



Trustees' Annual Report

Blue Skye Thinking

From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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:

07795 485549

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.](#)

Research

In October 2024, Blue Skye Thinking announced a Research Breakthrough!

In 2021, at the height of the pandemic, Blue Skye Thinking and another parent-led charity called [Little Hero](#) partnered with Children with Cancer UK ([CwCUK](#)) to fund a focused research programme into medulloblastoma called [INSTINCT MB](#). This 5-year programme, led by Professor Steve Clifford from Newcastle University Centre for Cancer, aimed to discover more targeted treatments for children, leading to improved survival, less severe long-term side effects and an improved quality of life.

At the time, with lockdown, charity fundraising had been severely impacted and many important research programmes were struggling to get funding. The concern was felt keenly by many in the community, as not only does this delay life-saving research for a particular trial where a lot of preparation and planning has been invested, but it can also lead to specialist researchers being driven to seek alternative work, reducing the outcomes for so many areas of brain tumour research. After a number of discussions, due to the flexibility of our two smaller charities, Blue Skye Thinking and Little Hero were able to provide the first year of funding that allowed the INSTINCT MB programme to launch, with CwCUK in place to fund the subsequent years.



A young person having an MRI scan to image the brain

We are of course delighted that researchers funded by Blue Skye Thinking have made their first significant discovery on the aggressive Group 3 variety with an MYC gene expression. This is nearly incurable using current therapies. The team have identified a key dependency in this type of medulloblastoma on a critical metabolic pathway for their growth and development. They have demonstrated that when this pathway is targeted using PHGDH inhibitor drugs in experimental models it can significantly slow tumour growth.

It is hoped that this will be the platform for the development of new therapies to effectively target this high-risk cancer and improve outcomes for one of the biggest causes of childhood cancer deaths.

This could not have been possible without the dedication and support of Blue Skye Thinking's supporters. We are so incredibly grateful.

<https://newsroom.northumbria.ac.uk/pressreleases/new-study-finds-kinder-more-targeted-approach-to-treating-aggressive-childhood-brain-cancer>

<https://www.blueskyethinking.org/blog/watch-bbc-south-today-tonight-at-6pm>

Campaigning

Such was the success of the fundraising 'whirly whirly' Donation Box at the Oxford Children's Hospital, that we replaced it with a new one to ensure that there were continued funds raised for the Oxford Children's Hospital Trust. It is a great reminder of the excellent work of all the staff who care for all the children so tirelessly on a daily basis, and it provides a reminder of the need for better treatments for the hundreds of thousands of young people who have to visit the hospital each year.



Fundraising

The majority of funds have been raised through regular Donations and individuals raising money through Sponsorship. JustGiving continues to be a popular platform.

TRUCK Festival

The TRUCK Festival at Hill Farm, Steventon, in Oxfordshire continues to be our single biggest fundraiser of the year. We continue to have an incredibly loyal support base who give so freely of their time, and without whom we could not run the stand. Not only is the Festival a valuable source of income, but it provides an invaluable opportunity to talk to people about the Charity and the work that we do. Once again we sold all our product before the end of the Festival and will once again increase stock levels for the coming years.




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 are actively seeking worthy projects to support in the coming 12 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: 18 January 2025



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Blue Skye Thinking

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2025

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 31/3/2025.

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:

Date:

28 January 2026

Name:

Abigail Aversa

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

ACCA

Address:

Blundell, Station Road, Churchdown, GL3 2JR

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 1-Apr-24	To	Period end date 31-Mar-25
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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	27,951	-	-	27,951	17,629
Trading activities for generating funds	-	-	-	-	37,160
Interest Received	3,550	-	-	3,550	3,104
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	31,501	-	-	31,501	57,893
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,501	-	-	31,501	57,893
A3 Payments					
Costs of generating voluntary income	4,198	-	-	4,198	216
Cost of trading activities to generate funds	-	-	-	-	10,138
Administrative expenses	4,381	-	-	4,381	1,697
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	100	-	-	100	99
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,679	-	-	8,679	12,150
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,679	-	-	8,679	12,150
Net of receipts/(payments)	22,822	-	-	22,822	45,744
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	329,988	-	-	329,988	284,244
Cash funds this year end	352,810	-	-	352,810	329,988

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	93,798	-	-
	Bank savings account	258,972	-	-
	Paypal account/Fixed assets/ (creditors)	41	-	-
	Total cash funds	352,811	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Fixed assets	Unrestricted	299	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		Unrestricted		
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Andrew Hall	28/01/2026	
		Sally Hall	28/01/2026	