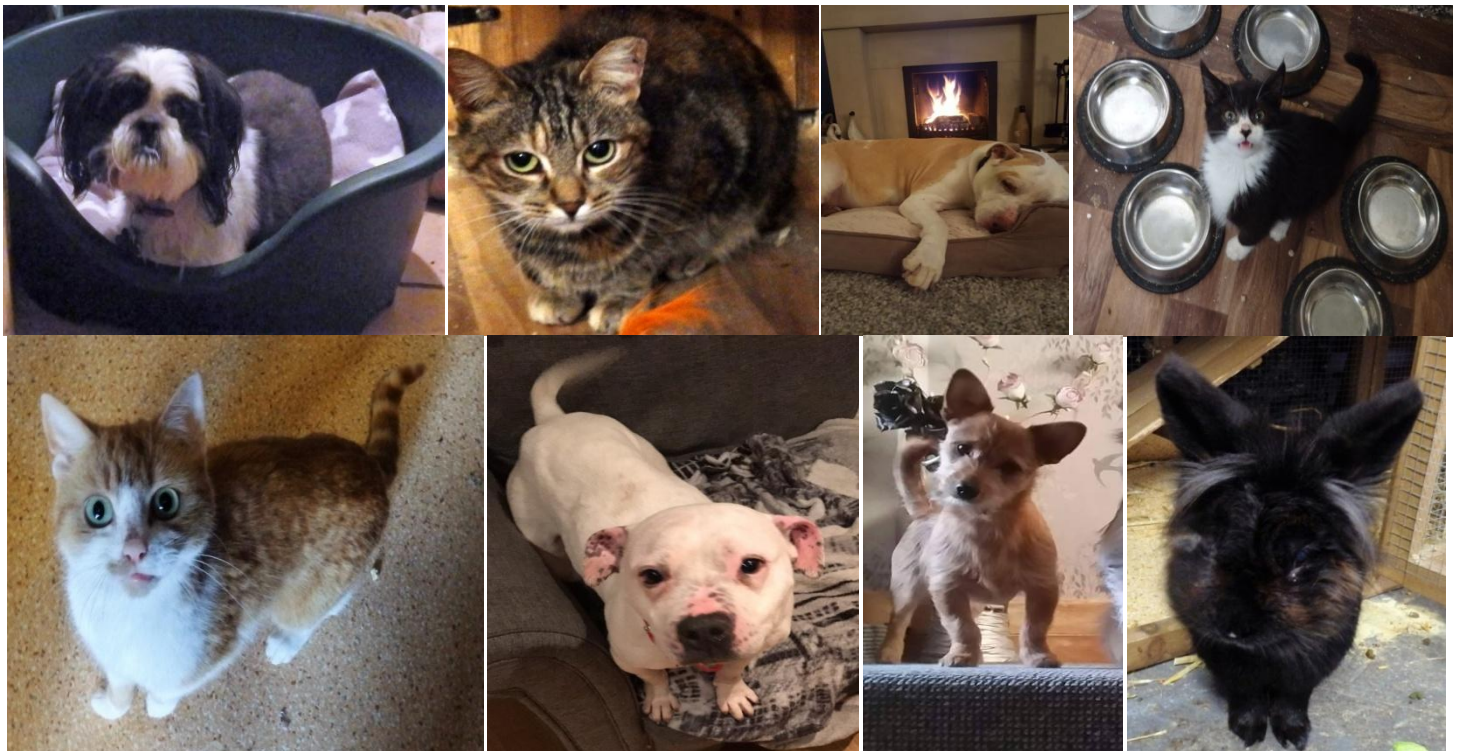


# 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Animal Rescue Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018



(Some of the animals rehomed 2017-2018)

Charity Registration in Northern Ireland: NIC101696

HMRC Registration: XR65507 (March 2003)

7<sup>TH</sup> Heaven Animal Rescue Trust

Registered address:

PO Box 198, Newtownabbey, BT36 9BP

[www.7thheaven.org.uk](http://www.7thheaven.org.uk)

## **Structure, governance and management**

### **Nature of governing document**

7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Animal Rescue Trust, which is also recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland, is operated under the rules of its Trust Deed dated 24 March 2003.

### **Organisational structure**

The Trust is governed by the Trustees.

A new Trustee may be appointed by resolution of a meeting of all the Trustees, passed by a majority of those present

Trustees:

Mrs Heather McMurray: Chair

Mr Stephen McMurray: Treasurer

Mrs Lorna Peppiatt: Secretary

### **Objectives**

The Charity is established for the protection of all small domestic animals from abuse, neglect and distress by providing for their care and treatment in a safe environment with the aim to rehoming and in particular:

- A No Kill policy will operate except when an animal is suffering unnecessarily and when no further treatment is available and only following consultation with a veterinary surgeon and permission of 2 trustees
- To provide or make arrangements for the provision of animals which cannot be rehomed

## **Achievements and Performance 2017 / 2018**

7th Heaven has continued to be inundated with requests to help the abused, neglected, distressed, unwanted or abandoned animals throughout Northern Ireland. We can't help them all, but we will always try to take in, care for and re-home as many as possible. We hope that in doing so, we will be promoting compassion and empathy in the public, whilst also giving a sense of companionship and well-being to those recipients of the re-homed animals

### **Animals:**

#### **Rehomed by 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven:**

**32 Cats**  
**3 Dogs**  
**5 Rabbits**  
**2 Guinea pigs**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Heaven's current long-term residents:**

**1 dog (abused) – 9 years old**

**Cats: 3 very nervous – average age 5 – 10 years old**

**3 very old – average age 14 – 22 years old**

**7 long-term health issues – average age 11 – 14 years old**

Our charity is set up to help animals in difficult situations. The animals generally coming into the charity will be anxious, distressed, or have been abused. This means that we need to spend a considerable time in rehabilitating them before they will be ready for rehoming. Whilst in our care, we aim to provide them with love, attention and the best quality living environment.

Our charity remains focused on rescuing cats that are older, have medical problems, in dangerous situations or are difficult to home, as there are few options available for them elsewhere. Most of them came from people whose lifestyle was changing, those who were becoming homeless, going into hospital or who had passed away. There was no one else to care for them, and their only other option was to put them down. Although we still try to find them all a home, we acknowledge that some may remain in long-term care with us, so we have set aside larger spaces including an 'oldies' home' where they can live out the remainder of their life in comfort and company. Their owners can be secure in the knowledge that they will be loved, get well looked after and will not be put down, as we have a 'No Kill' policy.

All received love, attention and whatever treatment necessary whilst in our care, with the aim of rehoming them to suitable, responsible owners. This, of course, is of great benefit to the animal but also has great rewards for the new owner who gets companionship and a lot of pleasure out of caring for an animal and from the affection it shows in return.

This year has been particularly difficult for the charity. Repeated periods of snow, storms and extreme weather conditions had hampered rehoming, but at the same time, we were inundated with requests to rescue animals abandoned in these extreme conditions. We did our best to find shelter for all that were in desperate need.

### **Other activities:**

We can't help all the animals but we try to assist as many as we can. Where we can't actually bring them in, we try to help re-home them via our 'Made in Heaven Matchmaking' scheme. If the owners want to keep the animals but are struggling financially we have our Pet Food Bank to help them.

## Made In Heaven Matchmaking Scheme



### Rehomed:

**16 dogs**

**5 cats**

**5 still looking for a home at 31/3/18**

**In addition we advised / supported 49 people / families and 6 of the 24 animals decided to keep their pet following our support**

Our free 'Made In Heaven' Matchmaking Service offers owners who are concerned where their dog will end up the chance to become more involved in the re-homing process. Ultimately they have the choice of where their pets are going to be homed whilst holding on to them in their own home environment until that is achieved. This not only helps the animal by preventing them becoming stressed in kennels but also helps the owner get peace of mind. We also discovered that approximately 28% of owners changed their mind and decided to keep their pet after discussing their options or problems with us and taking the advice we offered. We continue to receive very positive feedback from those who used this service that this service alleviates stress from them being able to choose the new owner, the new owner can find out the history of the animal and everyone is happy with the level of support we have provided to them throughout.

This service is helping towards promoting responsible animal ownership.

### Pet Food Bank



**113 animals received a substantial supply of free pet food:**

**73 dogs,**

**37 cats,**

**2 rabbits,**

**1 budgie**

**We provided repeat supplies of food to 19 animals, with 6 people requiring addition help on an average 1-2 times:**

**11 dogs**

**8 cats**

**52 people / families received generous pet food bank supplies estimated at least £50 per pet**

**The pet food supplies were provided through donations to our pet food banks and groups (below) and from compassionate individuals.**

**7<sup>th</sup> Heaven paid an extra £606.42 for extra emergency supplies or special food in exceptional circumstances.**

Our Pet Food Bank is designed to support people in financial hardship by providing free pet food to enable them to hold onto their pets. This means they don't have to endure the stress of seeing their animal suffer distress by being put into kennels or pounds. Whilst we aim to provide temporary help to those in need, we acknowledge that there may be a few who may require a longer period of help, mainly due to benefits stopping suddenly, losing their job or prolonged illness. We assess each person's requirements individually.

We have Pet Food Bank donation points in Sainsbury's Forestside and Carrickfergus and in Jollyes Glengormley. These have been a huge success, providing pet food to all in need.

Value of pet food donated 2017 / 2018:

Sainsbury's Carrickfergus	£2,323.32
Sainsbury's Forestside	£2,684.88
Jollyes Glengormley	£358.05
Tescos, Ballygomartin, Belfast	£108.69
Belfast Pug Club	£56.96
Pets At Home/Support adoption for Pets/VIP Club	£8,094.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,626.69</b>

We have shared out all this pet food delivering it to pets whose owners are in need and those helping feed the feral and community cats throughout Northern Ireland.

We provide regular updates on our website and Face book pages - 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Animal Rescue Trust and Seventh Heaven, both on the pets helped and the donations gratefully received.

We would like to thank everyone who donated pet food to help feed them throughout the year. You are helping keep pets in their owner's homes and prevented at least 113 animals needing to be re-homed. We would also like to thank Citizen Advice Bureaux staff and other organisations for their numerous, necessary referrals to us.

Here's some of the pets we helped:



In addition to helping re-home domestic animals and supplying free pet food to pet owners we also assist feral cats in the community via our Project Wildcat Scheme

### **Project Wildcat Scheme and Feral Cat Month**



#### **Shelter:**

**27 Shelters provided at a cost of £680.74 (9 c/f 16/17):**

**19 Plastic Snugs and 8 Medium cabin kennels (helping families of cats)**

**Approximately 80 feral / community cats were provided with a safe home.**

**2 shelters were donated from Jollyes, Glengormley**

**2 snugs were returned when the cats no longer used / needed them**

#### **Neutering:**

**6 feral cats were neutered and 1 cat received emergency surgery / treatment at a cost of £231**

#### **Feeding:**

**267 feral cats were supplied with a substantial supply of food.**

**248 feral cats received repeat supplies of food on an average 2 - 3 times to each**

**27 individuals, families or community groups were supplied with pet food to help the feral cats for which they were caring.**

**The pet food supplies were provided through donations to our pet food banks and groups (above) and from compassionate individuals. 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven paid an extra £473.84 for extra emergency supplies.**

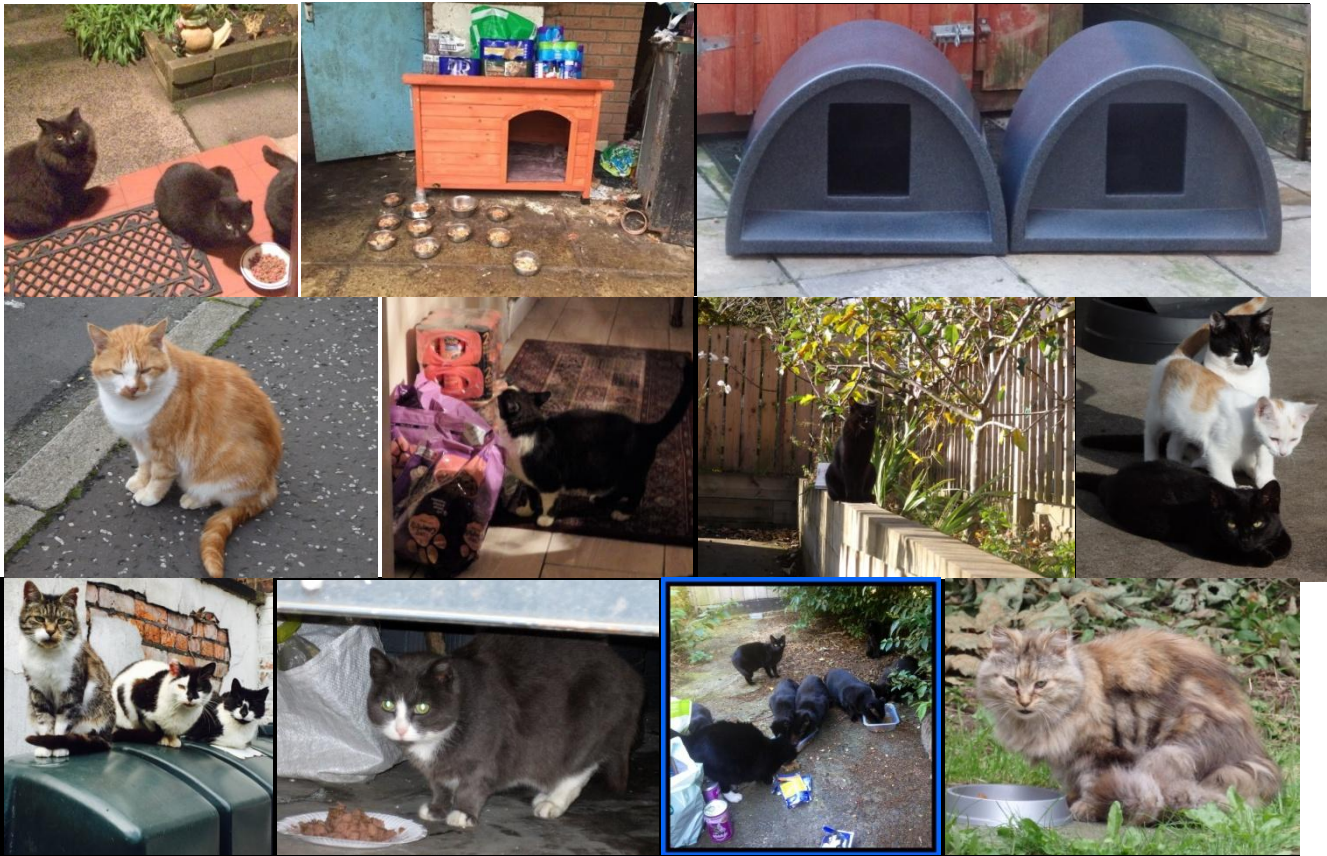
Project Wildcat was set up to help feral cats and those who care for them by providing free shelter, neutering and food. Many more cats are neutered by the Trap, Neuter and Return individuals who contact us to provide shelter and food after this has been done.

We identified quite some time ago that there were a large number of feral cat colonies throughout Northern Ireland and, although many were being fed by volunteers or local people, the cost to them was substantial. Therefore, as the Pet Food Bank donations were becoming a success, we decided that we had enough supplies to be able to offer pet food to the feral community too. Although we feed the ferals all year round we also highlight their plight by designating October as 'Feral Cat Month'.

The public continue to be very supportive of our Project Wildcat project and, as a result, we now also have a sponsorship support 'Feed a Feral'. For a donation of £10 we will provide dry and wet food to this value to a feral or community cat. This is in addition to the opportunity for the public to sponsor the purchase of a snug for £35 or donate a shelter, which we will provide to a feral needing a dry home.

From the positive feedback and support we have received about Project Wildcat and Feral Cat Month Schemes, they are a major success. We are the only people in Northern Ireland who provide this service and the obvious need for it means we will continue to help feral/community cats as part of our core services.

Here's some of the cats supported and shelters and pet food provided:



## Pet Friendly Landlord Scheme



7th Heaven continues to see a huge increase in people having to give up their pets when they move to new accommodation. Landlords seem reluctant to let pets stay in their accommodation and many who do, charge extra insurance, which many tenants cannot afford. This forces people to give up their beloved pets when their circumstances are beyond their control.

We set up the Pet Friendly Landlord Scheme in 2015/16 to help pet owners in this difficult situation and had contacted the majority of those involved with landlords, including councils, associations and central bodies to ask if there was anything they would be willing to do to help. We received only minimal response. We offered free advertising to any landlord willing to offer a home to a pet owner and have had a few responses. We will continue to do our utmost to help prevent the public having to give up their pets and encourage landlords to see the benefits.

## Daisy Day



7th Heaven designated the 24<sup>th</sup> December as Daisy Day – a time to remember all the animals killed and injured in war. We have chosen the daisy as it symbolises innocence and, like the animal victims of war, they

are numerous and always overlooked. We want everyone to say a prayer or spare a thought for the innocent animal victims of human war at this traditional time of peace.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> December each year now and on the days leading up to it, we ask everyone if they could like and share our Daisy Day facebook page and encourage others to do so. We are hoping, maybe, that we could create a better awareness of their plight and by everyone on this day thinking of those animals taken from us by man's conflicts, we could create a 'daisy-chain' of compassion, our thoughts, the links of love, joining us all together, across borders, race and religion. Maybe we could create a world where man no longer solves disputes by force or resolves differences by weapons. Maybe then the animals will stop suffering and dying at our hands. We ask that you please spare a moment to remember them.

## **Finance**

Income raised	<b>£9,692.20</b>
Payments	<b>£8,843.91</b>
Balance	<b>£848.29</b>
Cash Funds brought forward:	<b>£80,382.01</b>
Funds at 31.3.2018	<b>£81,230.30</b>

## **Income raised:**

### **Sainsbury's**

Sainsbury's Forestside invited us in-store to promote animals needing a home, our schemes to help the public and receive donations. We received £380.03 from generous customers.

We continue to receive pet food donations from kind customers through our donation points set – up in store in Carrickfergus and Forestside, which is helping both the Food Bank and Project Wildcat schemes to become virtually self-funded.

We would like to thank Sainsbury's customers for their generosity throughout the year and to Sainsbury's and their staff, especially their Charity Champions, for making this possible.

### **Jollyes**

In 2017/18 we received £358.05 pet food donated to our Pet Food Bank donation point, £66.42 from our collection tin and £89.82 from store discounts. In addition we were delighted when they presented us with a £750 gift card from their Loyalty Scheme. We have spent some of this already on 2 cabins for feral cats and pet food to feed those in our care.

We are grateful to Jollye's customers and staff in Glengormley, who have supported us for many years.

### **Pets at Home**

Pets at Home, Support Adoption for Pets and VIP Club and their customers have supported our charity throughout the year. We received several pet food donations from Newtownabbey worth £219, substantial pallets of food /litter worth £8,465 from their Support Adoption for Pets and £212 VIP Lifeline vouchers totaling £8,896.

Their generosity has been overwhelming and has enabled us to share these donations with many animals we support through our Pet Food Bank and Project Wildcat schemes.

### **E-Bay / PayPal Giving**

The funds of £1,456.24 from E-Bay sales and Humble Bundle donations from PayPal Giving Fund have provided significant contribution towards income raised, with several individuals regularly donating each month. This was a 100% increase in donations from the previous year,

We would like to thank everyone who donated funds from their sales, items for selling through our E-Bay charity site and for on-going regular support through Paypal Giving.



## **Friendship Scheme and Shelter Sponsorship**

We have 19 Special Friends who continue to support our charity each month; 13 others who continue to donate both large and small amounts each year, 4 who specifically sponsor our kennels, long term residents and Project Wildcat shelters. Feed a Feral for a £10 donation is also promoted.

## **Events**

'The Cat' -Bangor Drama Club organised a themed evening around cats in their theatre in Hamilton Road, Bangor. It included poems, prose and selections from a few plays. Thank you to everyone who took part and those came along for an evening of entertainment and help support furies in need. Donations raise £45

Latharna Canine & Dog Traing Club organised a Super dog show in Carnfunnock Country Park, The weather was great and lots turned out to show their dog and just have lots of fun. Thank you to everyone who organised this event and for your donation of £150 to help animals 7th Heaven rescues and supports. Have a look on our YouTube, also available on our website, to see all the beautiful dogs

Gavin Graham Charity Cycle - a big thank you to Gavin Graham for his very generous donation of £800. He raised this by a charity cycle in the Pyrenees during the summer. This will go a long way to help the animals we rescue and those we support through our Pet Food Bank and Project Wildcat schemes.

Coop Local Community Fund We were delighted to have been chosen to receive funds raised in the local community through Co-op's Local Community Fund. The Co-op donates 1% raised through members spending on their brand services and products and carrier bag sales. This raised an amazing £1,532.89, Thank you everyone who helped and supported us.

## **Other events included:**

- a stall at Irish Vegan Festival in May & October, where we promoted the shelters we provide to feral cats as part of our Project wildcat scheme;
- Tesco store Ballygomartin store collection in August and November
- Sainsbury's Forestside store collections in October and November

## **Others support:**

We have other ways to raise funds and help our charity including (details are on our website):

- Amazon Wish List
- Give as You Live
- Payroll Giving in Action
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Pets at Home VIP Club Lifelines

Since joining these organisations for free, we have started to receive donations from the public interested in supporting our charity. We are grateful as this has started to provide us with a further regular supply of funds to help those in need

## **Payments out:**

We will make no personal profit from an animal's misery, which is why nobody involved in our charity gets paid. This is why there are no expenses for staff wages.

Project Wildcat costs of £1,385.58 was used for the purchase of 14 shelters of various sizes, pet food and the cost of neutering feral or community cats. The majority of the pet food had been donated through our Pet Food Banks, VIP scheme and various public food donations, however due to the amount we support on a regular basis, we still needed to purchase £473.84 of addition pet food to support them. We receive no funding for this, but have now the opportunity for the public to donate shelters or donate funds to support this scheme.

Whilst the Pet Food Bank has been almost self-funded through our Pet Food Banks and public donations, there have been occasions when we required greater supplies of dog food. In addition the extreme weather conditions this year meant that many were unable to get out of their home and on a few occasions this affected us too. We were grateful to Asda for helping us arrange delivery to a few who were very remote

during this time. This scheme required an additional £606.42 but we feel this was a very worthwhile cost incurred, particularly as it has been keeping pets in homes.

We do a lot of promotion of 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven's animals and the schemes. Administration costs are for the internet / website access and necessary IT upgrades (NB. there is no charge for the design or upkeep as this is provided by the trustees) and leaflets and business cards for the schemes and for events. We continue to keep printing costs low by preparing the newsletter for publishing and designing our own leaflets ourselves and using the excellent printing service of Print NI to produce high quality colour newsletters, posters and leaflets.

## **Thanks**

We do not charge to take in or re-home any animal. As our motto states, "Animals are not commodities to be bought or sold. They are beautiful creatures with beautiful souls". We are not their 'owners' merely their 'guardians' and, therefore, have no moral right to put a price tag on their head. This is why we do not and never will charge for our animals. Nor do we do not charge for any of our schemes or support we provide. We do not receive any government support. So we would particularly like to thank everyone who donated funds to 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven. This is important to our charity to help us provide everything necessary to help animals both in our care and people and animals supported through our schemes.

We would like to acknowledge all the people who have helped us in other ways. We really appreciate the regular donations of pet food direct from individuals to feed our long term and elderly residents. We also receive regular supplies of bedding which the animals are especially appreciative of. This all helps keep our costs low, Thanks to all the good Samaritans out there who did not look the other way, but contacted us when they found a lost, ill or abandoned animal and many who provided a shelter for them until we could find room to take them in or a new home, especially when the weather was very bad,. We would especially like to thank everyone who has offered each of our rescue animals a new chance and a loving home.

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Stephen McMurray

Trustee/ treasurer

29 April 2018