



EQUILIBRIUM  
FOUNDATION

# Making people's lives better

The Equilibrium Foundation report



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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

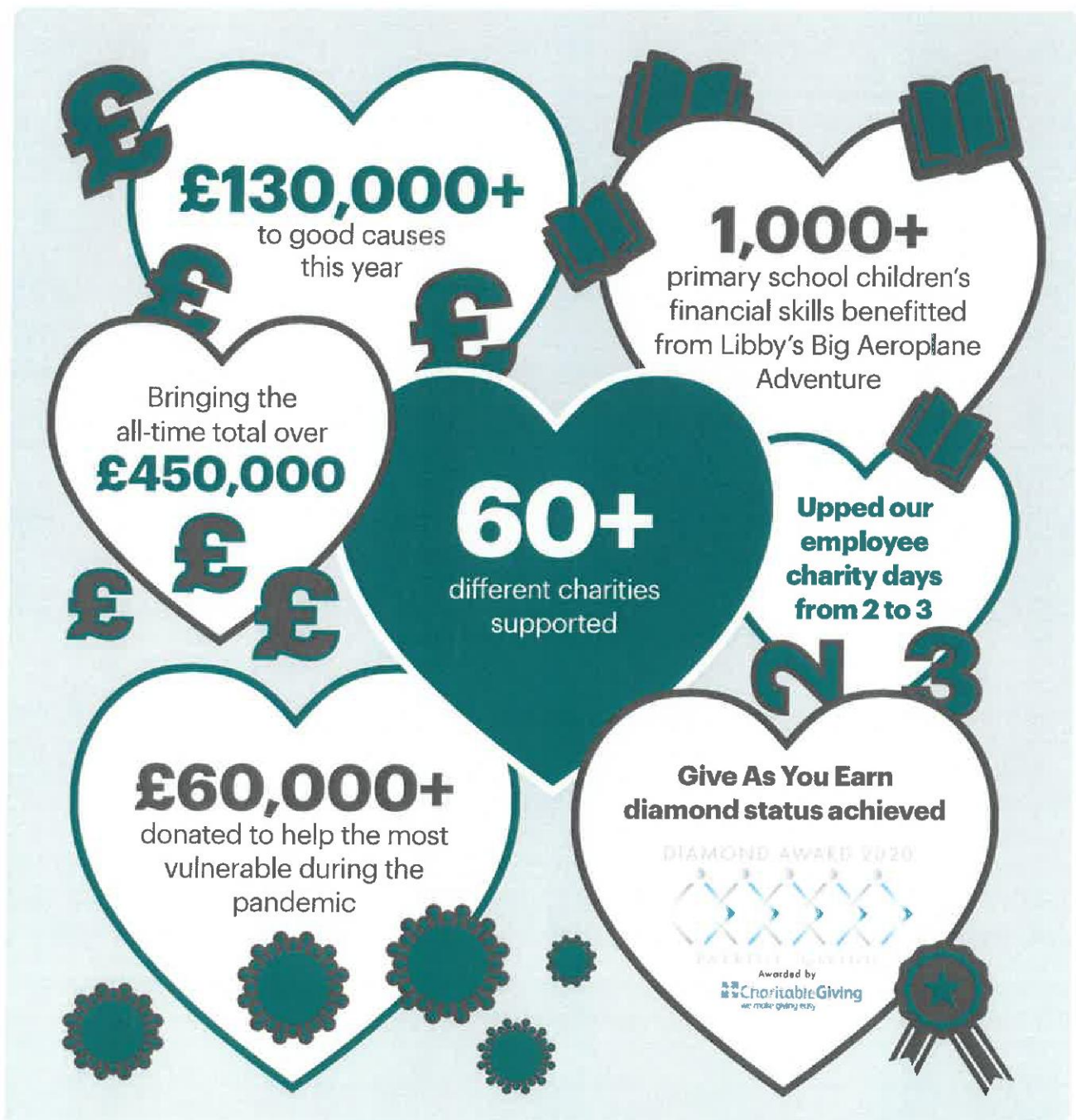


# Making people's lives better

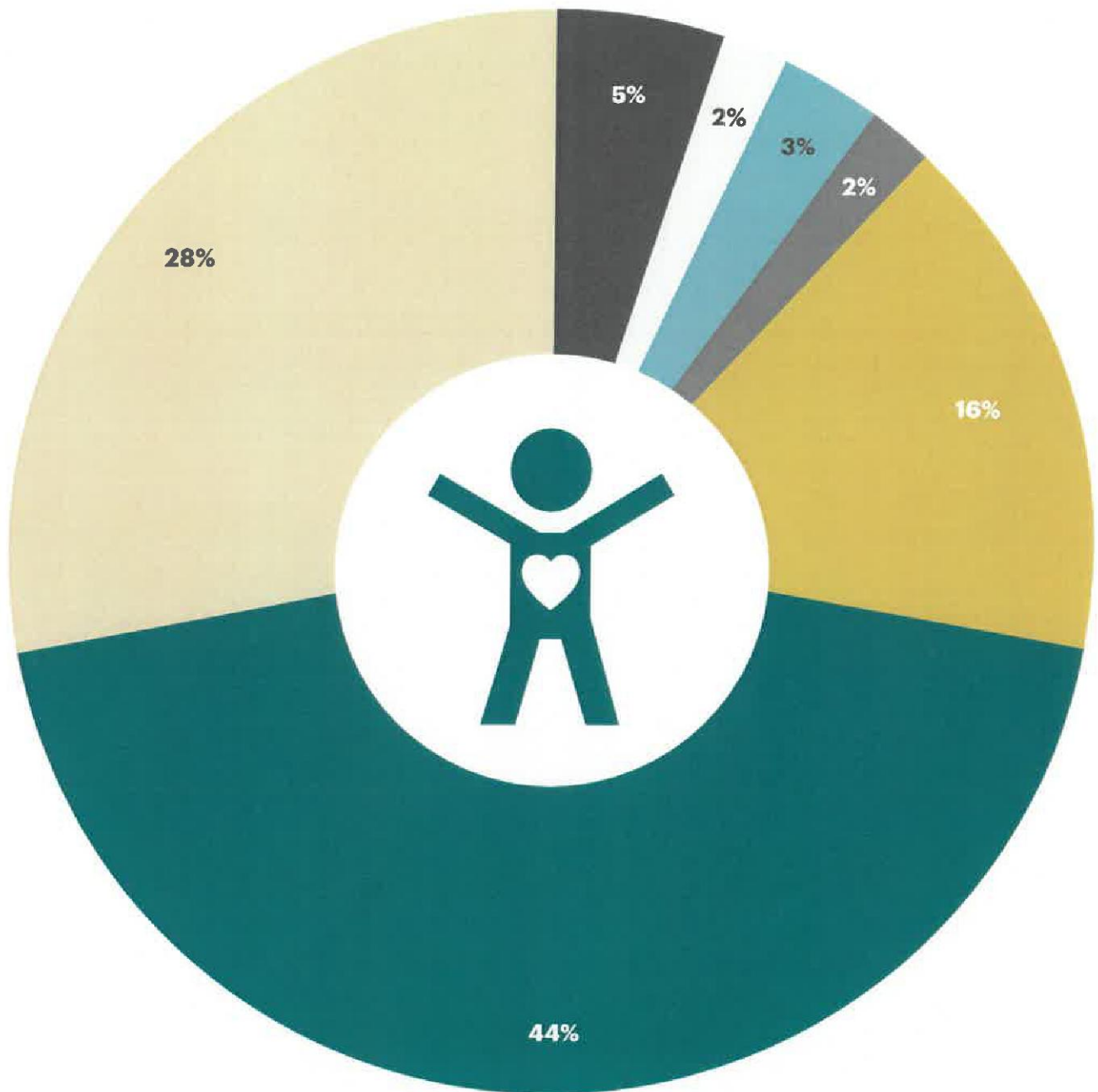
## Achievements and performance

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

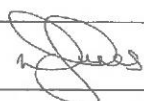
## Receipts and payments accounts

	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**

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Handforth, Wilmslow,  
Cheshire SK9 3DF

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