundation has supported Wilmslow Youth with an ongoing donation of £1,000 a month for a year to support them in keeping waiting times low. The money has gone directly to funding an expansion of their mentoring and wellbeing workshops. It's meant that young people can address difficulties before they reach a point of crisis.

## Christmas lunches

Each year Equilibrium host three client Christmas lunches. Clients are invited to take part in a prize raffle to raise money for The Toy Appeal, who provide toy sacks for underprivileged children across Manchester and Cheshire who would otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas. The charity has seen demand increase year on year, so we are thrilled to have raised £16,067 through client donations and matched funding from the Foundation.

## Support for Ukraine

Siobhan's Trust provide supplies of food, medical equipment and hygiene products to refugees crossing the border from Ukraine to Poland. Since the invasion of Ukraine they have set up a static feeding station on the Polish/Ukrainian border and through increasing support they have been able to provide a mobile service with food trucks venturing out across the whole country with the capacity to feed up to 4,000 refugees per day. The Equilibrium Foundation have supported Siobhan's Trust with an ongoing donation of £1,500 a month throughout the year and fundraising event sponsorship.

## East Cheshire Hospice

### Hospice to hospice half marathon

A number of activities took place during the year to help an organisation close to the hearts of many of our clients and team. Three members of the Equilibrium team, Kelly Eyton-Jones, Lucy Woolrich and Sarah Hammond took on the hospice to hospice half marathon to raise money for the hospice. Their walk from Mere to Macclesfield raising a fantastic £2,325.50.

### Born Survivor

Ten members of our Equilibrium team took on the Born Survivor challenge. The action-packed 5km and 10km courses included multiple military-style obstacles, a sprinkling of madness and lots of mud. The team raised a whopping £1,991, which was matched by The Equilibrium Foundation, giving a grand total of £3,982 to East Cheshire Hospice.

### Christmas tree collection leaflet drop

Every year the hospice provides a Christmas tree collection service, which helps people discard their Christmas trees in exchange for a donation. This year some of the team used one of their three paid charity days delivering leaflets to around 3,000 residential houses in Congleton to promote this.

### Christmas jumper day and raffle

This year the team got into the festive spirit by wearing their favourite Christmas jumper and having a raffle for to raise £578 for East Cheshire Hospice.

### Toiletry donations

Over Christmas many people are given toiletry gifts that are not needed and often go unused. Noticing this Client Manager, Deborah Start, encouraged the team to donate any unwanted toiletries to patients. The box where donations could be left soon filled up and was delivered to East Cheshire Hospice in February.

# £65,000 to local charities

The Equilibrium team nominated eight charities to receive a share of a £65,000 donation.

## £20,000 The Booth Centre

The Booth Centre is a community centre that supports people affected by homelessness, it provides a warm welcome, an opportunity to belong, to gain a purpose and rebuild lives.

Their grant was spent on delivering a range of services to people affected by homelessness including: an advice referral clinic, a café that serves hot breakfasts and lunches every week day plus health and wellbeing programmes.

***“We are incredibly grateful to The Equilibrium Foundation for its support of Booth Centre, ensuring that we can continue to support those affected by homelessness at a time when our services are being called upon by increasing numbers of people.”***

## £10,000 Little Hearts Matter

Little Hearts Matter is the only national UK charity offering help to anyone affected by the diagnosis of single ventricle heart condition.

Their grant was spent on providing a comprehensive support service for families affected by half a working heart. This includes their support line, online group, information publications available from the point of diagnosis (often antenatal) and an open day of educational sessions, networking and friendship for families.

***“Living with a life-limiting condition is incredibly isolating and difficult, and it’s only thanks to the support of organisations such as The Equilibrium Foundation that we can continue to ensure that families have somewhere to turn.”***

## £10,000 Rekindle

Rekindle is a supplementary school for students in South Manchester, who have been let down by the mainstream system, and led by young people who know what their peers need.

The grant enabled them to employ a Referral Lead to help them build relationships with parents, schools and relevant agencies, which is key to the success of their project.

***“Donations like this are key to our mission to expand the dream school concept across the country and provide education that is accessible to all.”***



## **£5,000 Emmeline's Pantry**

Emmeline's Pantry provide women in Manchester with access to food, toiletries, baby equipment and clothes. The grant was used to stock up on premium food items and ensured they could support all the referrals we received so they didn't have to turn anyone away.

## **£5,000 Millie's Trust**

Millie's Trust aim to make first aid training available to everyone. They will be using their funding to enable first aid training to be readily available for minimum costs, in as many places as possible.

## **£5,000 Friends for Leisure**

Friends for Leisure helps disabled young people in Cheshire East to enjoy friendship and leisure. This grant helped them cover a variety of costs including volunteer expenses, website development, direct service delivery and marketing our services.

## **£5,000 Wingate Special Children's Trust**

Wingate Special Children's Trust is a residential centre based in Nantwich and caters for those with disabilities or who are disadvantaged. As well as receiving this grant, some of the Equilibrium team volunteered at the centre for a charity day where they helped out with decorating their outdoor space, café and office.

## **£5,000 Norbrook Youth Club**

Norbrook Youth Club offers weekly sessions to young people in a safe environment. The grant allowed them to buy new games consoles and games, resources for their art room and outdoor sports equipment. The most important investment has been the CCTV which has been a fantastic help in protecting the premises and those using it.

# Community support scheme

Our community scheme provides grants of up to £500 to three charities each quarter. Here are this year's winners...

Live! Cheshire	Charitable Trust	MedEquip4Kids
East Cheshire Musical Theatre Company	Stroke Information	Bare Necessities Toiletry Bank
Prevent to Protect	Elsie Ever After	Press Red
Speed of Sight	Just-Ice Poynton	Croftwood Care Home
Children Today	Daisy's Dream	



*"Press Red is extremely grateful for the grant. This will help us to continue to present cutting edge programmes that fulfil our vision which is of a world in which no individual, society, or culture accepts abuse and violence against women."*  
**Rosemary Hack, CEO of Press Red**

*"This grant will allow us to continue to reach out to the very many local people facing various economic challenges including hygiene poverty. Giving someone the basic toiletries, we all take for granted works on so many levels. Being clean assists mental health, dignity and confidence."*  
**Wendy Hobson, Chairperson of Bare Necessities Toiletry Bank**



*"This money will help MedEquip4Kids to provide pulse oximeters to the Children's Community Team at the hospital who are hard at work supporting poorly children who have been discharged home on oxygen."*  
**Hayden Cowap, Corporate Fundraiser for MedEquip4Kids**

# Charity champion spotlight: Aleesha Shah



**Aleesha, Client Manager at Equilibrium Financial Planning has a passion for making a positive impact in the community. As the team leader of Equilibrium's Charity Champions, she has successfully organised numerous volunteer days and led fundraising initiatives for various charities.**

Our purpose at Equilibrium is to make people's lives better and we therefore strive to make a positive difference within our local community. The whole Equilibrium team are on board with our approach to helping the local community and we could not achieve this without our team of Charity Champions. The Charity Champions is a team of 12 employees across various departments within the organisation. We organise volunteer days throughout the year for members of the team to partake in within the South Manchester area.

Equilibrium offer our team three paid volunteer days a year, to encourage us to give back to the local community. The Equilibrium team smashed their target of over 89 charity days used in our last fiscal year.

Over the years we have supported a wide range of worthwhile causes and organisations.

These include:

**The Time Out Group** - redecorated their backyard by painting fencing and planters and assembling garden furniture.

**Friends for Leisure** - helped with painting and decorating.

**Just Drop** - baked treats for those taking part in their bikeathon fundraiser.

**East Cheshire Hospice** - supported them with a leaflet drop and coin count.

**Francis House** - prepared and packed knitted chicks for their Easter Chick Appeal.

**The Toy Appeal** - make up toy sacks for children who wouldn't usually receive a gift at Christmas.

Many of these charities have been suggested by our team as they are very close to their heart. This year, we have been fortunate enough to have a positive impact on many charities within the North West, and we are already excited for some new opportunities to arise next year.







# A look ahead

The Equilibrium Foundation's future continues to look bright.

As we edge closer to raising £1,000,000, we now look to offer a more structured approach in providing larger grants to specific sectors. With the support of our trustee and philanthropy expert, Andrew Evans, we will seek to do this in a way that ensures maximum impact.

For our community support scheme, we are now widening our reach from Manchester and Cheshire based charities to applications from across the North West.

Despite our continuous growth we will still retain the ability to pivot quickly, which will allow us to focus on immediate areas of need as they arise, as we did as a result of the Ukraine invasion and the cost of living crisis.

We can't wait to see all the positive impacts the Foundation will have over the next few years.



## Objectives and activities

The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better by supporting charitable causes with a particular focus on the North West of England.

We support a wide range of organisations with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.

The principal objective of the charity is to promote and assist, through the provision of grants and other financial assistance, charitable activities and other charitable organisations which may be nominated by the staff and clients of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

We want to have the maximum possible impact, so we mostly support new and smaller charities (typically with incomes of less than £100,000 a year). Grants are normally between £2,000 and £10,000 and we sometimes offer support for more than one year.

In supporting the activities of our fundraisers and in making charitable donations, the trustees have been mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

## Structure and governance

The governing document is a trust deed dated 8 June 2010. The charity is constituted a trust. Trustees who are employed by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP are appointed or reappointed on a five-year basis. External trustees are appointed or reappointed every three years.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration or benefits. No

charges or costs are paid by the charity as all these are borne by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

An in-house finance team oversee the finances for the trust and there is minimal risk of fraud. Professional insurance is in place to mitigate risks and provide indemnity cover for the trustees, public liability cover and legal expenses.

## Financial review

### Brief statement on the charity's policy reserves

It is the charity's policy that any balance held by The Foundation in excess of £2,000 (surplus cash over and above any restricted donations or committed funds) is to be distributed. The trustees will ask the staff of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP to suggest suitable charitable recipients.

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report

**Signature(s):**



**Full name:** Debbie Jukes

**Position:** Chair

**Date:** 1 February 2023

# Reference and administration details

**Charity name:** The Equilibrium Foundation

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

**Charity's principal address:** Ascot House, Epsom Avenue, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3DF

**Accountants:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

**Auditors:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
A Evans			
D Jukes	Chair		
C Lawson			
B Rogers			
S Warburton			
J Watmore		Resigned on 31/08/2022	

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation, sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you, in connection with your examination of the charity's receipts and payments account (the 'account') and a statement of assets and liabilities (the 'statement') as its annual statement of account for the year ended 31 August 2022.

1. We acknowledge, as trustees our collective responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 for presenting the account and statement and confirm that we have approved the account and statement for the year ended 31 August 2022. We also acknowledge our responsibility for making accurate representations to you. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your assignment and all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records

and related information, including minutes of all trustee and management meetings, have been made available to you.

2. We confirm that the charity is entitled to prepare receipts and payments accounts and is eligible for an independent examination of its account and statement, and that there are no circumstances which we should draw to your attention which would invalidate this eligibility. We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

3. All grants, donation and other incoming resources, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period in the application of such incoming resources.

4. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets except as disclosed to you.

5. Other than those disclosed, the charity has not entered into any transactions or has balances outstanding involving trustees, officers or other related parties, which require disclosure under the law. If relevant, appropriate disclosure has been made of the control of the charity.

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implantation of internal controls to prevent and detect errors or fraud, and have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the account and statement may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We are unaware of any irregularities, including fraud and suspected fraud, involving management, employees or others who have significant roles in internal

control, or those employed by the charity where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice.

7. We are unaware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the charity's constitution which might result in the charity suffering significant penalties or other loss. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice. We confirm that the charity has had no non-routine communication with Charity Commission during or since the period of which you are unaware.

8. We have reviewed the affairs of the charity and confirm that no income is subject to income or capital gains tax. We have also reviewed the VAT treatment in relation to contractual services provided by the charity and confirm that VAT has been correctly accounted for.

9. The account and statement have been prepared on the going concern basis as we believe that adequate cash and resources will be available to cover the charity's requirements for working capital and capital expenditure for at least the next twelve months.

10. There have been no events since the reporting date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the account and statement or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

# Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/09/2021 to 31/08/2022

## Receipts and payments accounts

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts	85,891	76,791	-	162,682	150,187
A2 Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>85,891</b>	<b>76,791</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>162,682</b>	<b>150,187</b>
A3 Payments	109,044	91,930	-	200,974	99,263
A4 Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>109,044</b>	<b>91,930</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200,974</b>	<b>99,263</b>
<b>Net of receipts</b>	<b>-23,153</b>	<b>-15,139</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-38,293</b>	<b>50,924</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-16,001	16,001	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	67,817	-	-	67,817	16,893
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>28,663</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,525</b>	<b>67,817</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	28,663	862	-
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	-	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	-	-	-	-

Signed:



Name: Debbie Jukes

Date: 1 February 2023

# Independent examiner's report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of** The Equilibrium Foundation

**On accounts for the  
year ended** 31 August 2022

**Charity no (if any)** 1136933

**Set out on pages** 20

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**


My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: S M CASSEY

Date: 23 June '23

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body:** Chartered Accountant

**Address** Azets Audit Services  
Fleet House, New Road, Lancaster LA1 1EZ



**EQUILIBRIUM**  
FOUNDATION

Registered charity number: 1136933

**Head Office**

Ascot House, Epsom Avenue,  
Handforth, Wilmslow,  
Cheshire SK9 3DF

**Chester Office**

19a Telford Court,  
Chester Gates Business Park,  
Chester CH1 6LT

0161 486 2250

0808 168 0748

[askus@equilibrium.co.uk](mailto:askus@equilibrium.co.uk)

[www.equilibrium.co.uk](http://www.equilibrium.co.uk)

**THE EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136933

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# Accounts

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EQUILIBRIUM  
FOUNDATION

# Making people's lives better

The Equilibrium Foundation report



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# Introduction from Debbie Jukes



The Equilibrium Foundation was set up 12 years ago to make people's lives better, by supporting charitable causes, with a particular focus on the North West of England. Initially the goal of the Foundation was to donate £250,000, we have since smashed this and I am thrilled to say we have now raised over £600,000 by August 2021.

We have supported many charities along the way from our Community Support Scheme that regularly provides grants to local groups, to matching donations totaling over £25,000 for fundraising activities carried out by our team and clients.

It has been a privilege to help our community in this way, and I look forward to seeing all that the Foundation will accomplish going forward.

I am delighted to say that this year we have been supported by our newest trustee Andrew Evans, a philanthropy adviser, who will help ensure that the Foundation's donations are being used in the most effective way possible to reach the areas of our society who need it the most.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the wonderful causes that we have helped through the year and the brilliant work they do.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has supported the Equilibrium Foundation over the past year, and we look forward to reaching even more charitable causes over the next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Jukes', written in a cursive style.

**Debbie Jukes**

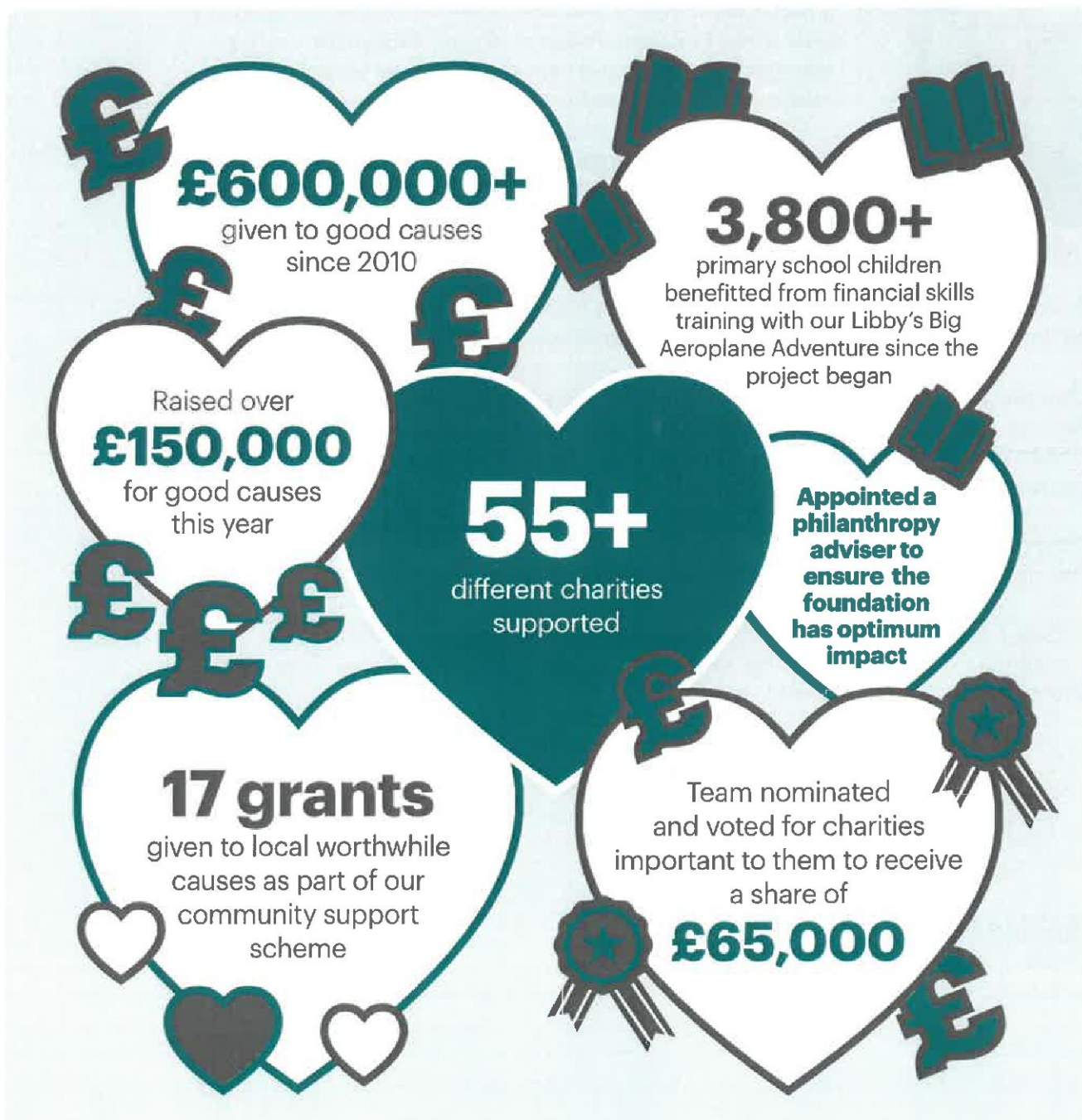
Chair of the Equilibrium Foundation

# Making people's lives better

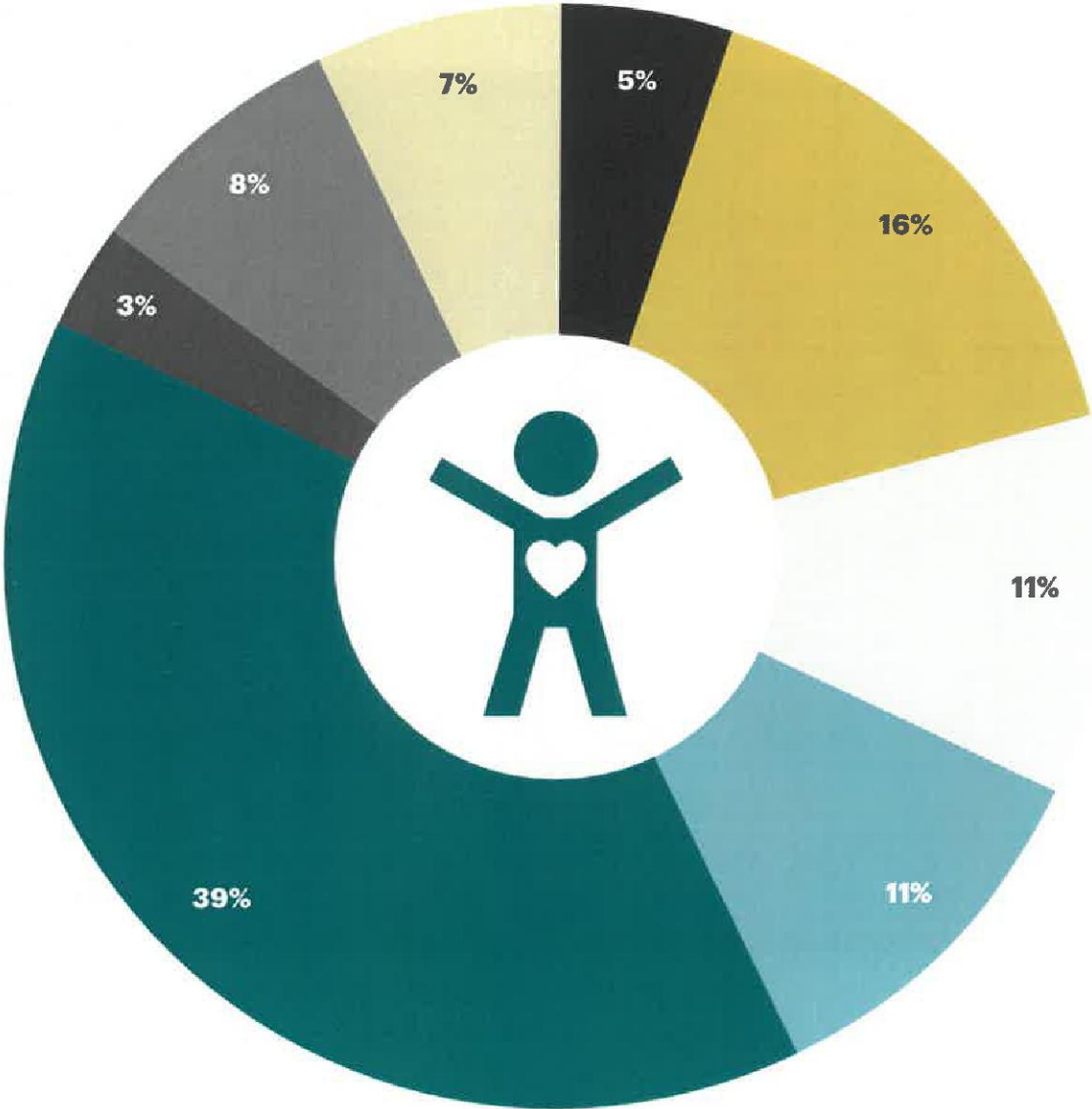
## Achievements and performance

The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better, by supporting charitable causes, with a particular focus on the North West of England.

We support a wide range of organisations, with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities, and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.



# Breakdown of sectors



- Animal
- Community development
- Community service
- Education
- Healthcare
- Human services
- Mental health
- Sports

# How we made a difference

We supported over 55 charities this year who are all doing incredible work in our community. Below are just some of the ways we have been able to make an impact.

## Libby

We have continued to progress with Libby's big aeroplane adventure our free financial skills resource recommended for key stage 2 pupils. Two out of three teachers say financial education in the UK is somewhat or very ineffective and that their schools lack the skills needed to teach financial education.

Our financial skills project, 'Libby's Big Aeroplane Adventure' is designed to provide teachers with the materials they need to effectively teach children about finance in a fun, engaging way. At no cost to the schools they have been provided workbooks for each pupil, teacher training days (fully paid for by Equilibrium, including reimbursement for a substitute teacher), in-school workshops plus many other resources for teachers to use.

"Workshops took place with a number of learners in schools across North West England and North Wales. The reactions from the schools have been excellent. As the pandemic has begun to recede, we are now pleased to be welcomed back into the classroom." – David Evans, retired primary school headteacher currently delivering Libby financial literacy programme.

If you find it hard to believe that we've made finance fun, have a read of what a year 5 pupil said about the Libby project: "To Mr. Evans and grandad. When you came to teach us about financial skills I thought from first impressions you looked nice. My favourite part had to be when we did budget work. I think it was a good idea. If it was me, I would have spent loads. I think it was a very good experience. Thank you. Hope you come again."

## Creating Adventures

Creating Adventures provides a range of activities to provide great times and give additional skills to adults with autism and learning disabilities. As well as their Beautiful Noise choir they offer an art club, cooking classes, get-togethers and trips that really enrich people's lives.

The Equilibrium Foundation has given a grant of £3,000 this year to support Creating Adventures' amazing work following a nomination from one of our clients.

"Thank you for your support with our Members Lounge. I do honestly believe that it was a lifeline to our community during such a difficult time. We had themed party nights, Game Shows, Quiz's and karaoke nights...all online!" - Jenny Allcock, Founding Chief Officer.

## The Bursary Foundation

The Bursary Foundation connects high achieving pupils from low income backgrounds with the best educational opportunities. They work closely with primary schools to identify pupils with high potential from low income backgrounds. Supported pupils go on to a number of state grammar and fee-paying schools in the North West and achieve great things!

The Equilibrium Foundation has committed to supporting two talented young people through the whole of their secondary education by funding half of their fees, with the other half being provided by the schools or other donors.

One of the pupils supported lives with her mum in a one-room bedsit. Her mum moved to England over 11 years ago but has not yet been granted the right to remain. This has meant she has been unable to work, resulting in them both having to survive on funds well below the poverty line.

The pupil was identified as an ideal candidate for The Bursary Foundation as she is a naturally gifted, hardworking, and respectful. Now with the support of Equilibrium, she attends a top independent school with all costs that come with this covered. This includes school fees, school meals, access to technology, transport, and uniform costs.

## Winter fuel allowance

Our winter fuel campaign offers the opportunity for people to donate their winter fuel payment to help those who really need it. We are proud to say that a number of our clients are signed up to this campaign. Their donations have made a really positive difference to a lot of lives across the UK and have benefited three charities: Friends of the Elderly, Age UK and Wishing Well.

"Thanks to your donation we were able to help 12 older people struggling to cope. In reality, every £1 you donated to us was worth £2, as our matched giving partner matches every £1 we raise for our grants service – this means that your donation was worth £8,187.50 to Friends of the Elderly." -Friends of the Elderly, March 2021.

## East Cheshire Hospice

East Cheshire Hospice and the services it provides is a cause close to the hearts of many in the team at Equilibrium.

Over the past 12 months several fundraising activities have taken place, including one group climbing flights of stairs the equivalent to reaching the summit of Mount Everest, and another team travelling 'virtually' the distance of Land's End to John O'Groats.

Everyone's efforts paid off as a grand total of £11,541 was raised for the hospice.

## Andi Goes

Andi Goes is a children's book that has been specially written and designed to help give an early indication of how a child is doing with their reading, and whether dyslexia could be a potential factor.

Dyslexia is a very common condition that affects up to 10% of the UK population. Despite affecting up to 870,000 children in the UK, less than 150,000 are actually diagnosed. Leaving many without the vital support they need, at a key time in their learning development.

Through the support of The Equilibrium Foundation, they have now sent out over 2,500 books to children and schools across 15 countries.

This year saw the project win the prestigious Graphite Pencil at the British Design & Art Direction Awards. This award recognises stand-out work that rises above the rest for the creative collateral that was produced.

## Toy Appeal

A group from Equilibrium ran 2km on the hour, every hour for 24 hours to raise donations for the Toy Appeal. They trained in the dark winter weeks and took on the challenge on Tuesday 22 December in a bid to raise donations for the organisation.

This combined with generous donations from our clients resulted in an absolutely whopping £11,670 for this year's Christmas toy appeal. Each toy sack costs £25, so that is an amazing 467 children who will receive presents on Christmas morning this year that would not have done otherwise.

Since 2013, the Toy Appeal has been providing toys at Christmas to children living in poverty so that they have presents to open on Christmas day. On average, each child will receive eight carefully selected different items in their toy sack to engage them in reading, playing games outdoors and bringing families together playing board games.



Stay up to date with the positive difference the Equilibrium Foundation is making to the lives of those in our community by visiting [www.equilibrium.co.uk/latest](http://www.equilibrium.co.uk/latest)



# A look ahead

The Equilibrium Foundation has a bright future ahead of it.

As we continue to grow there is a greater need for more robust governance and a more structured decision-making process. Therefore, we have formally appointed Andrew Evans from Think Philanthropy as a trustee. Andrew will provide his guidance and expertise from the perspective of running a foundation and also help us identify causes and organisations that can create the most positive impact in society.

However, we will still retain the ability to pivot quickly, which will allow us to focus on immediate areas of need as they arise, as we did as a result of coronavirus.

Andrew will also be offering his service to our clients, allowing them to identify what exactly they'd like to achieve from their philanthropic giving and finding the right organisations to work with.

We will, of course, continue to support as many affected areas as possible to ensure the most vulnerable in our society are protected.

This year we started an internal ESG Advisory Group who will meet every quarter to discuss our impact as a team and a business and make improvements. The group will also identify positive ways in which the Foundation can help support this.

We can't wait to see all the positive impacts the Foundation will have over the next few years.

## Objectives and activities

The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better by supporting charitable causes with a particular focus on the North West of England.

We support a wide range of organisations with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.

The principal objective of the charity is to promote and assist, through the provision of grants and other financial assistance, charitable activities and other charitable organisations which may be nominated by the staff and clients of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

We want to have the maximum possible impact, so we mostly support new and smaller charities (typically with incomes of less than £100,000 a year). Grants are normally between £2,000 and £10,000 and we sometimes offer support for more than one year.

In supporting the activities of our fundraisers and in making charitable donations, the trustees have been mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

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The governing document is a trust deed dated 8 June 2010. The charity is constituted a trust. Trustees who are employed by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP are appointed or reappointed on a five-year basis. External trustees are appointed or reappointed every three years.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration or

benefits. No charges or costs are paid by the charity as all these are borne by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

An in-house finance team oversee the finances for the trust and there is minimal risk of fraud. Professional insurance is in place to mitigate risks and provide indemnity cover for the trustees, public liability cover and legal expenses.

## Financial review

### Brief statement on the charity's policy reserves

It is the charity's policy that any balance held by The Foundation in excess of £2,000 (surplus cash over and above any restricted donations or committed funds) is to be distributed. The trustees will ask the staff of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP to suggest suitable charitable recipients.

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report

**Signature(s):**



**Full name:** Debbie Jukes

**Position:** Chair

**Date:** 29 June 2022

# Reference and administration details

**Charity name:** The Equilibrium Foundation

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

**Charity's principal address:** Ascot House, Epsom Avenue, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3DF

**Accountants:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

**Auditors:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
A Evans			
D Jukes	Chairman		
C Lawson			
G Rigby		Resigned on 31/08/2021	
B Rogers			
S Warburton			
J Watmore			

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation, sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you, in connection with your examination of the charity's receipts and payments account (the 'account') and a statement of assets and liabilities (the 'statement') as its annual statement of account for the year ended 31 August 2021.

1. We acknowledge, as trustees our collective responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 for presenting the account and statement and confirm that we have approved the account and statement for the year ended 31 August 2021. We also acknowledge our responsibility for making accurate representations to you. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your assignment and all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all

trustee and management meetings, have been made available to you.

2. We confirm that the charity is entitled to prepare receipts and payments accounts and is eligible for an independent examination of its account and statement, and that there are no circumstances which we should draw to your attention which would invalidate this eligibility. We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

3. All grants, donation and other incoming resources, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period in the application of such incoming resources.

4. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets except as disclosed to you.

5. Other than those disclosed, the charity has not entered into any transactions or has balances outstanding involving trustees, officers or other related parties, which require disclosure under the law. If relevant, appropriate disclosure has been made of the control of the charity.

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implantation of internal controls to prevent and detect errors or fraud, and have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the account and statement may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We are unaware of any irregularities, including fraud and suspected fraud, involving management, employees or others who have significant roles in internal control, or those employed by the charity where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice.

7. We are unaware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the charity's constitution which might result in the charity suffering significant penalties or other loss. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice. We confirm that the charity has had no non-routine communication with Charity Commission during or since the period of which you are unaware.

8. We have reviewed the affairs of the charity and confirm that no income is subject to income or capital gains tax. We have also reviewed the VAT treatment in relation to contractual services provided by the charity and confirm that VAT has been correctly accounted for.

9. The account and statement have been prepared on the going concern basis as we believe that adequate cash and resources will be available to cover the charity's requirements for working capital and capital expenditure for at least the next twelve months.

10. There have been no events since the reporting date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the account and statement or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

# Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021

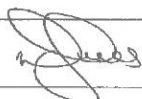
## Receipts and payments accounts

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts	97,797	52,390	0	150,187	132,947
A2 Asset and investment sales	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>97,797</b>	<b>52,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150,187</b>	<b>132,947</b>
A3 Payments	65,261	34,002	0	99,263	131,442
A4 Asset and investment purchases	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>65,261</b>	<b>34,002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99,263</b>	<b>131,442</b>
<b>Net of receipts</b>	<b>32,536</b>	<b>18,388</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50,924</b>	<b>1,505</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	25,321	-25,321	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,960	6,933	-	16,893	15,388
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>67,817</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67,817</b>	<b>16,893</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	67,817	0	0
B2 Other monetary assets		0	0	0
B3 Investment assets		0	0	0
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		0	0	0
B5 Liabilities		0	0	0

Signed:



Name: Debbie Jukes

Date: 29 June 2022

# Independent examiner's report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of** The Equilibrium Foundation

**On accounts for the  
year ended** 31 August 2021

**Charity no (if any)** 1136933

**Set out on pages** 12

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: SUSANNA CASSEY

Date: 29 JUNE '22

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body:** Chartered Accountant

**Address** Azets Audit Services  
Fleet House, New Road, Lancaster LA1 1EZ



**EQUILIBRIUM**  
FOUNDATION

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

**Head Office**

Ascot House, Epsom Avenue,  
Handforth, Wilmslow,  
Cheshire SK9 3DF

**Chester Office**

19a Telford Court,  
Chester Gates Business Park,  
Chester CH1 6LT

0161 486 2250

0808 168 0748

[askus@equilibrium.co.uk](mailto:askus@equilibrium.co.uk)

[www.equilibrium.co.uk](http://www.equilibrium.co.uk)



**THE EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136933

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# Accounts

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EQUILIBRIUM  
FOUNDATION

# Making people's lives better

The Equilibrium Foundation report



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A look ahead	8
Objectives, activities and structure	9
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# Introduction from Debbie Jukes



When we started the Equilibrium Foundation back in 2010, we set ourselves a goal of donating £250,000 to worthwhile causes that make a positive difference to our community.

I'm thrilled to say that we smashed that target, having raised over £450,000 by April 2020.

We made plenty of memories on the journey to that target. From one of our clients walking from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise over £9,000 for Cancer Research UK, to two of our own advisers almost getting stuck in Morocco on their quest to climb Mount Toubkal for Headway and Reuben's Retreat at the start of COVID pandemic!

There are also the many years we have supported the Toy Appeal, helping to pack Christmas gifts for children living in poverty to ensure they have something to open on Christmas morning.

It has been a privilege to help our community in this way, and I look forward to seeing all that the Foundation will achieve along the way to our new target.

Once we had beaten our initial target, we set a new target of £1,000,000 by the end of August 2028 but, upon reflection, we decided that it wasn't enough and upped the target to £4,000,000.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the wonderful causes that we have helped through the year and the brilliant work they do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Jukes'.

**Debbie Jukes**

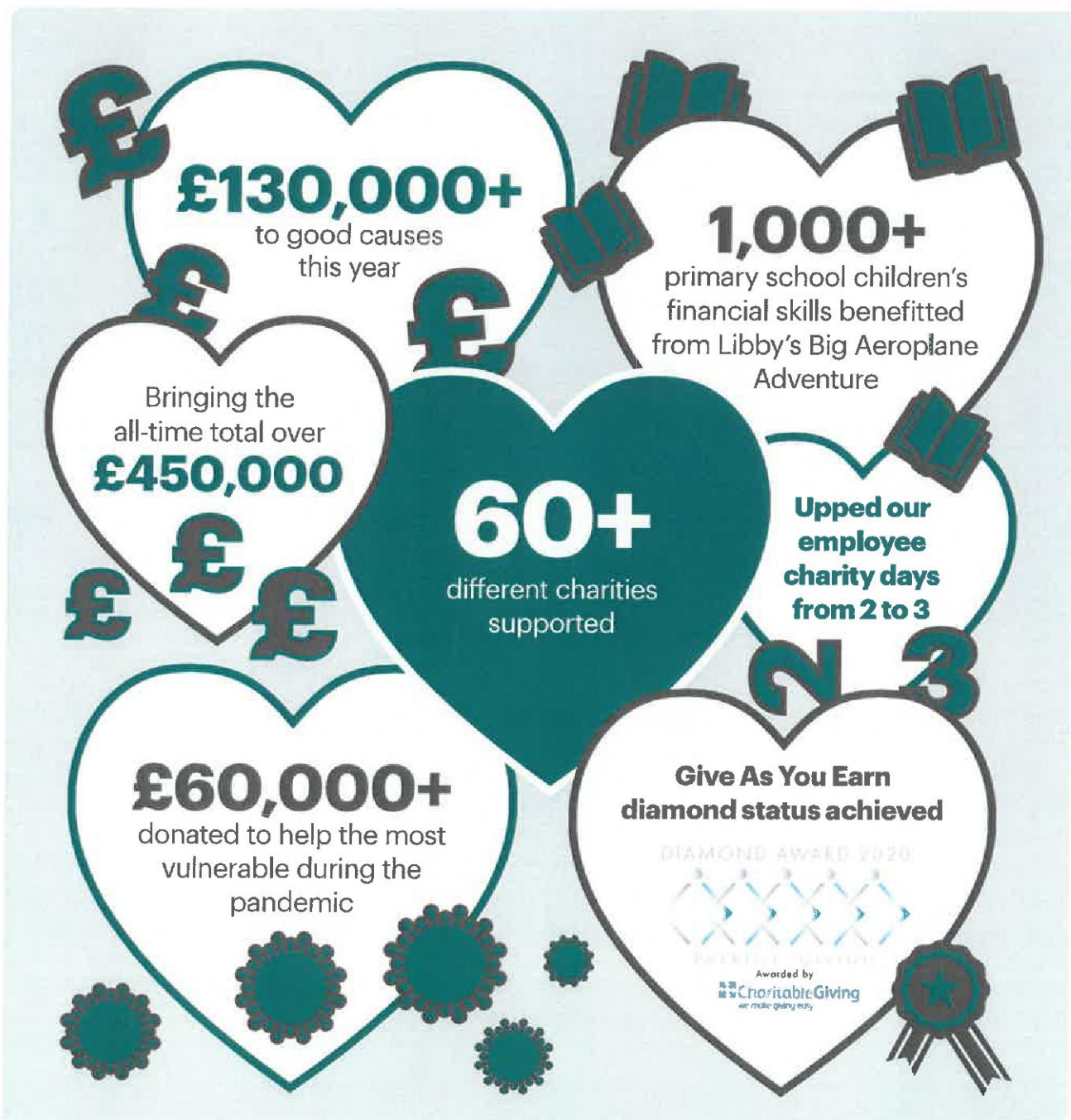
Chair of the Equilibrium Foundation

# Making people's lives better

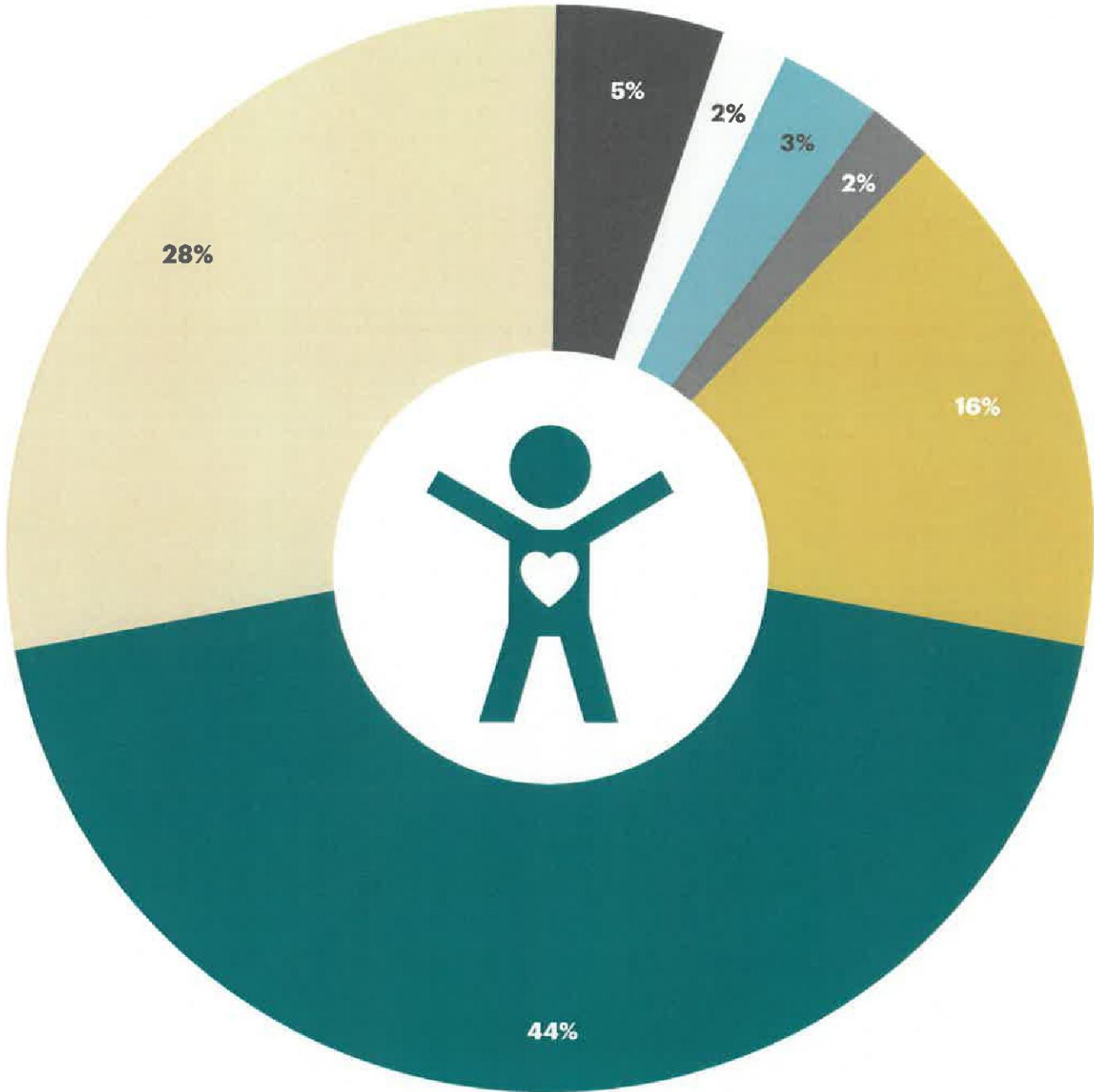
## Achievements and performance

The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better, by supporting charitable causes, with a particular focus on the North West of England.

We support a wide range of organisations, with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities, and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.



# Breakdown of sectors over 63 charities supported



-  Sports
-  Art, culture & humanities
-  Community development
-  Community service
-  Education
-  Healthcare
-  Human services

# How we made a difference

We supported over 60 charities this year who are all doing incredible work in our community. Below are just some of the ways we have been able to support these organisations.

## Libby

Two out of three teachers say financial education in the UK is somewhat or very ineffective and that their schools lack the skills needed to teach financial education.

Our financial skills project, 'Libby's Big Aeroplane Adventure' is designed to provide teachers with the materials they need to effectively teach children about finance in a fun, engaging way.

The project continued to grow despite the last training session of the year being cancelled due to the pandemic. Over 1,000 children benefited from the project over 17 different schools, bringing the total amount of children who have taken part up to over 3,250. It also won 'Best Financial Education Initiative' at the Money Marketing awards which recognise the achievements of the financial advice industry.

If you find it hard to believe that we've made finance fun, have a read of what a year 5 pupil said about the Libby project: "To Mr. Evans and grandad. When you came to teach us about financial skills I thought from first impressions you looked nice. My favourite part had to be when we did budget work. I think it was a good idea. If it was me, I would have spent loads. I think it was a very good experience. Thank you. Hope you come again."

## hullo

hullo, formerly known as chit-chat, was founded in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and provides a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for people to have conversation, adopting a proactive approach to tackling isolation and promoting positive mental wellbeing.

Following a £10,000 donation from Equilibrium Financial Planning, it has been able to hire its first fully paid member of staff, a community and partnerships manager.

Lewis Alexander Baxter, the organisation's Founder, explained: "After speaking with Equilibrium's Founder, Colin Lawson, it was immediately clear that philanthropy and supporting the community is a huge part of their company's ethos. As one of our first corporate partners, we're thrilled to be on this journey together and excited to see the positive difference we can make nationwide."

## COVID response

We donated over £60,000 to charities helping the most vulnerable in society following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NHS and its workers did an outstanding job, and we wanted to support them as much as possible. As well as donating to a variety of causes to support the NHS, we provided 500 lunches for its workers by donating £1,500 to the NHS Big Lunch Box. Our very own Julie-Anne Jackson, Office Manager, was also able to make 100 PPE visors for NHS workers with a donation of £300.

Many domestic abuse victims were in a very dangerous position during lockdown, so we donated £5,000 to Stockport without Abuse who provide support for these victims. We also gave £5,000 each to Barnabus and Pure Insight as part of our response. Barnabus provides a lifeline to homeless people, and Pure Insight mentors young care leavers.

We also donated £4,000 to various local foodbanks to help those who were struggling.

As well as this, we gave £5,000 to East Cheshire Hospice, who provide fantastic end of life care to people in the area. The organisation said, "The Hospice has lost many of our sustainable income streams overnight including the cancellation of our events and the closure of our retail stores, so this significant donation will go long way in ensuring we can continue to support our patients and provide our expert palliative care services to those who need them."

## Winter fuel allowance

Our winter fuel campaign offers the opportunity for people to donate their winter fuel payment to help those who really need it. We are proud to say that many of our clients are signed up to this campaign, and their donations have made a really positive difference to a lot of lives across the UK.

Friends of the Elderly and the Wishing Well Project are two organisations that work to help the elderly and vulnerable in society. As well as both charities receiving over £4,000 each, our clients' generous donations also funded over 100 warmth packs at Age UK's winter warmth event.

Margaret Brade from Age UK, said, "Thanks to the generous support of Equilibrium we have been able to give out well over a hundred winter warmth packs. It is not only beneficial for individuals but also helps to reduce the pressure on health services.

"We have had many appreciative comments, and so on behalf of us all and especially the winter warmth pack recipients, a big thank you to Equilibrium."

Visit [www.fote.org.uk](http://www.fote.org.uk) and [www.wishingwellproject.com](http://www.wishingwellproject.com) to learn more about the valuable work these organisations do for the elderly in our community.



## A look ahead

The Equilibrium Foundation has a bright future ahead of it as we head towards our £4,000,000 target.

We have appointed Andrew Evans from Think Philanthropy to help us identify causes and organisations that can create the most positive impact in society.

One way that we will be doing this is by asking for charities to apply to be our 'charity of the year', meaning we can work with them throughout the year and support them in the most effective way possible.

Andrew will also be offering his service to our clients, allowing them to identify what exactly they'd like to achieve from their philanthropic giving and finding the right organisations to work with.

Our Libby's Big Aeroplane project will be moving online, utilising Teams for online teacher training sessions so that we can continue to support schools safely throughout the pandemic.

We will, of course, continue to support as many affected areas as possible to ensure the most vulnerable in our society are protected.

We can't wait to see all the positive impacts the Foundation will have over the next few years.

## Objectives and activities

The Equilibrium Foundation exists to make people's lives better by supporting charitable causes with a particular focus on the North West of England.

We support a wide range of organisations with a particular emphasis on education and disability charities and on helping people experiencing all sorts of disadvantages to have better opportunities for learning and employment.

The principal objective of the charity is to promote and assist, through the provision of grants and other financial assistance, charitable activities and other charitable organisations which may be nominated by the staff and clients of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

We want to have the maximum possible impact, so we mostly support new and smaller charities (typically with incomes of less than £100,000 a year). Grants are normally between £2,000 and £10,000 and we sometimes offer support for more than one year.

In supporting the activities of our fundraisers and in making charitable donations, the trustees have been mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

## Structure and governance

The governing document is a trust deed dated 8 June 2010. The charity is constituted a trust. Trustees who are employed by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP are appointed or reappointed on a five-year basis. External trustees are appointed or reappointed every three years.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration or

benefits. No charges or costs are paid by the charity as all these are borne by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP.

An in-house finance team oversee the finances for the trust and there is minimal risk of fraud. Professional insurance is in place to mitigate risks and provide indemnity cover for the trustees, public liability cover and legal expenses.

## Financial review

### Brief statement on the charity's policy reserves

It is the charity's policy that any balance held by The Foundation in excess of £2,000 (surplus cash over and above any restricted donations or committed funds) is to be distributed. The trustees will ask the staff of Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP to suggest suitable charitable recipients.

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report

**Signature(s):**



**Full name:** Debbie Jukes

**Position:** Chair

**Date:** 30 June 2021

# Reference and administration details

**Charity name:** The Equilibrium Foundation

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

**Charity's principal address:** Ascot House, Epsom Avenue, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3DF

**Accountants:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

**Auditors:** Azets, Ship Canal House, 98 King St, Manchester M2 4WU

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
D Jukes	Chairman		
C Lawson			
G Rigby			
B Rogers			
S Warburton		Resigned 01/09/2019 Reappointed 12/12/2019	
J Watmore		Appointed 12/12/2019	
J Mountford		Resigned 12/12/2019	
R Howe		Appointed 01/12/2019 Resigned 12/12/2019	

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation, sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you, in connection with your examination of the charity's receipts and payments account (the 'account') and a statement of assets and liabilities (the 'statement') as its annual statement of account for the year ended 31 August 2020.

1. We acknowledge, as trustees our collective responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 for presenting the account and statement and confirm that we have approved the account and statement for the year ended 31 August 2020. We also acknowledge our responsibility for making accurate representations to you. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your assignment and all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including

minutes of all trustee and management meetings, have been made available to you.

2. We confirm that the charity is entitled to prepare receipts and payments accounts and is eligible for an independent examination of its account and statement, and that there are no circumstances which we should draw to your attention which would invalidate this eligibility. We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

3. All grants, donation and other incoming resources, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period in the application of such incoming resources.

4. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets except as disclosed to you.

5. Other than those disclosed, the charity has not entered into any transactions or has balances outstanding involving trustees, officers or other related parties, which require disclosure under the law. If relevant, appropriate disclosure has been made of the control of the charity.

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implantation of internal controls to prevent and detect errors or fraud, and have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the account and statement may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We are unaware of any irregularities, including fraud and suspected fraud, involving management, employees or others who have significant roles in internal control, or those employed by the charity where the

fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice.

7. We are unaware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the charity's constitution which might result in the charity suffering significant penalties or other loss. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice. We confirm that the charity has had no non-routine communication with Charity Commission during or since the period of which you are unaware.

8. We have reviewed the affairs of the charity and confirm that no income is subject to income or capital gains tax. We have also reviewed the VAT treatment in relation to contractual services provided by the charity and confirm that VAT has been correctly accounted for.

9. The account and statement have been prepared on the going concern basis as we believe that adequate cash and resources will be available to cover the charity's requirements for working capital and capital expenditure for at least the next twelve months.

10. There have been no events since the reporting date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the account and statement or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

# Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/09/2019 to 31/08/2020

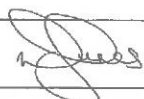
## Receipts and payments accounts

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts	89,078	43,869	0	132,947	85,805
A2 Asset and investment sales	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>89,078</b>	<b>43,869</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132,947</b>	<b>85,805</b>
A3 Payments	40,337	91,105	0	131,442	84,763
A4 Asset and investment purchases	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>40,337</b>	<b>91,105</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>131,442</b>	<b>84,763</b>
<b>Net of receipts</b>	<b>48,741</b>	<b>-47,236</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>1,042</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-43,575	43,575	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,794	10,594	0	15,388	14,346
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>9,960</b>	<b>6,933</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,893</b>	<b>15,388</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	9,960	6,933	0
B2 Other monetary assets		0	0	0
B3 Investment assets		0	0	0
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		0	0	0
B5 Liabilities		0	0	0

Signed:



Name: Debbie Jukes

Date: 30 June 2021

# Independent examiner's report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of** The Equilibrium Foundation

**On accounts for the  
year ended** 31 August 2020

**Charity no (if any)** 1136933

**Set out on pages** 12

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:** 

**Name:** SUSANNA CASSEY

**Date:** 30 JUNE '21

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body:** Chartered Accountant

**Address** Azets Audit Services  
Fleet House, New Road, Lancaster LA1 1EZ



**EQUILIBRIUM**  
FOUNDATION

**Registered charity number:** 1136933

**Head Office**

Ascot House, Epsom Avenue,  
Handforth, Wilmslow,  
Cheshire SK9 3DF

**Chester Office**

19a Telford Court,  
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