



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	28	09	2021		31	03	2022

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name BRCA+ Chat

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1195944

Charity's principal address 49 Station Road

Polegate

East Sussex

Postcode

BN26 6EA

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Christen Williams	Chair		
2	Janine Duncan		15 January 2021 to date	
3	Alex Williams			
4	Kate Biles			
5	Eleanor Howie			
6	Lisa Bancroft			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 28 September 2021
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO Foundation (Registered 28 September 2021)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed or reappointed by resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the charity are:

- Providing emotional, mental and practical support for those affected by BRCA and other gene mutations within the United Kingdom
- Providing education in the United Kingdom on arising out of or pertaining to BRCA and other gene mutations
- Creating awareness and campaigning around issues arising out of

or pertaining to BRCA and other gene mutations including, but not limited to, better access to genetic testing within the United Kingdom

In planning our objectives for the period between 28 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our Trustee meetings.

The main activities were as follows:

- **Providing emotional, mental and practical support for those affected by a BRCA gene mutation within the United Kingdom**

We have been developing a supportive community network of individuals affected by a BRCA (or similar) gene mutation to facilitate peer support and the sharing of lived experiences. This is supported by relevant resources on our website and social media channels.

- **Providing education in the United Kingdom on living with BRCA gene mutations**

Our focus has been on establishing a series of educational livestreamed sessions to educate the general public and those affected by a BRCA (and similar gene mutations) on issues directly relevant to them and their experiences. We utilise our website and social media presence to further disseminate this information.

Most of our work in this area in the relevant period has drawn directly on previvors to highlight the reality of gene mutations for those living with them.

These activities benefit those affected by BRCA (and similar) gene mutations by providing education and emotional support on issues relevant to this group. We support anyone over the age of 16 with a BRCA or other similar gene mutation, those undergoing or considering genetic testing and their family and friends. We also welcome anyone who works with this groups, i.e. medical professionals, counsellors and volunteers.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

N/A

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

# Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

## Peer support

We have created a community of “BRCA buds” who share their lived experiences. Feedback has been positive:

“I had an amazing family who were so supportive but I really wanted to talk to people in a similar situation as myself. I saw the BRCA+ Chat [Instagram] story about finding a BRCA bud [...]. We talked about our families, our boobs, the operations and then just talked about life! [...] It’s been so fantastic to meet some amazing people in a great community all through different stages in the BRCA journey.”

## Live streamed educational sessions

In March 2022 we held out first live streamed educational session which addressed nipple sparing vs nipple losing mastectomies as this is an important choice that many of our beneficiaries will face.

This session was well attended and received positive feedback including the following:

- “this has been super lovely and [...] thank you for sharing all of this! Definitely will be attending the next one, pleasure make sure there are more.”
- “this has been so helpful”
- “Thank you that was so helpful, really appreciate it”

## Social media and website resources

We have built an engaged social media following across our social media channels. This is one way in which we share educational resources. Our social media posts have addressed topics such as:

- Practical advice i.e. what to take to hospital on the day of surgery
- Emotional support i.e. self-care ideas for difficult days

We have created resources accessible via our website. This includes an educational blog and topics covered within the relevant period include:

- Becoming the mother of a BRCA mutant
- Yes, I had preventative surgeries. No, I was not prepared
- Dear Future Me
- Ovarian cancer – knowledge is power

An important resource that we have developed is our Mastectomy Gallery which features images of women who have had mastectomies and have had varies forms of reconstructive surgery or have not had reconstruction at all. Our beneficiaries report that this helps them to understand their options. We have received positive feedback:

- “I showed my surgeon your whole gallery [...] and he was so impressed by you guys doing this.

- “Your mastectomy gallery has been a huge help with making decisions on specifics with my surgery and has helped to prepare me for what I am about to go through.”

We have also created and launched an e-mail newsletter in March 2022. This is used to engage with our community and signpost subscribers to relevant resources.

### **Fundraising**

In February 2022 we were supported by a fundraiser who ran a half-marathon in order to raise funds for BRCA+ Chat. The final sum raised was £508.35.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash at bank at 31.03.2022 was £6,878.35 in unrestricted funds.

We currently hold funds to cover costs that may be payable on dissolution of the charity.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable.

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our main source of funds in the relevant period has been donations.

## Section F

## Other optional information

### Future plans

The coming year will see a continued emphasis on developing the following:

- Community of "BRCA Buds" – events and facilitated peer support / sharing of lived experiences
- Education – creation and dissemination of relevant resources including via our newsletter, website and social channels
- Educational events with relevant expert speakers

## Section G

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

ELEANOR HOWIE

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

TRUSTEE

Date

30/01/2023



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
BRCA+ Chat

No (if any)  
1195944

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
28.09.2021

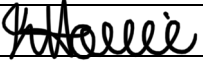
To

Period end date  
31.03.2022

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	6,878	-	-	6,878	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	6,878	-	-	6,878	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	6,878	-	-	6,878	-
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	6,878	-	-	6,878	-
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	6,878	-	-	6,878	-

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	6,878	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,878</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Eleanor Howie	30/01/2023