



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **31/04/2016** Period start date To **31/03/2017**
Period end date

Charity name: The Laughter Specialists

Charity registration number: 1132987

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objectives of the trust are:</p> <p>To relieve sickness, preserve and protect health by providing specially trained entertainers known as Laughter Specialists for sick children in hospitals, and those with special needs in schools, residential homes and similar institutions. Laughter Specialists also visit adults with special needs.</p> <p>To advance the education of the public in the benefits of laughter as an aid to good health.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives the trust provides specialist entertainers/performers to visit sick children and those with special needs bringing interactive play, laughter and fun.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Activities of Laughter Specialists for the public benefit:</p> <p>The Trust funds professional entertainers/performers to be Laughter Specialists (often known as 'clown doctors') who use their skills to bring fun and laughter to sick children in hospital and to children with special needs in schools and other similar institutions. The Laughter Specialists use magic, songs, music, puppets and improvisation bringing therapeutic interactive play, laughter and fun. Their aim is to improve the lives of the children in the hospital and parents, carers and siblings. They visit Addenbrookes, Cambridge, Broomfield, Chelmsford and Princess Alexandra, Harlow hospitals and Edith Borthwick, Bocking,</p>

		<p>Essex, Granta, Linton, Cambs and Columbus, Chelmsford special schools.</p> <p>Evidence their work is needed: To ensure their work is needed and beneficial they seek and receive:</p> <p>1) Ongoing feedback from relatives, staff and the children, through feedback forms, letters and consultation with Hospital staff. Especially over the last 4 years at Broomfield Hospital as regular visitors and other hospitals where we have made initial visits.</p> <p>2) General Research into Humour in hospital and connected topics carried out by journalists and researchers</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The two founders and Chief Operating Officers Annie Aris and Patrick Jacobs effectively administer the day to day running of the charity. Their voluntary contribution in administrative tasks and running fundraising events would amount to approx 250 hours a year each. The trustees and additional volunteers/supporters of the charity help with setting up, promoting and running events. The secretary of the trustees has been instrumental in fundraising and promoting our laughter specialist visits to Meldreth Manor School.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Activities and achievements of The Laughter Specialists Charitable Trust for the year April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017</p> <p>This year the income from grants, donations, fundraising events and fees</p> <p>Is continuing to rise - Laughter Specialists visit on a regular basis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Addenbrookes hospital, Cambridge, now funded by the Addenbrookes Charitable Trust - Now four times a month. 2) Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, mostly funded by BBC Children in Need – 3 times a month. 3) Edith Borthwick School, Bocking, Essex. Once a month during term time. 4) Granta special needs school, Linton, Cambs Funding from various sources. Every week of term time when funding permits. 5) We also visit Milton Hospice and Grove Cottage (mencap), Bishop Stortford. <p>The Laughter Specialists have been able to visit extra clinics such as the eye clinic and spend more time with children at Addenbrookes hospital.</p> <p>Working closely with the play specialist and clinic teams as requested.</p> <p>The benefits of these visits have led to a reduction in stress and boredom for the children and their parents at these clinics.</p> <p>The Laughter Specialists have increased the time spent in the specialist burns unit at Broomfield hospital.</p> <p>At Granta School and Edith Borthwick special school the Laughter Specialists have been able to continue their visits working with children of mixed abilities including a number of children with severe autism. They have built up a rapport and understanding of the children's needs bringing them fun and laughter and helping them to interact with each other and express themselves.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Any surplus at the end of the financial year are already allocated or restricted to funding Laughter Specialist visits during the coming year. The unrestricted funds are allocated to the support costs of the organisation such as administration costs. £3,000 is considered as a reserve to be used in emergencies.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£3,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Laughter Specialists
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1132987
Charity's principal address	17 Crawley Hobbs Close Saffron Walden Essex CB11 4GD

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	George Howard	Chairman		
2	Lynne Baker			
3	Edward Rudd	Treasurer		
4	Clare Thompson			
5	Karen Sheairs	Secretary		
6	Ray Canham		Up to Jan 23 rd 2017	
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Patrick Jacobs and Annie Aris (founders and Laughter Specialists acting as Chief Operational Officers), Emma Caton Fundraiser (To November 2016), Lisa J Jeremy Fundraiser from Jan 2017)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date		