

ABBIE'S ARMY

England & Wales · Charity number 1149400

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2012-10-22

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

Contact

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Cobbswood Industrial Estate
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Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF SICKNESS AND PROMOTION OF THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN SUFFERING WITH BRAIN TUMOURS IN PARTICULAR,BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:1.PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF BRAIN TUMOURS IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2.PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH INTO PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION,TREATMENT AND CURE OF CHILDRENS BRAIN CANCER.

Activities: Our mission is to raise awareness and contribute much needed research funding for DIPG (Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma) brain cancer. We also aim to provide a useful resource and support for parents who receive this diagnosis for their child including help with fundraising to access possible treatments.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Scotland
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£300,932	£157,708	-	-
2024-12-31	£183,831	£211,274	-	-
2023-12-31	£137,119	£15,287	-	-
2022-12-31	£250,301	£292,498	-	-
2021-12-31	£222,748	£8,457	-	-
2020-12-31	£134,763	£158,543	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
AMANDA MIFSUD	Chair	2012-10-15
CAROLINE TAYLOR		2012-10-15
RAY MIFSUD		2012-10-15

ABBIE'S ARMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1149400

Accounts

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity No. 1149400 (England and Wales)



ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are:

The relief of sickness and promotion of the health of children suffering with DIPG/DMG brain tumours (but not exclusively) by:

- Promoting public awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people.
- Providing funding for the development of research into practical applications for the prevention, treatment, and cure of children's DIPG/DMG brain cancer.

Our mission is to:

Raise awareness and funding for DIPG/DMG research to help overturn this 'terminal' prognosis. AND to

Provide a useful resource, practical advice and support for other parents who receive this horrendous diagnosis for their child, which may include help with fundraising and directing access to any possible treatments.

Our vision is a CURE for every child diagnosed with DIPG.

These are our primary objectives which guide our work, and drive the charity forward on a daily basis.

What is DIPG?

DIPG or 'Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma' (now referred to as DMG (Diffuse Midline Glioma) in WHO classification) is the most fatal form of childhood brain cancer which grows in the 'pons' area of the brainstem. Completely inoperable, DIPG represents a huge challenge, only in recent research terms have we begun to biopsy this tumour safely which is finally yielding molecular information to researchers, creating the development of much needed targeted 'personalised' treatments based on an individual tumour profile. Currently DIPG is considered 'terminal at diagnosis' and represents around 15% of all brain cancer diagnoses in children. 40 UK children are affected every year. The average survival time from diagnosis remains staggeringly low between 9-12 months.

Our 'mission' is to raise awareness around the condition and contribute vital funds for children's DIPG/DMG brain tumour research, which as considered 'rare' is so woefully underfunded. Charities and parent-led groups are providing much of the necessary funding to support pre-clinical research for translation to promising clinical opportunities to the patient. Any adoption within the clinical trial setting, as with any medical research development it is a long and very costly endeavour.

For many charities a persistent cost-of-living crisis is still a challenge, so we are thrilled to have exceeded all donation totals from previous years, during 2025.

During the year the priority of the Trustees has remained firmly in meeting/monitoring our existing research grant commitments, including both recruiting CAR-T cell therapy trials targeting GD2 and IL13-RA2, on which we hold positions on the Trials Management Groups.

Grants to research were made during the year of £62,786 which included support to new group researchers at the University of Birmingham, on two projects. A small project grant generating data on a new dual targeted CAR-NK target, and the first year of a new PhD studentship investigating novel radiotherapy methods for DMG. The expected provision of a third milestone payment (£150,785) to UCL could **not** be released for the IL13-RA2 CAR-

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Trial 'GLIMPS', as the first 6 patients have still to be recruited at the time of writing. This will be expended during 2026 as recruitment is open.

Support to numerous UK families with research counsel and guidance where requested has also continued, and with new DIPG/DMG combination studies available in Europe offered by US based clinical trial platforms (PNOC), this has bought some possibilities at a considerable cost closer to home, although access is still limited, some have wanted to consider. Our newly designed website has become a useful tool for family support to those affected, with over 3,000 unique site visitors and 4,474 site sessions during the year.

Whilst we continue to evaluate the research landscape and new investment, we are acutely aware and reminded daily that although on the horizon, there are no National clinical trials available to newly diagnosed UK DIPG patients, at all treating centres in the UK at the time of this report.

Grant making policy

Abbie's Army is committed to raising funds and commissioning high quality and innovative medical research to find a cure for DIPG/DMG brain cancer. Grants can only be funded if they fulfil our own specific criteria for funding research, and if they are supported by our Scientific Advisories. The way in which we fund research can be found published online. Any grant recipients should always be collaborative and maximise the availability of research 'data' derived from the Grant to others with as few restrictions as possible.

We are committed to providing focused and scientifically relevant study, which can contribute to combinational approaches as research is beginning to show dual approaches are needed to be curative. We favour approaches that are innovative, harness new technologies and although translation is extremely hard, should clearly extend knowledge and inform future clinical opportunities. Ultimately, we must make the best decision for our donors with the limited resource that we have. We can achieve so much more working in collaboration with those that also have an element of DIPG/DMG research in their own remit.

Abbie's Army positively welcomes the opportunity to combine efforts with other charities and fundraising groups to make a wider impact, increase awareness of the condition with other groups, and make available funds go further.

Charitable objects for public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

As Trustees we take very seriously the responsibility to fulfil our duties, serve our objectives and deliver for public benefit our goals for supporting the effective treatment for children's DIPG/DMG brain cancer research.

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Throughout 2025 the charity continues to be driven and inspired by the numerous children affected by this brutal terminal brain cancer, we continue to promote its profile and advocate for DIPG awareness and research funding throughout the UK and within our membership of the DIPG Collaborative.

We were humbled and fortunate to have the added support of numerous families during the year that have significantly added to donations received, we're grateful to the family of Billy Thompson, Emma Medina, Aubrey Peck, Joey Ward-Bates and Amelie Zeal for their trust and support, in joining with Abbie's Army.

We must also mention 'Atlantic Fusion' a group who took on the challenge and completed an Atlantic row for Abbie's Army, raising an incredible £61,000 towards our 2025 fundraising.

A real highlight came in December 2025 when Trustees of the charity Amanda and Ray Mifsud, were honoured at a ceremony held at St James's Palace. Hosted by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, our Trustees were awarded MBE's as announced in the New Years Honours List. An incredible day marking our service for over a decade to DIPG research and support to the DIPG community.

Grants Awarded and Review of 2025

Monitoring

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – 'CARMIGO' CAR-T cells for Diffuse Midline Glioma (GD2)

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Principal Investigators Dr Karin Straathof, A/P UCL Cancer Institute and Honorary Consultant at GOSH and Prof Darren Hargrave, GOSH Charity Clinical Professor in Paediatric Neuro-Oncology and Honorary Consultant at GOSH.

In a first 'in-child' use for brain cancer of any kind, the clinical trial using CAR T-cell therapy for DIPG/DMG brain cancers, targeting GD2 is open and continuing recruitment during the year.

We hold a position within the Trials Management Group (TMG) and receive 6 monthly reports from GOSH regarding the study. Recruitment at year end was running slightly behind schedule, but the team continue to inform all their clinician partners and instruct earlier in the patient pathway.

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – 'GLIMPS' Glioma targeting IL13RA2/IL-15 multi-modular CAR T (IL13-RA2)

Principal Investigators Dr Karin Straathof, A/P UCL Cancer Institute and Honorary Consultant at GOSH and Prof Darren Hargrave, GOSH Charity Clinical Professor in Paediatric Neuro-Oncology and Honorary Consultant at GOSH.

There is a 'no-cost extension' in place for the grant awarded, as the delivery timelines have been exceeded.

The trial opened to recruitment in July 2025, at the year end recruitment was also slightly behind schedule, but as CARMIGO fills its available places, it's considered that take up will become more rapid.

This gives hope indeed that both CART trials that we have co-funded will be recruiting patients concurrently providing a solid foundation, for the subsequent CAR-T studies optimising this powerful and promising therapy that will follow in brain cancer for children in the UK.

The DIPG/DMG Collaborative – Leadership Partners

In an effort to further UK and European DIPG/DMG research advances Abbie's Army has a 'Leadership Partner' role as part of the DIPG/DMG Collaborative. The payment made towards the end of 2024 is valid for two years covering this financial year and 2026.

The DIPG / DMG Collaborative is a collection of more than 25 foundations with the common interest of inspiring research into the cure of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) and Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG) cooperatively funding millions of dollars of research worldwide and eliminating duplication. We represent the UK as the only European member of the group, voting on grant awards and the research directives of the Collaborative as approved by their Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

New Funding in 2025

The University of Birmingham (Prof Parsons Lab) – Exploiting the potential of protons and high-LET radiation in Diffuse Midline Glioma – A New PhD studentship £128,358

The 3-year project aims to investigate new precision targeted therapies, such as helium ion therapy (HIT) and boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT), for the treatment of diffuse midline gliomas (DMGs), including DIPG.

Radiotherapy is the 'standard-of-care' treatment for diffuse midline glioma (including DIPG), but radiation only achieves temporary symptom improvement, and patients eventually relapse. About 70%–80% of patients respond to radiotherapy and benefit from improved neurological symptoms and quality-of-life. However, X-rays can damage the healthy brain tissues surrounding the tumour, causing brain oedema and scarring. In contrast, precision targeted therapies can more accurately deliver the radiation dose to the tumour, and therefore are considered safer. These radiotherapy techniques have not been investigated in DMG previously, HIT and BNCT are particularly able to cause more complex DNA damage, that the cells are less able to repair, leading to a higher degree of tumour death.

The PhD project will be conducted in Professor Parsons' laboratory at the University of Birmingham in association with the Cancer Research UK RadNet Birmingham Centre of Excellence, and performed in collaboration with experts in radiation physics, radiobiology, and paediatric oncology.

The University of Birmingham –Engineering immune cell therapy for GD2-Positive Paediatric Solid Tumours - £20,000

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Investigator : Dr Ashley Vardon, NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer, Institute of Cancer and Genomic sciences

A small project grant to generate pre-clinical data has been made for preclinical study will explore a new type of immune cell therapy (CAR-NK) and test if they can safely and effectively control DMG tumour growth and crucially prevent relapse by targeting senescent cells.

Senescent cells are created during 'standard of care' radiotherapy for DIPG and chemotherapy treatment, they have been found with up-regulated markers in DMG tumours following radiotherapy. Senescent cells are unable to multiply but also don't die, and by suppressing the immune system, they promote tumour relapse through secretory methods. A dual strategy to utilise the GD2 target already recognised in CAR-T clinical trials and senescence for a more durable response.

Plans for the future

The charity will continue to be driven by its mission statement, its aims and objectives and ensure the best practice is delivered for donors and supporters.

We will continue to plan and support events to fund raise and seek opportunities to recruit charity partners to secure more sustainable and regular income streams. We are fully aware that fundraising methods can have an impact on public opinion and the reputation of our charity, and we endeavour to self-govern effectively.

As DIPG is a specific and rare childhood cancer affecting low numbers it will remain the core of our strategy to attract collaboration and invite other affected families who may want to fund raise for research purposes, but cannot see the benefit in the duplication of another charity for that same purpose.

There are currently no plans to pursue the addition of paid fundraisers or PR advertising to increase revenues.

Financial Review

Income for the year amounted to £300,932 (2024: £183,831) which comes from donations by individuals and companies.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £157,708 (2024: £211,274) During the year, grants were paid amounting to £148,358 to aid the research into DIPG.

This resulted in a surplus movement of funds for the year of £143,224 (2024: Deficit £27,443).

Reserves Policy

In accordance with the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees review on a regular basis the level of income reserves that it considers appropriate. At 31 December 2025, the Trustees consider it appropriate to hold no free reserves and have deemed all funds as designated funds, in support of its charitable objectives. The designated reserves at 31 December 2025 amounted to £750,375 (2024: £607,151).

Investment Policy

Any excess cash held is reviewed by the Trustees and placed on fixed term deposits in order to maximise income for the charity whilst ensuring cash is available when required.

Risk management

The charity Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that those systems or procedures are established to manage those risks.

As a small charity working within our structure and environment our situation is not currently overly complex, we must however address risk particularly in relation to finances as it arises with monitoring and evaluation. Our emphasis is firmly on fund raising, so maintaining transparency and full disclosure to prevent any loss of donor confidence and adverse publicity is paramount. Robust selection in grants awarded and transparency on efficacy good or bad will be reported.

Going concern

We anticipated that 2025 would not show any significant increases, we are therefore grateful to the new and higher-profile families affected by DIPG/DMG that have enabled us to attract such an uptick in donations during the year.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Despite any challenges of 2025 the charity has managed to finish the year in a strong financial position, with useful funds available to invest in suitable projects.

At the time of writing the brain tumour research landscape is shifting positively with various announcements, including unique paediatric provisions within the new 10-Year Cancer Plan. Prof Darren Hargrave is also the paediatric lead in the Brain Tumour Consortium, convened by NIHR. In December 2025 a £13.7 million investment was announced 'that will support groundbreaking research to develop novel brain tumour treatments in the UK. The funding will establish the NIHR Brain Tumour Research Consortium, a national partnership uniting 48 hospitals, universities, cancer centres and charities along with patients. This is a coordinated UK-wide effort to transform outcomes. Though capacity within the NHS to deliver clinical trials for rare cancers in children, certainly remains a challenge, additional funding for trials is also expected during 2026.

We are optimistic of our ability to monitor and fulfil existing commitments, and establish new grant awards that fulfil our research aspirations for greater clinical opportunity for children with DIPG. We remain focused on specific, and more innovative scientific questions about DIPG that require answers through funding and more creative approaches utilising new technologies never previously available.

Structure

The charity name 'Abbie's Army' is governed by charitable Trust Deed dated 21 October 2012 which was entered onto the Register of Charities on 22 October 2012 under the registration of 1149400.

Governance and Management

The Trustees of Abbie's Army are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the charity.

During the year, the following were Trustees of the charity:

A Mifsud MBE (Chair)

C Taylor

R Mifsud MBE

Apart from the first trustees every trustee must be appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting called by the appointed chairman or by at least two trustees. The governing document does not specify a minimum or maximum number of trustees.

Abbie's Army is a small parent led charity. Its governance remains solely the responsibility of the existing member Trustees who have first-hand experience of DIPG, research knowledge of the clinical landscape, and the abilities to lead the charity's work.

The Trustees govern the activities of the charity and drive it forward as necessary. Family members, friends and supporters give up their time voluntarily to administer and organise charity events and ensure the fulfilment of our aims and objectives for 'public benefit'.

No one in connection with Abbie's Army receives payment or benefits of any kind.

Our own small Scientific Advisory team is comprised of leading experts spanning the globe in children's DIPG brain cancer research and/or administering technologies to develop new treatment strategies. Following principles of peer review for any grant awarded you can be assured of full impartiality from reviewers with complete independence from the charity Trustees. Advisories will not be current beneficiaries when/if selected to review grant applications, there will be a balance of disciplines and experience depending on the nature and monetary value of the grant.

After external expert review, they will make recommendations to ensure that Abbie's Army is fulfilling its remit to fund the most promising DIPG research projects, with its limited resource. The ultimate funding decision based on these recommendations remains with the Trustees.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

.....

Mrs A Mifsud MBE

Trustee

Date: 15 May 2026

ABBIE'S ARMY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- 1 accounts records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

M A Wilkes FCA
Azets Audit Services

9 June 2026

First Floor, River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent DA14 5RH

ABBIE'S ARMY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds	2024 Unrestricted funds
		Total £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations		295,974	180,780
Sales of merchandise		3,775	2,851
Gift aid		1,183	200
Total income		300,932	183,831
Expenditure on:			
Cost of raising funds			
Costs of merchandise		193	1,634
Events		-	1,330
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		4,223	562
Cost of charitable activities			
Grants awarded	2	148,358	196,838
Upkeep of Alpacas		1,184	-
Advertising		82	3,644
Website and website hosting costs		922	5,083
Insurance		263	263
Independent examiner's fees		2,070	1,920
Sundry expenses		413	-
Total expenditure		157,708	211,274
Net movement in funds		143,224	(27,443)
Funds brought forward 1 January 2025		607,151	634,594
Funds carried forward 31 December 2025		750,375	607,151

All income in 2025 and 2024 was derived from unrestricted sources.

ABBIE'S ARMY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION ONLY	Notes	2024	
		Unrestricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations		180,780	180,780
Sales of merchandise		2,851	2,851
Gift aid		200	200
Total income		183,831	183,831
Expenditure on:			
Cost of raising funds			
Costs of merchandise		1,634	1,634
Events		1,330	1,330
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		562	562
Cost of charitable activities			
Grants awarded	2	196,838	196,838
Upkeep of Alpacas		-	-
Advertising		3,644	3,644
Website and website hosting costs		5,083	5,083
Insurance		263	263
Independent examiner's fees		1,920	1,920
Depreciation / impairment		-	-
Total expenditure		211,274	211,274
Net movement in funds		(27,443)	(27,443)
Funds brought forward 1 January 2024		634,594	634,594
Funds carried forward 31 December 2024		607,151	607,151

ABBIE'S ARMY**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4		12,650		12,650
Current Assets					
Stock of merchandise		1,000		1,000	
Debtors	5	369		282	
Current asset investment	6	500,000		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		323,998		595,139	
		<u>825,367</u>		<u>596,421</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(44,856)</u>		<u>(1,920)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>780,511</u>		<u>594,501</u>
			793,161		607,151
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(42,786)		-
Net assets			<u>750,375</u>		<u>607,151</u>
Funds					
Designated funds - DIPG research	9		471,340		607,151
Designated funds - UCL Great Ormond					
Street Institute of Child Health	9		193,463		-
Designated funds - University of Birmingham	9		85,572		-
			<u>750,375</u>		<u>607,151</u>

15 May 2026

Approved by the Board of trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
TrusteeR Mifsud
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

Abbie's Army is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities detailed in the Trustees' Annual Report on page 2 under the heading 'Objectives and activities'.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Funds accounting

Unrestricted general funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income including donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and staging and entering fundraising events.
- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their

Alpacas	Not Depreciated
Fixtures and Fittings	20% Straight line

The cost of acquisition of animals is capitalised to the extent a value can be placed upon them. Subsequent births and deaths are not included on the Balance Sheet.

ABBIE'S ARMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.6 Stock

Stock held comprises stock provided as part of charitable activity. Stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.9 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believes that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

1.10 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no areas of judgement or key estimations.

2 GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAYABLE

	2025 £	2024 £
Grants to institutions		
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	-	158,553
University of Birmingham	20,000	-
University of Birmingham - 3 year PhD Studentship	128,358	-
DIPG Collaborative	-	38,285
	<u>148,358</u>	<u>196,838</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No staff are employed by the charity.

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses incurred during the year (2024: £Nil).

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Alpacas £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Total £
Cost			
As at 1 January 2025 and at 31 December 2025	<u>12,650</u>	<u>3,029</u>	<u>15,679</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2025 and at 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>3,029</u>	<u>3,029</u>
Net Book value			
As at 31 December 2025	<u>12,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,650</u>
As at 31 December 2024	<u>12,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,650</u>

ABBIE'S ARMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

5 DEBTORS	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	369	183
6 CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENT	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash on deposit	500,000	1,000
7 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants payable	42,786	-
Accruals	2,070	1,800
	44,856	1,800

The charity awarded a grant to UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health which is payable in instalments as part of a four year funding agreement. Each year is subject to various milestones being reached. The total amount of funding is £477,016. To date, the first and second instalment, amounting to £283,553, have been paid and the remaining two instalments have not been recognised as there are conditions to be met before each is released. The third milestone, which requires the recruitment of 6 patients, has not yet been reached. As a result, the third grant instalment has not been provided for.

8 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants payable	42,786	-
	42,786	-

9 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	New designation £	Designation released £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
DIPG research	607,151		(193,463)	413,688
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	-	193,463	-	193,463
University of Birmingham	-	85,572	-	85,572
	607,151	279,035	(193,463)	692,723

DIPG research	Funds available to fund future DIPG research
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial
University of Birmingham	Exploiting the potential of protons and high-LET radiation in Diffuse Midline Glioma – A New PhD studentship

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year Mrs A Mifsud paid the following costs, as a donation, on behalf of the charity:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Advertising	82	180
Lottery License	20	20
Website hosting	360	-
Printing	193	184
	655	384

During the year BTL-UK Ltd paid £3,964 (2024: £7,192) for advertising, upkeep of alpaca's and independent examiner's fees. R S Mifsud and Mrs A Mifsud are directors of BTL-UK Limited.

ABBIE'S ARMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1149400

Accounts

ABBIE'S ARMY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity No. 1149400 (England and Wales)



ABBIE'S ARMY
FIGHT KIDS BRAIN CANCER

ABBIE'S ARMY

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ABBIE'S ARMY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	A Mifsud, MBE (Chair) C Taylor R Mifsud, MBE
Charity Number	1149400
Principal Address	MPT House Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate Brunswick Road Ashford Kent TN23 1EL
Independent Examiner	M A Wilkes FCA Azets Audit Services First Floor,River House 1 Maidstone Road Sidcup Kent DA14 5RH
Banker	Lloyds Bank PLC 29 Bank Street Ashford Kent TN24 8SS

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are:

The relief of sickness and promotion of the health of children suffering with DIPG brain tumours in particular, but not exclusively by:

- 1 Promoting public awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people;
- 2 Providing funding for the development of research into practical applications for the prevention, treatment and cure of children's DIPG brain cancer.

'Our mission is to:

Raise awareness and funding for DIPG research to help overturn this 'terminal' prognosis. AND

Provide a useful resource, practical advice and support for other parents who receive this horrendous diagnosis for their child, which may include help with fundraising to access possible treatments.

Our vision is a world where there is a CURE for every child diagnosed with DIPG.

These are our primary objectives which guide our work and drive the charity forward daily.

What is DIPG?

DIPG or 'Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma' is the MOST FATAL form of childhood brain cancer which grows in the 'pons' area of the brainstem. Completely inoperable, DIPG represents a huge challenge, only in recent research terms have we begun to biopsy this tumour safely which is finally yielding molecular information to researchers, creating the development of much needed targeted treatments based on an individual tumour profile. Currently DIPG is considered 'terminal at diagnosis' and represents around 15% of all brain cancer diagnoses in children. 40 UK children are affected every year. The average survival time from diagnosis remains staggeringly low between 9-12 months.

Our 'mission' is to RAISE awareness around the condition and contribute much needed funds for children's DIPG/DMG brain tumour research, which whilst considered 'rare' is so woefully underfunded. The facts are inescapable, there is no direct Government funding for DIPG research leaving charities to provide much of the necessary funding to support the pre-clinical data required for translation to promising opportunities to the patient. Any adoption within the clinical trial setting as with any medical research development it is a long and very costly endeavour.

For many charities the persistent cost-of-living crisis continues to impact operations and the fundraising climate during 2024.

During the year the priority of the Trustees has remained firmly in meeting/monitoring all our existing research grant commitments including the outstanding implementation of a second CAR-T cell therapy trial targeting IL13-RA2 for children with DMG in the UK.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities (continued)

What is DIPG?

Grants to research were made during the year of £196,838 which we are pleased to say included the second milestone payment (£158,553) to UCL for this second CAR-T trial, with every hope that the 'GLIMPS' will open at the end of 2024 or early 2025.

Our support to numerous UK families with research counsel and guidance where requested has also continued, and with new DIPG/DMG combination studies available in Europe offered by US based clinical trial platforms (PNOC) this has bought some possibilities at a considerable cost closer to home, that some have wanted to consider.

Whilst we continue to evaluate the research landscape and new investment, we are acutely aware and reminded daily that though on the horizon, there remains NO National clinical trial available to newly diagnosed UK DIPG patients at the time of writing this report.

Grant Making Policy

Abbie's Army is committed to raising funds and commissioning high quality and innovative medical research to find a cure for DIPG. Grants can only be funded if they fulfil our own specific criteria for funding research and if they are supported by our Scientific Advisories. The way in which we fund research can be found published online on our newly revamped website. Any grant recipients should always be collaborative and maximise the availability of research 'data' derived from the Grant to others with as few restrictions as possible.

We are committed to providing targeted and biologically relevant study, which contributes to combinational approaches as research is beginning to show this will be needed to be curative. We favour approaches that are medically progressive and translational with clear path to informing future clinical trials, ultimately, we must make the best decision for our donors with the limited resource that we have. Quite simply put the more we have the more we can achieve.

Abbie's Army positively welcomes the opportunity to combine efforts with other charities and fundraising groups to make a wider impact, particularly to make funds go further in a difficult financial climate.

Charitable Objects for Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

As Trustees we take very seriously the responsibility to fulfil our duties, serve our objectives and deliver for public benefit our goals for supporting the effective treatment for children's DIPG/DMG brain cancer research.

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Throughout 2024 the charity continues to be driven and inspired by the numerous children affected by this vicious terminal brain cancer, we continue to promote its profile and advocate for DIPG awareness and research funding throughout the UK.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Grants awarded and Review of 2024

Monitoring:

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – CARMIGO CAR-T cells for Diffuse Midline Glioma (GD2)

Principal Investigators Dr Karin Straathof, A/P UCL Cancer Institute and Honorary Consultant at GOSH and Prof Darren Hargrave, GOSH Charity Clinical Professor in Paediatric Neuro-Oncology and Honorary Consultant at GOSH.

In a first 'in-child' use for brain cancer of any kind the clinical trial using CAR T-cell therapy for DIPG/DMG brain cancers, targeting GD2 opened and continued recruitment during the year.

We hold a position within the Trials Management Group (TMG) and receive 6 monthly reports from GOSH regarding the study. Recruitment at year end was running slightly behind schedule, but the team continue to inform all their clinician partners and instruct earlier in the patient pathway.

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – GLIMPS IL13-RA2 – UCL Dr Karin Straathof £477,016

We were pleased to forward a second instalment consistent with research milestones achieved on this grant to UCL researchers of £158,553.00. Meaning all the regulatory approvals were in place.

There is now a 'no-cost extension' for this grant as the delivery timelines have been exceeded. With all the regulatory submissions met, at the time of writing R&D sign off from GOSH has now been attained and the trial has opened, pending its first recruited patient. We would envisage further payment to be due in October 2025, or when the first 6 patients are treated in line with the next milestone.

This gives hope indeed that both CART trials we have now co-funded will be recruiting patients concurrently providing a real foundation for subsequent CAR-T studies to follow in brain cancer for children in the UK.

The DIPG/DMG Collaborative - Grant awarded: \$50,000 (£38,284.63)

In an effort to further UK and European DIPG/DMG research advances Abbie's Army has once again joined the DIPG/DMG Collaborative as Leadership Partners.

The DIPG / DMG Collaborative is now a collection of more than 25 foundations with the common interest of inspiring research into the cure of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) and Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG) cooperatively funding millions of dollars of research worldwide and eliminating duplication.

We are excited again to be representing the UK as the only European member of the group alongside many likeminded foundations from the US and Australia. Our funds will support the research directives of the Collaborative as approved by their Medical Advisory Council (MAC) and Symposium funding. Leadership Partners are also voting members for general operations of the DIPG/DMG Collaborative and committed to a 2-year agreement.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Plans for the Future

The charity will continue to be driven by its mission statement, its aims and objectives and ensure the best practice is delivered for our supporters.

In September during 'Childhood Cancer Awareness Month' Abbie's Army relaunched its new website. We have no doubt that this will be more functional in highlighting the work we do, whilst keeping DIPG/DMG children at its heart and importantly be an invaluable resource for parents. Taking us into the future with a professional profile to attract additional donors.

We will continue to plan and support events to fund raise and seek opportunities to recruit charity partners to secure more sustainable and regular income streams. We are fully aware that fundraising methods can have an impact on public opinion and the reputation of our charity, and we endeavour to self-govern effectively.

As DIPG is a specific and rare childhood cancer affecting low numbers it will remain the core of our strategy to attract collaboration and invite other affected families who may want to fund raise for research purposes, but cannot see the benefit in the duplication of another charity for that same purpose.

There are currently no plans to pursue the addition of paid fundraisers or PR advertising to increase revenues.

Financial Review

Income for the year amounted to £183,831 (2023: £137,119) which comes from donations by individuals and companies.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £211,274 (2023: £15,287). During the year, grants were paid amounting to £196,837.63 (2023: £3,000) to aid the research into DIPG.

This resulted in a deficit for the year of £27,443 (2023: Surplus of £121,832).

Reserves Policy

In accordance with the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees review on a regular basis the level of income reserves that it considers appropriate. At 31 December 2024, the Trustees consider it appropriate to hold no free reserves and have deemed all funds as designated funds, in support of its charitable objectives. The designated reserves at 31 December 2024 amounted to £607,151 (2023: £634,594).

Investment Policy

The investments held by the charity were inherited from previous trustees and committees. No change is foreseen by the current Board of Trustees.

Risk Management

The charity Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that those systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

As a small charity working within our structure and environment our situation is not currently overly complex, we must however address risk particularly in relation to finances as it arises with monitoring and evaluation. Our emphasis is firmly on fund raising, so maintaining transparency and full disclosure to prevent any loss of donor confidence and adverse publicity is paramount. Robust selection in grants awarded and transparency on efficacy good or bad will be reported.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Going Concern

The Trustees in reviewing the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them are currently facing challenges from the persistent cost of living crisis. We anticipated that 2024 would not show any significant increases, we are therefore grateful to the new and higher-profile families affected by DIPG/DMG that enabled us to attract an uptick in donations during the year.

Despite the challenges of 2024 the charity has managed to finish the year in a strong financial position, with funds to invest in suitable projects.

At the time of writing, we are hopeful that minimal timeframes may now be more achievable for new research implementations, though capacity within the NHS to deliver clinical trials for rare cancers in children, certainly remains a challenge. Along with gaining the necessary regulatory approvals in timely fashion for more innovative studies.

We are optimistic of our ability to monitor and fulfil existing commitments, and establish new grants awards that fulfil our research aspirations within the current economic environment. National charities have also moved into the paediatric space after a number of absent years. This could provide potentially more sustainable income streams, allowing us to be more focused on specific and more innovative scientific questions about DIPG that require funding and more creative approaches.

Structure

The charity name '**Abbie's Army**' is governed by charitable Trust Deed dated 21 October 2012 which was entered onto the Register of Charities on 22 October 2012 under the registration of 1149400.

Governance and Management

The Trustees of Abbie's Army are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the charity.

During the year the following were Trustees of the charity:

A Mifsud, MBE (Chair)
C Taylor
R Mifsud, MBE

Apart from the first Trustees every Trustee must be appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting called by the appointed chairman or by at least two Trustees. The governing document does not specify a minimum or maximum number of Trustees.

Abbie's Army is a small parent led charity. Its governance remains solely the responsibility of the existing member Trustees who have first-hand experience of DIPG, research knowledge of the clinical landscape and abilities to lead the charity's work.

The Trustees govern the activities of the charity and drive it forward on a daily basis, family members and friends give up their time voluntarily to administer and organise charity events, and ensure the fulfilment of our aims and objectives for 'public benefit'.

No one in connection with Abbie's Army receives payment or benefits of any kind.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Governance and Management

Our own small Scientific Advisory panel is comprised of leading experts spanning the globe in children's DIPG brain cancer research and/or administering technologies to develop new treatment strategies. Following principles of peer review for any grant awarded you can be assured of full impartiality from reviewers with complete independence from the charity Trustees. Advisories will not be current beneficiaries when selected to review grant applications, there will be a balance of disciplines and experience depending on the nature and monetary value of the grant.

After external expert review, they will make recommendations to ensure that Abbie's Army is fulfilling its remit to fund the most promising DIPG research projects, with its limited resource. The ultimate funding decision based on these recommendations remains with the Trustees.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

Date: 6 September 2025

ABBIE'S ARMY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- 1 accounts records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

M A Wilkes FCA
Azets Audit Services

8 September 2025
First Floor, River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent DA14 5RH

ABBIE'S ARMY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	2024	2023
		Unrestricted Total £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations		180,780	135,243
Sales of merchandise		2,851	1,876
Gift aid		200	-
Total income		183,831	137,119
Expenditure on:			
Cost of raising funds			
Costs of merchandise		1,634	923
Events		1,330	97
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		562	1,362
Cost of charitable activities			
Grants awarded	2	196,838	3,000
Advertising		3,644	4,123
Website and website hosting costs		5,083	270
Insurance		263	262
Independent examiner's fees		1,920	1,800
Depreciation / impairment		-	3,450
Total expenditure		211,274	15,287
Net movement in funds		(27,443)	121,832
Funds brought forward 1 January 2024		634,594	512,762
Funds carried forward 31 December 2024		607,151	634,594

All income in 2024 was derived from unrestricted sources.

ABBIE'S ARMY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

CMPARATIVE INFORMATION ONLY		Notes	2023	
			Unrestricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:				
	Donations		135,243	135,243
	Sales of merchandise		1,876	1,876
	Gift aid		-	-
Total income			137,119	137,119
Expenditure on:				
Cost of raising funds				
	Costs of merchandise		923	923
	Events		97	97
	Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		1,362	1,362
Cost of charitable activities				
	Grants awarded	2	3,000	3,000
	Upkeep of Alpacas		-	-
	Advertising		4,123	4,123
	Website and website hosting costs		270	270
	Insurance		262	262
	Independent examiner's fees		1,800	1,800
	Depreciation / impairment		3,450	3,450
Total expenditure			15,287	15,287
Net movement in funds			121,832	121,832
Funds brought forward 1 January 2023			512,762	512,762
Funds carried forward 31 December 2023			634,594	634,594

ABBIE'S ARMY**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4		12,650		12,650
Current Assets					
Stock	5	1,000		1,000	
Debtors	6	282		183	
Cash at bank and in hand		595,139		622,561	
		<u>596,421</u>		<u>623,744</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(1,920)</u>		<u>(1,800)</u>	
Net current assets			594,501		621,944
Net assets			<u>607,151</u>		<u>634,594</u>
Funds					
Designated funds - DIPG research			<u>607,151</u>		<u>634,594</u>

Approved by the Board of trustees on 6 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

R Mifsud
Trustee

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

Abbie's Army is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities detailed in the Trustees' Annual Report on page 2 under the heading 'Objectives and activities'.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Funds accounting

Unrestricted general funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income including donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and staging and entering fundraising events.
- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their

Alpacas	Not Depreciated
Fixtures and Fittings	20% Straight line

The cost of acquisition of animals is capitalised to the extent a value can be placed upon them. Subsequent births and deaths are not included on the Balance Sheet.

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.6 Stock

Stock held comprises stock provided as part of charitable activity. Stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.9 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believes that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

1.10 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no areas of judgement or key estimations.

2 GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAYABLE

	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	Total £	2023 Total £
Grants to institutions				
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	158,553	-	158,553	-
King's College Hospital	-	-	-	3,000
DIPG Collaborative	38,285	-	38,285	-
	<u>196,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>196,838</u>	<u>3,000</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No staff are employed by the charity.

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses incurred during the year (2023: £Nil).

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Alpacas	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 January 2024 and at 31 December 2024	12,650	3,029	15,679
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2024 and at 31 December 2024	-	3,029	3,029
Net Book value			
As at 31 December 2024	12,650	-	12,650
As at 31 December 2023	12,650	-	12,650

5 STOCK	2024	2023
	£	£
Stock of merchandise	1,000	1,000

6 DEBTORS	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	282	183

7 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	1,920	1,800
	1,920	1,800

The charity awarded a grant to UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health which is payable in instalments as part of a four year funding agreement. Each year is subject to various milestones being reached. The total amount of funding is £477,016. To date, the first and second instalment, amounting to £283,553, have been paid and the remaining two instalments have not been recognised as there are conditions to be met before each is released. As the third milestone has not yet been reached, the third grant instalment has not been provided for. Since the year-end, the third instalment of the UCL/GOSH grant has not yet been cleared this year with MHRA approval yet to be achieved.

8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year Mrs A Mifsud paid the following costs, as a donation, on behalf of the charity:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Advertising	180	59
Lottery License	20	20
Printing	-	184
	200	263

During the year BTL-UK Ltd (formerly Dunlop BTL Limited) paid £7,192 (2023: £1,995) for advertising, website content and independent examiner's fees. R S Mifsud and Mrs A Mifsud are directors of BTL-UK Limited.

ABBIE'S ARMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1149400

Accounts

ABBIE'S ARMY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity No. 1149400 (England and Wales)



ABBIE'S ARMY

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ABBIE'S ARMY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	A Mifsud (Chair) C Taylor R Mifsud
Charity Number	1149400
Principal Address	MPT House Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate Brunswick Road Ashford Kent TN23 1EL
Independent Examiner	M A Wilkes FCA Azets Audit Services First Floor,River House 1 Maidstone Road Sidcup Kent DA14 5RH
Banker	Lloyds Bank PLC 29 Bank Street Ashford Kent TN24 8SS

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are:

The relief of sickness and promotion of the health of children suffering with DIPG brain tumours in particular, but not exclusively by:

- 1 Promoting public awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people;
- 2 Providing funding for the development of research into practical applications for the prevention, treatment and cure of children's DIPG brain cancer.

'Our mission is to:

Raise awareness and funding for DIPG research to help overturn this 'terminal' prognosis. AND

Provide a useful resource, practical advice and support for other parents who receive this horrendous diagnosis for their child, which may include help with fundraising to access possible treatments.

Our vision is a world where there is a CURE for every child diagnosed with DIPG.

These are our primary objectives which guide our work and drive the charity forward daily.

What is DIPG?

DIPG or 'Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma' is the **MOST FATAL** form of childhood brain cancer which grows in the 'pons' area of the brainstem. Completely inoperable, DIPG represents a huge challenge, only in recent terms have we begun to biopsy this tumour safely which is finally yielding molecular information to researchers in order to create the development of much needed targeted treatments based on an individual tumour profile. Currently DIPG is considered 'terminal at diagnosis' and represents around 15% of all brain cancer diagnoses in children. 40 UK children are affected every year. The average survival time from diagnosis is only 9 months.

Our 'mission' is to RAISE awareness and contribute much needed funds for children's DIPG brain tumour research which whilst considered 'rare' is so woefully underfunded. The facts are inescapable and there is no direct Government funding for DIPG research, we must provide necessary funding to support the pre-clinical data required for translation of promising opportunities to the patient and adoption within the clinical setting. As with any medical research development it is a long and costly endeavour.

For many charities recovery from a cost-of-living crisis continues to impact operations and the fundraising climate during 2023.

During the year we made a final instalment to Kings College London on completion of the focused ultrasound study utilising carboplatin. This was previously agreed via CBTDDC (Children's Brain Tumour Drug Delivery Consortium) administered by Nottingham University with funding from national charity Children with Cancer, which is now disbanded.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities (continued)

What is DIPG?

The study has though been taken forward to a clinical application for Government funding through NIHR (i4i scheme) with the hope to run the clinical trial by 2025. The collaboration will involve the same Kings College Researchers and clinicians from Great Ormond Street hospital (GOSH).

The priority of the Trustees has remained firmly in meeting/monitoring all our existing research grant commitments including the outstanding implementation of a second CAR-T cell therapy trial for children in the UK.

We're pleased to say that the CAR-T study 'CARMIGO' a clinical trial funded in 2022 officially opened during the current year and is now actively recruiting patients. Eligible children are being referred by clinicians in treating centres throughout the UK.

Our support to numerous UK families with research counsel and guidance where requested has also continued, and with new DIPG/DMG combination studies available in Europe offered by US based clinical trial platforms (PNOC) this has bought some possibilities at a considerable cost closer to home, that some have wanted to consider.

Whilst we continue to evaluate the research landscape and new investment, we are acutely aware and reminded daily that though on the horizon, there remains no National clinical trial available to newly diagnosed UK DIPG patients at the time of writing this report.

Grant Making Policy

Abbie's Army is committed to raising funds and commissioning high quality and innovative medical research to find a cure for DIPG. Grants can only be funded if they fulfil our own specific criteria for funding research and if they are supported by our Scientific Advisories. Our research 'strategy' can be found published online on our website. Any grant recipients should always be collaborative and maximise the availability of research 'data' derived from the Grant to others with as few restrictions as possible.

We are committed to providing targeted and biologically relevant study, which contributes to combinational approaches as research is beginning to show this will be needed to be curative. We favour approaches that are medically progressive and translational with clear path to informing future clinical trials, ultimately, we must make the best decision for our donors with the limited resource that we have. Quite simply put the more we have the more we can achieve.

Abbie's Army positively welcomes the opportunity to combine efforts with other charities and fundraising groups to make a wider impact, particularly to make funds go further in a difficult financial year.

Charitable Objects for Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

As Trustees we take very seriously the responsibility to fulfil our duties, serve our objectives and deliver for public benefit our goals for supporting the effective treatment for children's DIPG brain cancer research.

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Throughout 2023 the charity continues to be driven and inspired by the numerous children affected by this vicious terminal brain cancer, we continue to promote its profile and advocate for DIPG awareness and research funding throughout the UK.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Grants awarded and Review of 2023

No new research grants were awarded during 2023.

Pump-prime award with the 'Children's Brain Tumour Drug Delivery Consortium' (CBTDDC)

In collaboration through the 'Children's Brain Tumour Drug Delivery Consortium' a small grant was made in April 2022 to provide 'pump prime' funding to a research group that had a 'project' ready to translate to clinical trial for DIPG utilising drug delivery systems.

Selected through the scientific advisory board of CBTDDC the project team selected lead by Dr Antonios Pouliopoulos of Kings College London, are investigating how to effectively and safely deliver chemotherapy to children using '**Focused Ultrasound for targeted carboplatin delivery in DIPG**'

Dr Pouliopoulos also played a key role in the team at Columbia University NY that is currently running the ultrasound trial (NCT04804709) for DIPG patients, using precisely the same Focused ultrasound technology developed to administer Panobinostat and now Etoposide.

With a delay on equipment needed and research milestones arranged the second and final instalment was made during the financial year, to complete this grant.

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – CARMIGO CAR-T cells for Diffuse Midline Glioma (GD2) £275,000 awarded to GOSH Charity

Principal Investigators Dr Karin Straathof, A/P UCL Cancer Institute and Honorary Consultant at GOSH and Prof Darren Hargrave, GOSH Charity Clinical Professor in Paediatric Neuro-Oncology and Honorary Consultant at GOSH.

In a first 'in-child' use for brain cancer of any kind the clinical trial using CAR T-cell therapy for DIPG/DMG brain cancers, targeting GD2 opened and began recruiting during the year.

The primary endpoint will determine a safe dose of GD2 CAR T-cells and the optimal route of administration in patients with DMG after standard of care radiotherapy. Evidence of CAR-T activity will be established using MRI at serial time points and determine efficacy.

The UCL CAR T-cell programme, which encompasses UCL, UCLH and GOSH has extensive experience in the delivery of CAR T-cell studies with regulatory, GMP and GLP laboratories as well as clinical experience managing patients.

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – IL13-RA2 – UCL Dr Karin Straathof £477,016

Despite funding being contracted towards the end of 2020 for this second CAR-T cell clinical trial, with subsequent delays due to the pandemic the grant could not be officially activated. Our funding towards the study finally was fully approved and commenced in May 2021.

To date only £125,000 of the grant monies has been expended, the remaining balance dependant on second year research milestones being reached. Unfortunately during the year, MHRA approval was still not met so could not be released during the financial year. At the time of writing in 2024 this has now been paid with every hope that the clinical trial will open before the end of 2024.

This gives hope indeed that both CART trials we have now co-funded will be recruiting patients concurrently providing a real foundation for subsequent CAR-T studies to follow in brain cancer for children in the UK.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Plans for the Future

The charity will continue to be driven by its mission statement, its aims and objectives and ensure the best practice is delivered for our supporters.

We intend to provide a redesign of the Abbie's Army website that will be more functional in highlighting the work we do, keeping DIPG/DMG children at its heart.

We have continued to plan and support events to fund raise and seek opportunities to recruit charity partners to secure more sustainable and regular income streams. We are fully aware that fundraising methods can have an impact on public opinion and the reputation of our charity, and we endeavour to self-govern effectively.

As DIPG is a specific and rare childhood cancer affecting low numbers it will remain the core of our strategy to attract collaboration and invite other affected families who may want to fund raise for research purposes, but cannot see the benefit in the duplication of another charity for that same purpose.

There are currently no plans to pursue the addition of paid fundraisers or PR advertising to increase revenues.

Financial Review

Income for the year amounted to £137,119 (2022: £250,301) which comes from donations by individuals and companies.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £15,287 (2022: £292,498). During the year, grants were paid amounting to £3,000 (2022: £282,000) to aid the research into DIPG.

This resulted in a surplus for the year of £121,832 (2022: deficit £42,197).

Reserves Policy

In accordance with the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees review on a regular basis the level of income reserves that it considers appropriate. At 31 December 2023, the Trustees consider it appropriate to hold no free reserves and have deemed all funds as designated funds, in support of its charitable objectives. The designated reserves at 31 December 2023 amounted to £634,594 (2022: £512,762).

Investment Policy

The charity funds DIPG/DMG brain cancer research projects that have the highest chance to quickly have a significant impact for children affected. This is both clinically providing new treatments and clinical trials, and in the laboratory pre-clinical setting. We can respond to applications for research funding or approach those teams with whom we would like to forge relationships in order to harness potential of their particular field of expertise. In order to react flexibly and swiftly it is essential for the charity to hold all its reserves to be applied in sterling cash. All of the charity's funds are currently expected to be applied to pre-clinical and clinical research and are invested short term with the charity's bankers.

Risk Management

The charity Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that those systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

As a small charity working within our structure and environment our situation is not currently overly complex, we must however address risk particularly in relation to finances as it arises with monitoring and evaluation. Our emphasis is firmly on fund raising, so maintaining transparency and full disclosure to prevent any loss of donor confidence and adverse publicity is paramount. Robust selection in grants awarded and transparency on efficacy good or bad will be reported.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Going Concern

The Trustees in reviewing the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them are currently facing the challenges presented by recovery from the existing cost of living crisis. With fundraising completely reliant on 'community' events the income for 2023, despite some collaborative efforts shows a clear downward trend that was expected to continue for the year. We anticipate that 2024 will also not show any significant increases but hold steady due mainly to the continued numbers of those that will be affected by DIPG.

Despite the challenges of 2023 the charity has managed to finish the year in a strong financial position, with funds to invest in suitable projects.

At the time of writing, we are hopeful that minimal timeframes may now be more achievable for new research implementations, though capacity within the NHS to deliver clinical trials for rare cancers in children, certainly remains a challenge. Along with gaining the necessary regulatory approvals in timely fashion for more innovative studies.

We are optimistic of our ability to monitor and fulfil existing commitments, and establish new grants awards that fulfil our research aspirations within the current economic environment. Whilst all are struggling with high inflation and borrowing costs, National charities have also moved into the paediatric space after a number of absent years. This will provide more sustainable income streams to labs allowing us to be more focused on specific scientific questions about DIPG that require funding.

Structure

The charity name '**Abbie's Army**' is governed by charitable Trust Deed dated 21 October 2012 which was entered onto the Register of Charities on 22 October 2012 under the registration of 1149400.

Governance and Management

The Trustees of Abbie's Army are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the charity.

During the year the following were Trustees of the charity:

A Mifsud (Chair)
C Taylor
R Mifsud

Apart from the first Trustees every Trustee must be appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting called by the appointed chairman or by at least two Trustees. The governing document does not specify a minimum or maximum number of Trustees.

Abbie's Army is a small parent led charity. Its governance remains solely the responsibility of the existing member Trustees who have first-hand experience of DIPG, research knowledge of the clinical landscape and abilities to lead the charity's work.

The Trustees govern the activities of the charity and drive it forward on a daily basis, family members and friends give up their time voluntarily to administer and organise charity events, and ensure the fulfilment of our aims and objectives for 'public benefit'.

No one in connection with Abbie's Army receives payment or benefits of any kind.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Governance and Management

Our own small Scientific Advisory panel is comprised of leading experts spanning the globe in children's DIPG brain cancer research and/or administering technologies to develop new treatment strategies. Following principles of peer review for any grant awarded you can be assured of full impartiality from reviewers with complete independence from the charity Trustees. Advisories will not be current beneficiaries when selected to review grant applications, there will be a balance of disciplines and experience depending on the nature and monetary value of the grant.

After external expert review, they will make recommendations to ensure that Abbie's Army is fulfilling its remit to fund the most promising DIPG research projects, with its limited resource. The ultimate funding decision based on these recommendations remains with the Trustees.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

Date: 21 October 2024

ABBIE'S ARMY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- 1 accounts records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

M A Wilkes FCA
Azets Audit Services

23 October 2024
First Floor, River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent DA14 5RH

ABBIE'S ARMY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023	2022
		Unrestricted Total £	Total £
Income from:			
Donations		133,592	248,785
Sales of merchandise		3,527	448
Gift aid		-	1,068
Total income		137,119	250,301
Expenditure on:			
Cost of raising funds			
Costs of merchandise		923	138
Events		97	1,118
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		1,362	562
Cost of charitable activities			
Grants awarded	2	3,000	282,000
Upkeep of Alpacas		-	1,543
Advertising		4,123	3,495
Website and website hosting costs		270	1,149
Insurance		262	307
Independent examiner's fees		1,800	1,680
Depreciation / impairment		3,450	506
Total expenditure		15,287	292,498
Net movement in funds		121,832	(42,197)
Funds brought forward 1 January 2023		512,762	554,959
Funds carried forward 31 December 2023		634,594	512,762

All income in 2023 was derived from unrestricted sources.

ABBIE'S ARMY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

CMPARATIVE INFORMATION ONLY	Notes	2022		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from:				
Donations		127,285	121,500	248,785
Sales of merchandise		448	-	448
Gift aid		1,068	-	1,068
Total income		128,801	121,500	250,301
Expenditure on:				
Cost of raising funds				
Costs of merchandise		138	-	138
Events		1,118	-	1,118
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		562	-	562
Cost of charitable activities				
Grants awarded	2	160,500	121,500	282,000
Upkeep of Alpacas		1,543	-	1,543
Advertising		3,495	-	3,495
Website and website hosting costs		1,149	-	1,149
Insurance		307	-	307
Independent examiner's fees		1,680	-	1,680
Depreciation		506	-	506
Total expenditure		170,998	121,500	292,498
Net movement in funds		(42,197)	-	(42,197)
Funds brought forward 1 January 2022		554,959	-	554,959
Funds carried forward 31 December 2022		512,762	-	512,762

ABBIE'S ARMY**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4		12,650		16,100
Current Assets					
Stock	5	1,000		1,000	
Debtors	6	183		1,202	
Cash at bank and in hand		622,561		496,140	
		<u>623,744</u>		<u>498,342</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(1,800)</u>		<u>(1,680)</u>	
Net current assets			621,944		496,662
Net assets			<u>634,594</u>		<u>512,762</u>
Funds					
Designated funds - DIPG research			<u>634,594</u>		<u>512,762</u>

Approved by the Board of trustees on 21 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

R Mifsud
Trustee

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

Abbie's Army is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities detailed in the Trustees' Annual Report on page 2 under the heading 'Objectives and activities'.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Funds accounting

Unrestricted general funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income including donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and staging and entering fundraising events.
- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their

Alpacas	Not Depreciated
Fixtures and Fittings	20% Straight line

The cost of acquisition of animals is capitalised to the extent a value can be placed upon them. Subsequent births and deaths are not included on the Balance Sheet.

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.6 Stock

Stock held comprises stock provided as part of charitable activity. Stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.9 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believes that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

1.10 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no areas of judgement or key estimations.

2 GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAYABLE

	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	Total £	2022 £
Grants to institutions				
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	-	-	-	275,000
King's College Hospital	3,000	-	3,000	7,000
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>282,000</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No staff are employed by the charity.

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses incurred during the year (2022: £Nil).

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures and		Total £
	Alpacas £	Fittings £	
Cost			
As at 1 January 2023 and at 31 December 2023	16,100	3,029	19,129
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2023	-	3,029	3,029
Impairment	3,450	-	3,450
As at 31 December 2023	3,450	3,029	6,479
Net Book value			
As at 31 December 2023	12,650	-	12,650
As at 31 December 2022	16,100	-	16,100
5 STOCK		2023	2022
		£	£
Stock of merchandise		1,000	1,000
6 DEBTORS		2023	2022
		£	£
Other debtors		183	1,202
7 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2023	2022
		£	£
Accruals		1,800	1,680
		1,800	1,680

The charity awarded a grant to UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health which is payable in instalments as part of a four year funding agreement. Each year is subject to various milestones being reached. The total amount of funding is £477,016. To date only the first instalment, amounting to £125,000, has been paid and the remaining three instalments have not been recognised as there are conditions to be met before each is released. As the second milestone has not yet been reached, the second grant instalment has not been provided for. However, since the year, the second instalment of the UCL/GOSH grant has been cleared this year with MHRA approval achieved. The trial is now in set up and due to start hopefully before the end of 2024.

8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year Mrs A Mifsud paid the following costs, as a donation, on behalf of the charity:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Advertising	59	213
Lottery License	20	-
Printing	184	-
	263	213

During the year BTL-UK Ltd (formerly Dunlop BTL Limited) paid £1,995 (2022: £6,363) for advertising and independent examiner's fees. R S Mifsud and Mrs A Mifsud are directors of BTL-UK Limited.

Accounts

ABBIE'S ARMY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Charity No. 1149400 (England and Wales)

A thick, horizontal pink brushstroke with a textured, painterly appearance, serving as a background for the charity's name.

ABBIE'S ARMY
FIGHT KIDS BRAIN CANCER

ABBIE'S ARMY

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ABBIE'S ARMY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Charity Number	1149400
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Independent Examiner	M A Wilkes FCA Azets Audit Services Greytown House 221 - 227 High Street Orpington Kent BR6 0NZ
Banker	Lloyds Bank PLC 29 Bank Street Ashford Kent TN24 8SS

ABBIE'S ARMY

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These are our primary objectives which guide our work and drive the charity forward daily.

What is DIPG?

DIPG or 'Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma' is the MOST FATAL form of childhood brain cancer which grows in the 'pons' area of the brainstem. Completely inoperable, DIPG represents a huge challenge, only in recent terms have we begun to biopsy this tumour safely which is finally yielding molecular information to researchers in order to create the development of much needed targeted treatments based on an individual tumour profile. Currently DIPG is considered 'terminal at diagnosis' and represents around 15% of all brain cancer diagnoses in children. 40 UK children are affected every year. The average survival time from diagnosis is only 9 months.

Our 'mission' is to RAISE awareness and contribute much needed funds for children's DIPG brain tumour research which whilst considered 'rare' is so woefully underfunded. The facts are inescapable and there is no direct Government funding for DIPG research, we must provide necessary funding to support the pre-clinical data required for translation of promising opportunities to the patient and adoption within the clinical setting. As with any medical research development it is a long and costly endeavour.

For many charities recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion in Ukraine and cost of living crisis continues to impact operations and the fundraising climate during 2022.

Still towards the end of 2021 the possibility of another new clinical trial was presented to the charity, with opportunity to co-fund a second CAR-T therapy trial in collaboration with other funders, and underwritten by GOSH Charity. With the unmet needs of children firmly in mind we promptly set about bringing the DIPG community together to contribute during the first half of the new year to bring forward this innovative research. The £1.2m clinical trial was financed successfully by the end of August 2022 with Abbie's Army making a sizeable grant award and directing finance from other sources.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities (continued)

What is DIPG?

The priority of the Trustees also remained firmly in meeting/monitoring of existing research grant commitments and with Covid-19 'bottleneck' delays still being experienced in supply chains, other studies were affected.

We also continued to support numerous UK families with research counsel and guidance where requested, new studies available in Europe offered by US based clinical trial platforms have brought some possibilities at a considerable cost closer to home.

Whilst we continue to evaluate in detail any emergence of new potential in the research landscape, we are acutely aware and reminded daily that there remains no National clinical trial available to newly diagnosed UK DIPG patients.

obligations.

Grant Making Policy

Abbie's Army is committed to raising funds and commissioning high quality and innovative medical research to find a cure for DIPG. Grants can only be funded if they fulfil our own specific criteria for funding research and if they are supported by our Scientific Advisories. Our research 'strategy' can be found published online on our website. Any grant recipients should always be collaborative and maximise the availability of research 'data' derived from the Grant to others with as few restrictions as possible.

We are committed to providing targeted and biologically relevant study, which contributes to combinational approaches as research is beginning to show this will be needed to be curative. We favour approaches that are medically progressive and translational with clear path to informing future clinical trials, ultimately, we must make the best decision for our donors with the limited resource that we have. Quite simply put the more we have the more we can achieve.

Abbie's Army positively welcomes the opportunity to combine efforts with other charities (never more evident in 2022) and fundraising groups to make a wider impact, and family groups in the 'community' have made a significant increase in donated funds in the past financial year.

Charitable Objects for Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

As Trustees we take very seriously the responsibility to fulfil our duties, serve our objectives and deliver for public benefit our goals for supporting the effective treatment for children's DIPG brain cancer research.

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Throughout 2022 the charity continues to be driven and inspired by the numerous children affected by this vicious terminal brain cancer, we continue to promote its profile and advocate for DIPG awareness and research funding throughout the UK.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Grants awarded and Review of 2022

Pump-prime award with the 'Children's Brain Tumour Drug Delivery Consortium' (CBTDDC)

In collaboration through the 'Children's Brain Tumour Drug Delivery Consortium' a small grant was made in April to provide 'pump prime' funding to a research group that had a 'project' ready to translate to clinical trial for DIPG utilising drug delivery systems.

Selected through the scientific advisory board of CBTDDC the project team selected lead by Dr Antonios Pouliopoulos of Kings College London, are investigating how to effectively and safely deliver chemotherapy to children using '**Focused Ultrasound for targeted carboplatin delivery in DIPG**'

Dr Pouliopoulos also played a key role in the team at Columbia University NY that is currently running the ultrasound trial (NCT04804709) for DIPG patients, using precisely the same Focused ultrasound technology developed to administer Panobinostat and now Etoposide. His involvement and published available pre-clinical studies were pivotal in propelling this technology forward for approval for use in DIPG.

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – CARMIGO CAR-T cells for Diffuse Midline Glioma (GD2)

£275,000 awarded to GOSH Charity

Principal Investigators Dr Karin Straathof, A/P UCL Cancer Institute and Honorary Consultant at GOSH and Prof Darren Hargrave, GOSH Charity Clinical Professor in Paediatric Neuro-Oncology and Honorary Consultant at GOSH.

In a first 'in-child' use for brain tumours 12 children in the UK will soon be able to access a new clinical trial using CAR T-cell therapy for DIPG/DMG brain cancers.

Following the release of early data and encouraging results from a US clinical study taking place at Stanford University, a total award of just over £1.2m has been awarded to a team of researchers at University College London (UCL) and Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

The primary endpoint will determine a safe dose of GD2 CAR T-cells and the optimal route of administration in patients with DMG after standard of care radiotherapy. Evidence of CAR-T activity will be established using MRI at serial time points and determine efficacy.

The UCL CAR T-cell programme, which encompasses UCL, UCLH and GOSH has extensive experience in the delivery of CAR T-cell studies with regulatory, GMP and GLP laboratories as well as clinical experience managing patients.

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – IL13-RA2 – UCL Dr Karin Straathof £477,016

Despite funding being contracted towards the end of 2020 for this second CAR-T cell clinical trial, with subsequent delays due to the pandemic the grant could not be officially activated. Our funding towards the study finally was fully approved and commenced in May 2021.

To date only £125,000 of the grant monies has been expended, the remaining balance dependant on second year research milestones being reached, still has not been met and could not be paid as scheduled in May 2022.

There have been persistent issues with sourcing reagents and delays creating 'bottlenecks' in vector manufacture and CAR-T scale up. Regulatory approvals as of May 2023 are still outstanding.

The project remains high priority, UCL are very hopeful that we will soon gain traction, particularly with the opening of the GD2 CAR-T trial to find overlaps in regulatory application and the lab work which is still all ongoing.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Achievements and Performance in the Year

The hope indeed is that both trials will be recruiting patients concurrently providing a real foundation for subsequent CAR-T studies to follow in brain cancer for children in the UK. We are hoping that supply chain issues and staff issues will continue to resolve to allow delivery of the trial at least by the end of 2023, but are regularly progressing.

Plans for the Future

The charity will continue to be driven by its mission statement, its aims and objectives and ensure the best practice is delivered for our supporters.

We will continue to plan and support events to fund raise and seek opportunities to recruit charity partners to secure more sustainable and regular income streams. We are fully aware that fundraising methods can have an impact on public opinion and the reputation of our charity, and we endeavour to self-govern effectively.

As DIPG is a specific and rare childhood cancer affecting low numbers it will remain the core of our strategy to attract collaboration and invite other affected families who may want to fund raise for research purposes, but cannot see the benefit in the duplication of another charity for that same purpose. 2022 showed what collaboration can achieve, with the larger financial hit' facilitating the funding of new clinical trials.

There are currently no plans to pursue the addition of paid fundraisers or PR advertising to increase revenues.

Financial Review

Income for the year amounted to £250,301 (2021: £222,748) which comes from donations by individuals and companies.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £292,498 (2021: £8,457). During the year, grants were paid amounting to £282,000 (2021: £Nil) to aid the research into DIPG.

This resulted in a deficit for the year of £42,197 (2021: surplus £214,291).

Reserves Policy

In accordance with the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees review on a regular basis the level of income reserves that it considers appropriate. At 31 December 2022, the Trustees consider it appropriate to hold no free reserves and have deemed all funds as designated funds, in support of its charitable objectives. The designated reserves at 31 December 2022 amounted to £512,762 (2021: £554,959).

Investment Policy

The charity funds DIPG/DMG brain cancer research projects that have the highest chance to quickly have a significant impact for children affected. This is both clinically providing new treatments and clinical trials, and in the laboratory pre-clinical setting. We can respond to applications for research funding or approach those teams with whom we would like to forge relationships in order to harness potential of their particular field of expertise. In order to react flexibly and swiftly it is essential for the charity to hold all its reserves to be applied in sterling cash. All of the charity's funds are currently expected to be applied to pre-clinical and clinical research and are invested short term with the charity's bankers.

Risk Management

The charity Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that those systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Risk Management

As a small charity working within our structure and environment our situation is not currently overly complex, we must however address risk particularly in relation to finances as it arises with monitoring and evaluation. Our emphasis is firmly on fund raising, so maintaining transparency and full disclosure to prevent any loss of donor confidence and adverse publicity is paramount. Robust selection in grants awarded and transparency on efficacy good or bad will be reported.

Going Concern

The Trustees in reviewing the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them are currently facing the challenges presented by recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the existing cost of living crisis. With fundraising completely reliant on 'community' events the income for 2022, despite collaborative funding shows a downward trend that we expect to continue. We anticipate that 2023 will be impacted significantly.

Despite the challenges of 2022 the charity has managed to finish the year in a strong position, thanks to the support of the fundraising of affected families.

At the time of writing the disruption to research risk in our associated academic institutions is now significantly reduced and we are hopeful that minimal timeframes may now be lost for any new research implementations, though any international collaborators or supply chains may still be affected.

As stated previously, we are optimistic of our ability to monitor and fulfil existing commitments, but in order to maintain income sufficient to fulfil our research aspirations within the current economic environment will be a challenge. We are already seeing a significant downturn in sponsored events and participants who perhaps feel more unsure in their ability to raise funds, whilst all are struggling with high inflation and borrowing costs.

Structure

The charity name '**Abbie's Army**' is governed by charitable Trust Deed dated 21 October 2012 which was entered onto the Register of Charities on 22 October 2012 under the registration of 1149400.

Governance and Management

The Trustees of Abbie's Army are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the charity.

During the year the following were Trustees of the charity:

A Mifsud (Chair)
C Taylor
R Mifsud

Apart from the first Trustees every Trustee must be appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting called by the appointed chairman or by at least two Trustees. The governing document does not specify a minimum or maximum number of Trustees.

Abbie's Army is a small parent led charity. Its governance remains solely the responsibility of the existing member Trustees who have first-hand experience of DIPG, research knowledge of the clinical landscape and abilities to lead the charity's work.

The Trustees govern the activities of the charity and drive it forward on a daily basis, family members and friends give up their time voluntarily to administer and organise charity events, and ensure the fulfilment of our aims and objectives for 'public benefit'.

No one in connection with Abbie's Army receives payment or benefits of any kind.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Governance and Management

Our own small Scientific Advisory panel is comprised of leading experts spanning the globe in children's DIPG brain cancer research and/or administering technologies to develop new treatment strategies. Following principles of peer review for any grant awarded you can be assured of full impartiality from reviewers with complete independence from the charity Trustees. Advisories will not be current beneficiaries when selected to review grant applications, there will be a balance of disciplines and experience depending on the nature and monetary value of the grant.

After external expert review, they will make recommendations to ensure that Abbie's Army is fulfilling its remit to fund the most promising DIPG research projects, with its limited resource. The ultimate funding decision based on these recommendations remains with the Trustees.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

Date: 2 October 2023

ABBIE'S ARMY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- 1 accounts records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

M A Wilkes FCA
Azets Audit Services

4 October 2023
First Floor, River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent DA14 5RH

ABBIE'S ARMY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022		2021
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted
		£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations		127,285	121,500	218,551
Sales of merchandise		448	-	2,381
Gift aid		1,068	-	1,816
Total income		128,801	121,500	222,748
Expenditure on:				
Cost of raising funds				
Costs of merchandise		138	-	115
Events		1,118	-	-
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		562	-	3,095
Cost of charitable activities				
Grants awarded	2	160,500	121,500	-
Upkeep of Alpacas		1,543	-	2,232
Advertising		3,495	-	474
Website and website hosting costs		1,149	-	133
Insurance		307	-	272
Independent examiner's fees		1,680	-	1,530
Depreciation		506	-	606
Total expenditure		170,998	121,500	8,457
Net movement in funds		(42,197)	-	214,291
Funds brought forward 1 January 2022		554,959	-	340,668
Funds carried forward 31 December 2022		512,762	-	554,959

ABBIE'S ARMY**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4		16,100		16,606
Current Assets					
Stock	5	1,000		1,000	
Debtors	6	1,202		3,261	
Cash at bank and in hand		496,140		535,747	
		<u>498,342</u>		<u>540,008</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(1,680)</u>		<u>(1,655)</u>	
Net current assets			496,662		538,353
Net assets			<u>512,762</u>		<u>554,959</u>
Funds					
Designated funds - DIPG research			<u>512,762</u>		<u>554,959</u>

Approved by the Board of trustees on 2 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

R Mifsud
Trustee

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

Abbie's Army is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities detailed in the Trustees' Annual Report on page 2 under the heading 'Objectives and activities'.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Funds accounting

Unrestricted general funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income including donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and staging and entering fundraising events.
- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their

Alpacas	Not Depreciated
Fixtures and Fittings	20% Straight line

The cost of acquisition of animals is capitalised to the extent a value can be placed upon them. Subsequent births and deaths are not included on the Balance Sheet.

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.6 Stock

Stock held comprises stock provided as part of charitable activity. Stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.9 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believes that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

1.10 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no areas of judgement or key estimations.

2 GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAYABLE

	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Restricted Funds £	Total £	2021 £
Grants to institutions				
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	153,500	121,500	275,000	-
King's College Hospital	7,000	-	7,000	-
	<u>160,500</u>	<u>121,500</u>	<u>282,000</u>	<u>-</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No staff are employed by the charity.

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses incurred during the year (2021: £Nil).

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Alpacas	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 January 2022 and at 31 December 2022	16,100	3,029	19,129
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2022	-	2,523	2,523
Charge for the period	-	506	506
As at 31 December 2022	-	3,029	3,029
Net Book value			
As at 31 December 2022	16,100	-	16,100
As at 31 December 2021	16,100	506	16,606
5 STOCK		2022	2021
		£	£
Stock of merchandise		1,000	1,000
6 DEBTORS		2022	2021
		£	£
Other debtors		1,202	3,261
7 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2022	2021
		£	£
Grants payable		-	-
Accruals		1,680	1,655
		1,680	1,655

The charity awarded a grant to UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health which is payable in instalments as part of a four year funding agreement. Each year is subject to various milestones being reached. The total amount of funding is £477,016. To date only the first instalment, amounting to £125,000, has been paid and the remaining three instalments have not been recognised as there are conditions to be met before each is released. As the second milestone has not yet been reached, the second grant instalment has not been provided for.

A grant amounting to £10,000 was committed prior to the year-end in favour of Kings College London. This was dependent upon a suitable specific DIPG project being agreed. A suitable project was agreed in March 2022. The grant was payable in 2 instalments and dependent upon milestones being reached. At 31 December 2022 the milestone had not been reached and therefore the 2nd instalment of £3,000 has been held back and not recognised in the accounts.

8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year Mrs A Mifsud paid the following costs, as a donation, on behalf of the charity:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Advertising	213	214
Lottery License	-	50
Gaming licence	-	40

During the year BTL-UK Ltd (formerly Dunlop BTL Limited) paid £6,363 (2021: £2,493) for the upkeep of the Alpacas, advertising and independent examiner's fees. R S Mifsud and Mrs A Mifsud are directors of BTL-UK

ABBIE'S ARMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1149400

Accounts

ABBIE'S ARMY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity No. 1149400 (England and Wales)



ABBIE'S ARMY
FIGHT KIDS BRAIN CANCER

ABBIE'S ARMY

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ABBIE'S ARMY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	A Mifsud (Chair) C Taylor R Mifsud
Charity Number	1149400
Principal Address	MPT House Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate Brunswick Road Ashford Kent TN23 1EL
Independent Examiner	M A Wilkes FCA Azets Audit Services Greytown House 221 - 227 High Street Orpington Kent BR6 0NZ
Banker	Lloyds Bank PLC 29 Bank Street Ashford Kent TN24 8SS

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK published on 16 July 2014, as amended by bulletin 1.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are:

The relief of sickness and promotion of the health of children suffering with DIPG brain tumours in particular, but not exclusively by:

- 1 Promoting public awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people;
- 2 Providing funding for the development of research into practical applications for the prevention, treatment and cure of children's DIPG brain cancer.

'Our mission is to:

Raise awareness and funding for DIPG research to help overturn this 'terminal' prognosis. AND

Provide a useful resource, practical advice and support for other parents who receive this horrendous diagnosis for their child, which may include help with fundraising to access possible treatments.

Our vision is a world where there is a CURE for every child diagnosed with DIPG.

This is our primary objective which guides our work and drives the charity forward on a daily basis.

What is DIPG?

DIPG or 'Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma' is the **MOST FATAL** form of childhood brain cancer which grows in the 'pons' area of the brainstem. Completely inoperable, DIPG represents a huge challenge, only in recent terms have we begun to biopsy this tumour safely which is finally yielding molecular information to researchers in order to create the development of much needed targeted treatments based on an individual tumour profile. Currently DIPG is considered 'terminal at diagnosis' and represents around 15% of all brain cancer diagnoses in children. 40 UK children are affected every year. The average survival time from diagnosis is only 9 months.

Our 'mission' is to RAISE awareness and contribute much needed funds for children's DIPG brain tumour research which whilst considered 'rare' is so woefully underfunded. The facts are inescapable and there is no direct Government funding for DIPG research, we must provide the pre-clinical data required for translation of promising opportunities to the patient and adoption within the clinical setting. As with any medical research development it is a long and costly endeavour.

For many charities, the global COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact during 2021.

The impact of the necessary 'lockdown' restrictions in controlling the virus remained from January 2021 onwards severely disrupting any ability to raise funds. The situation and uncertainty prevailed for the first half of the year, returning to a steady mixing and removal of most restrictions by mid-July. The shift in the sector to virtual fundraising events remained – whilst opportunities seemed more prevalent as challenge events previously postponed took place, the festive season was impacted yet again with the PM's announcement of Plan B measures following the spread of the Omicron variant.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities (continued)

What is DIPG?

The priority of the Trustees remained firmly in meeting/monitoring of existing research grant commitments and supporting families with research counsel where required, whilst still continuing to evaluate in detail the research landscape and any further possibilities for impact to be made with our limited funds.

Funding any further new substantial research projects now depends wholly on how the situation improves.

Abbie's Army has not been affected in regards to utilising any reserves in order to operate or fulfil any of its obligations.

Grant Making Policy

Abbie's Army is committed to raising funds and commissioning high quality and innovative medical research to find a cure for DIPG. Grants can only be funded if they fulfil our own specific criteria for funding research and if they are supported by our Scientific Advisories. Our research 'strategy' can be found published online on our website. Any grant recipients should always be collaborative and maximise the availability of research 'data' derived from the Grant to others with as few restrictions as possible.

We are committed to providing targeted and biologically relevant study, which contributes to combinational approaches as research is beginning to show this will be needed to be curative. We favour approaches that are medically progressive and translational with clear path to informing future clinical trials, ultimately, we must make the best decision for our donors with the limited resource that we have. Quite simply put the more we have the more we can achieve.

Abbie's Army positively welcomes the opportunity to combine efforts with other charities and fundraising groups to make a wider impact, and family groups in the 'community' have made a significant increase in donated funds in the past financial year.

Charitable Objects for Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

As Trustees we take very seriously the responsibility to fulfil our duties, serve our objectives and deliver for public benefit our goals for supporting the effective treatment for children's DIPG brain cancer research.

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Throughout 2021 the charity whilst still severely limited in 'community' fundraising events continued to promote its profile and advocate for DIPG awareness and research funding throughout the UK.

Grants awarded and Review of 2021

Pump-prime award with the 'Children's Brain Tumour Drug Delivery Consortium' (CBTDDC)

Towards the end of the year the charity Trustees became involved in collaboration through the 'Children's Brain Tumour Drug Delivery Consortium' A significant hindrance to successful treatment of DIPG is therapeutic drug delivery to the site of DIPG disease and the need to bypass the Blood Brain Barrier. A workshop was held in Nottingham in November with numerous clinicians and researchers - and discussed some of the barriers to clinical trial implementation specifically around 'clinical trial readiness' for treating childhood brain cancer.

Abbie's Army committed an award of £10,000 during this process to provide 'pump prime' funding to a research group that had a 'project' ready to translate to clinical trial for DIPG utilising drug delivery systems. The grant selection process will take place using the scientific advisories of the CBTDDC and will commence in April 2022.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Achievements and Performance in the Year

We were grateful to the CBTDDC for their help and expertise in selecting a new and exciting project to benefit DIPG treatment.

CAR T-cell Therapy Clinical Trial – Co- Funding at UCL with Dr Karin Straathof – Targeting IL13 RA2

Despite funding being contracted towards the end of 2020 for the clinical trial, with subsequent delays due to the pandemic the grant could not be officially activated. Our funding towards the study finally was fully approved and commenced in May 2021.

The initial months of the grant are for vector manufacture and CAR-T scale up with the regulatory approvals to be allocated after that.

To allow the release of further funds, research milestones must be reached along the timeline as provided by the research team.

UCL like most labs have been disrupted, in January 2021 we were advised that the required risk assessment was in place and were waiting for 'governance review'. There was still prioritisation towards COVID-related projects at that time, and along with a reduced number of staff members in their team this led to further delays.

Our project is high priority, the lab work was still all ongoing, we are hoping that supply chain issues and staff issues will continue to resolve to allow delivery of the trial at least by the end of 2022, but are regularly being updated.

Institute of Cancer Research, DIPG Trials Research position (Jones Lab)

Abbie's Army has been supporting Professor Chris Jones' laboratory for some time at the Institute of Cancer Research, as the UK biology reference centre for DIPG trials, the need to fund a dedicated DIPG Trials Scientific Officer within the team and to expand ICR's capacity was requested in 2019.

This continued work not only on the BIOMEDE samples (former UK trial now closed to recruitment), but also included children's samples from other trials in the UK and Europe.

Abbie's Army funded a second year of appointment (in conjunction with the Islstones Foundation) for Elisabet Fernandez Potente (just as the pandemic hit) in March 2020, who was selected by Professor Jones to join the team. With furlough through the pandemic this position ended in June 2021.

Plans for the Future

The charity will continue to be driven by its mission statement, its aims and objectives and ensure the best practice is delivered for our supporters.

We will continue to plan and support covid-safe events to fund raise and seek opportunities to recruit charity partners to secure more sustainable and regular income streams. We are fully aware that fundraising methods can have an impact on public opinion and the reputation of our charity, and we endeavour to self-govern effectively.

As DIPG is a specific and rare childhood cancer affecting low numbers it will remain the core of our strategy to attract collaboration and invite other affected families who may want to fund raise for research purposes, but cannot see the benefit in the duplication of another charity for that same purpose. 2021 was still restrictive and any collaboration never more important, in that sense our ability to fund any new research we will proceed much more quickly.

There are currently no plans to pursue the addition of paid fundraisers or PR advertising to increase revenues.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Financial Review

Income for the year amounted to £222,748 (2020: £134,763) which comes from donations by individuals and companies.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £8,457 (2020: £158,543). During 2020 grants totalling £153,141 were paid to aid the research into DIPG. No grants were distributed during 2021.

This resulted in a surplus for the year of £214,291 (2020: deficit £23,780).

Reserves Policy

In accordance with the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees review on a regular basis the level of income reserves that it considers appropriate. At 31 December 2021, the Trustees consider it appropriate to hold no free reserves and have deemed all funds as designated funds, in support of its charitable objectives. The designated reserves at 31 December 2021 amounted to £554,959 (2020: £340,668).

Investment Policy

The charity funds DIPG/DMG brain cancer research projects that have the highest chance to quickly have a significant impact for children affected. This is both clinically providing new treatments and clinical trials, and in the laboratory pre-clinical setting. We can respond to applications for research funding or approach those teams with whom we would like to forge relationships in order to harness potential of their particular field of expertise. In order to react flexibly and swiftly it is essential for the charity to hold all its reserves to be applied in sterling cash. All of the charity's funds are currently expected to be applied to pre-clinical and clinical research and are invested short term with the charity's bankers.

Risk Management

The charity Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that those systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

As a small charity working within our structure and environment our situation is not currently overly complex, we must however address risk particularly in relation to finances as it arises with monitoring and evaluation. Our emphasis is firmly on fund raising, so maintaining transparency and full disclosure to prevent any loss of donor confidence and adverse publicity is paramount. Robust selection in grants awarded and transparency on efficacy good or bad will be reported.

Going Concern

The Trustees in reviewing the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them are currently facing the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. With fundraising completely reliant on 'community' events the income for 2021 will remain impacted significantly.

Despite the challenges of 2021 the charity has managed to finish the year in a strong position, thanks to the support of the fundraising of affected families.

At the time of writing the disruption to research risk in our associated academic institutions is now significantly reduced and we are hopeful that minimal timeframes may now be lost for any new research implementations, though any International collaborators or supply chains may still be affected.

As stated previously, we are optimistic of a gradual return to fundraising and ability to maintain an income sufficient to fulfil our research aspirations. As time progresses post-pandemic all efforts will be made by the Charity to ensure we may still achieve these new goals with input and maximum collaboration from all other associated DIPG groups in the UK with 'research' in their own remit.

Working together has never been more important.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Structure

The charity name '**Abbie's Army**' is governed by charitable Trust Deed dated 21 October 2012 which was entered onto the Register of Charities on 22 October 2012 under the registration of 1149400.

Governance and Management

The Trustees of Abbie's Army are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the charity.

During the year the following were Trustees of the charity:

- A Mifsud (Chair)
- C Taylor
- R Mifsud

Apart from the first Trustees every Trustee must be appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting called by the appointed chairman or by at least two Trustees. The governing document does not specify a minimum or maximum number of Trustees.

Abbie's Army is a small parent led charity. Its governance remains solely the responsibility of the existing member Trustees who have first-hand experience of DIPG, research knowledge of the clinical landscape and abilities to lead the charity's work.

The Trustees govern the activities of the charity and drive it forward on a daily basis, family members and friends give up their time voluntarily to administer and organise charity events, and ensure the fulfilment of our aims and objectives for 'public benefit'.

No one in connection with Abbie's Army receives payment or benefits of any kind.

Our own small Scientific Advisory panel is comprised of leading experts spanning the globe in children's DIPG brain cancer research and/or administering technologies to develop new treatment strategies. Following principles of peer review for any grant awarded you can be assured of full impartiality from reviewers with complete independence from the charity Trustees. Advisories will not be current beneficiaries when selected to review grant applications, there will be a balance of disciplines and experience depending on the nature and monetary value of the grant.

After external expert review, they will make recommendations to ensure that Abbie's Army is fulfilling its remit to fund the most promising DIPG research projects, with its limited resource. The ultimate funding decision based on these recommendations remains with the Trustees.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud

Trustee

Date: 26 July 2022

ABBIE'S ARMY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- 1 accounts records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

M A Wilkes FCA
Azets Audit Services

1 August 2022
Greytown House
221 - 227 High Street
Orpington
Kent BR6 0NZ

ABBIE'S ARMY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	
		2021	2020
		£	£
Income from:			
Donations		210,049	96,814
Sales of merchandise		2,381	1,632
Gift aid		10,318	1,317
Interest received	8	-	35,000
Total income		222,748	134,763
Expenditure on:			
Cost of raising funds			
Costs of merchandise		115	2,205
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		3,095	1,762
Cost of charitable activities			
Grants awarded	2	-	153,141
Upkeep of Alpacas		2,232	-
Advertising		474	-
Website and website hosting costs		42	200
Insurance		272	211
Sundry expenses		91	418
Independent examiner's fees		1,530	-
Depreciation		606	606
Total expenditure		8,457	158,543
Net movement in funds		214,291	(23,780)
Funds brought forward 1 January 2021		340,668	364,448
Funds carried forward 31 December 2021		554,959	340,668

ABBIE'S ARMY**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4		16,606		17,212
Current Assets					
Stock	5	1,000		1,000	
Debtors	6	3,261		1,370	
Cash at bank and in hand		535,747		446,086	
		<u>540,008</u>		<u>448,456</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(1,655)</u>		<u>(125,000)</u>	
Net current assets			538,353		323,456
Net assets			<u>554,959</u>		<u>340,668</u>
Funds					
Designated funds - DIPG research			<u>554,959</u>		<u>316,888</u>

Approved by the Board of trustees on 26 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

R Mifsud
Trustee

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

Abbie's Army is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities detailed in the Trustees' Annual Report on page 2 under the heading 'Objectives and activities'.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 as amended by Bulletin 1, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Funds accounting

Unrestricted general funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income including donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and staging and entering fundraising events.
- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their

Alpacas	Not Depreciated
Fixtures and Fittings	20% Straight line

The cost of acquisition of animals is capitalised to the extent a value can be placed upon them. Subsequent births and deaths are not included on the Balance Sheet.

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.6 Stock

Stock held comprises stock provided as part of charitable activity. Stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.9 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believes that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees in reviewing the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them are currently facing the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. With fundraising completely reliant on 'community' events the income for 2021 will remain impacted significantly. Despite the challenges of 2021 the charity has managed to finish the year in a strong position, thanks to the support of the fundraising of affected families. At the time of writing the disruption to research risk in our associated academic institutions is now significantly reduced and we are hopeful that minimal timeframes may now be lost for any new research implementations, though any International collaborators or supply chains may still be affected. As stated previously, we are optimistic of a gradual return to fundraising and ability to maintain an income sufficient to fulfil our research aspirations. As time progresses post-pandemic all efforts will be made by the Charity to ensure we may still achieve these new goals with input and maximum collaboration from all other associated DIPG groups in the UK with 'research' in their own remit.

1.10 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no areas of judgement or key estimations.

2 GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAYABLE

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants to institutions		
Institute of Cancer Research	-	7,500
The Open University	-	19,800
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	-	125,000
Grants to individuals - One	-	841
	<u>-</u>	<u>153,141</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No staff are employed by the charity.

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses incurred during the year (2020: £Nil).

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Alpacas	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 January 2021 and at 31 December 2021	16,100	3,029	19,129
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2021	-	1,917	1,917
Charge for the period	-	606	606
As at 31 December 2020	-	2,523	2,523
Net Book value			
As at 31 December 2021	16,100	506	16,606
As at 31 December 2020	16,100	1,112	17,212
5 STOCK		2021	2020
		£	£
Stock of merchandise		1,000	1,000
6 DEBTORS		2021	2020
		£	£
Other debtors		3,261	1,370
7 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2021	2020
		£	£
Grants payable		-	125,000
Accruals		1,655	-
		1,655	125,000

The grant to UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, amounting to £Nil (2020: £125,000) is the agreed instalment of a four year funding agreement. Each year is subject to various milestones being reached. The total amount of funding is £477,016 and the remaining three instalments have not been recognised as there are conditions to be met before each is released. As the second milestone has not yet been reached, the second grant instalment has not been provided for.

8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year Mrs A Mifsud paid the following costs, as a donation, on behalf of the charity:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Advertising	214	140
Lottery License	50	40
Gaming licence	40	-
Merchandise	-	83

During the year BTL-UK Ltd (formerly Dunlop BTL Limited) paid £2,493 (2020: £1,076) for the upkeep of the Alpacas and advertising. R S Mifsud and Mrs A Mifsud are directors of BTL-UK Limited.

During the previous year Abbie's Army loaned £350,000 to BTL-UK Ltd In April 2020 which was then repaid on 30 July 2020. Interest of £35,000 was charged on this loan.

9 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

A grant amounting to £10,000 was committed prior to the year-end in favour of Kings College London. This was dependent upon a suitable specific DIPG project being agreed. A suitable project was agreed in March 2022.

ABBIE'S ARMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1149400

Accounts

ABBIE'S ARMY
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Charity No. 1149400 (England and Wales)

A horizontal pink brushstroke with a textured, hand-painted appearance, serving as a background for the charity's name.

ABBIE'S ARMY
FIGHT KIDS BRAIN CANCER

ABBIE'S ARMY

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ABBIE'S ARMY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	A Mifsud (Chair) C Codner R Mifsud
Charity Number	1149400
Principal Address	MPT House Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate Brunswick Road Ashford Kent TN23 1EL
Independent Examiner	M A Wilkes FCA Azets Audit Services Greytown House 221 - 227 High Street Orpington Kent BR6 0NZ
Banker	Lloyds Bank PLC 29 Bank Street Ashford Kent TN24 8SS

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK published on 16 July 2014, as amended by bulletin 1.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are:

The relief of sickness and promotion of the health of children suffering with DIPG brain tumours in particular, but not exclusively by:

- 1 Promoting public awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people;
- 2 Providing funding for the development of research into practical applications for the prevention, treatment and cure of children's DIPG brain cancer.

'Our mission is to:

Raise awareness and funding for DIPG research to help overturn this 'terminal' prognosis. AND

Provide a useful resource, practical advice and support for other parents who receive this horrendous diagnosis for their child, which may include help with fundraising to access possible treatments.

Our vision is a world where there is a CURE for every child diagnosed with DIPG.

This is our primary objective which guides our work and drives the charity forward on a daily basis.

What is DIPG?

DIPG or 'Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma' is the **MOST FATAL** form of childhood brain cancer which grows in the 'pons' area of the brainstem. DIPG represents a huge challenge, only in recent terms have we begun to biopsy this tumour safely which is finally yielding information to researchers in order to create the development of much needed targeted treatments based on an individual tumour profile. Currently DIPG is considered 'terminal at diagnosis' and represents around 15% of all brain cancer diagnoses in children. 40 UK children are affected every year. The average survival time from diagnosis is only 9 months.

Our 'mission' is to RAISE awareness and contribute much needed funds for children's DIPG brain tumour research which is so woefully underfunded. The facts are inescapable and there is no direct Government funding for DIPG research, we must provide the pre-clinical data required for translation to the patient and adoption within the clinical setting. As with any medical research development it is a long and costly endeavour.

For many charities, the global COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact during 2020.

The impact of the necessary 'lockdown' restrictions in controlling the virus from March 2020 onwards severely disrupted any ability to raise funds, with the cancellation of every in-person community event on which the charity is totally reliant. As the situation and uncertainty prevailed for most of the year there was a clear shift in the sector to virtual fundraising events, we chose not to pursue this too heavily whilst the situation was precarious for everyone and public support was centred on 'front line' services.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities (continued)

What is DIPG?

The priority of the Trustees remained firmly in meeting our existing funding commitments and supporting families with research counsel where required, whilst still continuing to evaluate in detail the research landscape and any further possibilities for our limited funds amid lab closures and furloughed research staff.

Our dedicated DIPG Trials research position at the Institute of Cancer Research Elizabeth Potente, and new 2019 studies with Dr Francesco Crea, Head of research and the epigenetics team at The Open University, were temporarily interrupted whilst lab staff were unable to access premises and work stations. Subsequently safe-working strategies were adopted and updates provided online.

The DIPG 'community' were severely impacted as a result of the pandemic with limitations on travel and access for families with any funds to potential treatment options abroad.

Despite the challenges of 2020 the charity managed to negotiate its first co-funding of a clinical trial research grant with UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.

Committing £477,000 from 2021 over three years, secured a future 'in-human' first use of CAR-T cell therapy in DIPG/DMG in the UK (commencing 2022) for 12 patients at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The inability to access travel abroad and total lack of UK clinical trial options for DIPG were the driving considerations for the Trustees as the pandemic escalated, never were it more obvious that innovative options were needed at home.

The continuing lockdown well into the first and second quarters of 2021 has meant that new fundraising events remain considerably disrupted, and are still substantially below pre-pandemic levels. Funding any further new research projects now depends wholly on how the situation improves.

Abbie's Army has not been affected in regards to utilising any reserves in order to operate or fulfil any of its obligations. As a totally voluntarily led organisation every penny raised can be committed to vital research and we will not commit any funds that are yet to be generated. We remain hopeful and thankful to everyone that has continued to support crucial DIPG research over such a difficult period of time.

Grant Making Policy

Abbie's Army are committed to raising funds and commissioning high quality and innovative medical research to find a cure for DIPG. Grants can only be funded if they fulfil our own specific criteria for funding research and if they are supported by our Scientific Advisories. Our research 'strategy' can be found published online on our website. Any grant recipients should always maximise the availability of research 'data' derived from the Grant to others with as few restrictions as possible.

We are committed to providing targeted and biologically relevant study, which contributes to combinational approaches as research is beginning to show this will be needed to be curative. We favour approaches that are medically progressive and translational with clear path to informing future clinical trials, ultimately, we must make the best decision for our donors with the limited resource that we have. Quite simply put the more we have the more we can achieve.

Abbie's Army positively welcomes the opportunity to combine efforts with other charities and fundraising groups to make a wider impact, and family groups in the 'community' have made a significant increase in donated funds in the past financial year.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Charitable Objects for Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

As Trustees we take very seriously the responsibility to fulfil our duties, serve our objectives and deliver for public benefit our goals for supporting the effective treatment for children's DIPG brain cancer research.

Achievements and Performance in the Year

Throughout 2020 the charity whilst severely limited continued to promote its profile and advocate for DIPG awareness and research funding throughout the UK.

Towards the end of the year the charity became significantly involved in campaigning alongside a petition on Government for additional funds to support research for childhood cancers with the worst survival rates, such as DIPG. The petition bought by Fiona Govan in memory of her grandson Logan Maclean was successful in receiving 100,000 signatures and as such was debated in Parliament on December 7th 2020. An evidence session also followed with representation from the DHSC and NIHR (National Institute for Health Research).

Grants Awarded and Review of 2020

Institute of Cancer Research, DIPG Trials Research position (Jones Lab)

Abbie's Army has been supporting Professor Chris Jones' laboratory for some time at the Institute of Cancer Research, as the UK biology reference centre for DIPG trials, the need to fund a dedicated DIPG Trials Scientific Officer within the team and to expand ICR's capacity was requested in 2019.

This continued work not only on the BIOMEDE samples (former UK trial now closed to recruitment), but also included children's samples from other trials in the UK and Europe.

Abbie's Army funded this second year of appointment for Elisabet Fernandez Potente in March 2020, who was selected by Professor Jones to join the team.

Development of H19-targeting antisense oligonucleotides for DIPG therapy – The Open University UK Dr Francesco Crea

This collaborative project including other research groups was also affected by closures on campus. a strategy was soon implemented in order to optimize the time involved working away from the lab. Research already conducted by the team and by other groups has identified specific lncRNAs (long non-coding) as drivers of cancer cell drug resistance, migration, and invasion. Here the team are proposing to develop lncRNA-targeting ASOs to stop DIPG proliferation, with the final goal of developing personalised therapies for this incurable disease.

Throughout the year studies were eventually completed in full with online presentations providing updates in the absence of lab visits in person. Due to the disruption, the agreed 2019 funding was submitted in its entirety on completion in November 2020. The findings from this 'seed funded' study have already been submitted to larger grant schemes including the MRC and created other offshoot projects specific to DIPG research.

Plans for the Future

The charity will continue to be driven by its mission statement, its aims and objectives and ensure the best practice is delivered for our supporters.

We will continue to plan and support covid-safe events to fund raise and seek opportunities to recruit charity partners to secure more sustainable and regular income streams. We are fully aware that fundraising methods can have an impact on public opinion and the reputation of our charity, and we endeavour to self-govern effectively.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Plans for the Future

As DIPG is a specific and rare childhood cancer affecting low numbers it will remain the core of our strategy to attract collaboration and invite other affected families who may want to fund raise for research purposes, but cannot see the benefit in the duplication of another charity for that same purpose. 2020 was particularly difficult and any collaboration never more important, in that sense our ability to fund any new research we will proceed much more quickly. We also would aim to actively support the administration of fundraising campaigns for overseas trials and treatments subject to our terms and conditions, to return any surplus funds to a research designation. The charity has produced a 'Parent Charter and Fundraising Guide' in this regard.

There are currently no plans to pursue the addition of paid fundraisers or PR advertising to increase revenues.

Financial Review

Income for the year amounted to £134,763 (2019: £279,263) which comes from donations by individuals and

Expenditure for the year amounted to £158,543 (2019: £131,558). During the year, grants were paid amounting to £153,141 (2019: £124,395) to aid the research into DIPG.

This resulted in a deficit for the year of £23,780 (2019: surplus £147,705).

Reserves Policy

In accordance with the Charity Commission guidance, the Trustees review on a regular basis the level of income reserves that it considers appropriate. At 31 December 2020, the Trustees consider it appropriate to hold no free reserves and have deemed all funds as designated funds, in support of its charitable objectives. The designated reserves at 31 December 2020 amounted to £340,6688 (2019: £364,448).

Investment Policy

The investments held by the charity were inherited from previous trustees and committees. No change is foreseen by the current Board of Trustees.

Risk Management

The charity Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that those systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks.

As a small charity working within our structure and environment our situation is not currently overly complex, we must however address risk particularly in relation to finances as it arises with monitoring and evaluation. Our emphasis is firmly on fund raising, so maintaining transparency and full disclosure to prevent any loss of donor confidence and adverse publicity is paramount. Robust selection in grants awarded and transparency on efficacy good or bad will be reported.

COVID-19 and Going Concern

The Trustees in reviewing the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them are currently facing the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. With fundraising completely reliant on 'community' events the income for 2020 and 2021 will remain impacted significantly.

Despite the challenges of 2020 the charity managed to negotiate its first co-funding of a clinical trial research grant with UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, committing £477K in funding. £125k has been accrued as a grant commitment in the current year and the remaining £352k will be paid via instalments if relevant milestones are reached.

At the time of writing the disruption to research risk in our associated academic institutions is now significantly reduced and we are hopeful that minimal timeframes may now be lost for any new research implementations, though International collaborators may still be affected.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

COVID-19 and Going Concern (continued)

As stated previously, we are optimistic of a gradual return to fundraising and ability to maintain an income sufficient to fulfil our research aspirations. As time progresses post-pandemic all efforts will be made by the Charity to ensure we may still achieve these new goals with input and maximum collaboration from all other associated DIPG groups in the UK with 'research' in their own remit. Working together has never been more important. On this basis the Trustees believe the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

Structure

The charity name '**Abbie's Army**' is governed by charitable Trust Deed dated 21 October 2012 which was entered onto the Register of Charities on 22 October 2012 under the registration of 1149400.

Governance and Management

The Trustees of Abbie's Army are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the charity.

During the year the following were Trustees of the charity:

A Mifsud (Chair)
C Codner
R Mifsud

Apart from the first trustees every Trustee must be appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a special meeting called by the appointed chairman or by at least two Trustees. The governing document does not specify a minimum or maximum number of Trustees.

Abbie's Army is a small parent led charity. Its governance remains solely the responsibility of the existing member Trustees who have first-hand experience of DIPG, research knowledge of the clinical landscape and abilities to lead the charity's work.

The Trustees govern the activities of the charity and drive it forward on a daily basis, family members and friends give up their time voluntarily to administer and organise charity events, and ensure the fulfilment of our aims and objectives for 'public benefit'.

No one in connection with Abbie's Army receives payment or benefits of any kind.

Our own small Scientific Advisory panel is comprised of leading experts spanning the globe in children's DIPG brain cancer research and/or administering technologies to develop new treatment strategies. Following principles of peer review for any grant awarded you can be assured of full impartiality from reviewers with complete independence from the charity Trustees. Advisories will not be current beneficiaries when selected to review grant applications, there will be a balance of disciplines and experience depending on the nature and monetary value of the grant.

After external expert review, they will make recommendations to ensure that Abbie's Army is fulfilling its remit to fund the most promising DIPG research projects, with its limited resource. The ultimate funding decision based on these recommendations remains with the Trustees.

ABBIE'S ARMY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud

Trustee

Date: 17 October 2021

ABBIE'S ARMY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

- 1 accounts records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

M A Wilkes FCA
Azets Audit Services

25 October 2021
Greytown House
221 - 227 High Street
Orpington
Kent BR6 0NZ

ABBIE'S ARMY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

		Unrestricted funds	
	Notes	2020	2019
		£	£
Income from:			
Donations		96,814	274,560
Sales of merchandise		1,632	4,703
Gift aid		1,317	-
Interest received	7	35,000	-
Total income		134,763	279,263
Expenditure on:			
Cost of raising funds			
Costs of event staging and entry fees		-	215
Costs of merchandise		2,205	2,570
Just Giving / Paypal costs and membership		1,762	2,727
Cost of charitable activities			
Grants awarded	2	153,141	124,395
Website and website hosting costs		200	380
Rates		211	246
Sundry expenses		418	419
Depreciation		606	606
Total expenditure		158,543	131,558
Net movement in funds		(23,780)	147,705
Funds brought forward 1 January 2020		364,448	216,743
Funds carried forward 31 December 2020		340,668	364,448

ABBIE'S ARMY**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	3		17,212		17,818
Current Assets					
Stock	4	1,000		1,000	
Debtors	5	1,370		56	
Cash at bank and in hand		446,086		382,882	
		<u>448,456</u>		<u>383,938</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(125,000)</u>		<u>(37,308)</u>	
Net current assets			323,456		346,630
Net assets			<u>340,668</u>		<u>364,448</u>
Funds					
Designated funds - DIPG research			<u>340,668</u>		<u>364,448</u>

Approved by the Board of trustees on 17 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs A Mifsud
Trustee

R Mifsud
Trustee

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

Abbie's Army is a registered charity with the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities detailed in the Trustees' Annual Report on page 2 under the heading 'Objectives and activities'.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 as amended by Bulletin 1, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Funds accounting

Unrestricted general funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income including donations and gifts is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and staging and entering fundraising events.
- Grants payable are accounted for once the trustees have reviewed and discussed applications
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their

Alpacas	Not Depreciated
Fixtures and Fittings	20% Straight line

The cost of acquisition of animals is capitalised to the extent a value can be placed upon them. Subsequent births and deaths are not included on the Balance Sheet.

ABBIE'S ARMY

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

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.6 Stock

Stock held comprises stock provided as part of charitable activity. Stock is held at the lower of costs or net realisable value. Damaged or obsolete stock is written down as an expense.

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.9 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believes that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees has considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees in reviewing the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them are currently facing the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. With fundraising completely reliant on 'community' events the income for 2020 and 2021 will remain impacted significantly. Despite the challenges of 2020 the charity managed to negotiate its first co-funding of a clinical trial research grant with UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, committing £477k in funding. £125k has been accrued as a grant commitment in the current year and the remaining £352k will be paid via instalments if relevant milestones are reached. At the time of writing the disruption to research risk in our associated academic institutions is now significantly reduced and we are hopeful that minimal timeframes may now be lost for any new research implementations, though International collaborators may still be affected. As stated previously, we are optimistic of a gradual return to fundraising and ability to maintain an income sufficient to fulfil our research aspirations. As time progresses post-pandemic all efforts will be made by the Charity to ensure we may still achieve these new goals with input and maximum collaboration from all other associated DIPG groups in the UK with 'research' in their own remit. Working together has never been more important.

1.10 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no areas of judgement or key estimations.

2 GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAYABLE

	2020 £	2019 £
Grants to institutions		
Institute of Cancer Research	7,500	81,237
University of Portsmouth	-	43,158
The Open University	19,800	-
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health	125,000	-
Grants to individuals - One	841	-
	<u>153,141</u>	<u>124,395</u>

ABBIE'S ARMY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

3 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures and fittings		Total £
	Alpacas £	Fittings £	
Cost			
As at 1 January 2020 and at 31 December 2020	16,100	3,029	19,129
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2020 and at 31 December 2020	-	1,311	1,311
Charge for the period	-	606	606
As at 31 December 2019	-	1,917	1,917
Net Book value			
As at 31 December 2020	16,100	1,112	17,212
As at 31 December 2019	16,100	1,718	17,818
4 STOCK		2020	2019
		£	£
Stock of merchandise		1,000	1,000
5 DEBTORS		2020	2019
		£	£
Other debtors		1,370	56
6 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2020	2019
		£	£
Grants payable		125,000	37,308

The grant to UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, amounting to £125,000, is the first instalment of a four year funding agreement. Each year is subject to various milestones being reached. The total amount of funding is £477,016 and the remaining three instalments have not been recognised as there are conditions to be met before each is released.

7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year Mrs A Mifsud paid the following costs, as a donation, on behalf of the charity:

	2020 £	2019 £
Advertising	140	-
Lottery License	40	-
Merchandise	83	-

During the year BTL-UK Ltd (formerly Dunlop BTL Limited) paid £1,076 (2019: £2,915) for the purchase of merchandise to raise funds for the charity as well as the payment of rates and the register of an Alpaca. R S Mifsud and Mrs A Mifsud are directors of BTL-UK Limited.

During the year Abbie's Army loaned £350,000 to BTL-UK Ltd In April 2020 which was then repaid on 30 July 2020. Interest of £35,000 was charged on this loan.

8 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

No staff are employed by the charity.

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses incurred during the year (2019: £Nil).