



Ellen's Gift of Hope helps Disabled Children in the North East.

www.ellensgiftofhope.org  [@ellensgiftofhope](https://www.facebook.com/ellensgiftofhope)

Trustees Annual Report for the
Accounting Period
1st November 2020 to
31st Oct 2021

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Ellen's Gift of Hope

Registered charity number: 1192108

Charity's principal address: 84 Middleton Street
Blyth
Northumberland
NE24 2LU

Names of the trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee Name: Delyth Raffell

Trustee Name: Graham Raffell

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of Governing Document: Constitution (01/11/2020)

How Ellen's Gift of Hope is Constituted: CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Trustee selection methods:

Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, Ellen's Gift of Hope trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. At all times, there should be two Trustees acting on behalf of Ellen's Gift of Hope governing body.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of Ellen's Gift of Hope CIO are for the public benefit, by providing small grants which will give practical support to families with children (aged 0-18 years) who have special needs, disabilities and/or life limiting medical conditions and who live in Northumberland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and North Tyneside.

The purpose of the support is to help relieve the suffering and hardship faced by these children and their families and improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries to a more reasonable standard.

These objects shall be achieved, in particular, but not exclusively by:

- a. Financial Aid: The provision of grants of money to help families with immediate need relating to the relief of hardship being experienced by the families
- b. Equipment Grant: The provision of grants to help families meet the cost of equipment for their children not covered by the NHS or local authority to help address medical, mental health or special needs
- c. Therapies and Respite: The provision of grants of money providing contributions towards short breaks, recreational or sporting pursuits or other support, such as (but not limited to) counselling therapies
- d. Community grants made to organisations providing services for vulnerable, sick and disabled children

The charity was set up in memory of Ellen Cara Raffell, who tragically died on October 31st 2019, aged just 16 years old. She had a catastrophic allergic reaction (Anaphylaxis) which led to irreversible brain damage. Ellen's parents, Delyth and Graham Raffell, are the founders and Trustees of her charity, which seeks to raise money from public donations, corporate sponsors, and other charitable organisations.

Ellen was kind, compassionate and giving, always wanting to help others. Ellen's Gift of Hope is her legacy.

In this inaugural year, the charity aimed to raise up to £25,000 from donations and fundraising events with 100% of the funds raised distributed as small grants. The charity's overheads are absorbed by the trustees.

Trustees will apportion small grants monthly, with the level of grant making based on the type of grant sought and the availability of funding. Grants will be awarded based on submission of applications with supporting evidence and at the discretion of the trustees. Where possible the impact of the support will be publicised through case studies and news articles to raise the profile of the issues, as well as to demonstrate the impact of Ellen's legacy on the local community.

Our vision and aim are that these small grants will provide a meaningful contribution, so that families in need can access additional specialist support, equipment, therapies, respite, and recreational activities, which will help their children and the family to have a better quality of life and improve their emotional and physical health and wellbeing.

When planning our charitable activities for the year 2019/2020 our Trustees ensured that we worked within the charitable purpose under which Ellen's Gift of Hope operates, defined by the Charities Commission as, 'the relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage'.

In all charity decision making, and when exercising our powers and duties, we had regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit i.e., that we should operate in accordance with our charitable purposes and be of direct benefit and have a positive impact on the community we are aiming to serve.

We also had regard for the Charity Commission's additional guidance on carrying out charitable activities, which states that such activities should be undertaken without causing detriment or harm to the public or giving rise to more than incidental personal benefit.

Due to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic, in the year to 31st October 2021, we were unable to carry out all our planned fundraisers. However, we carried out online activities and from July 2021, we were able to start our face-to-face events. We were incredibly grateful to our local community who continued to support us with donations despite facing their own personal financial challenges at this time.

Our special thanks go to the following fundraisers for their contributions:

Lucky Stars Draw (Hautlieu School, M. Campbell)	£1334
Ladies Fit2B Steps Challenge (Jean Knott)	£300
Sponsored Walk (Lena Savoy & Serena Chahal)	£305
Prize Raffles (Samantha Jane Turner)	£278
Nationwide (Deanne Meggison's Team Fitness)	£175
Longmarston School Christmas Fun Run	£105
NHS Rainbow Knitted Angels (Rosemary Rennie)	£100
Body Shop Pamper Event (Jacqui Middlemiss)	£70

Achievements and Performance

In this inaugural year of Ellen's Gift of Hope charity, we focused on fundraising, and despite the constraints of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are delighted to have raised a total of £10,220 by carrying out fundraising events and being supported through sponsorships and receiving generous donations.

Even though we were restricted to online activities for 8 months of the year, with the help of Hautlieu School in Jersey, and family and friends, we managed to raise over £2,100 for our Lucky Stars Draws. Our first two face-to-face events, a Body Piercing Party (July) and Vintage Afternoon Tea (Sept) brought in over £4,500 which was a fantastic start after the rules were relaxed and the country opened once again.

Christmas 2020 was a great success with the launch of our Angel Knit-a-thon. Ellen's Choir of Angels reached 100 thanks to the enormous efforts of friends who knitted their way to raising a heavenly £965.

Taken with donations we received on, and after, Ellen's funeral of £10,625 plus sales of Ellen's Angel Cards of £1,375, the fundraising **Grand Total was £22,220**. An amazing achievement given the challenges.

Grant-Giving Activities

We have not yet given out any grants. However, looking ahead to 2021/2022, our focus will be to concentrate our efforts on the provision of aid to local disabled children through the promotion of our charity within the local community. We will also start to build networks among local organisations, charities, and businesses within the area to raise awareness and further support our fundraising efforts.

We have an active Facebook page [@ellensgiftofhope](#) and reached our first milestone of 1000 followers in June 2021. We have a website www.ellensgiftofhope.org that provides the Grant Application Forms available to download and helpful guidance on how to apply for an Individual or Community Grant.

In summary, we are extremely proud of how we have performed as a charity in 2020/2021 despite a challenging year. This means that we are now in a strong position to start to make a positive contribution to the lives of disabled children across Northumberland, Newcastle, and North Tyneside. We are incredibly grateful to our supporters and fundraisers who are vital to the continuing success of Ellen's Gift of Hope.

Promotional Activities

We raise awareness of Ellen's Gift of Hope charity through a variety of methods including word of mouth, fundraising events, social media, print press, TV and radio. In January 2021, after an article in the Evening Chronicle newspaper, Ellen's Gift of Hope was featured on BBC Look North. We also gave an interview with Seven Bridges Radio, a local station who helps people with mental health issues through music.

We keep our Facebook content interesting and engaging, thereby encouraging new followers. Posts include news related to Ellen's interests such as space travel and music. On September 21st 2021, just 3 days before her 18th birthday, we sent Ellen up to space! The video of her flight on Space Voyager was breath-taking. We are also keen to encourage girls into science and 11th February 2021 was International Women & Girls in Science Day, and we posted to encourage girls into a career in space. We hope to introduce an award in Ellen's memory at her school, Bede Academy, with the same aim.

Our fundraising events were well attended with over 100 people at both our Vintage Afternoon Tea and Body Piercing Party. Appealing events with a fun atmosphere help to promote the charity.

Financial Review

The charity bank account was opened in February 2021 as we encountered difficulties in getting a 'business account' opened due to the pressures on the banking system caused by the pandemic. Many banks were not opening new accounts as they dealt with the incredible volume of 'bounce back' business loans. We kept all the funds in a temporary account until the charity account could be opened by NatWest.

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Accounting Period

1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021

Opening Balance as at 24/02/2020	0.00
Total Income	12,220
Transfer from 'holding account'	12,000
Closing Balance at 31/10/21	22,220

Summary of Income for the Accounting Period

1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021

Events & Activities	
Body Piercing Party	£1,300 (£150 Raffle, £1150 Donation)
Vintage Afternoon Tea	£3,015 (£1750 Tickets, £410 Raffle, £855 Donations)
Halloween	£255 (Advance Ticket Sales)
Lucky Stars	£2,110 (Jersey Draw £1334, Blyth Draw £776)
Sponsorship	£955 (as listed on page 3)
Sub-total	£7,635
Sales Merchandise	
Angel & Star Cards	£1,520
Knitted Angels	£965
Ebay Donation	£120
Sub-total	£2,605
Donations	
Cash Donations	£2,243
JustGiving	£7,055
Paypal Giving Fund	£393
Smile.Amazon	£6
NatWest Compensation	£200
Ellen's 18 th Birthday	£1,160
DSR Birthday Fundraiser	£545
Catapult (Vera TV Donation)	£100
Raffle Draws	£285
Sub-total	£11,980
Grand Total	£22,220

Summary of Grants given for the Accounting Period

1st November 2020 to 31st October 2021

Total Grants Made:	
Grants made to individual children	£0.00
Grants made to Organisations	£0.00

Although no official reserves policy currently exists, the Trustees of Ellen's Gift of Hope are always mindful that we have sufficient funds to cover future costs involved in setting up and running events. Currently, the Trustees cover all costs, with 100% of funds donated to the charity. However, going forward the charity may take on this responsibility and careful consideration will be given to expenditure.

We will also be careful to ensure that when making grants, our bank balance is in a position to cover this expenditure, and that whilst we wish to help as many children as possible throughout our financial year, we always leave a reserve of £5,000 in the account as unforeseen costs may arise. Additionally, to prevent our funds becoming overly depleted, the Trustees of Ellen's Gift of Hope will regularly top up funds by carrying out fundraising events and activities throughout the year.

We have no foreseeable overheads for the coming year in terms of staffing and premises since all of our trustees are unpaid volunteers. The registered address from which we run the charity is the home of our trustees, meaning there are no rental or utility costs involved. We anticipate continuing to operate in this way, meaning there will be minimal running costs once again for the year ahead.

The Trustees of Ellen's Gift of Hope are optimistic that we will be in a position to fully commit to our charitable aims and objectives for the coming year. Our bank balance currently stands at £22,220, which is close to what we set out to achieve, although it has taken a little longer than expected due to the Pandemic. We hope to step up the fundraising in 2022 and encourage more people to get involved with the charity, thereby easing up the pressures on the Trustees to deliver all activities.

As we start our new financial year, the last quarter of 2021 will see Halloween as the last big event of the year. Christmas brings a brand-new set of six 'Ellen's Angels' Christmas Cards and an unusual 'Fly High for Ellen' challenge with sponsorship to get a plane up to 10,000 feet! Plus, we have the Great North Run in Sept 2022 and due to the postponement of this event in 2020/2021, we have 4 runners signed up already to run for our charity. Jesse Terry, a USA Singer will also perform at our 'Stargazer' event in Oct 2022.

We aim to open for Grant Applications from Easter 2022 and look forward to giving disabled children and community organisations, supporting sick and vulnerable children, a helping hand.....just as Ellen would have wanted. We hope to be the good in a child's life and continue Ellen's legacy with pride and honour.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the attached Trustees' Report:

Signature

Full Name

Position within Charity

Date



DELIA RAFFELL

TRUSTEE

9TH AUGUST 2022

Signature

Full Name

Position within Charity

Date



GRAHAM RAFFELL

TRUSTEE

9TH AUGUST 2022
