



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 January to 31 December 2021

Charity name: Donnie's Fund

Charity registration number: 1174829

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Introduction		Donnie Berenblut was born on Thursday 20 April 2017. He had Trisomy 18 and was not expected to live more than a few days or weeks. In the end, he lived 142 days, spending the entirety of his life in neonatal intensive care at University College Hospital, London. The care Donnie received was, at times, ground-breaking, creative, collaborative, compassionate, respectful and outstanding. And yet life was really very hard for his family, who spent long hours on the unit and faced uncertainty and worry at all times of day and night. Other families with babies on the neonatal unit spoke of arduous journeys, stress and financial sacrifices. Donnie's Fund seeks to address some of these challenges: to improve the lives of families with babies in neonatal intensive care through projects that cannot be paid for from NHS budgets. The charity was founded in 2017 and this 2021 report is the charity's fourth Annual Report.
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote and protect good health for the public benefit by: 1. providing additional resources, equipment and training in University College Hospitals, London and other hospitals, hospices and medical facilities in England; 2. To facilitate medical research carried out in England and internationally; and 3. To create resources and raise awareness for the furtherance of understanding medical ethics.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Web-based camera system In 2018, the Trustees agreed to fund a state-of-the-art camera system to allow families to see their babies when away from the neonatal unit. There is evidence from the United States where such systems are

activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	widespread that this alleviates the logistical and emotional challenges that families face when their baby is on a neonatal unit. The first shipment of four neonatal cameras arrived in the UK in 2019, the result of successfully negotiating a cost-free trial period with the supplier, Angel Eye, with a small number of cameras. We worked very hard in collaboration with the neonatal clinicians on logistics, governance, engagement, training and feedback processes. Due to a combination of factors, notably a hospital-wide focus on the installation of a new electronic patient record system, the trial finally began in January 2020. Feedback from the staff and families was that the trial was exceptionally successful in demonstrating a significant positive impact on families without unduly impacting on staff. We received moving feedback from some families who were fortunate enough to benefit from the four trial cameras, which remained operational throughout 2020. We finalised our contract with the supplier, the additional 28 cameras were delivered and all the IT back-end work was concluded early in 2020. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic subsequently placed heavy demands on the entire hospital, both clinical and technical, which prevented the additional cameras going live until 1 November 2020. The Trustees negotiated with the cameras' supplier, who agreed that our billing period should begin from 1 November 2020. The 2021 accounts therefore include the first year's cost for the camera system. Charitable projects: Other Donnie's Fund pre-paid for a year's worth of massage therapy sessions for parents in 2020. Unfortunately, with the onset of Covid, the service had to be suspended. Sessions restarted on 10 May 2021. The relevant expenditure was therefore in the 2020 accounts. Even after resumption, there were several weeks when the practitioner could not attend due to self-isolation etc. Nonetheless, across what was left of the year, parents received 134 massages. Among the many warm pieces of feedback received were the following, from parents, each of whom spent more than six months on the neonatal unit ("NNU"):
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		"It has been life changing. A real change from the madness of having a child on the NNU. Thank you!" "These treatments have made a huge difference to my wellbeing on the unit, and am very grateful for them. I hope it continues to help other parents too. Thank you so much!"
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. This guidance is on hand whenever the Trustees meet and is referred to in particular when reviewing the organisation's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and in particular when decisions regarding spend are made.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Donnie's Fund has no paid staff, and everything it achieves is thanks to the efforts of volunteers. We are very grateful to the volunteers who assist us and provide their skills and expertise on a pro-bono basis, including maintaining our website, and our community fundraisers.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	In total, Donnie's Fund raised just over £4,000 in the year. This was significantly down on previous years (approximately £40,000 in 2020). The reduced income was the result of a considered approach by the Trustees, who took the view that active fundraising should not be pursued. This position was set at the 2020 Annual General Meeting, as reported last year, and confirmed during 2021. This was for two main reasons: • Donnie's Fund has established a reputation for successful comedy events as its prime mechanism for fundraising. The last such event took place just before Covid hit the UK in 2020. With Covid rules fluctuating throughout 2021, no similar event could be planned. • successful fundraising in previous years, along with the delayed start of billing for the camera system, meant that the charity had cash in hand and no driving need for active fundraising. Therefore, no income target was set for the year. We remain very grateful to our donors and all funds raised are carefully used in furtherance of our charitable objectives.

		We would particularly like to pay tribute to the late Rosemary Beckett, a former midwife, who heard of the work of our charity, was moved by it, and chose to leave a legacy to Donnie's Fund in her will. It was extremely kind of her to think of us.
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Web-based camera system We have received the following data related to the usage of the camera system in 2021: Number of families signed up in 2021: 325 Number of times a camera was accessed by a family in 2021: 4,107 Number of minutes cameras were viewed by families in 2021: 12,321 Therefore, each of the 32 cameras was used by approximately 10 families during the course of the year, each family used their camera approximately 12 times, and each viewing session was 3 minutes, on average. The family with the most camera views in 2021 viewed their baby 199 times in the three months that they benefited from our webcam system. We also received moving testimonials about the impact of the cameras, in the year 2021. Three of these comments are included here, verbatim: "It's has been amazing to have access to the camera especially for the extended family, who can't meet our baby right now including my family who live in another country. It also helped me to establish pumping at the beginning of our journey. Thank you!" "This is fantastic. Really helped with my own mental health as was struggling going through big surgery and still not being able to see my baby." "My husband and I try to be there with our son 24hours but there are occasions due to childcare for our eldest that we cannot and having the camera to know he's not crying is a relief." Parents were surveyed to ask them a raft of questions about their attitudes to the cameras. Among the responses, 87.5% said having access "greatly reduces my anxiety and stress", 100% felt that the system gave them "a closer connection" to their baby and 100%

		thought it meant they phoned the unit less often. For 75% of families, extended family (siblings, grandparents etc) also viewed the baby.
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During 2020, Donnie's Fund received a total income of £4,097.56. Fundraising costs were zero. Of total expenditure of £24,853.39, the vast majority was on charitable activities, with £24,178 spent on the cameras project. Donnie's Fund ended 2020 with £92,937.95 in funds. At the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Trustees reviewed the financial position and opted to continue the approach set in 2020 to hold back from significant fundraising for the present. At the end of 2021, the charity therefore remained comfortably within the parameters of the reserves policy (see below), but the policy will need to be reviewed as part of the thinking about the overall strategy of the charity.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees have in the past agreed to work towards: • Holding sufficient funds to guarantee the continued funding of the camera project for three financial years. • holding reserves of £10,000 to fund shortfalls in income when income does not reach expected levels. The remaining general funds are held in an accessible current account as unrestricted funds which may be used generally to further the Donnie's Fund objectives. The Trustees will assess the need for investment periodically, including at the AGM. Any funds invested will be in schemes marketed as 'low risk'.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Our reserves at 31 December 2021 were £92,937.95.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees were appointed to four-year terms at the inception of the charity. Methods for selection of replacement Trustees are to be decided.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Donnie's Fund
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1174829
Charity's principal address	58 Broadfields Ave, Edgware, Middx HA8 8SW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Marcel Berenblut	Chair		
2	Ruth Berenblut			
3	Ian Pearl			
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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Marcel Ellis Berenblut	Ian Pearl
Position (eg. Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	31/10/22	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Donnie's Fund

No. (if any)
1174829

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/01/2021	To	31/12/2021
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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					
General donations	1,923	-	-	1,923	1,174
Comedy night	-	-	-	-	34,822
Community fundraisers	1,255	-	-	1,255	4,600
Corporate fundraising	-	-	-	-	27
Legacies	926	-	-	926	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,104	-	-	4,104	40,623
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,104	-	-	4,104	40,623
A3 Payments					
Charitable activities	24,562	-	-	24,562	1,864
General fundraising costs	291	-	-	291	466
Comedy night costs	-	-	-	-	5,792
Fees to Virgin Money Giving	7	-	-	7	123
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	24,860	-	-	24,860	8,245
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	24,860	-	-	24,860	8,245
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 20,756	-	-	- 20,756	32,378
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	113,694	-	-	113,694	81,316
Cash funds this year end	92,938	-	-	92,938	113,694

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	Cash in bank	92,938	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	92,938	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Marcel Berenblut	31 10 2022
	RUTH BERENBLUT	31/10/22