

Trustee's Annual Report

Charity Name	Isla's Journey
Charity Registration Number	1183156
Administrative Details & Principal Address	94 Charleston Avenue, Basildon, Essex SS13 1JH

Objectives and Activities		Activities
Promoting education around pre-term and early labour, conditions resulting in Neonatal admissions, working with obstetric and midwifery staff to raise awareness of, and the actions required when preterm labour is threatened.	Objective (a)	<p>Through the use of social media, awareness has continued to be raised to over 2300 followers regarding pre term and early labour and conditions that can arise resulting in neonatal admissions.</p> <p>Isla's Journey is still contacted to those that have recognised the symptoms and triggers of PTSD as we continue to provide research and information as such. We have been able to signpost these families to engage in the correct level of support.</p> <p>The founder continues to raise awareness through the charity website and social media pages. Follow ups from previous meetings held regarding training to current NICU staff and junior doctors have started to occur again but still not as regular as we had hoped.</p>
Promote good mental health by providing a support network that parents can access at a time that suits them	Objective (c)	<p>Isla's Journey continues to be active with the 'Neomates' online groups. We had hoped to open a community shop that allowed families in the local area to access face to face support and socialize with other families. Sadly, this project was halted due to the premises acquired being broken into and it no longer felt secure to continue.</p> <p>Both Basildon and Royal London social media groups are becoming popular and engaging with support and information for parents and families. We have parents both past and present sharing their stories which provides a real boost for those struggling as shows they are not alone. We have also begun to look at text support services which we plan to implement in the next year.</p> <p>Parent sessions have resumed in some of our units and we have been collaborating with other charities to widen our reach. 'Wellbeing' days have also resumed at Royal London at we are hoping to provide the same in more hospitals once we get permissions in place.</p>
Seek to fund dedicated antenatal, neonatal care and community services following discharge to compliment and support those services provided by the NHS	Objective (D)	<p>Further research into the text support service will resume as more platforms have become available. We are re-evaluating the community space and in the mean time, we have collaborated with local centres to hold one off events. The aim is still to provide a designated space of our own to hold community events, support groups and social events. We also hope to use this space for training and education for parents and families.</p>

Provide care packages of essential items that NHS services do not provide when a hospital stay is required.	Objective (E)	Care packages are being provided to over 80 hospitals across the UK, with many requesting a rolling stock. We currently have 6 transfer teams in England aware of our packs with 2 units having them available on their transport regularly. The other teams are not as busy and still have stock available. Care packs are either delivered personally or sent via couriers.
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Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	<p>The charity is now supplying over 85 hospitals and 3 transfer teams regularly with 4 others aware of our services. We continue to cover England, Wales and Scotland. Feedback continues to be positive and suggestions for improvements are taken on board where possible. We are currently developing an electronic feedback form to incorporate onto our care pack literature to save paper and postage.</p> <p>We have again recontacted hospitals offer them packs and update our contacts. The online order form and feedback forms are now live on our website so hospitals can directly request packs when they are running low. The benefits of the Neomates community expansion has also been essential for the mental health and family support following discharge from NICU.</p> <p>During this financial year, the charity raised £3760.46, a decrease from previous years, which was used to fund care packs, support for parents and staff and raising awareness. The funds were also used for subscriptions and services to spread awareness of what the charity does.</p>
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Financial Review Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period		Due to lack of grant security we are still looking to recruit a fundraising specialist, however, this means additional outgoing costs. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to affect fundraising and as such we have continued to use reserves and personal funds to cover some expenses. We expected this to improve over this period, which we sadly haven't quite done. Charitable objectives have been met in full this period.
Statement explaining the policy for holding the reserves stating why they are held		n/a
Amount of reserves held		0
Reasons for holding zero reserves		Stock all replaced after hospitals have been supplied with care packs. We accommodate care packs needed for the following month and further donations and grants due before supplies are required.

Additional Information The charity's principal sources of funds		Donations through social media, online fundraising events e.g. raffles, local school non-uniform/bring a care pack supply days.				
Investment policy & Objectives including social investment policy adapted		n/a		A description of the risks facing the charity		n/a
				Other		n/a

Structure, Governance and Management trusts		
Description of Charity's		
Type of governing document		Constitution
How is the charity constituted		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		Appointed

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity	
Name	Office (if any)
Mrs Hazel May Bennett	
Mrs Elizabeth Wiseman	
Mrs Claire Harland	

Declarations

The trustees
 declare that they
 have approved
 the trustee's
 report above. On
 behalf of the
 trustees: *H M*

Bennett

Full name: Hazel May Bennett

Position – Trustee

Date – 4/4/2025