



Trustees' Annual Report

Blue Skye Thinking

From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Registered Charity Number 1158021

Principle Address:

66 Five Mile Drive
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX2 8HW

Names of Trustees:

Mr Andrew S Hall
Mrs Sally G Hall
Mrs Victoria E B Marcham
Mrs Lisa Ruggles
Dr Joanne Wilkinson

Website:

www.blueskyethinking.org

Contact Email:

contact@blueskyethinking.org

Contact Telephone:

01242 262731

Bankers:

Royal Bank of Scotland
32 St Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3ND
Account No: 11002339
Sort Code: 16-10-15

Introduction to *Blue Skye Thinking*

In August 2013, Skye Hall, aged 4, was diagnosed with a brain tumour, which had metastasised to various parts of his brain and spinal cord, despite showing very few symptoms over a period of just 4 weeks. Just 12 months later Skye died as a direct result of the side effects of the treatment, which included surgery to remove the bulk of the tumour, an 11 week course of Chemotherapy, 5 weeks of Radiotherapy, followed by high dose Chemotherapy. The disease was stable, but the rigorous treatment protocols which he was subjected to, led to his paralysis and subsequent death.

In response to this, Skye's parents, Sally and Andrew Hall, set up Blue Skye Thinking in order to accelerate research into the Research and Treatment of Childhood Brain Tumours, so that all children diagnosed would have a better chance of survival and a better quality of life post treatment. Blue Skye Thinking is a registered charity with the Charity Commission and as a Charitable Trust with the HMRC, and is governed by the Trust Deed dated 24 July 2014.

Aims and Objectives

To help promote research into the causes, cures and prevention of childhood brain tumours and to disseminate the useful results of such research for the benefit of the public.

The relief of children who are suffering from a brain tumour by the provision of grants and financial assistance to provide equipment and apparatus to hospital wards, and support people suffering from brain tumours, their families and carers.

Raising awareness of brain cancer as the number one cancer killer amongst children and teenagers.

Trustees

There must be at least three [3] trustees. Apart from the first trustees, every trustee must be appointed [for a minimum term of two years] by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting called under clause 15 of the Deed.

In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. The trustees must keep a record of the name and address and the dates of appointment, re-appointment and retirement of each trustee. The trustees must make available to each new trustee, on his or her first appointment:

- (a) a copy of this deed and any amendments made to it;
- (b) a copy of the charity's latest report and statement of accounts.

Achievements and Performance

Blue Skye Thinking continues to be represented on key Medical Steering Committees representing the parent voice; these include the UK Children's Genome England (Genomics England Clinical Interpretation Partnership - GeCIP), SIOP-HRMB International Society of Paediatric Oncology, and Stratified Medicine Paediatrics. [See here for further detail.](#)

Despite having a voice on these key Committees, the pace at which change happens continues to be a source of frustration. There is no question that Research takes time and there is the inevitable due diligence that needs to take place before following particular strands.

Campaigning

After the launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours (APPGT) inquiry report in February 2023, there was a flurry of activity to gather support from MPs ahead of the Chamber debate in Westminster on Thursday 9th March. The debate was intended to press the Government on the topic of the 'missing millions' that were pledged to brain tumour research following the death of Dame Tessa Jowell, MP. Blue Skye Thinking approached its supporters and encouraged them to write to their MPs to put their efforts into supporting this debate. For further information you can view the transcript here: <https://www.blueskyethinking.org/blog>. We genuinely hope that momentum continues to grow and that research funding can be delivered without unnecessary delays.

Fundraising

The majority of funds have been raised through regular Donations and individuals raising money through Sponsorship.

London Marathon

In October 2022, Skye's mum Sally ran the London Marathon raising money for both Helen & Douglas House and Blue Skye Thinking. Helen & Douglas House supported Skye's family during his final weeks and kindly provided Sally with a place in the London Marathon. Donations received through JustGiving were split 50:50 between the two charities. You can read more [here!](#) Skye's brother Jesse supported Sally throughout the route, cheering her on.



TRUCK Festival

It was great to be back at TRUCK Festival and once again be part of this iconic event in the Charity Good Food Tent. To be among so many volunteers supporting their various Charities is truly humbling. Once again Blue Skye Thinking's wonderful volunteers came out in force to support this event and raise a significant amount of money.



Reserves

A policy decision was taken by the Trustees, that before embarking on the sponsorship of any research projects, the Charity would ensure that the full sum of money was in place prior to commencement, to ensure that should the financial or political climate change, that sufficient funds were available to ensure that any project would run its full course. Hence, the Charity would always operate with reserves in the bank.

Current reserves are substantial, and the Trustees will look at worthy projects to support in the coming 12-18 months. Research projects are expensive and elongated, and as such significant reserves need to be built up in order to be able to fund these when they arise. A short 4-year project will demand reserves of between £120k and £150k. Grants will be made to worthy projects. Trustees will ensure due diligence.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed:

Signed:

Signed:



Signed:



Signed:



Date:

21 January 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Blue Skye Thinking

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1158021

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/3/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Caroline Ryman

Date: January 2024

Name:

Caroline Ryman

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Chartered Accountant

Address: 11 Aggs Close, Gotherington, Cheltenham, Glos, GL52 9HD

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Blue Skye Thinking

No (if any)
1158021

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

| For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|------------------------|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| | 01-Apr-22 | | 31-Mar-23 |

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds to the nearest £ | Restricted funds to the nearest £ | Endowment funds to the nearest £ | Total funds to the nearest £ | Last year to the nearest £ |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Voluntary income received | 28,696 | - | - | 28,696 | 35,696 |
| Trading activities for generating funds | 8,023 | - | - | 8,023 | 20 |
| Interest Received | 765 | - | - | 765 | 21 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 37,484 | - | - | 37,484 | 35,737 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 37,484 | - | - | 37,484 | 35,737 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | 389 | - | - | 389 | 502 |
| Cost of trading activities to generate funds | 4,268 | - | - | 4,268 | 180 |
| Website development costs | - | - | - | - | 2,509 |
| Administrative expenses | 1,243 | - | - | 1,243 | 2,472 |
| Donations | 2,500 | - | - | 2,500 | 150,000 |
| Depreciation | 100 | - | - | 100 | 100 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 8,500 | - | - | 8,500 | 155,762 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 8,500 | - | - | 8,500 | 155,762 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 28,984 | - | - | 28,984 | - 120,025 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 255,260 | - | - | 255,260 | 375,285 |
| Cash funds this year end | 284,244 | - | - | 284,244 | 255,260 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Bank current account | 61,760 | - | - |
| | Bank savings account | 222,246 | - | - |
| | Paypal account/Fixed assets/ (creditors) | 237 | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 284,244 | - | - |

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))


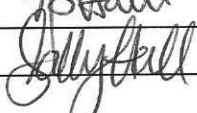
| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Fixed assets | Unrestricted | 199 | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities | Creditors at year end | Unrestricted | 161 | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| | | |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|  | Andrew Hall | 26/01/24 |
|  | SALLY HALL | 26/01/24 |