

Chairman's report

The Guernsey Health Services Charitable Trust, now called 'The Little Extras Trust', has been in existence for the past 17 years, and was set up to hold funds donated by the public for the benefit of the staff and patients of the Guernsey Health Services, which were previously known as "the Amenity Funds". I shall set out a brief history of the Trust for those of you who have not been around for as long as the Trust.

Reason for the Trust's establishment

The Trust was established following advice given to the Boards of Health that the funds standing in the various Amenity Funds in the "ZZ" accounts should not be held in the States Accounts as it bound the States by the Trust Laws in the position of a trustee, and the States were advised to move the funds on to be held by independent persons who would act as Trustees of the funds. The Law officers became involved and drafted a trust deed which formally established the Trust in early 2001, and the funds in the "ZZ" accounts and the other small trust funds in existence were gradually transferred to the Trust.

Changes

Since its establishment in 2001 the Trust has seen 3 different government departments: The Board of Health, the Health and Social Services Department, and now the Committee for Health and Social Care. The changes in incarnation have brought changes in the political entities, and inevitable changes to the views of the different members

What has been more difficult to cope with has been the rapid and constant changeover of staff involved in the management and administration of the States department. This has produced an apparent lack of corporate memory, and has resulted in few of the present senior staff or Committee members having any first-hand knowledge of the original reasons for the establishment of the Trust

During this period the Trust has also experienced changes amongst the identity of the Trustees, as well as a name change which was designed to remove the Trust from its apparent closeness to the States, which the Trustees saw as giving the public the impression that it was 'just part of the States'.

How the Trust worked

In the days of the Amenity Funds, requests for the use of the funds were made in person to various representatives of the Amenity funds who would make themselves available in various locations around the BoH site. These representatives were from similar backgrounds as the present Trustees,

including jurats of the time and others who had worked for the Health Services. The requests were then discussed at a meeting of all of the representatives and, where agreed, funds were made available to the persons involved.

Gradually the process of the members sitting in various places around the hospital dropped off and requests were made through a line manager. These were then discussed by the members at their monthly meetings.

After the Trust was set up, the Trustees continued the monthly meetings to discuss requests received.

Over the years the identity of the Trustees has changed from time to time. Only one of the original Trustees remains on the board with others coming and going at intervals. The present board consists of 2 jurats, 1 retired nursing sister, a retired legal clerk and 1 retired advocate. At the present time the Board's liaison with the hospital services is Rose Bougourd, who is a member of the Admin department.

Requests

The requests have been varied and a list of requests granted in the early years of the Trust can be seen on the Trust's web-site.

The Trustees have consistently looked favourably on all requests and very few have been refused, provided that they did not appear to be items which should have been within the Department's budget. The essence of the gifts was that they would be regarded as 'something extra' to what the Department would be expected to provide as part of the expected level of healthcare for the people of the island. It was also intended to be as a little extra way of saying thank you to those working in the Service or having to spend time in hospital.

It is probably fair to say that the best known way that the Trust does say thank you is the provision of a free Xmas meal to everyone employed by the Department, the provision of 'goodies' for the hospitality room on the wards over the Christmas period, and a little gift for any patient having to be in hospital on Christmas Day. The total outlay for these items is about £15,000 annually

The Trustees are also pleased to report that in conjunction with Healthspan, the hydro therapy pool was saved from being turned into another office by funds from the Trust, at a total cost of £45,000 over 3 years.

Most recently the Trust agreed to provide funds to enable the Gloucester Dining room to be re-furbished, other than just with a pot of paint. The general opinion of those who use the dining room is that it has cheered it up a lot. The Trustees agreed to support this on the basis that it was outside of the budget and very much 'a little extra'. Hardly that little however, at a cost of £20,000.

The Trust has been very pleased to have supported one member of staff on a course to further her expertise in the area of child care. She has almost completed the full course and will be bringing very special skills to Guernsey for the benefit of all who may need them.

The recent 'Nurses and Carers Day' was also supported by the Trust in the form of awards to those who most impressed the judges and a buffet lunch for all attending the award ceremony.

It is however fair to say that recently the most common request made to the Trustees has been a gift upon the retirement of those people who have worked for the Service for over 20 years. After a few changes to the manner in which the gifts were made, these have now steadied at a gift to the Retiree of £100, rather than towards the cost of a retirement 'do'. No doubt as time goes by and the number persons completing over 20 years service declines, this type of gift will also decline.

Finances

Although the accounts for 2017 have not yet been finalised by the Accountants, the Trustees are able to say that at the end of 2016 the total funds in the Trust accounts stood at just over £214,000.

Regrettably a review of the last 5 years of the Trust has shown a steady decline in the financial position, shored up only by the receipt of 2 fairly large bequests. Donations to the Charity following funeral wishes have shown a steady decline, which has been attributed to the existence of more specific charities. At the end of May 2018 it was seen that there were no donations made to the Trust and for the last 6 months only the sum of £?? was received, and the total amount standing in the Trust accounts is roughly £116,000.

At this rate, unless the trend changes, there will soon be nothing left

The Future

The Trustees have searched for a reason for this decline and it does seem that the answer is that today there are more small charities set up specifically to raise funds for certain areas of the hospital or to favour specific illnesses. For example the ever-popular charities set up to support the likes of Frossard Ward or Loveridge Ward have changed the dynamics of general charitable giving, whereby funds received can be used to benefit not just the sexy charities, but also the essential backroom boys of the Healthcare machine, such as the laundry staff and catering staff

The Trust itself was not established as a fund raising machine, but as a central receptacle for all of the funds raised or donated all around the hospital, which could then be requested by anyone, for any use for the benefit of the staff or patients. This is no longer happening and the Trustees have tried to elicit from Management what appears to their stance in respect of donations being held all over the premises by staff and different groups

The Department was made aware of the serious legal position of those who were holding funds donated by others, as were the States, when they were holding the old Amenity Funds.

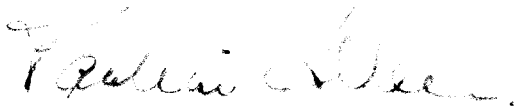
It seems to the Trustees that this is no longer considered to be unacceptable and as a result, it seems as though perhaps at least part of the rationale for the Trust's existence has disappeared.

More recently the Trustees have been made aware of the wish of the Committee for H&SC to become more involved in the administration of the Trust. This is the exact opposite of what the Trustees had understood to have been the purpose for the establishment of the Trust in 2001.

What will happen in the future?

We can only wait and see.

From

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pauline Allen".

Pauline Allen

Chair of Little Extras Trust

30th May 2018