



**Borders Children's Charity
Chair's Statement
30th May 2018**

Buccleuch Arms Hotel

18 months ago, when I joined the charity, I had no idea that I would be sitting here writing the chairs report, having already done some time as Treasurer and dabbled in helping with requests. This scenario sums up exactly what has been happening this year with the charity. We have had a year of flux as numerous long-term members finished their 5 year terms and a few other longer-term members unfortunately not able to finish their commitment of 5 years. Therefore, this year has really seen a huge change in members, with nearly all our members being of under 2 years to the charity. It has been a great relief that Victoria Tweedie our current Treasurer and longest serving member at the moment, has stayed on hand to show great guidance to this new committee. Thank you Victoria.

With so much flux it was great to know that we started the year with an abundance of funds mainly due to the income and donations generated during (and the year after) the 50th year celebrations. We were very aware at the start of the year that our pot of money was high, this led us to be able to fund large requests for specific individuals with special needs, something we may have not been able to do in the past. As a committee, we decided to focus on spending some of the excess money on these specific grants rather than a continuous aim to raise money. It was felt that we should try to fall in line with the constitution keeping around 6 month's worth of funds in the bank. The year ending Feb 2018 has seen incoming funds start at £84,801, as detailed in our Treasurer's Report. And finish at £65,144. Reflecting our Goal of granting more large requests.

All that being said we have still received £45,002. We are grateful to organisations and individuals who provide ongoing support to the charity. To name but a few, these include The Woodland Foundation, Marks and Spencer's, Numerous Rotary Clubs, The Estate of the late Una Syme, Crabtree and Crabtree, Buchleuch hunt ball, Cindy Webster Cheese event, Hendersyde Horse Trials and numerous churches across the region. We can never take this support for granted and need to continue to work to with these organisations and assist with and publicise events they run.

During the year we have also seen fundraising events organised by committee members. Our Thanks Go to Joyce Thewlis and past committee member Sonya Edwardson who both organized coffee mornings on behalf of the charity. Our thanks also go to Past Chair Cat McDonald Homes family who gave a substantial donation after the sad loss of her father in law.

In addition, we have attracted a number of new donors. With TK Max in Galashiels, The Scottish Building Society (Borders Branch) and Stardust Musical Theatre in Peebles all announcing that the BCC would be their charity of the year. This should help in raising money for the year ahead.

As well as events, the BCC has raised funds through significant one-off awards. The most notable of these was again from the estate of the late Una Syme who wished to help Scottish children through her estate. In 2017 – a £20,000 award was made, to the charity and This year saw us rewarded with another cheque for £10,000. This turn of events was helped by us trying to keep our online and social media presence strong and relevant over the last few years.

One of the challenges that the BCC has addressed this year is ensuring that as many healthcare, education and social work professionals as possible are aware of the charity. Each member of the committee made a leaflet run to local high schools/ schools and some Health centres to ensure that as many professionals as possible know about the charity.

As we look to the year ahead, it is great to see that over this past year we have worked hard to recruit a great team of new members, with qualities needed to step into key roles on the committee. As a change to the constitution we aim to add vice roles this year as a way of helping transitions between roles and securing a more solid committee for the year ahead. As we see more members joining who also have full time jobs, it is important that those members in key roles feel they have added support of a vice and a next in line for that position.

During this last Year, we have not made drastic changes or significant leaps in funds, but we have held a committee together that was in great flux and see us start a new year with a solid base to now go ahead and make more adventurous decisions. WE can now look ahead to the next year where we can start to add in once again a few other fundraising events. My thanks go out to every member, new and old who continue to support this wonderful charity.

Suzanne Mulholland
Chair 2017-2018