

Charity Registration No. 1041297

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

C Beasley
D Wolffe
E Callacher
J Wagner
G Rajput
W Merricks
C Gibbons

Charity Number

1041297

Principal address

154 Caledonian Road
London N1 9RD

Independent Examiner

M S Pinner ACA
Errington Langer Pinner
Chartered Accountants
Pyramid House
954 High Road
London N12 9RT

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

In April I took over as Chair of Trustees with Walter Merricks stepping down after many years of sterling service.

2016/17 has been another busy year for the Donor Conception Network (DCN). We have held two, very well attended, conferences for our members, offered our thriving workshop programme and continued to work on our volunteer and primary school projects, further information on these can be found in this report.

The trustees are here to deliver the mission, vision and strategy of DCN. As a small charity we do punch well above our weight but the trustees are keen to find ways to increase our membership, reaching out to all the people who are perhaps not aware of us and at the same time improve the diversity of the membership so that we are truly inclusive. Using social media effectively is a relatively straightforward way to raise awareness and the launch of a new website front in 2018 will provide a better platform for that development. We know that our reach extends well beyond our members and thousands of people use our website for information and signposting each month.

The trustees are also exploring new fundraising opportunities as part of our business model. If we want to do more to deliver our objectives we will need money to do that. Our director has been very successful in securing grants but we need to be making fundraising a bigger focus in the future.

DCN is 25 in 2018 which is a major milestone. I need to acknowledge the incredible work put in by Walter and Olivia (Walter Merricks and Olivia Montuschi) and all previous trustees, staff and volunteers over the past 25 years. A lot of work has gone in to making DCN the organisation it is today. We need to remain relevant and that means listening to our membership in order to understand their requirements.

We also need to be close to stakeholders in the fertility sector to understand what the future holds for families considering donor conception. Easy access to DNA testing probably presents one of the most tangible challenges for all of us and it's not just a DC issue as people discover unexpected truths in their genetic family connections. We need to be strong and secure so we can respond to whatever lies ahead.

Claire Beasley

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2017.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Objects of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated association which was established by a constitution dated 24 September 1994 and amended 3 March 2000 with the following objects: to advance education in human fertility, fertilisation and embryology, assisted conception, genetics and the impact of non-genetic relationships by the provision to parents of children conceived by sperm, embryo or egg donation, to the children themselves and to those contemplating or undergoing treatment, of information, advice, counselling and support.

Donor Conception Network's Vision and Mission

The Donor Conception Network's vision is a society where a climate of openness and understanding about donor conception enables people considering it to make informed decisions and helps build families who are confident, accepted and have a secure identity.

The Donor Conception Network's mission is to deliver high quality, non-judgemental and inclusive support and information to would-be and current parents and their children to enable them to navigate the often complex and individual journey of donor conception.

We are a pioneering parent-led and child-centred organisation and a trusted authority on the social and emotional aspects of building or expanding a family using donor conception. We are at the forefront of the donor conception movement, bringing our 25 years' of experience and the voices of our members to inform professionals, practitioners and policy makers in the UK and worldwide.

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Donor Conception Network performs a vital role in providing information and support to donor conception families and prospective parents.

In 2016/17 we hosted two national conferences for our members one in London and one in Edinburgh. These were very well attended and allowed people to come together, meet, listen to the speakers and participate in small, facilitated discussion groups. In total 301 adults attended our conferences, with 102 children looked after by the childcare teams. We also ran 5 discussion groups for 45 children aged 8-12, giving them the opportunity to explore what donor conception means to them.

Through the year we run local meetups all around the country, bringing together members to share experiences and build friendships. This year we expanded our support to Ireland, launching our first local group and also offering our Telling and Talking workshop in Ireland.

We also published two Journals, and launched a new design for our weekly news bulletin to members.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017 (CONTINUED)

Our key achievements in 2016/17

Supporting our membership

DCN Helpline

Our phone and email helplines provide invaluable support to members and the general public wishing to discuss specific donor conception related issues. In total, we provided over 660 support interactions (beyond simple questions and queries), approximately half of these coming from non-members.

Supporting our volunteers

We held our Supporters' Day in February 2017, bringing together our volunteers from around the country and providing an opportunity to share experiences and provide some training for our volunteers.

We were successful in our application for a Volunteer Training Pilot and completed this 6 month project analysing our support needs for volunteers (see Projects below).

Workshops

During 2016/2017 we ran 18 workshops, attended by 293 people. We offered our Telling and Talking workshops in Ireland and hope to continue that offer.

Projects

We continued work on our resources for Primary Schools moving to the final design stage ready for completion in autumn 2017.

We applied for funding from the April Trust to expand and redesign our Our Story series for young children and we were successful. The project involves updating all the illustrations in the current Our Story range and adding twins versions. We will also be adding surrogacy versions to the series and will be creating new books for donors to help them explain to their children. The estimated publication date for these books is May-June 2018.

We started and completed the 6 month Volunteer Pilot project and submitted a final report with the conclusions. We used this funding to review our current materials and procedures and identify the changes we need to make in our recruitment, induction, training process and on-going supervision. Our volunteers do incredibly important work and are often our front line in providing much needed emotional and social support to those in a vulnerable position. The project highlighted the key areas needed for development and improvement.

Advocacy and awareness

Over 2016/17 we attended and spoke at a number of key events. These provide an opportunity to share information on the social and emotional aspects of donor conception. We attended 2 AFPO meetings (Association of Fertility Patient Organisations) to ensure the particular needs of donor conception families are represented. We spoke at three surrogacy events and 2 clinic events. All staff attended the HFEA conference in March. These events give us an opportunity to build closer relationships with other organisations, raise awareness and share our vision and mission.

Research and media

We are regularly approached by researchers, academics and journalists looking to approach our membership for interviews or articles. During this period we circulated 7 research requests and 4 media requests.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017 (CONTINUED)

Governance

Walter Merricks who had been Chair of Trustees for many years stepped down at the AGM in April 2017 and Claire Beasley was appointed as the new Chair.

Over the course of 2016/17 we reviewed and updated our vision and mission (detailed at the front of this report) to ensure that these remain relevant to our many stakeholders and the work that we do.

Looking to the future

In 2018 the Donor Conception Network celebrates its 25th anniversary. This is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements so far and to recognise the work that is needed for the future to support our Vision and Mission.

How we are funded

Membership Income

The majority of our income is generated from our members via membership subscriptions, gift aid and donations. This is used to support services and activities for members including: our annual conferences; producing the biannual DCN Journal; supporting activities for prospective parents and families through our local groups and meetups all around the UK and in Ireland; regular news, events and articles bulletins; our email or phone support lines.

Workshop Income

We offer two main workshops open to members and non-members, Preparation for Parenthood (for people considering donor conception) and Telling and Talking (for those with children up to 7yrs).

These workshops are very important in helping participants explore the issues related to donor conception relevant to their stage of parenthood. The prices we charge for these workshops reflect the costs of providing them and we do not make a profit. They are specialised, highly sensitive, professionally run events where we limit the numbers who attend to ensure everyone attending has a really personal and valuable experience. This makes them a little more expensive than some other workshops but we consider them to represent extremely good value for money and the feedback from those who attend confirms this.

Publications Income

Our publications continue to sell well around the world. During 2016-2017 we sold 2303 items from our shop and at our events. This includes PDF download versions of our Telling and Talking books, our films and 2 titles that we don't publish ourselves – Ken Daniels' Building a Family with the Assistance of DI and Kate Fine's Donor Conception for Life.

We produced a new print version of our Telling and Talking: Mixed Blessings booklet using a Print on Demand service. We plan to move all our lower sales titles to this Print on Demand model over the coming year.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017 (CONTINUED)*

Our Lawyer supporters

We launched our Lawyer Supporter Scheme in June 2016. This scheme encourages legal firms specialising in fertility law to support us and help us ensure that we are connecting people to the right support that they may need. We know many people use our website for information and sign posting on to appropriate services. We are enormously grateful to all our lawyer supporters for building these links with us;

4 Paper Buildings
Biscoes
Dawson Cornwell
Fisher Meredith
Leigh Day
Lester Aldridge
Michelmores
Morisons
Natalie Gamble Associates
Osbornes
Wilson's

Our Clinic supporters

We launched our Clinic Supporter Scheme in May 2017. This scheme encourages fertility clinics to support us in the work we do. It enables us to forge closer links with these clinics, who are treating many of the people who go on to become our members at the start of their donor conception journey.

Clinics who join the scheme recognise that there are wider issues to consider when a child is being created with the use of donor gametes. Their commitment to us is helping to ensure we can support families long-term, whatever needs may come up that relate to donor conception.

We are very grateful to the first 5 clinic supporters who signed up during this period and we will be encouraging more to join;

Aberdeen
Manchester
City Fertility
HCA International Lister
Herts and Essex

Review of financial position

At the balance sheet date the total funds of the Charity were £65,302 (2016: £43,719).

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017 (CONTINUED)

Trustees

Claire Beasley
David Wolffe
Emma Callacher
Jason Wagner
Gurinder Rajput
Caroline Gibbons
Walter Merricks (stepped down 23th April 2017)

Investment policy

Under the constitution, the Trustees have the authority to invest the funds of the charitable trust at their discretion.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level that will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Risk Factors

The Trustees regularly examine the major strategic business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to ensure that necessary steps are taken to lessen the effect of such risks.

Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees 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 its financial activities for that year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Financial statements and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

C Beasley

Trustee

Dated.....

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2017, which are as set out on pages 8 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under sections 145 (5) and 152 (5) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Name: Michael Pinner ACA

Relevant professional body: Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: Errington Langer Pinner
Pyramid House
954 High Road
London N12 9RT

Date:

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Incoming resources				
Donations and subscriptions	102,282	-	102,282	81,082
Publication sales	23,010	-	23,010	23,409
Grants	-	28,061	28,061	29,764
Other income	85,479	-	85,479	77,339
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	210,771	28,061	238,832	211,594
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Resources expended				
Staff and management	94,962	6,701	101,663	108,568
Operations	108,249	7,607	115,856	96,729
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	203,211	14,308	217,519	205,297
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year ended 31 July 2017	7,560	13,753	21,313	6,297
Fund balances brought forward at 1 August 2016	29,149	14,570	43,719	37,422
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund balances carried forward at 31 July 2017	36,709	28,323	65,032	43,719
	=====	=====	=====	=====

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2017

	Notes	£	2017	£	£	2016	£
Current assets							
Cash at bank and in hand			65,032			43,719	
			<u> </u>			<u> </u>	
Current liabilities							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			-			-	
			<u> </u>			<u> </u>	
Net current assets			<u> </u>			<u> </u>	
			65,032			43,719	
			=====			=====	
Income funds							
Restricted funds	2		28,323			14,570	
Unrestricted funds	2		36,709			29,149	
			<u> </u>			<u> </u>	
			65,032			43,719	
			=====			=====	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

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C Beasley
Trustee

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

These accounts for the year ended 31 July 2017 are the first accounts of Donor Conception Network prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition to FRS 102 was 1 August 2015. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017 (CONTINUED)

1.5 Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Office equipment	-	15% reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income / (expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2017 (CONTINUED)

2. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

	Balance at 1 August 2016	Incoming Resources resources expended		Balance at July 31 2017
	£	£	£	£
General fund	29,149	210,771	(203,211)	36,709
	<u>29,149</u>	<u>210,771</u>	<u>(203,211)</u>	<u>36,709</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Analysis of restricted funds movement

	Balance at 1 August 2016	Incoming Resources resources expended		Balance at July 31 2017
	£	£	£	£
April Trust Publications	-	25,650	(3,526)	22,124
April Trust Volunteer	6,000	900	(6,951)	(51)
SMC	745	1,511	(1,462)	794
Van Neste	7,825	-	(2,369)	5,456
	<u>14,570</u>	<u>28,061</u>	<u>(14,308)</u>	<u>28,323</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Name of the fund

Description, nature and purpose of the fund

April Trust Volunteer	Pilot project exploring the training and support needs of our volunteers
Solo Mum Conference 2012	Solo mum support project
Van Neste School Project	Producing authoritative guidance material both for parents/children to support them in the school environment and material that parents can give to teachers, not merely explaining the facts, but suggesting ways in which a child can be appropriately supported at school.
April Trust Publications	Grant to refresh the Our Story series and commission new illustrations, plus new versions for families who have used surrogacy, twin versions and books for donors to help them explain donor conception to their own children

3. Staff costs

The average weekly number of employees remunerated during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis, was 3 (2016 – 2.5).

No individual is remunerated at a level in excess of £40,000.