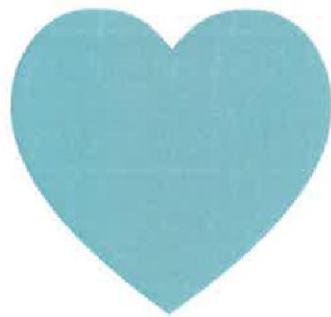
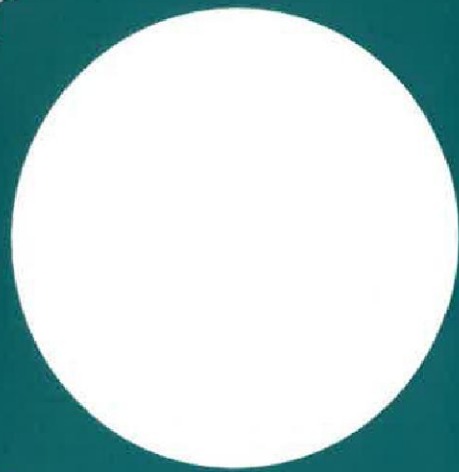




EQUILIBRIUM
FOUNDATION

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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Debbie Jukes

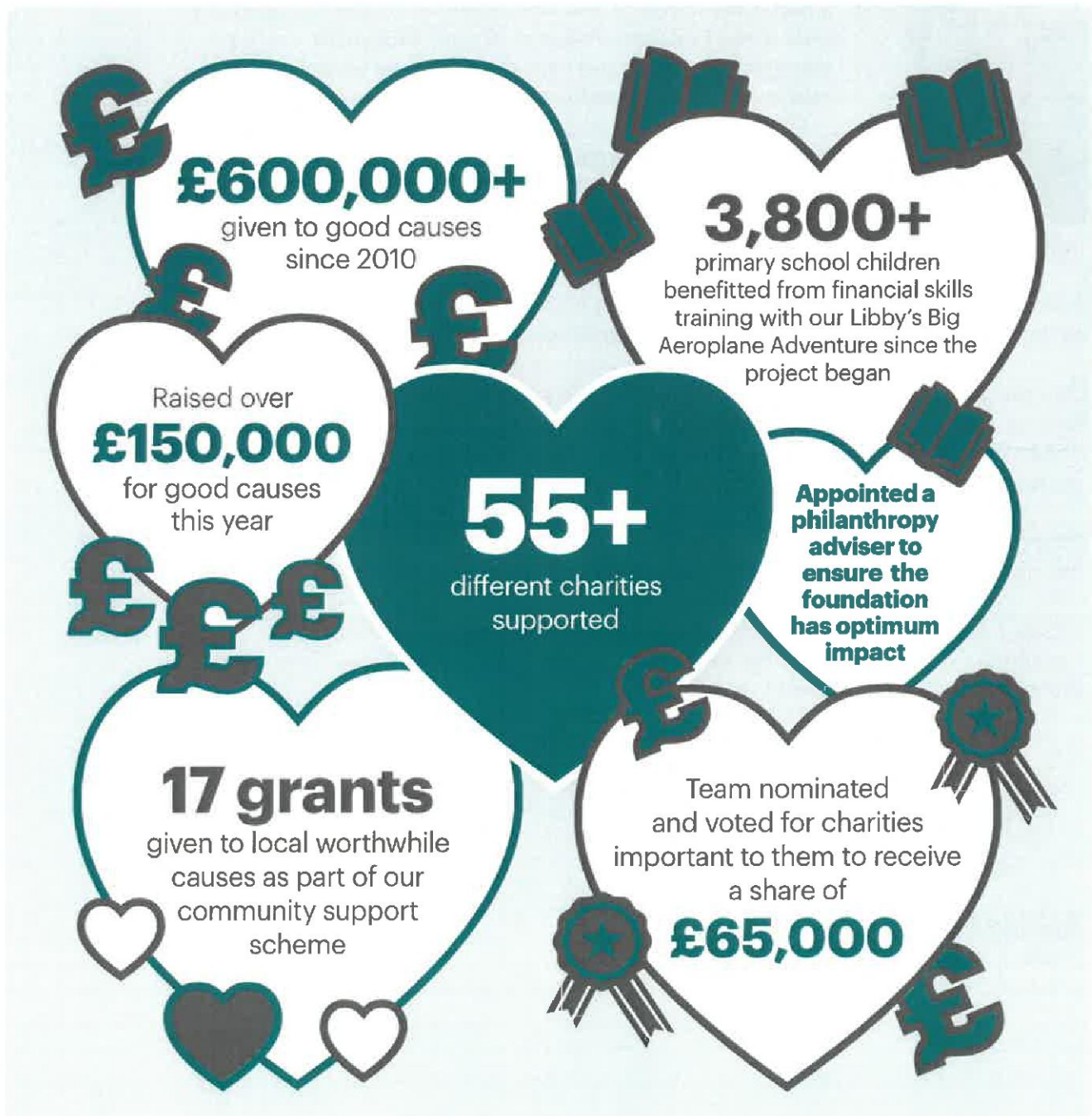
Chair of the Equilibrium Foundation

Making people's lives better

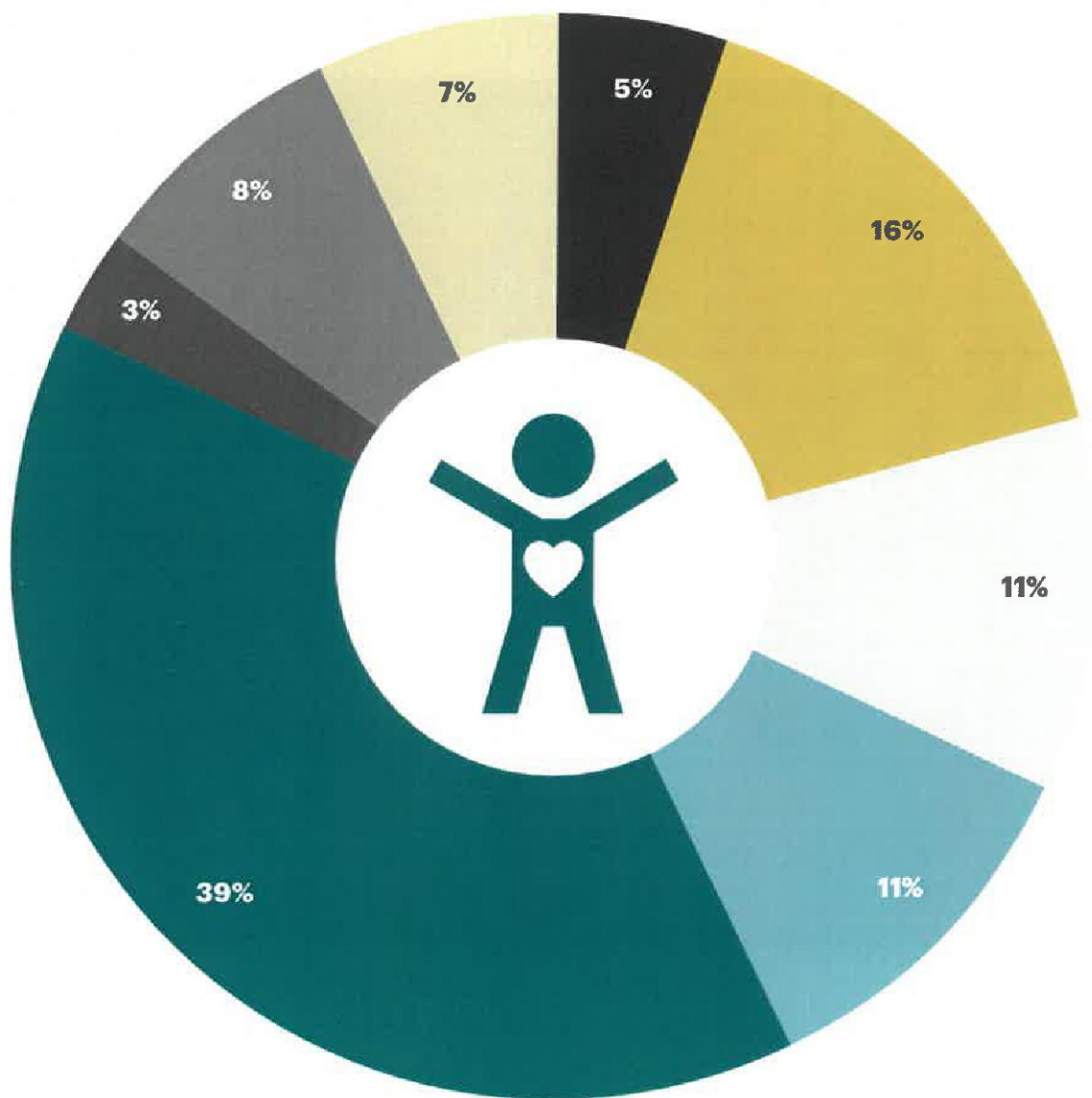
Achievements and performance

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



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.

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: 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

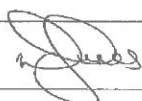
Receipts and payments accounts

	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
Total receipts	97,797	52,390	0	150,187	132,947
A3 Payments	65,261	34,002	0	99,263	131,442
A4 Asset and investment purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Total payments	65,261	34,002	0	99,263	131,442
Net of receipts	32,536	18,388	0	50,924	1,505
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
Cash funds this year end	67,817	0	0	67,817	16,893

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:

Susanna Cassey

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

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Handforth, Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 3DF

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