FINNBAR'S FORCE

England & Wales · Charity number 1187338

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2020-01-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address

1 Park Green
Hethersett
Norwich
NR9 3GL

Phone	07419369770
Email	info@finnbarsforce.co.uk
Website	www.finnbarsforce.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS:FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT GOOD HEALTH AMONG, AND RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF, CHILDREN WITH BRAIN TUMOURS AND CANCER, THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS, IN PARTICULAR BY:A) PROVIDING GRANTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.B) PROVIDING INFORMATION, ADVOCACY AND LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS WHICH OFFER EMOTIONAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT. C) FUNDING RESEARCH TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF BRAIN TUMOURS AND CHILDHOOD CANCERS, THE USEFUL RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED. D) RAISING AWARENESS OF CHILDHOOD CANCERS WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS ON BRAIN TUMOURS AND THEIR DEBILITATING EFFECTS.

Activities: Raising Awareness - We take every opportunity we can to provide the public with information about the symptoms of brain tumours, as well as childhood cancer.Supporting Families - We provide small grants toward hospital associated costs and we offer emotional and practical support to families affected by childhood cancer.Supporting Research - We support research into childhood brain tumours.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£176,392	£179,253	-	-
2024-10-31	£133,770	£117,370	-	-
2023-10-31	£47,257	£30,187	-	-
2022-10-31	£25,389	£16,919	-	-
2021-10-31	£23,897	£15,963	-	-
2020-10-31	£15,802	£50,872	-	-

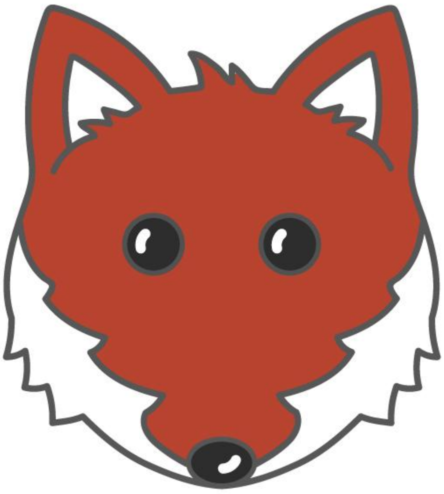
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAUL READ	Chair	2020-01-02
Charlotte El-Labany		2020-01-02
Christopher Ketley		2020-01-02
Christopher Sharman		2020-01-02
Julie Elizabeth Bruce		2024-08-28
Nina Goad		2025-06-10
Sophie Cooke-Shaw		2024-04-03

FINNBAR'S FORCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1187338

Accounts



FINNBARS FORCE

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st October 2025

Registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales

Registration Number 1187338

Contents

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Number: 1187338

Registered Address: 1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3GL.

Trustees:
Paul Read (Chair)
Charlotte El-Labany
Christopher Ketley
Christopher Sharman
Julie Bruce
Sophie Cooke-Shaw
Nina Goad (Appointed 10th June 2025)

Independent examiner:
Wilby Jones Accounting Ltd
Norfolk Tower, Surrey Street, Norwich, NR1 3PA.

Finnbar’s Story

Finnbar was born in September 2010 - a joyful, curious little boy who filled every room with light. He was thriving at school, an eager learner and a passionate reader who always insisted on two bedtime stories, no matter how tired anyone was. He was surrounded by love, and doing all the things happy little boys do.

Everything changed a couple of months after his fifth birthday, when Finnbar started saying he felt dizzy. At first it was occasional, and we were reassured by the GP that it was likely an ear infection. But as the weeks went on, the dizziness became more frequent - several times a day - and new symptoms began to emerge. He would sometimes stagger as he walked, and his behaviour shifted in small but worrying ways. We visited the GP multiple times, always encouraged to wait and see.

By Christmas, the changes were impossible to ignore. Finnbar told us himself: “I just don’t feel like myself anymore, Daddy.” Eventually, after pushing for answers, we were referred to hospital. There, the whirlwind truly began - scans, appointments, and long hours filled with growing fear.

In early 2016, we received the diagnosis we had been dreading: a brain tumour. Finnbar underwent emergency surgery to relieve pressure on his brain, followed by further procedures to prepare for treatment. The biopsy results brought devastating news - the tumour was inoperable.

Finnbar started chemotherapy in March, but his condition worsened rapidly. By May, he could no longer walk, talk, or eat. We never gave up hope, but by the end of that month, the doctors told us there was nothing more they could do. On Friday 5th August 2016, just five months after his diagnosis, we held our dear little boy as he slipped away from us. He was five years old.

Finnbar’s Force was founded in his memory - and in his name, we continue.

A Message from Tristan Cork

Finnbar's Father and Founder of the Charity

Losing Finnbar was the most painful experience imaginable. But from that loss came a determination: that no family in our region should have to face a diagnosis like his without proper support - financial, emotional, and practical - from the very first moment.

When I think about how far we have come since those early days, I am genuinely moved. We started as a small group of people who cared deeply and wanted to make a difference. Today, Finnbar's Force is a growing organisation with a dedicated team, a physical home, and - most importantly - the trust of the families who turn to us in their darkest moments. This year, we supported 53 families. Each one of those represents a child facing a diagnosis that no parent should ever have to hear, and a family trying to hold themselves together whilst the world shifts beneath their feet. Being there for them is a privilege, and it is why we do everything we do.

This year has brought milestones that I am particularly proud of. The Den - our Family Support Hub in Eaton - has continued to grow as a genuine refuge for families. It is not just a building; it is a place where people can breathe, where children can play, and where parents can talk to someone who truly understands. The therapies we offer there - play therapy, massage, counselling, and more - have made a real and tangible difference to the wellbeing of the families we serve.

One development that means a great deal to me personally is the establishment of our Dads' Support Group. In our experience, fathers, stepfathers, grandads - the paternal figures in a child's life - often find it harder to ask for help. They can feel forgotten in a system that, understandably, focuses on the child and the primary carer. Our monthly group, run in partnership with Young Lives vs Cancer, brings these men together for shared activities and the kind of conversation that happens naturally when you are alongside others who understand. I have seen first-hand what it means to those who come. It is one of the things I am most proud of this year.

But for all that we have achieved, I am acutely aware of how much more we want to do. Our ambition for the year ahead centres on recruiting a dedicated support worker - a role that will allow us to reach more families, more consistently, and with a greater depth of care. It is the next significant step in realising our vision, and we are working hard to make it happen.

To everyone who has supported Finnbar's Force - whether through giving, fundraising, volunteering, or simply spreading the word - thank you. You are part of everything we have built, and everything still to come.

A Message from Paul Read

Chair of Trustees

As I reflect on another year at Finnbar's Force, what strikes me most is not simply how much we have grown - but how well we have grown.

It is easy for a charity to expand its activities and lose sight of the foundations that make it trustworthy and sustainable. What I am proud of this year is that we have done the opposite. As our income, our team, and our reach have all increased, so too has the rigour with which we govern ourselves. The trustees have worked hard to ensure that our decision-making keeps pace with our ambitions - that our policies are fit for purpose, our finances are properly managed, and our strategy is clear.

This year saw a significant rise in both income and expenditure. We invested deliberately and purposefully in our people and our operations - decisions that were not taken lightly, and that the trustees scrutinised carefully. We believe that a charity which invests in its own capacity is one that can deliver more for its beneficiaries over the long term. The numbers reflect that philosophy in action.

We have also continued to strengthen our governance. Our trustee board brings a mix of professional expertise and lived experience, and we remain committed to recruiting trustees whose skills complement and challenge our own. Good governance is not a compliance exercise - it is what allows an organisation like ours to earn and maintain the trust of the families we serve, the funders who support us, and the wider community that believes in what we do.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the next phase of Finnbar's Force - particularly the planned recruitment of a dedicated support worker, which will meaningfully extend our capacity to support families directly. We approach that next chapter with the same care and intention that has brought us to where we are today.

On behalf of the full board, I want to thank our staff, our volunteers, our supporters, and above all the families who allow us into their lives. It is a responsibility we take seriously, and a privilege we never take for granted.

Objectives and Activities

Our Vision, Our Mission and Our Values

Our Vision

The best possible support for all families affected by childhood cancer and the development of curative treatment for all childhood brain tumours.

Our Mission

We support families affected by childhood cancer in East Anglia with a holistic package of compassionate, practical and therapeutic support, whilst championing research and awareness across the UK of childhood cancer and brain tumours.

Our Values

At Finnbar's Force, we are guided by a set of shared behaviours and principles that define who we are, how we work, and how we treat the people around us. They ensure that as we grow, we remain grounded in compassion, integrity and purpose:

Families first

Every decision starts with what will make the greatest difference for them

Care for our people

When our team feels valued and supported, we give our best to families

Collaborate for good

Working together with families, partners and communities multiplies impact

Keep learning

Training, lived experience and feedback help us keep improving what we do

Grow with purpose

Ambitious but thoughtful – building in ways that protect quality and sustainability

Be visible, be brave

We use our platform to raise awareness, share stories and speak up for families

Our behaviours and principles

Our Charitable Objectives

Finnbar's Force is established to relieve the needs of children with brain tumours and cancer, their families and carers, in particular by:

- providing information, advocacy and local support groups which offer emotional and practical support
- providing grants of financial assistance to help cover costs associated with diagnosis, such as travel, car parking and food
- funding research to improve understanding, diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours and childhood cancers
- raising awareness of childhood cancers with a primary focus on brain tumours and their effects

In undertaking all of our activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

How We Deliver Our Mission

Our work is organised around three strategic priorities, which together form the backbone of our 2025-2028 strategy. This year's activities reflect the first year of delivering against that strategy.

Strategic Priority 1:

Strengthen and Measure the Impact of Our Family Support Services

Supporting families through diagnosis, treatment and beyond is at the heart of everything we do. This year we deepened and expanded that support significantly, both through our Family Support Hub and out in the community.

Family Assistance Grants

We continued to provide financial grants to families of children diagnosed with a brain tumour or other childhood cancer, helping to ease the immediate practical pressures that follow a diagnosis - travel to distant hospitals, accommodation, car parking and food whilst away from home. Grants of up to £1000 are available to families on application.

The Den - Our Family Support Hub

The Den, our dedicated Family Support Hub in Eaton, continued to grow as the heart of our operations. It is a warm, welcoming space where families can access support, connect with others who understand, and take part in therapeutic activities - without the clinical formality of a hospital setting.

This year we delivered weekly drop-in sessions, providing a regular, informal space for families to come together, access refreshments, share experiences and speak with our team.

Holistic Therapies

We believe that the wellbeing of the whole family - not just the child receiving treatment - deserves care and attention. This year we delivered a range of therapeutic support at The Den and, where needed, at other locations or remotely:

- Play therapy, delivered by a qualified therapist at The Den
- Counselling, delivered by a trained counsellor across in-person and remote settings
- Massage therapy
- Yoga therapy including trauma informed for children

The Dads' Support Group

One of the developments we are most proud of this year is the continued growth of our Dads' Support Group - a monthly group for fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers and other paternal figures supporting a child with cancer. Run in partnership with Young Lives vs Cancer, the group brings men together for shared activities and the kind of honest, organic conversation that can be hard to find elsewhere. For many of the dads who attend, it is the first time they have spoken openly about their experience.

One-to-One Support and Advocacy

Beyond our group sessions and therapies, we continued to offer direct one-to-one support and advocacy - helping families navigate complex systems, access benefits and entitlements, and connect with other organisations and services that can help.

Working in Partnership

We continued to develop strong working relationships with organisations including the paediatric oncology teams at local hospitals, Young Lives vs Cancer, Teenage Cancer Trust, EACH Hospices, Star Throwers and Big C charities. These partnerships ensure families receive joined-up, consistent support across the services available to them.

Strategic Priority 2:

Champion Research and Awareness of Childhood Cancer and Brain Tumours

Raising Awareness

Early diagnosis saves lives. We continued to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours and other childhood cancers across our region, reaching both the public and healthcare professionals. This year we distributed 2,000 symptom cards across community venues, events and through our local partners, and maintained an active presence on social media sharing symptom guidance, family stories and information.

Research Funding

Finnbar's Force has contributed more than £50,000 to paediatric brain tumour research since our founding, and we remain committed to this aspect of our mission. This year, as we invested significantly in expanding our direct family support services, we paused direct research donations. We are proud members of Brain Tumour Research, and we will resume dedicated research funding in the coming year, including through stand-alone fundraising appeals specifically for this purpose.

Strategic Priority 3:

Develop Organisational Capacity and Sustainability

This year saw continued and deliberate investment in our people, our systems and our infrastructure - the foundations that allow us to deliver our mission at scale. We grew our team, invested in staff development, and continued to strengthen our governance and financial management. Our four flagship fundraising events - the Christmas Lights, the Little Fox Ball, the Tour de Fox and the Family Adventure Day - continued to raise vital funds and bring our community together.

We also continued to develop our Business Stars corporate partnership programme, building relationships with local and national businesses who share our values and want to support our work in a meaningful way.

Looking ahead, our most significant planned investment is the recruitment of a dedicated Family Support Worker - a role that will allow us to offer consistent, personalised one-to-one support to more families across East Anglia. We are working towards recruiting for this role within the current financial year. In the longer term, we are also exploring the development of an AI-powered information and support app, co-designed with families and clinicians, to improve access to guidance and early diagnosis information.

Our Impact

This year, Finnbar's Force supported 53 families across East Anglia - an 18% increase on the previous year, and the most families we have ever supported in a single year.

Behind that number are 53 families navigating one of the most frightening experiences imaginable. Each one came to us at a different point in their journey - some at the point of diagnosis, some mid-treatment, some afterwards. Each received support that was tailored to what they needed most.

What we delivered in 2024-25:

- 53 families supported across all strands of our work
- £17,900 awarded in family assistance grants
- 18 individual families attending drop-in sessions at The Den
- 35 play therapy sessions delivered at The Den
- 24 Counselling sessions delivered by our trained counsellor, in person and remotely
- 8 Dads' Support Group sessions run in partnership with Young Lives vs Cancer
- 2,000 symptom cards distributed across the region
- More than £50,000 contributed to brain tumour research since our founding

What this meant for families:

The families who come to Finnbar's Force are not just looking for financial help - they are looking for someone who understands, who can help them make sense of a bewildering system, and who can offer moments of calm in the middle of a storm. That is what The Den, our therapies and our support team provide.

Our drop-in sessions gave families a regular point of connection - a place to come without an appointment, without an agenda, and without having to explain themselves from scratch each time. For isolated families, particularly those who have recently moved to the area or who have few local connections, this has been especially meaningful.

The Dads' Support Group has filled a gap that we identified clearly in our conversations with families. Fathers and paternal figures often feel peripheral to a support system that, understandably, focuses on the child and the primary carer. Having a space that is specifically theirs - informal, activity-based, without pressure to talk - has made it easier for men to open up and find solidarity with others in similar situations.

Families in their own words:

> *“That first grant was really helpful… I barely worked that first month with all the appointments. We didn’t have to worry about missing work.”*
>
> *— David, East Anglia*

> *“It’s just nice knowing this is five minutes from the hospital. We can say to our daughter, ‘We’re going to The Den today,’ before we go to the hospital.”*
>
> *— Alex, Norfolk*

> *“I wanted to take a moment to send a heartfelt thank you for the support and generosity your charity has shown our family during some of the hardest times we have ever faced. Our daughter sadly passed away last month, and I wanted you to know personally how much your help has meant to us. Thank you.”*
>
> *— A family, East Anglia*

> *“I’ve been reading about your journey with Finnbar - I’m so sorry he’s not with you. You have been so good to us, and I don’t know how you do it all. You are amazing.”*
>
> *— Emily, Norfolk*

> *“It was lovely spending time with you at the Den. Sadie had a lovely time and keeps telling me how much she likes it there! Looking forward to the Mum’s group starting!”*
>
> *— Lucy, Norfolk*

Financial Review

How We Raised Our Funds

This year was one of our strongest for income, with total receipts of £176,392 - a 32% increase on the previous year's £133,770. This growth reflects the hard work of our team and supporters, and the continued development of our fundraising across multiple streams.

Donations and gifts from individuals, community supporters and local businesses grew to £84,370, an increase of around £19,000 on the previous year. This reflects the growing profile and reputation of Finnbar's Force and the generosity of a community that continues to get behind our mission.

Fundraising event income rose from £41,022 to £55,836, driven by the continued success of our flagship events - the Christmas Lights, the Little Fox Ball, the Tour de Fox and the Family Adventure Day. These events do more than raise vital funds; they bring our community together and create moments of joy and connection for families who need them most.

Grant income totalled £35,000 for the year - an increase of £9,000 on 2023-24. We are grateful to the following funders whose support has made a significant difference to our ability to deliver services for families:

- Awards for All (The National Lottery Community Fund)
- The Albert Hunt Trust
- The Geoffrey Watling Charity
- The R C Snelling Charitable Trust
- Simon Gibson Trust

All grant income is held as restricted funds and spent in accordance with the conditions set by each funder.

How We Used Our Funds

Total expenditure for the year was £179,253, resulting in a net deficit of £2,861. This is a planned and deliberate outcome, reflecting our decision to invest in the long-term capacity of the charity at a pace that slightly exceeded income growth in this particular year. The trustees considered this carefully and are satisfied it is both justified and sustainable.

The most significant change in our expenditure profile this year was in the cost of raising funds, which rose from £13,830 to £65,832. This increase reflects three factors working together: we delivered more fundraising activity than in previous years, with higher associated event delivery costs;

we increased investment in marketing and supporter engagement to grow our community presence; and, for the first time, staff time devoted to fundraising activities has been properly reflected in our fundraising cost line. This is a more accurate and transparent representation of our true cost of income generation than in previous years. The results speak for themselves - fundraising event income grew by 36% year on year, and donations increased by nearly a third.

Expenditure on charitable activities rose from £101,032 to £112,966, reflecting our expanded programme of family support at The Den, increased therapy provision, and the continued delivery of family assistance grants. This remains the largest single area of our spend, and rightly so.

Staff costs overall rose to £80,620 (2024: £44,363), reflecting the growth of our team to four employees. This investment in people is central to our strategy - we cannot deliver the quality and consistency of support our families deserve without a skilled, dedicated team behind us.

Restricted Funds

At 31 October 2025, restricted funds stood at £31,292. This represents grant income received during the year that had not yet been fully expended in accordance with funders' conditions at the year end. These funds are committed to specific activities and will be spent in the coming year.

Reserves Policy

The trustees maintain a reserves policy designed to ensure the charity can continue to deliver its core services for a minimum of six months in the event of an unexpected interruption to income. Our current target is to hold unrestricted reserves of £75,000, against a calculated minimum requirement of £68,250.

At 31 October 2025, the charity held unrestricted funds of £123,754 and restricted funds of £31,292, giving total funds of £155,046. Unrestricted cash at bank stood at £108,984. Our unrestricted funds remain comfortably above our minimum requirement, and the trustees are satisfied that the charity's financial position is sound.

The reserves policy will be reviewed in the coming year in line with the 2025-26 budget and the planned recruitment of a Family Support Worker, to ensure it remains appropriate for our growing level of activity.

Looking Ahead

In 2025-26, our financial focus is on maintaining the income momentum built this year whilst managing expenditure carefully. Our most significant planned investment is the recruitment of a dedicated Family Support Worker, which will increase our staff costs but will meaningfully expand our capacity to support families directly. We will continue to pursue grant funding proactively, develop our corporate partnership programme through Business Stars, and build on the success of our flagship events.

We are confident that the foundations we have built - a diversified income base, a growing community of supporters, and a strong reserves position - place the charity in a good position to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Governance

Finnbar's Force is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) operating under a Foundation Constitution established on 2 January 2020, amended from the original document dated 3 October 2019. Charitable status was awarded on 13 January 2020. The charity was previously established in 2017 as a Trust, which was wound down in 2020.

Structure and Leadership

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, who meet at least six times a year to oversee the charity's strategic direction, financial management and compliance with its charitable objectives and regulatory obligations. Day-to-day operations are led by the Chief Executive Officer, working in close collaboration with the staff team and trustees to deliver the charity's mission.

The trustees bring a mix of professional expertise, sector knowledge and lived experience to their roles, ensuring that the charity is led with both strategic rigour and a deep understanding of the families it serves.

Trustees

The following trustees served during the year ended 31 October 2025:

- Paul Read (Chair)
- Charlotte El-Labany
- Christopher Ketley
- Christopher Sharman
- Julie Bruce
- Sophie Cooke-Shaw
- Nina Goad (appointed 10 June 2025)

Nina joined the board during the year, bringing valuable skills and perspective that strengthen our capacity as we continue to grow. The trustees are grateful to all board members for their commitment and the time they give to the charity.

Trustee Recruitment and Induction

New trustees are appointed by resolution at a special meeting of the board and serve an initial term of three years. Upon appointment, each new trustee receives a full induction, including the governing document, recent financial reports, relevant Charity Commission guidance, and a briefing from the Chair and Chief Executive. All trustees are encouraged to engage with ongoing learning about their duties and responsibilities, and the charity provides access to relevant training and development opportunities.

Staff

The charity employs four members of staff:

- A Chief Executive Officer, responsible for day-to-day leadership and delivery of the charity's strategy
- A Fundraising Officer, leading on income generation and supporter engagement
- Two administrative support staff, assisting with service delivery, family communications and back-office functions

This team is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers who contribute to family support, events, communications and partnership working.

Risk Management

The trustees regularly review the principal risks facing the charity, including risks to income, to the delivery of services, and to the charity's reputation. Mitigating actions are identified and monitored at trustee meetings. The trustees are satisfied that appropriate controls and processes are in place to manage the key risks to the charity's operations and financial position.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved this trustees' annual report.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Verified by pdfFiller
05/08/2026

Paul Read
Chair of Trustees
Date: 8th May 2026

Christopher Sharman
Trustee
Date: 8th May 2026

Finnbar's Force
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Finnbar's Force
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

I report to the trustee on my examination of the accounts of Finnbar's Force (the Trust) for the year ended 31 October 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustee of the Trust 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 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting 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 contents 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.

Wilby Jones Accounting
Date 15/05/2026
Norfolk Tower
48-52 Surrey Street
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 3PA

Finnbar's Force
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	84,370	35,000	119,370	65,241
Other trading activities	**4**	55,836	-	55,836	67,022
Investments	**5**	1,186	-	1,186	1,507
		141,392	35,000	176,392	133,770
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	**7**	(65,832)	-	(65,832)	(13,830)
Charitable activities	**7**	(95,258)	(17,708)	(112,966)	(101,032)
Other		(455)	-	(455)	(2,508)
		(161,545)	(17,708)	(179,253)	(117,370)
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(20,153)	17,292	(2,861)	16,400
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(20,153)	17,292	(2,861)	16,400
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		143,907	14,000	157,907	141,507
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**16**	123,754	31,292	155,046	157,907

Finnbar's Force
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

				2024
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	**3**	65,241	-	65,241
Other trading activities	**4**	41,022	26,000	67,022
Investments	**5**	1,507	-	1,507
		107,770	26,000	133,770
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	**7**	(13,830)	-	(13,830)
Charitable activities	**7**	(88,538)	(12,494)	(101,032)
Other		(2,508)	-	(2,508)
		(104,876)	(12,494)	(117,370)
NET INCOME		2,894	13,506	16,400
Transfers between funds	**16**	880	(880)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		3,774	12,626	16,400
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		140,133	1,374	141,507
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**16**	143,907	14,000	157,907

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Finnbar's Force
Statement of Financial Position
As At 31 October 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	**12**	9,257	-	9,257	7,476
		9,257	-	9,257	7,476
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	**13**	8,484	-	8,484	-
Debtors	**14**	2,246	-	2,246	-
Cash at bank and in hand		108,984	31,292	140,276	151,896
		119,714	31,292	151,006	151,896
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	**15**	(3,777)	-	(3,777)	(25)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		115,937	31,292	147,229	151,871
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		125,194	31,292	156,486	159,347
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES					
Provisions For Charges		(1,440)	-	(1,440)	(1,440)
NET ASSETS		123,754	31,292	155,046	157,907
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				31,292	14,000
Unrestricted Funds				123,754	143,907
TOTAL FUNDS	**16**			155,046	157,907

On behalf of the board

Date 05/08/2026

1. General Information

Finnbar's Force is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission, registered charity number 1187338. The principal address is 1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 3GL.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Going Concern Disclosure

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

2.3. Significant judgements and estimations

In the application of the charity’s accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

2.4. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

2.5. Incoming Resources

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal o"er is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity’s control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

2.6. Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs include staff costs and are those which do not produce a direct output. Staff costs relate to specific activities and this is reflected in the allocation of payroll costs based on the percentage of time spent.

All costs, including governance costs, are allocated between the expenditure categories of the charity on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are charged directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Support costs and overheads have been calculated by allocating staff time to the level of involvement in the various activities of the Charity.

2.7. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures & Fittings	5 years straight line
Computer Equipment	4 years straight line

2.8. Stocks and Work in Progress

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Work in progress is reflected in the accounts on a contract by contract basis by recording turnover and related costs as contract activity progresses.

At the end of each reporting period stocks are assessed for impairment. If an item of stock is impaired, the identified stock is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell and an impairment charge is recognised in the statement of financial activities. Where a reversal of the impairment is required the impairment charge is reversed, up to the original impairment loss, and is recognised as a credit in the statement of financial activities.

2.9. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

2.10. Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax as all its income is charitable and applied for charitable purposes.

2.11. Pensions

The Charity makes contributions to defined contribution pension schemes through auto enrolment. These contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they become payable.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

			2025
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	84,370	-	84,370
Grants	-	35,000	35,000
	84,370	35,000	119,370

			2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	65,241	-	65,241
Grants	-	-	-
	65,241	-	65,241

4. Income from Other Trading Activities

			2025
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Sponsorships	-	-	-
Fundraising events	55,836	-	55,836
	55,836	-	55,836

			2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Sponsorships	-	26,000	26,000
Fundraising events	41,022	-	41,022
	41,022	26,000	67,022

5. Investment Income

	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	1,186	1,507

6. Net Income/(Expenditure)

The net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned	2,404	-

7. Analysis of Expenditure

	2025			
	Activities undertaken directly	**Grant funding of activities**	**Support costs** (see note 8)	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Raising funds	65,832	-	-	65,832
Direct	89,622	17,900	5,444	112,966
	155,454	17,900	5,444	178,798

	2024		
	Activities undertaken directly	**Grant funding of activities**	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**
Raising funds	13,830	-	13,830
Direct	81,532	19,500	101,032
	95,362	19,500	114,862

8. Support Costs

	2025
	Direct
	£
General administration	2,740
Depreciation	2,404
Governance costs	300
	5,444

9. Independent Examiner's Remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	**£**
Independent examination of the financial statements	300	-

10. Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	80,620	44,363

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

11. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was: 4 (2024: 4)

12. Tangible Assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 November 2024	9,660	-	9,660
Additions	528	3,657	4,185
As at 31 October 2025	10,188	3,657	13,845
Depreciation			
As at 1 November 2024	2,184	-	2,184
Provided during the period	1,985	419	2,404
As at 31 October 2025	4,169	419	4,588
Net Book Value			
As at 31 October 2025	6,019	3,238	9,257
As at 1 November 2024	7,476	-	7,476

13. Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Stock	8,484	-

14. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due within one year		
Other debtors	2,246	-

15. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	998	-
Taxation and social security	979	25
Accruals and deferred income	1,800	-
	3,777	25

16. **Movement in Funds**

	As at 1 November 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 October 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	143,907	141,392	(161,545)	123,754
Restricted funds				
Restricted	14,000	35,000	(17,708)	31,292
Total funds	157,907	176,392	(179,253)	155,046

	As at 1 November 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 October 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General:					
General unrestricted fund	140,133	107,770	(104,876)	880	143,907
Restricted funds					
Restricted	1,374	26,000	(12,494)	(880)	14,000
Total funds	141,507	133,770	(117,370)	-	157,907

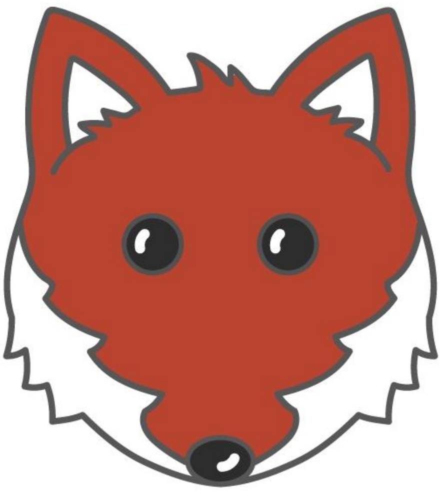
17. **Related Party Disclosures**

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

Finnbar's Force
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and gifts	84,370	65,241
Grants	35,000	-
	119,370	65,241
Other trading activities		
Sponsorships	-	26,000
Fundraising events	55,836	41,022
	55,836	67,022
Investments		
Bank interest receivable	1,186	1,507
	1,186	1,507
	176,392	133,770
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
Purchases	(7,157)	-
Staging fundraising events	(20,330)	(12,320)
Other trading activities	(1,326)	(1,510)
Wages and salaries	(37,019)	-
	(65,832)	(13,830)
Charitable Activities:		
Direct		
Wages and salaries	(43,601)	(44,363)
Marketing and advertising costs	(4,257)	(143)
Support and administration costs	(41,764)	(37,001)
Grants to individuals	(17,900)	(19,500)
Other interest payable	-	(25)
Charitable donations	(2,740)	-
Depreciation	(2,404)	-
Independent examiner's fees	(300)	-
	(112,966)	(101,032)
Other		
Depreciation Charge for the Year	-	(2,184)
Other Expenditure	(455)	(324)
	(455)	(2,508)
	(179,253)	(117,370)
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME	(2,861)	16,400

Accounts



FINNBARS FORCE

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st October 2024

Registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales

Registration Number 1187338

Contents

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Number: 1187338

Registered Address: 1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3GL.

Trustees: Paul Read (Chair)
Charlotte El-Labany
Christopher Ketley
Christopher Sharman
Julie Bruce (appointed 28th August 2024)
Sophie Cooke-Shaw (appointed 3rd April 2024)

Independent examiner: Finance Box Limited
128B The Street
Rustington
West Sussex
BN16 3DA

The Trustees present their annual report together with financial statements of Finnbar's Force for the year ended 31 October 2024.

Our Charity

Finnbar's Story

Finnbar was born in September 2010—a joyful, curious little boy who filled every room with light. He was thriving at school, an eager learner and fantastic reader who loved his bedtime stories—always insisting on two, no matter how tired we were. He was surrounded by love and doing all the things happy little boys do.

Everything changed a couple of months after his fifth birthday when Finnbar started saying he felt dizzy. At first it was occasional, and we were told by the GP that it was likely an ear infection. But as the weeks went on, the dizziness became more frequent—several times a day—and new symptoms began to emerge. He'd sometimes stagger when he walked, as if unsteady on his feet, and his behaviour shifted in small but worrying ways. We visited the GP multiple times, always told to "come back" if it continued.

By Christmas, the changes were impossible to ignore. Finnbar wasn't himself—he told us so, saying to me one day "I just don't feel like myself anymore Daddy". The uncertainty was unbearable. Eventually, after pushing for answers, we were referred to hospital. There, the whirlwind truly began—scans, appointments, and long hours filled with growing fear.

In early 2016, we received the diagnosis we had been dreading: a brain tumour. Finnbar underwent emergency surgery to relieve pressure on his brain, followed by further procedures to prepare for treatment. The biopsy results brought devastating news—the tumour was inoperable.

Finnbar started chemotherapy in March, but his condition worsened rapidly. By May, he could no longer walk, talk, or eat. We never gave up hope, but by the end of that month, doctors told us there was nothing more they could do. We spent every moment we could with him, wrapping him in love. On 5th August 2016, after a brave and heartbreaking fight, Finnbar slipped away in our arms.

We will never forget his courage, his light, and the love he brought into our lives. Finnbar's story is the heart of everything we do.

A Message from Tristan Cork – Finnbar's Father and Founder of the Charity

Living through Finnbar's illness was the most painful experience imaginable—a time marked by fear, heartbreak, and frustration. As a parent, I believed we'd find cutting-edge treatments and a system that would support us. But instead, we encountered underfunded research, patchy care, and a profound sense of being lost in the system.

Childhood brain tumours receive just a fraction of the research funding of other cancers. This lack of investment means poor diagnostics, limited treatments, and devastating outcomes. That reality—coupled with the disjointed support for families—was what compelled us to act. Finnbar's Force was born from the gaps we saw first-hand: the missed phone calls, the unanswered questions, the isolation outside the hospital walls. We wanted to ensure no other family had to navigate this journey alone—without guidance, without compassion, without a voice. This year has been one of our most exciting and successful yet—a year of growth, impact, and incredible community support. In May, we proudly opened our Family Support Hub, *The Den*, in Eaton. Since then, we've welcomed families into a warm, welcoming space for drop-in sessions and therapeutic care. *The Den* has quickly become a safe, comforting refuge for those facing the unimaginable—somewhere they can be heard, supported, and gently nurtured.

We've already begun offering counselling, massage, and play therapy, with music therapy and yoga coming soon. It's all part of our vision to support the emotional and physical wellbeing of families through gentle, holistic care. This was also our most successful fundraising year to date—a testament to the extraordinary support we've received from our community. From our incredible fundraising team and volunteers, to those who ran, cycled, donated, and sponsored—we're deeply grateful for every single person and business who chose to stand with us. Our events calendar has also gone from strength to strength. The Eaton Vale Family Adventure Day brought families together for fun and connection, Tour de Fox united cyclists of all ages behind our cause, and our magical Christmas Lights display once again lit up the village. And of course, The Little Fox Ball was a truly unforgettable celebration of everything this community stands for—generosity, compassion, and hope.

We're also proud to have grown our reach through strong and meaningful corporate partnerships. Every step forward is for Finnbar—and for every family like ours. What we do today shapes a better tomorrow for children and parents facing the hardest fight of their lives.

A Message from Paul Read, Our Chair

The last 12 months has seen Finnbar's Force go from strength to strength. We've grown in both scope and ambition, taking meaningful steps forward in realising our long-term vision.

All the while we have remained committed to the core values and community spirit that have shaped us from the very beginning.

Last year as a charity we made the decision to establish a new permanent base, and we opened the Den. This warm, welcoming space has already become a lifeline for local families, offering drop-in sessions, play therapy, massage therapy and more, with music therapy and yoga soon to follow. The Den is a tangible expression of our mission: to provide accessible, compassionate support at every step of a family's journey We've also continued to grow our team, with the addition of two dedicated administrative staff supporting our existing Fundraising Officer and CEO. This growth means we're now

better equipped than ever to respond to families' needs and expand our impact across the region. As trustees, we know that to deliver long-term, sustainable support, we must continue to invest in all aspects of the charity.

As the figures demonstrate within this report our fundraising efforts have been outstanding. The Little Fox ball and the Tour De Fox have joined the Family Adventure Day and Christmas Lights as regular headline events. We have been fortunate to work with remarkable individuals and businesses who raised funds, volunteered time, and offered sponsorship, for this we are deeply grateful. These events not only raise vital funds, but also create moments of joy, connection, and hope for families who need it most. Our strong and growing partnerships with local and national businesses, have also played a pivotal role in our success. Their continued support, financially and through volunteering, has helped us grow both our reach and our resilience. Looking ahead, we know there's more to do. We're working towards introducing a dedicated Support Worker role, which will allow us to reach even more families with direct, personalised care. We are also refining our long-term strategy to support this growth and ensure that everything we do is built on a solid, sustainable foundation. As Chair, I feel incredibly proud of what we've achieved together.

With each step forward, we're building a lasting legacy in Finnbar's name, one rooted in empathy, driven by action, and fuelled by an incredible community

Our Values

At Finnbar's Force, our values guide every decision we make and every interaction we have—with families, supporters, partners, and each other. They reflect who we are and how we work.

Our Values

At Finnbar's Force, our values guide every decision we make and every interaction we have—with families, supporters, partners, and each other. They reflect who we are and how we work:

Families First
Families are at the heart of everything we do.

Care for Our Team and Supporters
We care deeply for our staff, volunteers, and everyone who walks alongside us in this work.

Collaboration is Key
We achieve more when we work together — with families, partners, and the wider community.

Focused on Impact
We use our time, energy and resources where they will make the greatest difference.

Be the Change
We lead with boldness and heart, taking action to create the change we want to see.

Objectives and Activities

Our vison reflects our recognition that, while we will always maintain a focus on childhood brain tumours, we can and will support families affected by childhood cancer of any kind.

Our Vision:

A world where fewer children suffer and die at the hands of a brain tumour and where all children with cancer in our area receive all the support they need, when and where they need it.

Our Mission:

- ***To improve outcomes***; by supporting and campaigning for increased research into childhood brain tumours; and by raising awareness of the symptoms of the disease.

- ***To support children and families***; by advocating; providing easy access to the best support and information; and by working with other services to improve the overall care package.

Our Objectives

Our original charitable objectives focus on childhood brain tumours:

To relieve the needs of, children with brain tumours and cancer, their families and carers, in particular by:

- Providing information, advocacy and local support groups which offer emotional and practical support
- Providing grants of financial assistance - predominantly for associated costs that the diagnosis brings, such as travel to distant hospitals, car parking, food etc.
- Funding research to improve understanding, diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours and childhood cancers, the useful results of which will be published
- Raising awareness of childhood cancers with a primary focus on brain tumours and their debilitating effects.

Our Main Activities to Achieve Our Charitable Objectives

In delivering our core work, the trustees have continued to act in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. This year marks a period of renewed momentum and meaningful progress towards our mission.

After several challenging years shaped by the pandemic, we've been able to re-focus on expanding and deepening our support for families. The opening of *The Den*—our dedicated Family Support Hub in Eaton—has been a transformative step. This space now serves as the heart of our operations, allowing us to provide in-person support in a calm, welcoming environment and to begin offering therapeutic services tailored to families' emotional and practical needs.

How We Help:

Raising Awareness

We continue to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours and other childhood cancers, targeting both the public and healthcare professionals. Our activities include:

- Distributing thousands of **symptom cards** at community events and through local partners
- Providing **information packs** to GP surgeries, schools, and opticians
- Maintaining a strong presence online and through **social media**, sharing facts, stories, and symptom guidance

Raising awareness remains a critical part of our mission to improve early diagnosis and outcomes.

Supporting Families

Supporting families through diagnosis, treatment, and beyond remains at the heart of everything we do. This year we've expanded both the scale and the depth of our support.

- We awarded **£19,500 in family assistance grants**, helping with the costs of travel, accommodation, food and other essentials following diagnosis.
- **45 families received support** from us across the year—an increase of more than 25% compared to the previous year.
- We continue to offer **1-to-1 advice and advocacy**, both in person and remotely, to guide families through complex and often overwhelming systems.

With the opening of *The Den*, we now provide:

- **Weekly drop-in sessions** offering a safe, informal space for families to connect, share, and access advice and refreshments
- **Play therapy sessions**, held weekly and delivered by a qualified therapist
- **Massage therapy**, available by appointment
- **Counselling**, with additional therapeutic services such as **music therapy** and **yoga** launching soon
- A **monthly dads' support group**, facilitated in collaboration with Young Lives vs Cancer

Working in Partnership

We want to continue to develop our ties and collaborate closely with local and national organisations to improve the support available to families. This includes:

- Strong working relationships with **paediatric oncology teams** at NNUH
- Ongoing collaboration with charities such as **Star Throwers** and **EACH Hospices**
- Building new relationships with other local and national childhood cancer organisations
- Corporate partnerships that support our work through sponsorship, volunteering, and advocacy—this year including **Fosters Solicitors** and **CADENT**

Supporting Research

At Finnbar's Force, we are steadfast in our commitment to advancing research into childhood brain tumours. Since our inception, we have contributed over **£50,000** to paediatric brain tumour research, supporting projects aimed at improving understanding, diagnosis, and treatment.

We are proud to be a **member charity of Brain Tumour Research**, a UK-based organisation dedicated to funding sustainable research into brain tumours. As a member, we collaborate to campaign for increased national investment in brain tumour research and to raise awareness of this devastating disease.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to supporting research initiatives that align with our mission, ensuring that children diagnosed with brain tumours have access to better treatments and, ultimately, hope for a cure.

Our Impact

This year has seen our charity make a deeper and wider impact than ever before. We supported **45 families**—a 28% increase on the previous year—providing practical, emotional and financial support through some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

We awarded **£19,500 in assistance grants**, helping ease the financial strain of travel, accommodation, and time off work during treatment.

The opening of *The Den* has also allowed us to deliver new, holistic therapies—**play therapy, massage, counselling**, and soon **music therapy and yoga**—creating moments of calm and care at the most challenging times. It has become a space where families can breathe, connect and just be themselves without judgement or formality. One family described how much easier it was to open up there than in the hospital setting:

> *"We found it easier to talk here. Everything was just really free flowing...*
> *It's brought us closer."*
> *— Raegan*

We're now running **weekly drop-in sessions**, offering a safe and welcoming environment for families to connect and access support. Children like Della enjoy the playroom while parents can relax with a coffee or chat with someone who truly understands.

> *"It's just nice knowing this is five minutes from the hospital. We can say to Della,*
> *'We're going to the Den today,' before we go to hospital."*
> *— Alex*

Therapies at *The Den* have also helped relieve stress and provide moments of peace. Parents are accessing **massage therapy**, **counselling**, and **play therapy**, with **music therapy**, **yoga**, and a **monthly dads' group** on the way.

> *"We don't spend much time together anymore... So we're planning a day to come for a massage, just the two of us."*

Feedback also emphasises the power of financial support during intense early treatment phases:

> *"That first grant was really helpful… I barely worked that first month with all the appointments. We didn't have to worry about missing work."*

Families have also shared the value of having support that feels personal and consistent—something that goes beyond what's available through overstretched hospital systems:

> *"The play teams (at the hospital) are brilliant, but they're not just for us. Having somewhere like this, where we feel supported, really is lovely."*
>
> *"If people support places like this, it helps all of us—whether it's helping our daughter, helping us, or others in the same situation. It all trickles down."*

We remain committed to listening, learning and evolving. This year's growth is just the beginning of what we can achieve together.

A few photos of The Den – our new support centre for families

Financial Review

This year has seen significant growth in both our income and expenditure, marking a major step forward in the development of Finnbar's Force. As we continue to grow our reach and deepen our impact, our finances have followed suit—reflecting our ambitions, new staffing structure, and the opening of our Family Support Hub, *The Den*.

We closed the financial year with total income of **£133,770**, almost triple that of the previous year. This substantial increase was driven by several key factors:

- A noticeable uplift in community fundraising and individual giving
- The continued success of our main fundraising events
- Our first year receiving significant **grant income** (£26,000)
- Growth in our profile and reputation, leading to new corporate partnerships

This growth in income has allowed us to invest meaningfully in our services. Total expenditure rose to **£117,370**, more than four times that of the 2021–22 financial year, and more than double last year's spend. This rise is a direct result of strategic decisions to scale up and improve the support we offer families, including:

- Launching and running *The Den*, including rent, utilities and session delivery
- Expanding our team to include **four paid roles**, allowing us to better manage operations, fundraising, and family support
- Significantly increasing the number and value of **grants awarded to families**
- Growing our community presence through events and volunteer coordination

While these increases are considerable, they are both planned and sustainable.

We have set our **reserves at a prudent level** of **£75,000**, comfortably above our current minimum requirement of **£68,250** (covering six months of core costs). This allows us to continue expanding services while maintaining financial stability.

We are acutely aware of the broader economic pressures facing the charity sector—from rising costs to increased demand—and have planned carefully to ensure we can weather challenges while continuing to grow responsibly.

Looking ahead to 2024–25, we have budgeted for further investment in services, including the anticipated recruitment of a **Family Support Worker**—a vital step as we seek to reach even more families with tailored, in-person support. Our projected outgoings of **£164,500** will be met through a combination of strong fundraising momentum, targeted grant applications, and use of earmarked cash funds where appropriate.

In this next phase, our focus remains clear: growing with purpose, delivering with compassion, and stewarding every penny in Finnbar's name.

At 31st October 2024 the charity had unrestricted cash funds of £137,896 and restricted cash funds of £14,000.

Photos of some of our fundraising events and activities

Governance

Finnbar's Force is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) operating under a Foundation Constitution established on 2 January 2020 and amended from the original document dated 3 October 2019. Charitable status was awarded on 13 January 2020. The charity was previously established in 2017 as a Trust, which was wound down in 2020.

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, who meet at least six times a year to oversee the charity's strategic direction, financial management, and compliance with its charitable objectives and regulatory obligations. The trustees bring a mix of lived experience, professional skills, and sector knowledge to their roles.

In this reporting period, we were pleased to welcome **two new trustees**, **Sophie Cooke-Shaw** and **Julie Bruce**, both of whom bring valuable perspectives and experience to the board. Their addition strengthens our capacity as we continue to grow as an organisation.

As the charity has grown, the trustees have recognised the importance of expanding both the operational capacity and governance expertise of the organisation. In line with this, the charity now employs four members of staff:

- A Chief Executive Officer, responsible for day-to-day leadership and delivery of the charity's strategy
- A Fundraising Officer, leading on income generation and supporter engagement
- Two administrative support staff, who assist with service delivery, family communications, and back-office functions

This team is supported by a core group of dedicated volunteers, including those helping with family support, events, communications, and partnership working.

The Board of Trustees continues to seek opportunities to strengthen the charity's governance. This includes:

- Exploring the recruitment of new trustees with specialist expertise as needed
- Ongoing review of policies and procedures to reflect the charity's evolving structure
- Encouraging continued learning and development for all trustees through resources provided by the Charity Commission and other sector bodies

New trustees are appointed by resolution at a special meeting of the board and serve a term of three years. Upon appointment, trustees receive a full induction pack, including the governing document, financial reports, and relevant Charity Commission guidance.

The day-to-day operations of the charity are carried out in close collaboration between the staff team and the trustees, ensuring a shared commitment to delivering our charitable objectives and maintaining the compassionate, family-focused ethos that underpins Finnbar's Force.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Paul Read (May 21, 2025 20:34 GMT+1)	Christopher Sharman (May 21, 2025 20:25 GMT+1)
Paul Read	Chris Sharman
Chair	Trustee
21 May 2025	21 May 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Finnbar's Force

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of FINNBAR'S FORCE for the year ended 31st October 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 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 confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Steven Case

Steven Case (MAAT)

Finance Box Limited
128b The Street
Rustington
West Sussex
BN16 3DA

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2024

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	65,241	-	65,241	27,630
Other trading activities	3	41,022	26,000	67,022	11,206
Investments	4	1,507	-	1,507	1,121
Total		**107,770**	**26,000**	**133,770**	**39,957**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	13,830	-	13,830	10,490
Charitable activities	6	88,538	12,494	101,032	12,111
Other	8	2,508	-	2,508	286
Total		**104,876**	**12,494**	**117,370**	**22,887**
Net income/(expenditure)		**2,894**	**13,506**	**16,400**	**17,070**
Transfers between funds		**880**	**(880)**	**0**	**0**
Net movement in funds		**3,774**	**12,626**	**16,400**	**17,070**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		140,133	1,374	141,507	124,437
Total funds carried forward		**143,907**	**14,000**	**157,907**	**141,507**

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 October 2024

Recommended categories by activity	**Notes**	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted income funds £**	**Total Funds 2024 £**	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9	7,475	-	7,475	-
Total fixed assets		**7,475**	**-**	**7,475**	**-**
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand	10	137,896	14,000	151,896	141,507
Total current assets		**137,896**	**14,000**	**151,896**	**141,507**
Creditors		(25)	-	(25)	-
Net Current Assets		**137,871**	**14,000**	**151,871**	**141,507**
Total assets less current liabilities		**145,346**	**14,000**	**159,346**	**141,507**
Provisions for liabilities		(1,440)	-	(1,440)	-
Total net assets or liabilities		**143,907**	**14,000**	**157,907**	**141,507**
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted funds	11	143,907		143,907	140,133
Restricted income funds	11		14,000	14,000	1,374
Total funds		**143,907**	**14,000**	**157,907**	**141,507**

Declaration

The financial statements were approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Paul Read (May 21, 2025 20:34 GMT+1)

Paul Read

Chair

21 May 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.2 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the

Charities Act 2011. These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.4 Income from donations or grants

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal order is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members. Support costs include staff costs and are those which do not produce a direct output. Staff costs relate to specific activities and this is reflected in the allocation of payroll costs based on the percentage of time spent. All costs, including governance costs, are allocated between the expenditure categories of the charity on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are charged directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis. Support costs and overheads have been calculated by allocating staff time to the level of involvement in the various activities of the Charity.

1.6 Pensions

The Charity makes contributions to defined contribution pension schemes through auto enrolment. These contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they become payable. 1.7 Taxation The organisation is a registered charity and has no liability to income tax or corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year. 1.8 Provisions for liabilities A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

1.7 Taxation

The organisation is a registered charity and has no liability to income tax or corporation tax on its charitable activities during the year.

1.8 Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

1.9 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.10 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. There are no estimates and assumptions which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities.

1.11 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, such as land and buildings, plant, vehicles and equipment, are held to provide an on-going economic benefit to a charity through their contribution, directly or indirectly, to the provision of goods or services by the charity. Tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Name	**Rate (%)**	**Year**	**Method**
Fixtures and Fittings		5 years	Straight Line

2 Income from Donations and Legacies

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£
Donation and gifts	65,241	65,241	34,930
	65,241	65,241	34,930

3 Income from Other Trading Activities

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Events	41,022	-	41,022	11,206
Sponsorship	-	26,000	26,000	-
	41,022	26,000	67,022	11,206

4 Income from Investments

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£
Interest income	1,507	1,507	1,121
	1,507	1,507	1,121

5 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
Analysis	£	£
Staging fundraising events	12,320	4,286
Other trading activities	1,510	-
Support Costs	-	6,204
	13,830	10,490

6 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Analysis	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Interest payable	25	-
Charity running cost	37,001	4,550
Donations	19,500	7,300
Advertising and marketing	143	1,357
Staff costs	44,363	-
Support Costs	-	6,204
	101,032	19,411

7 Support Costs

Analysis	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	-	12,408
	-	**12,408**

8 Other Expenditure

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Depreciation Charge for the Year - Fixtures & Fittings	2,184	2,184	-
Other Expenditure	324	324	286
	2,508	2,508	286

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

9.1 Cost or valuation

	Fixtures & Fittings £
At 01 November 2023	-
Additions	9,659
Disposals	-
Revaluations	-
Transfers	-
At 31 October 2024	9,659

9.2 Amortisation and Depreciation

	Fixtures & Fittings £
At 01 November 2023	-
Additions	2,184
Disposals	-
Revaluations	-
Transfers	-
At 31 October 2024	2,184

9.3 Net book value

	Fixtures & Fittings £
At 01 November 2023	-
At 31 October 2024	7,475

10 Cash at bank and in hand

	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	151,896	141,507
	151,896	141,507

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	£	£
Taxes payable	25	-
	25	-

12 Charity funds

12.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	140,133	107,769	104,851	880	-	143,930
Restricted income funds	1,374	26,000	12,494	(880)	-	14,000
Total	141,507	133,769	117,345	-	-	157,930

12.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	123,063	47,257	30,187	-	-	140,133
Restricted income funds	1,374	-	-	-	-	1,374
Total	124,437	47,257	30,187	-	-	141,507

AnnualAccount_01-Nov-2023 - 31-Oct-2024

Final Audit Report 2025-05-21

Created:	2025-05-21
By:	Predrag Nikic (predrag.nikic@financebox.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAclEOTUJN2nutYL_HUUwliO-ayyrNtP3f

"AnnualAccount_01-Nov-2023 - 31-Oct-2024" History

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Agreement completed.
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FINNBAR'S FORCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1187338

Accounts

FINNBARS FORCE

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st October 2023

Registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales

Registration Number 1187338

Contents

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Number: 1187338

Registered Address: 1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3GL.

Trustees:
Paul Read (Chair)
Christopher Sharman
Charlotte El-Labany
Christopher Ketley

Independent examiner:
MA Barton Bookkeeping & Accounts
41 Central Crescent
Hethersett
Norwich
NR9 3EP

The Trustees present their annual report together with financial statements of Finnbar's Force for the year ended 31 October 2023.

An Introduction to Our Charity

We set up Finnbar's Force in 2017, after losing our son to an aggressive brain tumour just before his 5th birthday in 2016

Finnbar's Story

Finnbar was born in September 2010 and enjoyed a lovely start to life, doing all the things little boys love doing and being around his loving family. He was doing really well at school and was a fantastic reader - he absolutely loved stories and always had at least two every bedtime!

Then one day, a couple of months after Finnbar's 5th birthday, he started to complain that he felt dizzy. At first it was every few days, but after a couple of weeks it had become every day. We saw the GP and put it down to an ear infection. As a few more weeks passed, we became increasingly concerned as the dizziness was getting much worse - in fact it was now happening several times a day. We saw the GP again and were told to come back again if it carried on for much longer.

By Christmas we noticed that he seemed to be developing other subtle symptoms; sometimes he staggered whilst walking, as though he was drunk; and his behaviour changed - he even said that he didn't feel like himself anymore.

By January 2016, with Finnbar getting no better, we managed to get a hospital appointment. After several appointments and scans, our worst fears became reality - Finnbar was diagnosed with a brain tumour. In February he needed an emergency operation to relieve the pressure on his brain, followed by further surgeries to take a biopsy and insert a special line to administer drugs.

The biopsy results came back and we found out that the tumour was inoperable.

Finnbar began a course of chemotherapy in March but continued to deteriorate rapidly - by May he was unable to walk, could barely talk and couldn't eat. Towards the end of the month we were given the heart-breaking news that the doctors felt that there was nothing that could be done to save, or even help, our dear little Finn.

We continued to fight for Finnbar, never giving up hope of some improvement, but it was to prove a vain battle. On Friday 5th August 2016, just five months after he was diagnosed, Finnbar became very poorly. That evening we cuddled him as he slipped away from us.

A Message from Tristan Cork – Finnbar's Father and Founder of the Charity

Finnbar's illness was a harrowing journey, a constant battle against a tide of fear and uncertainty.
As a parent, I expected advanced treatment options and seamless teamwork. Sadly, the reality was different. Childhood brain tumours receive a fraction of the research funding compared to other cancers. This lack of understanding translates into poor diagnoses and limited treatment options.
Our painful insight into this world ignited our passion to change the landscape, which is why we support research, raise awareness of symptoms, and advocate for families facing this difficult diagnosis.

Whilst exceptional clinicians and charities offered invaluable support at times throughout Finnbar's illness, particularly near the end, there were undeniable gaps in the system. The impersonal nature of some interactions and communication breakdowns left us feeling isolated and unheard. Sadly, this isn't an uncommon experience. Many families face similar frustrations, burdened by avoidable mistakes and a lack of support outside the hospital setting. Unreturned calls, missing equipment, and a sense of being forgotten outside the sterile walls added a layer of unnecessary stress to an already unbearable situation.

Witnessing these shortcomings firsthand fuelled our resolve to make a difference. Finnbar's Force isn't just about research and awareness; it's about empowering families. We envision a support system that extends far beyond the hospital walls, offering not just practical assistance but also emotional solace and a strong advocacy voice. We want families to feel heard, understood, and supported throughout their entire ordeal.

I'm so proud of everything that we have achieved in Finnbar's name so far. The way we have been able to support families, especially during the uncertain and frightening times of recent years, has inspired us to do more. This year we have the most exciting progress of all, taking on our first employees and securing our first premises, to become our headquarters and a support centre for families.

We are so grateful to all of our supporters and volunteers for, slowly but surely, turning our vision into reality.

A Message from Paul Read, Our Chair

As this report demonstrates, our charity continues to go from strength to strength. Over the past 12 months, we have raised funds by engaging with our local community and providing families with the opportunity to try new experiences, fostering a sense of community. This year marked another incredible day at Eaton Vale for our Family Adventure Day, and The Christmas Lights in Hethersett have grown from strength to strength, bringing joy to thousands of visitors. Both events exemplify the type of fundraising that epitomizes our charity, along with the dedication of our volunteers. The funds generated and positive feedback from attendees have encouraged us to move forward, expanding our fundraising abilities.

In addition to our fundraising activities, we have diligently worked to grow and develop as a charity. We expanded our team with the appointment of a Fundraising Officer, Georgie. Georgie will serve as a focal point to enhance our fundraising efforts, enabling us to increase the support provided to families during challenging times. The trustees recognise that as our charity grows, we need to bring in more expertise to support families directly and to raise vital funds for our grant-giving efforts. This necessitates the effective recruitment of staff to support all aspects of the charity.

Finnbar's Force will open its new premises this year, providing a welcoming environment for families to access support and information. Our new headquarters will extend our reach and scope, improving our offerings to the community. We plan to conduct support sessions in this new environment.

To ensure success, we recognise the need to increase our fundraising efforts and expand as a charity. While we have stated goals yet to be fulfilled, our dedicated team is diligently working towards achieving them. We believe that the steps we have taken, and will take, will help us meet our goals and continue to be a focal point for support while raising awareness of childhood cancers.

Objectives and Activities

Our vison reflects our recognition that, while we will always maintain a focus on childhood brain tumours, we can and will support families affected by childhood cancer of any kind. In fact, we recognise that as we grow, the focus of our vision and mission is evolving to include new levels of support, such as our new support centre.

Our Vision:

A world where fewer children suffer and die at the hands of a brain tumour and where all children with cancer in our area receive all the support they need, when and where they need it.

Our Mission:

- ***To improve outcomes***; by supporting and campaigning for increased research into childhood brain tumours; and by raising awareness of the symptoms of the disease.

- ***To support children and families***; by advocating; providing easy access to the best support and information; and by working with other services to improve the overall care package.

Our Objectives

Our original charitable objectives focus on childhood brain tumours :

To relieve the needs of, children with brain tumours and cancer, their families and carers, in particular by:

- Providing information, advocacy and local support groups which offer emotional and practical support
- Providing grants of financial assistance - predominantly for associated costs that the diagnosis brings, such as travel to distant hospitals, car parking, food etc.
- Funding research to improve understanding, diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours and childhood cancers, the useful results of which will be published
- Raising awareness of childhood cancers with a primary focus on brain tumours and their debilitating effects.

Our Main Activities to Achieve Our Charitable Objectives

In undertaking our main activities, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefits.

In our first few years as a charity, we had some brilliant successes in supporting our objectives and we're aiming high with our future.

The Covid-19 pandemic that broke out shortly after our conversion completely changed the landscape for all charities, not only in terms of fundraising but also for service provision. We reacted rapidly to this to ensure that we supported families that had been seriously impacted by the sudden loss of income or support due to the restrictions imposed by the government, both financially and practically. We are proud that we were able to respond to the needs of the families so promptly and pleased to have received many heart-warming messages of thanks.

As our charity itself has begun to recover from the effects the pandemic has had on the third sector environment as a whole, our focus has returned to our core support projects.

Below we set out main activities.

How We Help:

Raising Awareness - We take every opportunity we can to provide the public with information about the symptoms of brain tumours, as well as childhood cancer generally, including through information stands and social media. We're also working to improve awareness amongst healthcare professionals. Examples include:

- Distributing symptom cards at various locations and events.
- Providing information packs for professionals, to doctors' surgeries, schools and opticians.
- Spreading the word online and on social media

Supporting Families – We want to reduce the load on parents that find themselves in the same terrible position that we did. We help by:

- Providing financial grants of up to £500 to families of children diagnosed with a brain tumour, or other childhood cancer, to help cover some of the costs faced upon initial diagnosis, such as travelling to a far-away hospital, car parking and food whilst away from home.

- Providing a comprehensive information toolkit on our website to direct parents and caregivers to the best online resources and connect them with charities and services that can help them locally.

- Offering 1-to-1 advice and support by visiting families at home (and soon inviting them to our support centre) to share experiences and point parents in the right direction for further advice. We have also connected families to each other for support.

- Our support hub will allow us to run support groups, family drop in sessions, coffee mornings and holistic care offerings, such as yoga sessions, massage therapy, music therapy, play therapy, craft sessions and counselling by trained professionals.

- We are training a team of volunteers to work alongside a future permanent member of staff in delivering support at home as well as improved communication with healthcare professionals.

- Working with service providers and charities in Norfolk to look at ways support can be improved for families with a child undergoing treatment for cancer;

    - We are committed to closing and filling gaps that currently exist in the services available in Norfolk for children with cancer and their families. We hope to work with other charities to achieve this.

    - We meet with families to find out their perception of the care they have received.

Supporting Research – We're committed to improving the outlook for future children that suffer with brain tumours, by supporting research that improves the understanding of childhood brain tumours, aids diagnosis or improves treatment. Since we began fundraising for research, we have provided over £50,000 toward paediatric brain tumour research projects and will continue to commit a percentage of our annual spend on supporting research projects.

Our Impact

We have received very positive feedback in respect of our support, a few examples of correspondence that we have received from families we have supported are given below;

"Finnbar's Force was a lifeline during our darkest hour. Their financial support allowed us to focus on our daughter's health, and Tristan's emotional support offered a beacon of hope when we needed it most. This charity deserves all the support it can get."

"We wouldn't know half the things we do about childhood brain tumours if it wasn't for them"

"Tristan has been amazing – I wouldn't have found out half of the information that I now have if it wasn't for his support. People need this kind of help when they're in this situation and it's really tough when you're in such a state"

"Finnbar's Force has helped us economically and it made a huge difference, less worries and more fun for the boys, having just recently moved to the area with all that that implies the grant allowed us to pay debt and still do fun things and create memories together. Thank you so much"

"I didn't know who to talk to or where to turn when I needed to find out what benefits I could claim, but Finnbar's Force pointed me in the right direction and I had it sorted within weeks"

"The grant you gave us meant we could be with our son whilst he was at Addenbrookes for a week – I don't know what we would have done without it as I am self-employed! Thank you!"

"The help they gave us with getting our son to Disneyland was brilliant. I didn't think it was going to happen, but these guys got hold of a charity that took care of EVERYTHING! We had a wonderful time!"

Financial Review

How We've Raised Funds

The majority of our funds still come from very kind and generous donations from members of the public and local businesses. These may be from a collection tin in a shop or from one of our fantastic supporters following a small fundraising event or as a result of a sponsored activity, along with 'charity of the year' or one-off donations from fabulous local businesses, clubs and societies. We are so grateful to each and every person and organisation that has donated or raised money for us – every penny goes into our general fund that supports families, goes to research and helps the charity to run.

A good amount also comes in from our own selection of fundraising events that we hold throughout the year. We aim to hold at least 6 events per year, this year we have held only our Christmas Lights event, meaning that the event income is far less than previous years. Previous events include:

- Jedi Walk
- Family Adventure Day
- Community Sports Day
- Tour de Fox Cycle Ride
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Lights

Future Income Strategy

We recognise development of stable income streams and intelligent financial management are vital to the success of the organisation and our ability to deliver on our mission.

Now that we have employed a fundraising officer, Georgie, we will become less reliant on event and donation based income and we are actively raising funds from new sources, such as grants, commercial partnerships and legacies.

Main Use of Funds

Our current intention is that funds will be used as follows:

- £60,000 to be maintained for reserves (see policy below).

- Running costs of the charity are expected to increase further this year. We anticipate that combined spending on day-to-day running and fundraising will increase to a figure nearer £60,000 over the next financial period, including staff costs and costs associated with running the office. Ahead of the next financial period, we will set a baseline budget for running costs, including staffing.

- £12,000 set aside for family assistance grants.

- Any remaining funds will be divided between supporting research projects (approx. 20%) and set aside for our own local projects (approx. 80%)

In future years we will set aside specified funds for each project we are undertaking and we intend to launch a specific fundraising appeal to cover the cost of the specialist role, estimated at a total of around £220,000 for three years. We will also apply for grant funding for projects and incorporate full cost recovery into bids.

Reserves Policy

Finnbar's Force's policy is currently under review to ensure that it is fit for purpose with respect to employing staff and running a support centre. However, we have always determined that we must maintain reserves at a level to enable us to carry out our support services for at least six months without any additional income. We recognise that a greater level of certainty will be required going forward, so this has been increased to a term of one year. Currently we aim to hold reserves of £60,000 which we deem sufficient to do this at the present time.

At 31st October 2023 the charity had unrestricted cash funds of **£114,593** and restricted cash funds of **£1,374**.

Governance

In 2020 we converted from a Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organistation (CIO). A Foundation Constitution was established for the CIO on 2 January 2020, amended from the original document of 3 October 2019.

Charitable status was awarded on 13 January 2020. The charity is run by the trustees in conjunction with a Chief Executive Officer who undertakes day-to-day alongside volunteer admin team members. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a special meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. The trustees keep a record of the names and address of each trustee, together with the dates of their appointment, re-appointment or retirement and will provide a copy of the charity trust deed and latest report and account to each new trustee. In addition, all trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission and other newsletters designed to keep them abreast of their duties and responsibilities. The trustee board currently meets at least four times each year.

With an ever increasing workload, we are now employing staff to take on some of the functions of running the day-to-day activities of the charity, including fundraising and general administration.

We also hope to recruit more trustees with specialist skills to help us lead as effectively as possible.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Paul Read
Chair
10 June 2024

Chris Sharman
Trustee
10 June 2024

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Finnbar's Force

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 August 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:

M A Barton MIAB, Cert Acc. (Open)

Date: 4th June 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Totals	2022 Totals
Receipts				
Donations and sponsored events	34,930	-	34,930	13,121
Fundraising events	11,206	-	11,206	12,170
Online sales and merchandise	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Interest (Reserve Account)	1,121		1,121	98
Total	47,257	-	47,257	25,389
Outgoings				
Employment costs (incl Training)	12,409		12,409	0
Grants/Donations	7,300	-	7,300	8,600
Runnings costs/consumables	4,550	-	4,550	2,902
Other expenses	286	-	286	36
Events	4,286	-	4,286	4,204
Employment costs	0	-	0	0
Promo/Merchandise	1,357	-	1,357	1,177
Total	30,187	-	30,187	16,919
Net Receipts	17,070	-	17,070	8,470

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Totals
Cash Funds at 31st October 2022	123,063	1,374	124,437
Net Receipts for the period	17,070	-	17,070
Cash Funds at 31st October 2023	140,133	1,374	141,507

Bank Account Balances	
Current Account	38,279
Savings Account	103,228
Total Funds	141,507

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Sharman

Paul Read

Chair

10 June 2024

Chris Sharman

Treasurer

10 June 2024

1 General Notes

Basis of accounting:

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Transactions with Trustees

The Charity has 2 employees.

No remuneration or benefits were paid to the Trustees or people connected with them, by the charity.

No expenditure transactions were undertaken by the charity in which a trustee or connected person has a material interest.

During the year, no trustee was reimbursed for expenses.

FINNBAR'S FORCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1187338

Accounts

FINNBARS FORCE

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st October 2022

Registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales

Registration Number 1187338

Contents

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Number: 1187338

Registered Address: 1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3GL.

Trustees:
Paul Read (Chair)
Charlotte El-Labany
Christopher Ketley

Independent examiner:
MA Barton Bookkeeping & Accounts
41 Central Crescent
Hethersett
Norwich
NR9 3EP

The Trustees present their annual report together with financial statements of Finnbar's Force for the year ended 31 October 2022.

An Introduction to Our Charity

We set up Finnbar's Force in 2017, after losing our son to an aggressive brain tumour just before his 5th birthday in 2016

Finnbar's Story

Finnbar was born in September 2010 and enjoyed a lovely start to life, doing all the things little boys love doing and being around his loving family. He was doing really well at school and was a fantastic reader - he absolutely loved stories and always had at least two every bedtime!

Then one day, a couple of months after Finnbar's 5th birthday, he started to complain that he felt dizzy. At first it was every few days, but after a couple of weeks it had become every day. We saw the GP and put it down to an ear infection. As a few more weeks passed, we became increasingly concerned as the dizziness was getting much worse - in fact it was now happening several times a day. We saw the GP again and were told to come back again if it carried on for much longer.

By Christmas we noticed that he seemed to be developing other subtle symptoms; sometimes he staggered whilst walking, as though he was drunk; and his behaviour changed - he even said that he didn't feel like himself anymore.

By January 2016, with Finnbar getting no better, we managed to get a hospital appointment. After several appointments and scans, our worst fears became reality - Finnbar was diagnosed with a brain tumour. In February he needed an emergency operation to relieve the pressure on his brain, followed by further surgeries to take a biopsy and insert a special line to administer drugs.

The biopsy results came back and we found out that the tumour was inoperable.

Finnbar began a course of chemotherapy in March but continued to deteriorate rapidly - by May he was unable to walk, could barely talk and couldn't eat. Towards the end of the month we were given the heart-breaking news that the doctors felt that there was nothing that could be done to save, or even help, our dear little Finn.

We continued to fight for Finnbar, never giving up hope of some improvement, but it was to prove a vain battle. On Friday 5th August 2016, just five months after he was diagnosed, Finnbar became very poorly. That evening we cuddled him as he slipped away from us.

A Message from Tristan Cork – Finnbar's Father and Founder of the Charity

Throughout our unwanted journey that was Finnbar's illness - which, although relatively brief, was incredible painful for him and for all that loved and cared for him - I was shocked by some of the things I found and that I have discovered subsequently.

Nobody wants their child to be diagnosed with cancer or a brain tumour, where even "benign" tumours can cause devastation. But as a parent I felt sure that everything would be thrown at Finnbar to make him better, I had great faith; I thought that in this day and age there would be many options for treatment and that the medical teams would work together to do the very best for our son.

However, sadly this didn't turn out to be the case. I began to discover that childhood brain tumours were so poorly understood - a combination of rarity and chronic lack of research - that unless the child gets a "simple", low grade, easy to remove tumour, the odds are very heavily stacked against their long-term survival. Fortunately, other childhood cancers, such as leukaemia, have benefited from huge leaps and bounds in understanding, treatment and ultimately survivability – up to around 80% nowadays. In stark contrast, some experts think we could be 100 years away from being able to make that statement about brain tumours. We decided early on that we would support this cause – we would campaign for more research and

donate to research projects that would benefit childhood brain tumour patients. We also found that there is a frequently occurring common denominator among childhood brain tumour patients – lengthy delays in diagnosis, with some frankly shocking stories of initial misdiagnosis. So, we also raise awareness of symptoms – both to the public and to healthcare professionals.

Throughout the painful and terrifying rollercoaster ride we were on, we felt well-supported by certain individual clinicians and charities, particularly towards the end of Finnbar's life.
However, we also suffered at the hands of some serious failings – both in the 'system' and in the capabilities of some of the care teams. Sometimes we felt that we were not listened to or taken seriously. Sometimes communication was terrible. Often, we felt alone and isolated. In hospital we were generally very well looked after – out of hospital we felt forgotten. Simple mistakes or oversights caused us a great deal of unnecessary stress and hassle – running around trying to find a piece of equipment or medication that someone forgot to arrange, for example. Phone calls would sometimes take hours, or even days, to be returned. Sometimes they didn't get returned. All of these things made a horrific experience even worse – in fact we have been left severely traumatised by some of the things we had to go through with Finnbar. We feel that some of those things could have been prevented or made easier, if the right support was in place for us, and we know we're not alone in that – we have spoken to many parents that have described feeling the same way.

Whilst I have also heard of many positive experiences and we know that most of the care teams go above and beyond to care for children and families, we think that all families should be able to feel that they have all the support they need, when they need it – to take the load off for a while. In East Anglia there are some good mechanisms in place to support children that are at the end of their lives, but our vision would see much more support from the beginning of a journey, especially in acting as advocates and ensuring communication is effective amongst the various care teams involved.

We enjoyed an amazing start to life as a charity, with some incredible fundraising, positive conversations with individuals and organisations about how to make a difference and, most importantly, supporting dozens of families. The Covid19 pandemic has undeniably thrown a huge spanner in the works – not just for us, but for many charities, large and small, including many that we would like to work with. So the challenge now is to get properly back onto our feet and find the best way to achieve our aims. Thank you so much to everyone who helps us in our mission.

Tristan Cork

Founder

Objectives and Activities

As a young organisation we recognise that there will be some natural evolution in our ideas as we build a better picture of the present-day situation and the needs of children and families. Our vison reflects our recognition that, while we will always maintain a focus on childhood brain tumours, some of our work can and will benefit all children with cancer, in particular the opportunity to make their families feel better supported.

Our Vision:

A world where fewer children suffer and die at the hands of a brain tumour and where all children with cancer in our area receive all the support they need, when and where they need it.

Our Mission:

- ***To improve outcomes***; by supporting and campaigning for increased research into childhood brain tumours; and by raising awareness of the symptoms of the disease.

- ***To support children and families***; by advocating; providing easy access to the best support and information; and by working with other services to improve the overall care package.

Our Objectives

Our original charitable objectives focus on childhood brain tumours :

To relieve the needs of, children with brain tumours and cancer, their families and carers, in particular by:

- Providing information, advocacy and local support groups which offer emotional and practical support
- Providing grants of financial assistance - predominantly for associated costs that the diagnosis brings, such as travel to distant hospitals, car parking, food etc.
- Funding research to improve understanding, diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours and childhood cancers, the useful results of which will be published
- Raising awareness of childhood cancers with a primary focus on brain tumours and their debilitating effects.

Our Main Activities to Achieve Our Charitable Objectives

In undertaking our main activities, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefits.

In our first few years as a charity, we had some brilliant successes in supporting our objectives and were aiming high with our future.

The Covid-19 pandemic that broke out shortly after our conversion completely changed the landscape for all charities, not only in terms of fundraising but also for service provision. We reacted rapidly to this to ensure that we supported families that had been seriously impacted by the sudden loss of income or support due to the restrictions imposed by the government, both financially and practically. We are proud that we were able to respond to the needs of the families so promptly and pleased to have received many heart-warming messages of thanks.

Sadly, the knock on effect of reduced fundraising, lockdowns and shifted priorities has been that some of our projects have been delayed. Our focus will be on returning our main projects to the fore as restrictions reduce.

Below we set out main activities.

How We Help:

Raising Awareness - We take every opportunity we can to provide the public with information about the symptoms of brain tumours, as well as childhood cancer generally, including through information stands and social media. We're also working to improve awareness amongst healthcare professionals. Examples include:

- Distributing symptom cards at various locations and events.
- Providing information packs for professionals, to doctors' surgeries, schools and opticians.
- Spreading the word online and on social media

Supporting Families – We want to reduce the load on parents that find themselves in the same terrible position that we did. We have helped by:

- Giving grants to families of children diagnosed with a brain tumour, or other childhood cancer, to help cover some of the costs faced upon initial diagnosis, such as travelling to a far-away hospital, car parking and food whilst away from home.

- Developing an information toolkit for families to direct them to the best online resources and connect them with charities and services that can help them locally.

- Offering 1-to-1 advice and support by visiting families at home to share experiences and point parents in the right direction for further advice. We have also connected families to each other for support.

- Working with service providers and charities in Norfolk to look at ways support can be improved for families with a child undergoing treatment for cancer;

    - We are committed to closing and filling gaps that currently exist in the services available in Norfolk for children with cancer and their families. We hope to work with other charities to achieve this.

    - We meet with families to find out their perception of the care they have received.

    - We are currently establishing a team of volunteers to work alongside a future permanent member of staff in delivering support at home as well as improved communication with healthcare professionals.

    - We aim to open a support group to coincide with children's chemotherapy clinics at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, where families can drop in for lunch and a coffee before and after clinic appointments.

Supporting Research – We're committed to improving the outlook for future children that suffer with brain tumours, by supporting research that improves the understanding of childhood brain tumours, aids diagnosis or improves treatment. Since we began fundraising for research, we have provided over £50,000 toward paediatric brain tumour research projects and will continue to commit up to 20% of our annual spend on supporting research projects.

Our Impact

We have received very positive feedback in respect of our support, a few examples of correspondence that we have received from families we have supported are given below;

"We wouldn't know half the things we do about childhood brain tumours if it wasn't for them"

"Tristan has been amazing – I wouldn't have found out half of the information that I now have if it wasn't for his support. People need this kind of help when they're in this situation and it's really tough when you're in such a state"

"The money has helped us so much! My husband is on half pay now so we need every penny we can get"

"I didn't know who to talk to or where to turn when I needed to find out what benefits I could claim, but Finnbar's Force pointed me in the right direction and I had it sorted within weeks"

"Thank you for referring us to EACH – you've been amazing"

"The grant you gave us meant we could be with our son whilst he was at Addenbrookes for a week – I don't know what we would have done without it as I am self-employed! Thank you!"

The help they gave us with getting our son to Disneyland was brilliant. I didn't think it was going to happen, but these guys got hold of a charity that took care of EVERYTHING! We had a wonderful time!

Financial Review

How We've Raised Funds

The majority of our funds have arisen from very kind and generous donations from members of the public and local businesses. These may be from a collection tin in a shop or from one of our fantastic supporters following a small fundraising event or as a result of a sponsored activity, along with 'charity of the year' or one-off donations from fabulous local businesses, clubs and societies. We are so grateful to each and every person and organisation that has donated or raised money for us – every penny goes into our general fund that supports families, goes to research and helps the charity to run.

A good amount also comes in from our own selection of fundraising events that we hold throughout the year, however in light of the pandemic, these have been hugely reduced over the last 12 months. Whilst we normally aim to hold at least 6 events per year, this year we have held only our Christmas Lights event, meaning that the event income is far less than previous years. Previous events include:

- Jedi Walk
- Family Adventure Day
- Community Sports Day
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Lights

Future Income Strategy

We recognise development of stable income streams and intelligent financial management are vital to the success of the organisation and our ability to deliver on our mission.

Post-covid, we aim to become less reliant on event and donation based income and seek new sources, such as grants, commercial partnerships and legacies.

Main Use of Funds

Our current intention is that funds will be used as follows:

- £12,000 to be maintained for reserves (see policy below).

- Income and expenditure have been grossly affected by the pandemic and running costs of the charity are expected to increase further this year. We anticipate that combined spending on day-to-day running and fundraising will increase to a figure nearer £40,000. In the next year we will set a baseline budget for running costs, including staffing. After this amount:

    - Approximately 20% of the remaining funds will be directed towards supporting research.

    - The remaining approximate 80% of funds will be used to fund family assistance grants and support our local projects.

In future years we will set aside specified funds for each project we are undertaking and we intend to launch a specific fundraising appeal to cover the cost of the specialist role, estimated at a total of around £220,000 for three years. We will also apply for grant funding for projects and incorporate full cost recovery into bids.

Our policy is being reviewed during our 2022-23 financial year.

Reserves Policy

Finnbar's Force's policy so far has been set to ensure that sufficient funds should be present at any given time to support the 'assistance grant' aspect of our activities for at least six months without any income of new funds. Based on the grant-giving policy in place previously, at an estimated 2 'new' families per month, this represented an amount of £6,000 set aside as reserves.

In early 2019 we amended our policy to allow further grants to families on a discretionary basis and during the pandemic we broadened our criteria and allowed repeated applications, resulting in a much higher than usual spending on grants. As the government provided more relief to families the need for this reduced and we stopped the grants. We would not expect to provide this level of assistance again during the pandemic and will not set aside specific reserves for this purpose, however we may elect to use funds previously assigned to other projects, should a similar situation occur.

We have seen that some families need additional funding, whereas others do not, for various reasons. It is difficult to anticipate demand, and we have seen fluctuations over the last 18 months, but to enable the assistance grant aspect to continue for a minimum of 6 months without new funding, we will set aside a reserve of £12,000, which in practice is far higher than current demand. The policy is currently under review and the reserves policy will change to reflect any changes in the policy as necessary.

This policy does not take account of any other cost of running the charity, as most costs thus far have been relatively low. We know that as the organisation grows, the cost to run it will increase – for example we expect that it will be necessary to employ staff to carry out some functions within the next 6 - 12 months and we are likely to need office and storage facilities to work from. We are currently reviewing our reserves policy to ensure that it covers the expected running costs of the following 12 months – this will form part of the overall financial management review.

At 31st October 2022 the charity had unrestricted cash funds of **£124,437** and restricted cash funds of **£1,374**.

Governance

In 2020 we converted from a Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organistation (CIO). A Foundation Constitution was established for the CIO on 2 January 2020, amended from the original document of 3 October 2019.

Charitable status was awarded on 13 January 2020. The charity is run by the trustees in conjunction with a Chief Executive Officer who undertakes day-to-day alongside volunteer admin team members. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a special meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. The trustees keep a record of the names and address of each trustee, together with the dates of their appointment, re-appointment or retirement and will provide a copy of the charity trust deed and latest report and account to each new trustee. In addition, all trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission and other newsletters designed to keep them abreast of their duties and responsibilities. The trustee board currently meets at least four times each year.

As a result of the incredible success that we have enjoyed in terms of support and fundraising, but also the level of engagement with the community, stakeholders and families required (including in running and managing our own events and services), the workload will be become increasing difficult to manage amongst our volunteers as we continue to grow.

We may also recruit paid staff to deal with ongoing and time-consuming administration. We also hope to recruit more trustees with specialist skills to help us lead as effectively as possible.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Paul Read	Chris Ketley
Chair	Treasurer
30 August 2023	30 August 2023

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Finnbar's Force

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 August 2022.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: M A B

M A Barton MIAB, Cert Acc. (Open)

Date: 20th August 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Totals	2021 Totals
Receipts				
Donations and sponsored events	13,121	-	13,121	18,398
Fundraising events	12,170	-	12,170	5,490
Online sales and merchandise	-	-	-	0
Miscellaneous	98	-	98	9
Total	25,389	-	25,389	23,897
Outgoings				
Grants/Donations	8,600	-	8,600	1,900
Runnings costs/consumables	2,902	-	2,902	626
Other expenses	36	-	36	170
Events	4,204	-	4,204	1,914
Employment costs	0	-	0	10,598
Promo/Merchandise	1,177	-	1,177	754
Total	16,919	-	16,919	15,963
Net Receipts	8,470	-	8,470	7,934

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Totals
Cash Funds at 31st October 2021	114,593	1,374	115,967
Net Receipts for the period	8,470	-	8,470
Cash Funds at 31st October 2022	123,063	1,374	124,437

Bank Account Balances

Current Account	22,329
Savings Account	102,108
Total Funds	124,437

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Paul Read	Chris Ketley
Chair	Trustee
30 August 2023	30 August 2023

1 General Notes

Basis of accounting:

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Transactions with Trustees

The Charity has 1 employee.

No remuneration or benefits were paid to the Trustees or people connected with them, by the charity.

No expenditure transactions were undertaken by the charity in which a trustee or connected person has a material interest.

During the year, no trustee was reimbursed for expenses.

Accounts

FINNBARS
FORCE

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st October 2021

Registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales

Registration Number 1187338

Finnbar's Force Annual Report & Financial Statements 2020 - 2021
Contents and Administrative Details

Contents

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Number:	1187338
Registered Address:	1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3GL.
Trustees:	Paul Read (Chair) Christopher Sharman (Treasurer) Charlotte El-Labany Christopher Ketley
Independent examiner:	MA Barton Bookkeeping & Accounts 41 Central Crescent Hethersett Norwich NR9 3EP

The Trustees present their annual report together with financial statements of Finnbar's Force for the year ended 31 October 2021.

An Introduction to Our Charity

We set up Finnbar's Force in 2017, after losing our son to an aggressive brain tumour just before his 5th birthday in 2016

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Finnbar was born in September 2010 and enjoyed a lovely start to life, doing all the things little boys love doing and being around his loving family. He was doing really well at school and was a fantastic reader - he absolutely loved stories and always had at least two every bedtime!

Then one day, a couple of months after Finnbar's 5th birthday, he started to complain that he felt dizzy. At first it was every few days, but after a couple of weeks it had become every day. We saw the GP and put it down to an ear infection. As a few more weeks passed, we became increasingly concerned as the dizziness was getting much worse - in fact it was now happening several times a day. We saw the GP again and were told to come back again if it carried on for much longer.

By Christmas we noticed that he seemed to be developing other subtle symptoms; sometimes he staggered whilst walking, as though he was drunk; and his behaviour changed - he even said that he didn't feel like himself anymore.

By January 2016, with Finnbar getting no better, we managed to get a hospital appointment. After several appointments and scans, our worst fears became reality - Finnbar was diagnosed with a brain tumour. In February he needed an emergency operation to relieve the pressure on his brain, followed by further surgeries to take a biopsy and insert a special line to administer drugs.

The biopsy results came back and we found out that the tumour was inoperable.

Finnbar began a course of chemotherapy in March but continued to deteriorate rapidly - by May he was unable to walk, could barely talk and couldn't eat. Towards the end of the month we were given the heart-breaking news that the doctors felt that there was nothing that could be done to save, or even help, our dear little Finn.

We continued to fight for Finnbar, never giving up hope of some improvement, but it was to prove a vain battle. On Friday 5th August 2016, just five months after he was diagnosed, Finnbar became very poorly. That evening we cuddled him as he slipped away from us.

A Message from Tristan Cork – Finnbar's Father and Founder of the Charity

Throughout our unwanted journey that was Finnbar's illness - which, although relatively brief, was incredible painful for him and for all that loved and cared for him - I was shocked by some of the things I found and that I have discovered subsequently.

Nobody wants their child to be diagnosed with cancer or a brain tumour, where even "benign" tumours can cause devastation. But as a parent I felt sure that everything would be thrown at Finnbar to make him better, I had great faith; I thought that in this day and age there would be many options for treatment and that the medical teams would work together to do the very best for our son.

However, sadly this didn't turn out to be the case. I began to discover that childhood brain tumours were so poorly understood - a combination of rarity and chronic lack of research - that unless the child gets a "simple", low grade, easy to remove tumour, the odds are very heavily stacked against their long-term survival. Fortunately, other childhood cancers, such as leukaemia, have benefited from huge leaps and bounds in understanding, treatment and ultimately survivability – up to around 80% nowadays. In stark contrast, some experts think we could be 100 years away from being able to make that statement about brain tumours. We decided early on that we would support this cause – we would campaign for more research and

donate to research projects that would benefit childhood brain tumour patients. We also found that there is a frequently occurring common denominator among childhood brain tumour patients – lengthy delays in diagnosis, with some frankly shocking stories of initial misdiagnosis. So, we also raise awareness of symptoms – both to the public and to healthcare professionals.

Throughout the painful and terrifying rollercoaster ride we were on, we felt well-supported by certain individual clinicians and charities, particularly towards the end of Finnbar's life.
However, we also suffered at the hands of some serious failings – both in the 'system' and in the capabilities of some of the care teams. Sometimes we felt that we were not listened to or taken seriously. Sometimes communication was terrible. Often, we felt alone and isolated. In hospital we were generally very well looked after – out of hospital we felt forgotten. Simple mistakes or oversights caused us a great deal of unnecessary stress and hassle – running around trying to find a piece of equipment or medication that someone forgot to arrange, for example. Phone calls would sometimes take hours, or even days, to be returned. Sometimes they didn't get returned. All of these things made a horrific experience even worse – in fact we have been left severely traumatised by some of the things we had to go through with Finnbar. We feel that some of those things could have been prevented or made easier, if the right support was in place for us, and we know we're not alone in that – we have spoken to many parents that have described feeling the same way.

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Tristan Cork

Founder

Objectives and Activities

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- Providing information packs for professionals, to doctors' surgeries, schools and opticians.
- Spreading the word online and on social media

Supporting Families – We want to reduce the load on parents that find themselves in the same terrible position that we did. We have helped by:

- Giving grants to families of children diagnosed with a brain tumour, or other childhood cancer, to help cover some of the costs faced upon initial diagnosis, such as travelling to a far-away hospital, car parking and food whilst away from home.

- Developing an information toolkit for families to direct them to the best online resources and connect them with charities and services that can help them locally.

- Offering 1-to-1 advice and support by visiting families at home to share experiences and point parents in the right direction for further advice. We have also connected families to each other for support.

- Working with service providers and charities in Norfolk to look at ways support can be improved for families with a child undergoing treatment for cancer;

    - We are committed to closing and filling gaps that currently exist in the services available in Norfolk for children with cancer and their families. We hope to work with other charities to achieve this.

    - We meet with families to find out their perception of the care they have received.

    - We are currently establishing a team of volunteers to work alongside a future permanent member of staff in delivering support at home as well as improved communication with healthcare professionals.

    - We aim to open a support group to coincide with children's chemotherapy clinics at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, where families can drop in for lunch and a coffee before and after clinic appointments.

Supporting Research – We're committed to improving the outlook for future children that suffer with brain tumours, by supporting research that improves the understanding of childhood brain tumours, aids diagnosis or improves treatment. Since we began fundraising for research, we have provided over £50,000 toward paediatric brain tumour research projects and will continue to commit up to 20% of our annual spend on supporting research projects.

Our Impact

We have received very positive feedback in respect of our support, a few examples of correspondence that we have received from families we have supported are given below;

> *"We wouldn't know half the things we do about childhood brain tumours if it wasn't for them"*
>
> *"Tristan has been amazing – I wouldn't have found out half of the information that I now have if it wasn't for his support. People need this kind of help when they're in this situation and it's really tough when you're in such a state"*
>
> *"The money has helped us so much! My husband is on half pay now so we need every penny we can get"*
>
> *"I didn't know who to talk to or where to turn when I needed to find out what benefits I could claim, but Finnbar's Force pointed me in the right direction and I had it sorted within weeks"*
>
> *"Thank you for referring us to EACH – you've both been amazing"*
>
> *"The grant you gave us meant we could be with our son whilst he was at Addenbrookes for a week – I don't know what we would have done without it as I am self-employed! Thank you!"*
>
> *The help they gave us with getting our son to Disneyland was brilliant. I didn't think it was going to happen, but these guys got hold of a charity that took care of EVERYTHING! We had a wonderful time!*

Financial Review

How We've Raised Funds

The majority of our funds have arisen from very kind and generous donations from members of the public and local businesses. These may be from a collection tin in a shop or from one of our fantastic supporters following a small fundraising event or as a result of a sponsored activity, along with 'charity of the year' or one-off donations from fabulous local businesses, clubs and societies. We are so grateful to each and every person and organisation that has donated or raised money for us – every penny goes into our general fund that supports families, goes to research and helps the charity to run.

A good amount also comes in from our own selection of fundraising events that we hold throughout the year, however in light of the pandemic, these have been hugely reduced over the last 12 months. Whilst we normally aim to hold at least 6 events per year, this year we have held only our Christmas Lights event, meaning that the event income is far less than previous years. Previous events include:

- Jedi Walk
- Family Adventure Day
- Community Sports Day
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Lights

Future Income Strategy

We recognise development of stable income streams and intelligent financial management are vital to the success of the organisation and our ability to deliver on our mission.

Post-covid, we will become less reliant on event and donation-based income and seek new sources, such as grants, commercial partnerships and legacies.

Main Use of Funds

Our current intention is that funds will be used as follows:

- £20,000 to be maintained for reserves (see policy below).

- Income and expenditure have been grossly affected by the pandemic and running costs of the charity are expected to increase further this year. We anticipate that combined spending on day-to-day running and fundraising will increase to a figure nearer £15,000. In the next year we will set a baseline budget for running costs, including staffing. After this amount:

    - Approximately 20% of the remaining funds will be directed towards supporting research.

    - The remaining approximate 80% of funds will be used to fund family assistance grants and support our local projects.

In future years we will set aside specified funds for each project we are undertaking and we intend to launch a specific fundraising appeal to cover the cost of the specialist role, estimated at a total of around £220,000 for three years. We will also apply for grant funding for projects and incorporate full cost recovery into bids.

Reserves Policy

Finnbar's Force's policy so far has been set to ensure that sufficient funds should be present at any given time to support the 'assistance grant' aspect of our activities for at least six months without any income of new funds. Based on the grant-giving policy in place previously, at an estimated 2 'new' families per month, this represented an amount of £20,000 set aside as reserves.

In early 2019 we amended our policy to allow further grants to families on a discretionary basis and during the pandemic we broadened our criteria and allowed repeated applications, resulting in a much higher than usual spending on grants. As the government provided more relief to families the need for this reduced and we stopped the grants. We would not expect to provide this level of assistance again during the pandemic and will not set aside specific reserves for this purpose, however we may elect to use funds previously assigned to other projects, should a similar situation occur.

We have seen that some families need additional funding, whereas others do not, for various reasons. It is difficult to anticipate demand, and we have seen fluctuations over the last 18 months, but to enable the assistance grant aspect to continue for a minimum of 6 months without new funding, we will set aside a reserve of £12,000, which in practice is probably higher than current demand.

This policy also takes account of the cost of running the charity. As the organisation and its workload grows, so to does the cost to run it. It has become necessary to employ staff to carry out some functions within organisation and as a result we now factor this into our reserves policy, to ensure that staffing costs for a minimum of three months can be covered. For this we currently allow £8000. We will review the reserves policy in 2022 to ensure that it covers the expected running costs of the following 12 months – this will form part of an overall financial management review.

At 31st October 2021 the charity had unrestricted cash funds of **£114,593** and restricted cash funds of **£1,374**.

Governance

In 2020 we converted from a Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). A Foundation Constitution was established for the CIO on 2 January 2020, amended from the original document of 3 October 2019.

Charitable status was awarded on 13 January 2020. The charity is run by the trustees in conjunction with a Chief Executive Officer who undertakes day-to-day alongside volunteer admin team members. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a special meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. The trustees keep a record of the names and address of each trustee, together with the dates of their appointment, re-appointment or retirement and will provide a copy of the charity trust deed and latest report and account to each new trustee. In addition, all trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission and other newsletters designed to keep them abreast of their duties and responsibilities. The trustee board currently meets at least four times each year.

As a result of the incredible success that we have enjoyed in terms of support and fundraising, but also the level of engagement with the community, stakeholders and families required (including in running and managing our own events and services), the workload will be become increasing difficult to manage amongst our volunteers as we continue to grow.

We may also recruit paid staff to deal with ongoing and time-consuming administration. We also hope to recruit more trustees with specialist skills to help us lead as effectively as possible.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Paul Read

Chair

17 August 2022

Chris Sharman

Treasurer

17 August 2022

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Finnbar's Force

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 August 2021.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: M A B

M A Barton MIAB, Cert Acc. (Open)

Date: 15th August 2022

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as the 31 August 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Totals	2020 Totals
Receipts				
Donations and sponsored events	18,398	-	18,398	15,384
Fundraising events	5,490	-	5,490	-
Online sales and merchandise	-	-	-	138
Miscellaneous	9	-	9	280
Total	23,897	-	23,897	15,802
Outgoings				
Grants/Donations	1,900	-	1,900	36,940
Runnings costs/consumables	626	-	626	1,760
Other expenses	170	-	170	220
Events	1,914	-	1,914	532
Employment costs	10,598	-	10,598	11,420
Promo/Merchandise	754	-	754	-
Total	15,963	-	15,963	50,872
Net Receipts	7,934	-	7,934	(35,070)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as the 31 August 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Totals
Cash Funds at 31st October 2020	106,658	1,374	108,032
Net Receipts for the period	7,934	-	7,934
Cash Funds at 31st October 2021	114,593	1,374	115,967

Bank Account Balances

Current Account	13,957
Savings Account	102,010
Total Funds	115,967

At 31 October 2020 the charity had no other assets or liabilities other than approximately £1000 of merchandise and promotional materials.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees:

Sharman

Paul Read

Chair

17 August 2022

Chris Sharman

Treasurer

17 August 2022

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 General Notes

Basis of accounting:

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Transactions with Trustees

The Charity has 1 employee.

No remuneration or benefits were paid to the Trustees or people connected with them, by the charity.

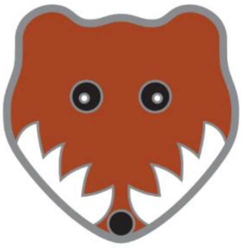
No expenditure transactions were undertaken by the charity in which a trustee or connected person has a material interest.

During the year, no trustee was reimbursed for expenses.

FINNBAR'S FORCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1187338

Accounts



FINNBARS FORCE

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st October 2020

Registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales

Registration Number 1187338

Contents

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Number:	1187338
Registered Address:	1 Park Green, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3GL.
Trustees:	Paul Read (Chair) Christopher Sharman (Treasurer) Charlotte El-Labany Christopher Ketley
Independent examiner:	Will Moy ACA, 45 Nutwood Close Taverham NR8 6UY

The Trustees present their annual report together with financial statements of Finnbar's Force for the year ended 31 October 2020.

An Introduction to Our Charity

We set up Finnbar's Force in 2017, after losing our son to an aggressive brain tumour just before his 5th birthday in 2016

Finnbar's Story

Finnbar was born in September 2010 and enjoyed a lovely start to life, doing all the things little boys love doing and being around his loving family. He was doing really well at school and was a fantastic reader - he absolutely loved stories and always had at least two every bedtime!

Then one day, a couple of months after Finnbar's 5th birthday, he started to complain that he felt dizzy. At first it was every few days, but after a couple of weeks it had become every day. We saw the GP and put it down to an ear infection. As a few more weeks passed, we became increasingly concerned as the dizziness was getting much worse - in fact it was now happening several times a day. We saw the GP again and were told to come back again if it carried on for much longer.

By Christmas we noticed that he seemed to be developing other subtle symptoms; sometimes he staggered whilst walking, as though he was drunk; and his behaviour changed - he even said that he didn't feel like himself anymore.

By January 2016, with Finnbar getting no better, we managed to get a hospital appointment. After several appointments and scans, our worst fears became reality - Finnbar was diagnosed with a brain tumour. In February he needed an emergency operation to relieve the pressure on his brain, followed by further surgeries to take a biopsy and insert a special line to administer drugs.

The biopsy results came back and we found out that the tumour was inoperable.

Finnbar began a course of chemotherapy in March but continued to deteriorate rapidly - by May he was unable to walk, could barely talk and couldn't eat. Towards the end of the month we were given the heart-breaking news that the doctors felt that there was nothing that could be done to save, or even help, our dear little Finn.

We continued to fight for Finnbar, never giving up hope of some improvement, but it was to prove a vain battle. On Friday 5th August 2016, just five months after he was diagnosed, Finnbar became very poorly. That evening we cuddled him as he slipped away from us.

A Message from Tristan Cork – Finnbar's Father and Founder of the Charity

Throughout our unwanted journey that was Finnbar's illness - which, although relatively brief, was incredible painful for him and for all that loved and cared for him - I was shocked by some of the things I found and that I have discovered subsequently.

Nobody wants their child to be diagnosed with cancer or a brain tumour, where even "benign" tumours can cause devastation. But as a parent I felt sure that everything would be thrown at Finnbar to make him better, I had great faith; I thought that in this day and age there would be many options for treatment and that the medical teams would work together to do the very best for our son.

However, sadly this didn't turn out to be the case. I began to discover that childhood brain tumours were so poorly understood - a combination of rarity and chronic lack of research - that unless the child gets a "simple", low grade, easy to remove tumour, the odds are very heavily stacked against their long-term survival. Fortunately, other childhood cancers, such as leukaemia, have benefited from huge leaps and bounds in understanding, treatment and ultimately survivability – up to around 80% nowadays. In stark contrast, some experts think we could be 100 years away from being able to make that statement about brain tumours. We decided early on that we would support this cause – we would campaign for more research and

donate to research projects that would benefit childhood brain tumour patients. We also found that there is a frequently occurring common denominator among childhood brain tumour patients – lengthy delays in diagnosis, with some frankly shocking stories of initial misdiagnosis. So, we also raise awareness of symptoms – both to the public and to healthcare professionals.

Throughout the painful and terrifying rollercoaster ride we were on, we felt well-supported by certain individual clinicians and charities, particularly towards the end of Finnbar's life.
However, we also suffered at the hands of some serious failings – both in the 'system' and in the capabilities of some of the care teams. Sometimes we felt that we were not listened to or taken seriously. Sometimes communication was terrible. Often, we felt alone and isolated. In hospital we were generally very well looked after – out of hospital we felt forgotten. Simple mistakes or oversights caused us a great deal of unnecessary stress and hassle – running around trying to find a piece of equipment or medication that someone forgot to arrange, for example. Phone calls would sometimes take hours, or even days, to be returned. Sometimes they didn't get returned. All of these things made a horrific experience even worse – in fact we have been left severely traumatised by some of the things we had to go through with Finnbar. We feel that some of those things could have been prevented or made easier, if the right support was in place for us, and we know we're not alone in that – we have spoken to many parents that have described feeling the same way.

Whilst I have also heard of many positive experiences and we know that most of the care teams go above and beyond to care for children and families, we think that all families should be able to feel that they have all the support they need, when they need it – to take the load off for a while. In East Anglia there are good mechanisms in place to support children that are at the end of their lives and an excellent charity in East Anglian Children's Hospices that makes sure of that. But our vision would see much more support from the beginning of a journey, especially in acting as advocates and ensuring communication is effective amongst the various care teams involved.

We got off to a phenomenal start with our fundraising, thanks to the incredible efforts of our volunteers and supporters – now it is time to work really hard on achieving this vision – and our conversion to become a CIO is the first step towards this.

Thank you so much to everyone who helps us in our mission.

Tristan Cork
Founder

Objectives and Activities

As a young organisation we recognise that there will be some natural evolution in our ideas as we build a better picture of the present-day situation and the needs of children and families. Our vison reflects our recognition that, while we will always maintain a sharp focus on childhood brain tumours, some of our work can and will benefit all children with cancer, in particular the opportunity to make their families feel better supported.

Our Vision:

A world where fewer children suffer and die at the hands of a brain tumour and where all children with cancer in our area receive all the support they need, when and where they need it.

Our Mission:

- ***To improve outcomes***; by supporting and campaigning for increased research into childhood brain tumours; and by raising awareness of the symptoms of the disease.

- ***To support children and families***; by advocating; providing easy access to the best support and information; and by working with other services to improve the overall care package.

Our Objectives

Our original charitable objectives focus on childhood brain tumours:

To relieve the needs of children suffering from brain tumours (especially rare/unusual presentations) and their families by;

- Providing information, advocacy and local support
- Providing basic financial support in the form of 'Assistance Grants' for associated costs that the diagnosis brings, such as travel to distant hospitals, car parking, food etc.
- Fund research into brain cancer and potential treatments through grants to research teams and support of umbrella organisations to raise awareness of the disease and its debilitating effects

At the start of 2020 we began the process to convert from a trust to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), using the opportunity to amend our objects slightly to accommodate the fact that some of our services will ultimately benefit families of children with any kind of cancer. This is a natural by-product of our desire to improve support for children with brain tumours.

Our Main Activities to Achieve Our Charitable Objectives

In undertaking our main activities, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefits.

In our first few years as a charity, we had some brilliant successes in supporting our objectives and were aiming high with our future.

The Covid-19 pandemic that broke out shortly after our conversion completely changed the landscape for all charities, not only in terms of fundraising but also for service provision. We reacted rapidly to this to ensure that we supported families that had been seriously impacted by the sudden loss of income or support due to the restrictions imposed by the government, both financially and practically. We are proud that we were able to respond to the needs of the families so promptly and pleased to have received many heart-warming messages of thanks.

Sadly, the knock on effect of reduced fundraising, lockdowns and shifted priorities has been that some of our projects have been delayed. Our focus will be on returning our main projects to the fore as restrictions reduce.

Below we set out main activities.

How We Help:

Raising Awareness - We take every opportunity we can to provide the public with information about the symptoms of brain tumours, as well as childhood cancer generally, including through information stands and social media. We're also working to improve awareness amongst healthcare professionals. Examples include:

- Distributing symptom cards at various locations and events.
- Providing information packs for professionals, to doctors' surgeries, schools and opticians.
- Spreading the word online and on social media

Supporting Families – We want to reduce the load on parents that find themselves in the same terrible position that we did. We have helped by:

- Giving grants of £500 to families of children diagnosed with a brain tumour, to help cover some of the costs faced upon initial diagnosis, such as travelling to a far-away hospital, car parking and food whilst away from home.

- Developing an information toolkit for families to direct them to the best online resources and connect them with charities and services that can help them locally.

- Offering 1-to-1 advice and support by visiting families at home to share experiences and point parents in the right direction for further advice. We have also connected families to each other for support.

- Working with service providers and charities in Norfolk to look at ways support can be improved for families with a child undergoing treatment for cancer;

    - We are committed to closing and filling gaps that currently exist in the services available in Norfolk for children with cancer and their families. We hope to work with other charities to achieve this.

    - We meet with families to find out their perception of the care they have received.

    - We hope to establish a team of volunteers to work alongside a permanent member of staff in delivering support at home as well as improved communication with healthcare professionals.

    - As coronavirus restrictions allow, we aim to open a support group to coincide with children's chemotherapy clinics at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, where families can drop in for lunch and a coffee before and after clinic appointments.

Supporting Research – We're committed to improving the outlook for future children that suffer with brain tumours, by supporting research that improves the understanding of childhood brain tumours, aids diagnosis or improves treatment. Since we began fundraising for research, we have provided over £40,000 toward paediatric brain tumour research projects. We have:

- Donated almost £12,000 to a project based at Birmingham Children's Hospital, developing a technique to use MRI scanners to identify the aggressiveness of a brain tumour without invasive biopsy brain tumour, which may in turn help guide treatment.

- Most recently we have supported research at Queen Mary University of London, a Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence, looking into potential treatments for brain tumours that affect children.

- Committed to further support, with around 20% of our annual income currently designated to supporting research.

Our Impact

We have received very positive feedback in respect of our support, a few examples of correspondence that we have received from families we have supported are given below;

"We wouldn't know half the things we do about childhood brain tumours if it wasn't for them"

"Tristan has been amazing – I wouldn't have found out half of the information that I now have if it wasn't for his support. People need this kind of help when they're in this situation and it's really tough when you're in such a state"

"The money has helped us so much! My husband is on half pay now so we need every penny we can get"

"I didn't know who to talk to or where to turn when I needed to find out what benefits I could claim, but Finnbar's Force pointed me in the right direction and I had it sorted within weeks"

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The help they gave us with getting our son to Disneyland was brilliant. I didn't think it was going to happen, but these guys got hold of a charity that took care of EVERYTHING! We had a wonderful time!

Financial Review

Funds Carried Over from Previous Charity

These accounts cover the first 7 months of the newly formed CIO, which also coincided with the first few months of the Covid19 pandemic. This is reflected in the relatively low income and relatively high outgoings.

The existing charity transferred £143,680 to the new charity after it was registered and the new bank account was set up and this is reflected as the main income to the CIO this year.

How We've Raised Funds

The majority of our funds have arisen from very kind and generous donations from members of the public and local businesses. These may be from a collection tin in a shop or from one of our fantastic supporters following a small fundraising event or as a result of a sponsored activity, along with 'charity of the year' or one-off donations from fabulous local businesses, clubs and societies. We are so grateful to each and every person and organisation that has donated or raised money for us – every penny goes into our general fund that supports families, goes to research and helps the charity to run.

A good amount also comes in from our own selection of fundraising events that we hold throughout the year. All of our events are family focused with the emphasis on bringing the local community together.

Events include:

- Jedi Walk
- Family Adventure Day
- Community Sports Day
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Lights

Future Income Strategy

We recognise development of stable income streams and intelligent financial management are vital to the success of the organisation and our ability to deliver on our mission.

We are currently reviewing our financial strategy to look at new streams of income, including grant funding, which we anticipate may form a greater percentage of our income in future, once our projects are fully developed and on the way to delivery

Main Use of Funds

Our current intention is that funds will be used as follows:

- £12,000 to be maintained for reserves (see policy below).

- Running costs of the charity are expected to increase. In 2018 we budgeted £8,000 and spent just under £6,500. Fundraising costs were almost £4,000. Subsequent income and expenditure have been grossly affected by the pandemic; however we anticipate that combined spending on day-to-day running and fundraising will increase to a figure nearer £15,000. In the next year we will set a baseline budget for running costs, including staffing. After this amount:

    - Approximately 20% of the remaining funds will be directed towards supporting research.

    - The remaining approximate 80% of funds will be used to fund family assistance grants and support our local projects.

In future years we will set aside specified funds for each project we are undertaking and we intend to launch a specific fundraising appeal to cover the cost of the specialist role, estimated at a total of around £220,000 for three years. We will also apply for grant funding for projects and incorporate full cost recovery into bids.

Reserves Policy

Finnbar's Force's policy so far has been set to ensure that sufficient funds should be present at any given time to support the 'assistance grant' aspect of our activities for at least six months without any income of new funds. Based on the grant-giving policy in place previously, at an estimated 2 'new' families per month, this represented an amount of £6,000 set aside as reserves.

In early 2019 we amended our policy to allow further grants to families on a discretionary basis and during the pandemic we broadened our criteria and allowed repeated applications, resulting in a much higher than usual spending on grants. As the government provided more relief to families the need for this reduced and we stopped the grants. We would not expect to provide this level of assistance again during the pandemic and will not set aside specific reserves for this purpose, however we may elect to use funds previously assigned to other projects, should a similar situation occur.

We have seen that some families need additional funding, whereas others do not, for various reasons. It is difficult to anticipate demand, and we have seen fluctuations over the last 18 months, but to enable the assistance grant aspect to continue for a minimum of 6 months without new funding, we will set aside a reserve of £12,000, which in practice is far higher than current demand. The policy is currently under review and the reserves policy will change to reflect any changes in the policy as necessary.

This policy does not take account of any other cost of running the charity, as most costs thus far have been relatively low. We know that as the organisation grows, the cost to run it will increase – for example we expect that it will be necessary to employ staff to carry out some functions within the next 18 months and we are likely to need office and storage facilities to work from. We will review the reserves policy in 2022 to ensure that it covers the expected running costs of the following 12 months – this will form part of an overall financial management review.

At 31st October 2020 the charity had unrestricted cash funds of **£107,236** and restricted cash funds of **£1,374**.

Governance

In late 2019 Finnbar's Force set about the process of converting from a charitable trust, governed by its trust deed, originally established in February 2017, to a Charitable Incorporated Organistation (CIO). This process was hampered by the effects of the pandemic upon our team, however it was completed during the summer of 2020. A Foundation Constitution was established for the CIO on 2 January 2020, amended from the original document of 3 October 2019.

Charitable status was awarded on 13 January 2020. The charity is run by the trustees in conjunction with a Chief Executive Officer who undertakes day-to-day alongside volunteer admin team members. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a special meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. The trustees keep a record of the names and address of each trustee, together with the dates of their appointment, re-appointment or retirement and will provide a copy of the charity trust deed and latest report and account to each new trustee. In addition, all trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission and other newsletters designed to keep them abreast of their duties and responsibilities. The trustee board currently meets at least four times each year.

As a result of the incredible success that we have enjoyed in terms of support and fundraising, but also the level of engagement with the community, stakeholders and families required (including in running and managing our own events and services), the workload will be become increasing difficult to manage amongst our volunteers as we continue to grow.

We may also recruit paid staff to deal with ongoing and time-consuming administration. We also hope to recruit more trustees with specialist skills to help us lead as effectively as possible.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Paul Read

Chair

23 July 2022

Chris Sharman

Treasurer

23 July 2022

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of Finnbar’s Force

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 August 2020.

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 charity’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:

W. Moy

Will Moy FCA

Date: 22 July 2022

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as the 31 August 2020

	Unrestricted funds £	**Restricted funds £**	**2020 Totals**
Receipts			
Donations and sponsored events	15,384	-	15,384
Online sales and merchandise	138	-	138
Miscellaneous	280	-	280
Total	**15,802**	**-**	**15,802**
Outgoings			
Grants/Donations	36,940	-	36,940
Runnings costs/consumables	1,760	-	1,760
Other expenses	220	-	220
Events	532	-	532
Employment costs	11,420	-	11,420
Total	**50,872**	**-**	**50,872**
Net Receipts	**(35,070)**	**-**	**(35,070)**

The CIO Finnbar's Force was registered on 13 January 2020 under charity number 1187338. On 4 March 2020, the CIO received a transfer of funds from Finnbar's Force, a Trust with charity number 1171958. The CIO commenced its charitable activities on the same date as the funds were transferred, 4 March 2020.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as the 31 August 2020

Cash funds at 13 January 2020	-	-	-
Transfer from trust	142,306	1,374	143,680
Net receipts for the period	(35,070)	-	(35,070)
Cash funds at 31 October 2020	107,236	1,374	108,610

At 31 October 2020 the charity had no other assets or liabilities other than approximately £1000 of merchandise and promotional materials.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Sharman

Paul Read	Chris Sharman
Chair	Treasurer
23 July 2022	23 July 2022

1 General Notes

Basis of accounting:

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

2 Transactions with Trustees

The Charity has 1 employee.

No remuneration or benefits were paid to the Trustees or people connected with them, by the charity.

No expenditure transactions were undertaken by the charity in which a trustee or connected person has a material interest.

During the year, no trustee was reimbursed for expenses.