

# **STRAWBERRY HILL OVERSEAS AND COMMUNITY CONCERN**

**Annual Report of the Trustees  
For the year ending 31st December 2015**

**Charity registration number 1120787**

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC) is the St Mary's University charity that works with the disadvantaged in the UK and overseas.

The Trustees present their report together with the accounts for the charity for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (2005) on 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', as have the accounts which have been drawn up on the accounting policies set out in Note 1 of the Financial Statements.

## **Trustees**

Mrs Elizabeth Byrne Hill  
Dr Kevin Cook (Chair)  
Mrs Valerie Cunningham  
Rev Fr Gerard Devlin  
Dr Caroline Healy  
Mrs Lin McGarry  
Ms Gwen O'Leary  
Ms Sally-Ann Richards

## **Principal Office**

St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill, TWICKENHAM. Mddx. TW1 4SX  
020 8240 4000  
<http://www.smuc.ac.uk/shocc/index.htm>

## **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc, PO BOX 1000, BX1 1LT

## **Objectives**

Within the overall object of *the relief of disadvantage in the UK and overseas* as set out in the Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern Trust Deed our agreed objectives are:

- To advance the education of pupils in schools overseas by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education
- To advance the Roman Catholic faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the statements of belief of the Roman Catholic doctrine

- To develop the capacity and skills of members of socially disadvantaged communities in the UK and overseas so that they may be better able to identify and help meet their needs and to participate more fully in society
- To promote and protect the physical and mental health of HIV/AIDS sufferers through the provision of financial assistance, support, education and practical advice.

## **Background and approach**

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (S.H.O.C.C.) is a UK charity working with disadvantaged people in many parts of the world. The charity was founded in September 2007, replacing its predecessor Strawberry Hill Overseas Concern (SHOC). Strawberry Hill Overseas Concern (S.H.O.C) was founded in 1971 by a group of staff and students who wished to explore the idea of establishing a link with educational institutions in the Global South. Several staff had experience of teaching overseas and they were aware both of the educational and personal needs of individuals and communities overseas and of the potential of such links to St Mary's. Together they wished to devise ways of bringing the needs of the Global South to the attention of the university community. Within a year, SHOC had become a recognised feature of college life.

In 2007, the name of the charity was changed to reflect its local, national and international dimensions. Whilst not giving up its overseas work, the new charity sought to bring together the many aspects of voluntary work of a more local nature being carried out by the university. Charitable status was obtained and trustees appointed.

S.H.O.C. was always very much a shared staff-student experience and the new charity has attempted to continue this tradition. For some this means working as a volunteer locally or overseas; for others it has involved corresponding with students or helping with fund raising initiatives. A strong, positive feature of SHOC and SHOCC is that they both involve present and past members of the college community.

S.H.O.C.C. concentrates on four main areas of activity. These are Projects, Fund-raising, Publicity and Volunteering. Projects that might receive financial support are submitted for consideration to the Trustees. Such projects have to have some direct and tangible link with

the university and there should be some benefit to the charity and the institution. Trustees seek funds to meet these needs and are responsible for making bids to funding bodies. They also encourage staff and students to raise funds through a range of activities both within and outside the institution. Trustees are also responsible for placing the work and success of the charity in the public domain. They do this through newsletters, maintaining the charity web site, by using social media such as Facebook and other means. A small group of Trustees is responsible for the charity's volunteering programme. This group works with the university's careers service and chaplaincy and seeks to provide staff and students with advice on volunteering in the local community and overseas. In 2015, for the first time, it was responsible for placing undergraduates at two of our projects in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

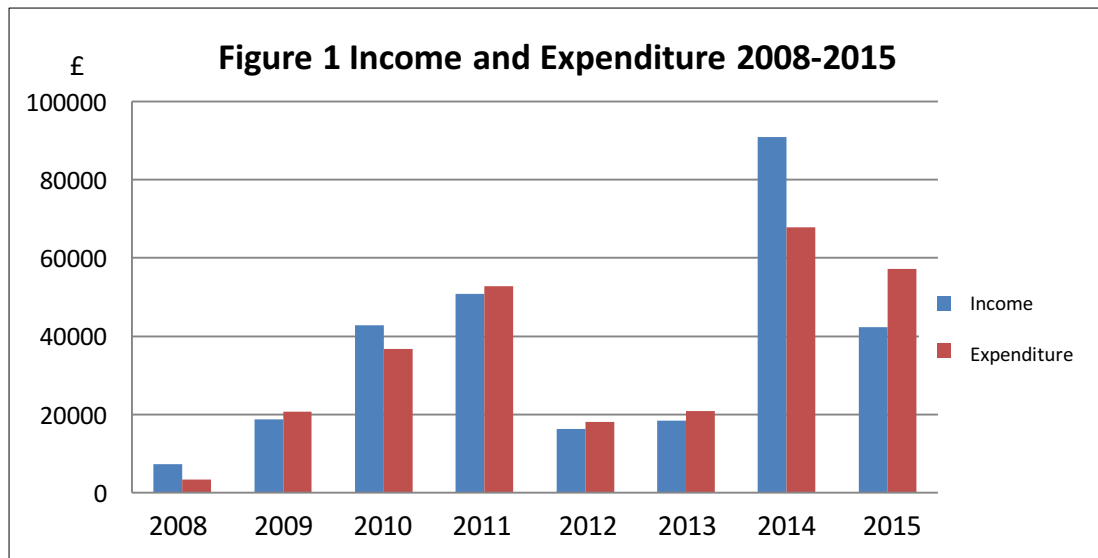
While S.H.O.C.C. often provides the main funding contribution, our projects typically feature contributions from the beneficiary communities themselves.

Since 1971 several hundred staff and students have committed themselves to a period of work overseas or have worked on a voluntary basis with local disadvantaged groups. Whilst it is difficult to be precise about the amounts of funding raised, it is estimated that staff and students, both past and present, have, since 1971, been linked to over 125 projects and have raised well over £500,000.

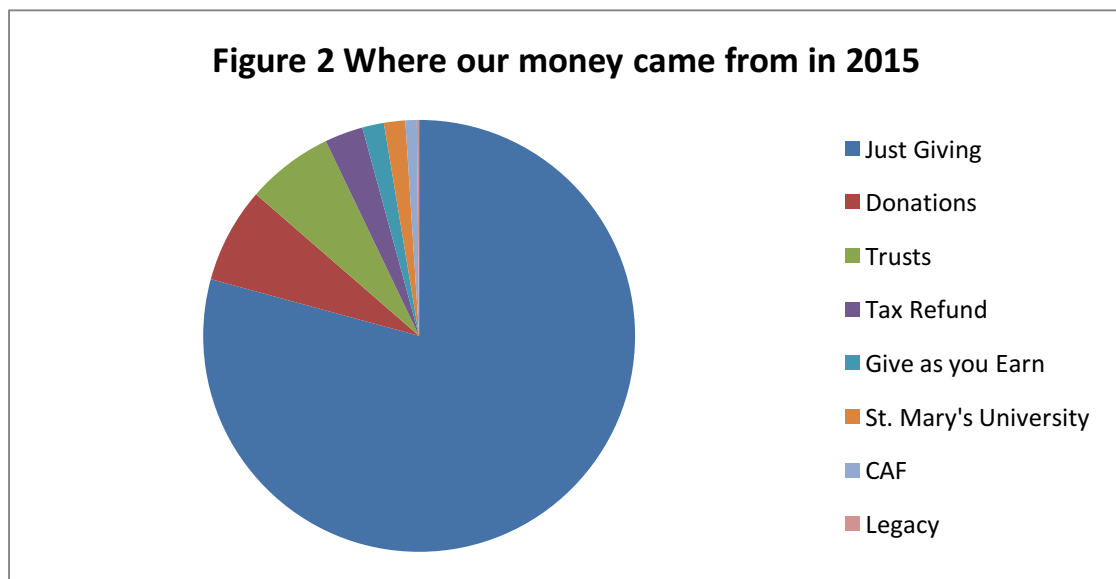
## **Achievements and performance**

2015 was, understandably, not as successful in terms of income and expenditure as 2014 when we were able to distribute most of a substantial legacy received from the estate of a deceased member of staff. SHOCC continued to work with Grassroots Tanzania receiving and distributing donations for this young, environmental and educational project in Tanzania and continued to receive donations in support of Outspan Schools in Uganda. As in past years costs were kept to the minimum and over 99% of income went directly to projects.

Figure 1 below shows our income and expenditure for the year and, to place the year in context, for the period since we became a charity. Our income, whilst not at the level of 2014, still exceeded £40,000. Making use of this income and retained income from the previous year enabled us to distribute nearly £60,000 to 10 projects in the UK and overseas.



Over three quarters of our income (Figure 2) came from our Just Giving sites and especially from those providing restricted funding for Grassroots Tanzania (£28,758) and Outspan School Uganda (£10,127). We received a donation of £2,750 from two trusts for projects in Tanzania and a tax refund on gift aided donations of £1,213. Give as you Earn donations



from university staff provided a further £685. The University donated £675 and there was a small amount of additional income received from the Amy Hemming's legacy.

## Projects supported

During 2015 SHOCC was able to help 10 projects most of which were overseas. A brief summary of what our funding helped to achieve is provided below.

## 1. Muthetheni Secondary Girls' School Kenya

The renovated Amy Hemmings and Antony Kenney laboratories at Muthetheni School were officially opened in August 2015 by the SHOCC Chair, Dr Kevin Cook. Two plaques were presented to the school and these explain to pupils and staff the generous legacies received from these past members of St Mary's University staff.

### The Amy Hemmings Laboratories



Amy Hemmings  
1930 – 2013

### The Antony Kenney Biology Laboratory



Antony Kenney  
1931-2014  
Teacher, Biologist and Author

**Figure 3. Part of the two plaques presented to Muthetheni Girls' School and mounted on each of the three laboratory walls**



**Figure 4. A chemistry experiment at the official opening ceremony**

The renovation work is now complete and the £28,000 has provided pupils with a set of laboratories that have gas, water and electricity facilities, a modern fume cupboard and new benching and seating. The laboratories have also been painted and decorated and new doors and windows provided.

The impact of the renovation has been felt immediately with the 2015 examination results being the best for many years. The mean score achieved has increased placing the school amongst the best for science in the Province. It is hoped that many more girls will be eligible for university and will go on to study science

As part of the opening ceremony, pupils worked at chemistry experiments (Figure 4 above) using the new facilities available on every bench as well as space for taking notes. SHOCC is delighted with the outcome of this project and wishes to acknowledge the contribution of

David Loxton, a UK architect, who provided advice on the scheme at no cost to SHOCC. We are also delighted to record our thanks to the school for the 10% of funds they provided and to the contractor who carried out the work so efficiently and on time. Chair of Trustees, Dr Kevin Cook, will visit the project in the summer of 2016 and will meet with the Board of Management, the Principal and science staff.

## **2. Itumba Hill Primary School (Grassroots Tanzania)**



**Figure 5. The Itumba hill village school soon to be replaced with a purpose-built stone set of classrooms and offices.**

We were able to continue to support the work of Charlotte and Martin Hopley at Itumba Hill near Singida in Tanzania. We provided them with £8643 to construct a classroom at the village school. Grassroots Tanzania (GRTZ), a conservation and education NGO, began its collaboration with Itumba Hill village in 2013 and one of its priorities is to build a primary school. Currently, children meet in the thatched building shown in Figure 5.

SHOCC also acts as a recipient for donations to GRTZ's work and these amounted to just over £20,000 this year. For more information on the work of GRTZ, please go to their web site at <http://www.grassrootstz.org/>

## **3. Outspan Schools Uganda**



**Figure 6. A view of part of the Outspan Primary school at Bwaise Kampala.**

SHOCC continues to support this educational project and acts as a conduit for donations raised by families and schools in Northamptonshire. This year we were able to send just over £10,000 to the infant-primary and secondary schools and we continue to receive regular updates on pupil progress. Chair of Trustees, Dr Kevin Cook, visited the schools in the summer of 2015

and was able to appreciate the tremendous work being carried out by the Principal, Dismas

Otori. The lives of over 30 disadvantaged pupils are being changed thanks to the support of the Northamptonshire families and schools.

#### **4. Orkilili Secondary School, Moshi Tanzania and our new volunteering programme**



**Figure 7. Orkilili Principal, Mama Yohanna in the new needlework room at the school**

SHOCC has supported Orkilili since its inception and, although we did not provide any financial support this year, Trustee Elizabeth Byrne Hill visited during 2014 to negotiate arrangements for volunteers to teach at the school during 2015.

We spent 2014 in discussion with two of our projects, Orkilili in Tanzania and Ngoro Orphanage and school in Zimbabwe. Both kindly offered to host undergraduates for a period of up to six weeks in the summer of 2015 and four undergraduates duly spent time teaching and working at the projects.

Mama Yohanna has built this secondary school from nothing and it now provides an excellent education for deprived Maasai pupils. The recent addition of a needlework room and a car maintenance workshop has broadened the curriculum.

#### **5. Proyecto Vida Guatemala**



**Figure 8. Proyecto Vida Director, Sr. Dee Smith receives her MBE citation from the UK High Commissioner to Guatemala**

We reported in last year's Annual Report that Maryknoll Sister Dee Smith, Director of Proyecto Vida, had been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours. The official award was made in 2015 by the British High Commissioner to Guatemala. Dee is shown in Figure 8 holding her citation. Standing next to her and holding the Union Jack is the High Commissioner. Dee is surrounded by Proyecto Vida staff and friends.



During the year we received a request from Dee for help with rising energy costs at the Proyecto Vida HIV/AIDS hospice. Dee had estimated that electricity costs were running at about \$125 per month and that she could save around \$1500 a year if she installed solar panels. We were delighted to be able to pay for the costs of 8 panels and for their transportation from Guatemala City. The panels are now in place and are working efficiently saving Dee money that can be spent on the hospice patients.

## **6. St Marie Eugenie Girls' School Moshi Tanzania**



**Figure 9. A view of Sr. Marie Eugenie School main building**

SHOCC has been helping St Marie Eugenie Girls' School at Chekereni, a half-hour's drive south-west of Moshi, Tanzania since we provided start-up funding to help purchase land for the school. This was back in 2005. The school opened in 2011 and now has over 300 pupils making use of first class facilities. St Marie

Eugenie is now probably one of the best equipped schools in Tanzania. It continues to achieve excellent results and has witnessed tremendous developments in its ten year existence.

SHOCC was able to send the school a further £2,000 towards its continued development. Trustee Kevin Cook visited the school in the summer of 2015.

## **7. St Kevin's and St Paul's Schools Marigat Kenya**



**Figure 10. Fr Stephen and class teacher Grace Wakamau testing the new infant chairs purchased with SHOCC funding**

Our twin schools at Marigat in Kenya, St. Paul's and St. Kevin's, continued to receive our help and we sent St Pauls' a further £3,141 during the year. This was used to provide school lunches for the pupils, to purchase a diesel pump to irrigate school and parish farm land and to renovate classrooms with new desks and chairs and to plant trees around the school. Trustees Kevin Cook and Elizabeth Byrne Hill visited the

school in the summer of 2014 and had concerns about the state of the floors in the classrooms. SHOCC agreed to provide funding to complete this work when funds become available.



**Figure 11. Fr Stephen pointing out one of the boundary posts that demarcate the six acres of land at the new St Kevin's primary school**

We reported on the situation at St Kevin's School in last year's report noting that the two completed classrooms had been constructed on disputed land. The SHOCC Trustees agreed not to provide any further funding until negotiations with the local community over the land were completed.

These negotiations were completed satisfactorily during 2015 and SHOCC is now raising the funds needed to construct the new school. This will take some time as

is estimated that a total of around £100,000 will be required to complete the school over the next five or so years. A grant has been received for £2,500 from Arcaid in Farnham and we have received promises of a further £10,000. It is hoped that construction of two new classrooms can begin before the end of 2016. Trustees Kevin Cook and Elizabeth Byrne Hill will be visiting Marigat in the summer of 2016 and will have discussions with Fr Stephen, the Parish Priest, on how to proceed.

## **8. Iveti Hills Secondary School Machakos Kenya**



**Figure 12. Visiting the dormitory in the summer of 2015**

SHOCC has provided funding in the past for this school and this has enabled the roofing of a girls' dormitory block (see Figure 12). There remained a few minor improvements such as painting the dormitory and constructing a safe route to the rooms. We were able to provide the £900 required to complete this work. Providing this additional

accommodation for senior girls has led to many improvements. Teenage pregnancy rates have fallen and the girls' exam results have seen marked improvements.

## **9. St. Paul's Youth Club Putney SW London**



**Figure 13. Children at the centre enjoy the cakes they have made during an evening session**

When we changed our name to SHOCC in 2007 and became a charity in our own right, we set as a target the need to help projects in our local area as well as overseas. In 2014 we provided funding for our neighbours at Roy Kinnear House. This year we were able to help the excellent voluntary work of one of the university security staff. Robert Hyland runs a youth club for severely disadvantaged young people at a church hall in Putney. In late 2014

he learned that he would no longer be receiving his annual grant from the borough. SHOCC was able to provide him with the £2,045 needed to pay his rent and insurance and to continue his work.

## **10. Zimbabwe Leadership Academy Hwedza District**

SHOCC has been supporting the work of alumna Roseline Ngoro in Zimbabwe for several years and in 2015 we provided her with a grant of £1,000 to purchase teaching materials for her school. It was Roseline's orphanage and school at Hwedza that provided accommodation and support for two of our volunteers in the summer of 2015. They were able to contribute to the work of this excellent project.

## **11. New secondary school at Singida Tanzania**

SHOCC has worked with the Sisters of the Assumption for many years and was involved with their school at Chekereni (see project 6 above) from its inception. They have been invited to support a new school the Sisters are building many miles to the south at Singida. Thanks to a donation of £2,000 from the Sir Harold Hood Trust plus donations from SHOCC, we were able to send Sister Schola, the Project Manager, £3,500 towards the costs of land. Trustee Elizabeth Byrne Hill will be visiting the site of the new school in the summer of 2016 and will report back on progress.

## **Plans for the future**

The main objectives set for the year 2016 are:

- To continue to support financially and spiritually our projects such as those at Chekereni, Orkilili and Itumba Hill in Tanzania, Marigat, Machakos and Kawangware in Kenya, Outspan in Uganda and Proyecto Vida Guatemala.
- To seek to widen our links with local charities and provide funding to meet their needs especially where they have a strong connection to the university.
- To continue to expand our donor base through Give as you Earn, Charities Aid Giving and our Just Giving web sites and to investigate the opportunities for obtaining funding from a wider range of Trust Funds.
- To continue to raise funds through sponsored events in and around the university college.
- To raise an income for the year of at least £20,000 from a diverse funding base.

## **Structure, governance and management**

SHOCC was founded in September 2007 and has been governed as a Charity since that date. It replaced the existing charity, Strawberry Hill Overseas Concern (SHOC) founded in 1971. It took the opportunity to widen its remit to take in local as well as international projects but its mission remains essentially the same. It continues to be the recognised charity of St Mary's University.

## **Trustees**

Trustees are selected by the existing Trustees in accordance with our Trust Deed and according to the skills and experience required for the charity to function well. New Trustees are inducted into their roles under the guidance of the existing Trustees and with the help of the relevant publications of the Charity Commission. As well as becoming familiar with the charity's objectives, values and ways of working, Trustees are encouraged to visit projects whenever possible to see at first hand the work of the charity.

In the year to 31st December 2015, SHOCC had eight Trustees. One Trustee, Sister Amicia, resigned through ill health and another, David Leen, left the university. We have accepted his kind offer to act as financial advisor to the charity and will validate our annual accounts and provide advice when required. We wish him every success in his new position. We are

also grateful to the university's Assistant Chaplain, Caroline Stanton, who provides us with considerable support in many ways.

The Trustees hold regular meetings to review the work of the charity, to agree forward plans and budgets and to determine other matters of general policy. There is frequent contact among the Trustees, and between Trustees and staff, outside these meetings. The charity has a large supporter base made up of representatives from areas of the university. These supporters are invited to attend some of our meetings.

The work of the charity is managed under the headings of Project Funding, Finance, Fundraising and Publicity. Individual Trustees take a leading role in relation to each of these areas and additional inputs are provided by supporters.

### **The operation of the charity**

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC) currently does not make use of office space and has no overheads of this kind. Its day to day management is in the hands of the Chair of Trustees. Its meetings of both the Trustees are usually held in the Chaplaincy at the University.

Trustees and the supporter group, operating from the university, make a wide range of valuable contributions, such as organising sales and events to raise funds. Regular donations are received from annual events such as the university carol singing in London, from chapel collections, from sponsored events and from individual donations through Give as you Earn or to the charity's Just Giving sites on the web. Contributions to the charity's work are also received from past students.

### **Public benefit**

In exercising their powers and duties, the Trustees have due regard for the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission. The charity's activities, therefore, give rise to identifiable public benefits, both in the UK and overseas.

Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern's focus is on the disadvantaged in its local community and overseas. For them, the benefits are clear. Providing sums of money for classroom construction or for the building of an HIV/AIDS hospice can be the starting point

for wider development. Wherever possible, we encourage the local community to help meet the costs of projects as this gives them ownership and helps to make the projects sustainable. Their contribution often takes the form of providing the labour required to carry out construction work. Our funds can never meet all the costs of a school and input from the local community during and after construction is essential. As an example we required Muthetheni Girls' School to provide approximately 10% of the overall costs of the laboratory project and they did so. This has given them 'ownership' of the project.

## **Risk management**

As a grant-awarding charity, the main area of risk is the extent of our commitments in relation to the funding of our projects. The charity seeks to limit commitments to a level which can be met out of funds available to it. Funds cannot be provided unless they are available and projects are made aware of the time it may take to meet a commitment in full given that SHOCC is a relatively small charity.

All projects must have a distinct and recognizable link with the university and funding is not provided for applications that do not meet this criterion. For large projects such as that at Muthetheni, a local project manager is appointed and a legal contract negotiated between SHOCC, the project and the contractor. Three quotations are required for projects of this size and a separate bank account is mandatory. SHOCC agrees a timetable for the work and regular tranches of funding are only delivered on the successful completion of stages of the work. A proportion of the funding (usually 5%) is retained and is only paid to the contractor six months after the completion of the project subject to their being signed off at this time.

In assessing individual projects, the Trustees consider the following aspects of each proposal for funding:

- The significance and importance of the project in relation to the aims of SHOCC and the mission and values of St Mary's University,
- The need for and benefit/impact of the project on the community in which the project is based,
- The viability/sustainability of the project in the medium/longer term i.e. will it require future investment or will it be self-sustaining,
- The likelihood of the project proceeding to completion and achieving its aims,

- The value for money of the project taking into account the funds that are being requested in light of the potential benefit/impact of the project and the likelihood of accessing related/other funding if required.

Project applications are submitted using a standard format that requires applicants to provide information under the following headings:

Name, address, and contact details

Project title

Detailed costs

Other support/funding

Referees

The risks inherent in each project are assessed. In particular, the following aspects are considered:

- The capability of the partner organisation to carry out the project and the effectiveness of its operations;
- The commitment of the beneficiary community to the project;
- The technical soundness of the proposed works and their sustainability after completion;
- The validity of the budgeted costs and the timescale proposed for the project.

The Trustees keep the organisation of the charity under review and seek to ensure that it is adequately structured and resourced to meet the needs of its operations.

## **Financial review**

The annual accounts show a total income for the financial year ending 31st December 2015 of £42,264 (2014 £90,864). The total expenditure by the charity on its project programmes was £57,161 (2014 £67,913). The charity had no project support, fundraising or governance costs.

The majority of this expenditure went to school building projects in Kenya and Tanzania, to providing school fees for children at a school in Uganda and to a project in Grenada. Details of each of these projects are provided above.

The financial performance of the charity is monitored against agreed budgets, with the Trustees receiving regular statements of Income, Expenditure and Reserves held.

The level of reserves is kept under regular review. The Trustees have agreed to keep this figure as low as possible as the charity has no overheads, wishing to distribute its income to projects as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, on no account can the charity be allowed to manage a negative overall budget and projects are only supported when funds are available.

Reference is made in the financial statement to those funds received for specific projects (restricted funds). These are held for the purposes agreed with the donors and are expended to the relevant programmes. In the accounts for 2015 restricted funds accounted for 72% of total income.

I declare, in my capacity as a Trustee, that the Trustees have approved this Report and have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Signed	Kevin L Cook	Full name	DR KEVIN LAURENCE COOK
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Position	Trustee	Date	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
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