

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF  
THE NORTHERN POLICE CHARITIES**

**HELD AT THE ST ANDREWS  
HARROGATE  
ON THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015**

**PRESENT**

The President  
Chairman of the FPSC  
Treasurer  
Chief Executive

The Hon. Simon Howard  
Mr Craig Grandison  
Mr Peter Henson  
Colonel Patrick Cairns

Members of the Board of Trustees of the two Charities, Delegates, Members of Donating Forces, Welfare Officers and Professional Advisors.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance had been received from the following forces:

Civil Nuclear	(PTC)
Derbyshire	(SGPCT)
MoD	(PTC & SGPCT)
North Wales	(PTC & SGPCT)
Staffordshire	(SGPCT)

Apologies for non-attendance have been received from the following Trustees:

Mark Botham	David Horn
Mark Davis	Mark Lindsey
Raymond Dutton	Garry Morton
Martin Fotheringham	Dave Orford
Ian Hanson	Neil Richardson

Apologies for non-attendance have also been received from the following:

Duke of York	Patron
Barry Dodd, CBE	Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire
Andrew Jones	MP
Julia Mulligan	North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Irene Curtis	President, Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales
Ch Sup Tim Jackson	Secretary, Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales
Ian Potter	President, NARPO
Chis McNichol	The Gurney Fund
Gill Scott-Moore	Police Dependants' Trust

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David Bell	Police Rehabilitation Centre
Kath Rathband	Blue Lamp Foundation
Peter Sweeney	Blue Lamp Foundation
Barbara Allsopp	Blue Lamp Foundation

and 34 representatives from constituent forces.

## **NORTHERN POLICE CHARITIES**

### **JOINT MEETING**

The President, Hon Simon Howard, addressed those present, explaining that he was delighted to be at the AGCM once again and having visited St Andrews several times this year and also Castlebrae once he had been delighted to see the progress which was continuing to be made at both Centres. He then continued to welcome all attendees to the Annual General Council Meeting.

1. **ATTENDANCE:** All Forces who contributed to the Charities with the exception of those detailed in the apologies section were present.
2. **APOLOGIES:** These had been received from those people listed in the preface to the Minutes. In addition Hon Simon Howard read out a letter of apology received from the Duke of York, Patron of the Charity.

### **3. THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES**

#### **3.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 May 2014**

These had been circulated to all members and also displayed on the Charity's website and were taken as read. It was proposed by S Wouldhave, Northumbria and seconded by M Banks, Durham that they be accepted as a true record. All present agreed.

#### **3.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3.3 ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

**Presented by Craig Grandison, Chair, Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee**

As the Chair of the FPSC of the Police Treatment Centres, C Grandison presented the Annual Report for the year 2014.

He opened his report by reflecting on the Charity's achievements during 2014 reporting that The Police Treatment Centres had undertaken a number of new developments and continued to work hard to improve services and treatment for patients. All the details can be found in the Annual Report and further details will be provided today through the financial briefs, Clare Lennie's brief on how we intend to take forward psychological issues and Paul Grant, the deputy CEO, who will provide an update on the Castlebrae project. Patrick Cairns will also provide an update through his CEO report.

He also thanked all the PTC employees who, as normal had done a superb job in looking after the patients and also formally thanked the former Chair of the Board of Trustees,

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Gordon Dixon from Police Scotland and Alan Cupples from PSNI, the former Chair of the FPSC for their hard work and commitment to the PTC over many years.

There were no questions

### **3.4 INVESTMENT MANAGER REPORT**

**Presented by Nick Bence-Trower, Cazenove**

N Bence-Trower, Cazenove reported that at 31 December 2014 the PTC portfolio was valued at £1,772,606 which compares with £1,770,117 at 31 December 2013. In percentage terms 2014 performance was up 3.4%. Taking cash flows and income into account, since inception the portfolio is up 45.2%.

The Police Treatment Centres funds are currently invested in Charity Multi Asset Fund. The fund is well established and approved by the Charity Commission, it also provides an additional layer of governance as the fund is obliged to have an independent supervisory board which, on top of the controls in place with Cazenoves, means that the Fund Manager reports to that supervisory board on a quarterly basis.

Going forward, it is expected that gilt yields will increase providing steady returns on the investment.

There were no questions.

### **3.5 AUDITORS REPORT**

**Presented by Neil Sevitt, Baker Tilly**

N Sevitt, Baker Tilly, started his report by explaining that Baker Tilly would shortly be re-branded as RSM and an announcement to this effect had been made that morning. He then presented a brief overview of the accounts starting with the statement of financial activities as shown in the Annual Report. This showed that officer donations in 2014 were £3,280,000 which was a fall compared with 2012 of £3,389,000. In the context of the overall £4.7 million, the falls are not material, but nevertheless they represent a fall due to the falling numbers of police officers. Capital donations amounting to £636,000 had been received together with other income of £797,000 from an array of sources.

Expenditure included staff costs of £2.5 million and non-staff costs of £1.3 million which resulted in a net surplus of £887,000 for the year. Income was £4.7 million in 2014 compared to £4.6 million in 2013 and expenditure had increased.

The Balance Sheet showed that the majority of the total net assets of £31.0 million were held in tangible assets i.e. the two Treatment Centres at Castlebrae in Auchterader and St Andrews in Harrogate. The investment portfolio was £1.7 million, a slight reduction on 2013 due to stock market performance.

N Sevitt explained that the objective of an auditor is to provide a true and fair opinion on the financial statements of an organisation and he confirmed that they had provided an unqualified audit opinion for the Charity for the year to 31 December 2014. This had been done by carrying out a significant amount of work with the team at the Police Treatment Centres. The audit is prepared using international standards of accounting based on a sample based testing process including levels of income and expenditure, liabilities, checking the assets, checking the valuation, checking the title to the investments and assets and work with the Charity's investment advisors to ensure it is properly managed. The auditors ensure that the disclosure is correct and in line with statutory requirements under the Companies Act and the Charities Accounting Rules.

There were no questions.

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### 3.6 TREASURER'S REPORT

**Presented by Peter Henson, Treasurer**

Peter Henson, Treasurer, prior to delivering his report, asked that any questions be saved until the end of his presentation.

He started his presentation by reporting that the plans and policies which had been put in place in recent years had produced strong financial results and his presentation would, therefore, focus on outcomes and future plans.

The auditors had provided a breakdown of the 2014 out turn which showed that the Charity had managed to generate a surplus of £250,000 from within the areas that it controlled. The surplus had been achieved from the following three key areas:

- A contingency budget which in 2014 had an unspent balance of £103,090.
- In view of the reduction in officer numbers the Charity had been looking at alternative ways to increase income. These included hiring out the Castlebrae facilities to the Ryder Cup generating £67,000 which equates to 1,000 donating officers.
- The Charity continued its hospitality programme offering Bed and Breakfast weekends without any impact on patients, in particular, advantage was taken of the Tour de France and Bed and Breakfast raised £45,000 additional revenue in 2014.

He continued by saying that if these three items are removed the underlying saving against budget is £35,888 which on an almost £4.0 million budget working within 1% and is an exceptional result and the management and staff of the Charity deserve great credit for this result.

As a result of the above Trustees have placed £250,000 in an uncommitted reserve whilst consideration is given to the best use of that money to support the charity's activities and provision of treatment. In addition, the Charity has put aside £243,000 towards depreciation to replace assets when required demonstrating strong financial management.

Although the financial results are good, the Charity continues to remain cautious, the Government has already pledged to reduce spending on public services including the police which will put additional pressures on the budget of the Police Treatment Centres, and the wider police family.

Each year the Charity presents a medium term financial forecast to the Trustees as part of the budget process. Items which will have a significant impact during 2015 include;

- The Government's predicted reduction in officer numbers
- Cost of Living e.g. fuel and utilities.
- The Pensions Act and Auto Enrolment.

If the Charity now did nothing, the budget deficit would be in excess of £374,000 by 2017. Towards the end of 2014 the Charity's Trustees and management undertook a strategic review of the Charity including the finances, facilities and the clinical provision supplied by the Charity. This work will continue throughout 2015 but some of the key issues surrounding finance are detailed next.

As part of the strategic review the Charity asked forces if they could break down the number of officers together with those that donate grouped into their years of service. Not all forces could break this information down but from the ones that could it was clear that an officer in the later stages of their career is statistically more likely to donate than one at the beginning. Therefore, if force numbers remained static and the percentage take up remained the same, over the next five years we would have a net loss of 500 donating officers based on this group. If this was extrapolated across all of our constituent forces then the net reduction in the next five years would be in excess of 2,000 officers which in

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financial terms is an additional loss of £130,000. If this was added to the MTFs predicted deficit of £375,000 our deficit would be over half a million - this would not be sustainable. Positively it highlights the groups that we need to target through our PR and fundraising, which, with your support, can be achieved. The following areas have been developed in 2014:

Libor Funding – strong links have been developed with central Government and this has allowed the Charity to bid for Government funding when available. £500,000 was successfully secured from the Libor fines which has been used for:

- new gym equipment including two Alter G treadmills. This investment in state of the art technology is an example of the Charity's commitment to maintaining its status as a centre of excellence.
- Building an extension onto the gym to create a new indoor cycle studio which meets a demand and is proven to assist in rehabilitation.
- Increased staffing for physio and nursing together with support for psychological illnesses.

Following the allocation of funding the Charity met with the other blue light charities to share best practice and, where possible, to forge direct links which will hopefully benefit officers.

Castlebrae Funding – The Charity has now reached its initial target of 80% funding in place for this project and the Trustees therefore approved major improvement work to commence. The Charity now has financial risk assurance in place to cover the shortfall and is now actively seeking the remaining balance through various fundraising initiatives.

Bed and Breakfast – this is one of the key areas developed during 2014 to bridge the funding gap which will continue in 2015.

Lottery - The net profit from the lottery in 2014 was almost £40,000 and is anticipated to be almost £60,000 in 2015.

Ryder Cup and Tour De France – these two events took place in 2014 and with some excellent marketing the Charity was able to secure additional finances which were put back into patient care

Recruitment Campaign – Due to falling police officer numbers and as part of the strategic review, the Charity decided to operate a national recruitment campaign aimed at increasing the numbers of officers donating to the charity. This campaign has been running between April and June and will offer an amnesty for treatment. Aligned to this the Charity is working with forces to assist the federations in presenting the Charity to new recruits on their induction, with a view to them signing up to donate to the Charity at the start of their career.

The Charity and its trustees realise how important it is to maintain control of costs. The Charity's expenditure has increased by only 4.9% over five years which is an average annual increase of less than 1%. If the Charity's costs had increased in line with inflation the expenditure would have been in excess of £4.15 million. This has been achieved whilst at the same time more resources have been put into frontline services such as nursing and physio.

Despite the strong control over costs demonstrated the Charity has, for the first time, approved a budget with a deficit of £45,000. Since the AGCM in 2011 and in subsequent AGCM's you have been informed that the Charity believed the impact on the Charity of the austerity measures would result in a loss of 6,000 donating officers, which in financial terms, would lead to a loss of £400,000 each year. These figures were based on a predicted reduction in police officer numbers in the Charity's constituent forces, provided

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by those forces in 2011. The current figures, as reported by the forces strength data, reflect a loss of approximately 4,500 donating officers to date, which is an additional loss of 1,500 donating officers from last year.

A motion to increase the donation rate by 9p was carried in 2011 to enable the Charity to continue its level of service, whilst implementing its revenue fundraising strategies. Last year the Treasurer reported that the Charity had been able to set aside money to assist with the reducing number of officers donating and the Trustees have agreed to use this money to offset any deficit in the 2015 budget. The Charity remains acutely aware of the pressures put on police officers pay, including the increases in pension contributions and the continued review of their terms and conditions

As a result of this decision the Treasurer reported that the trustees had decided not to increase the donation rate in 2015. However, it is not possible to operate with a deficit budget indefinitely and as part of the strategic review later this year, a thorough review of finances together with the fundraising initiatives including the impact of the recruitment campaign will take place.

The majority of the Charity's expenditure is spent on employee costs. The costs for premises generally relate to the repairs, maintenance, rates and utilities for the two centres, with supplies and service mostly relating to the cost of catering. The uncontrollable expenditure is depreciation.

83% of the Charity's employee costs relate to the provision of front line services. Only 17% relate to the management, finance, and fundraising functions of the charity.

To conclude the Treasurer showed a slide demonstrating the initiatives, strategies and policies which, over the last five years, have been developed and incorporated to ensure the most effective and efficient running of both treatment centres, in the current financial environment. The Charity had been able to maintain the current donation rate for a fourth year, and although this is a remarkable achievement it won't be able to continue forever. The Charity has an asset replacement plan for the next ten years which has been costed; together plans of how it will be financed.

The Treasurer concluded by saying that while the Charity finds itself in tough times, the Trustees believe that the hard work over the last five years by the staff and trustees, together with the continued support of officers, gives the Charity cautious optimism for the future. This is a challenging, but exciting time for the Charity and I hope that today I as your Treasurer, together with the trustees and all the staff, have demonstrated our commitment to ensuring its future success.

There were no questions.

### **3.7 ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS Presented by Hon Simon Howard, Charity President**

The President asked for a proposer and seconder for the 2014 PTC Annual Report. Michael Banks, Durham, proposed acceptance of the 2014 Annual Report for The Police Treatment Centres and this was seconded by Jackie Muller, Police Scotland. This was unanimously carried.

The President asked for a proposer and seconder for the 2014 PTC Annual Accounts. Alan Lees, West Yorkshire, proposed acceptance of the 2014 Annual Accounts for the Police Treatment Centres and this was seconded by Liam Kelly, Police Service of Northern Ireland. This was unanimously carried.

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### **3.8 REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AT THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES Presented by Dr Clare Lennie, Manchester University**

Dr Clare Lennie opened her presentation by providing brief details of her background and qualifications, explaining that she had been commissioned to provide a review of the psychological services currently carried out at the Police Treatment Centres and to recommend the way that these services could be developed in the future.

She had interviewed employees from the following departments within the charity, fundraising, publicity, applications, admissions and clinical and had also reviewed outcome measure data.

Her findings and recommendations were:

- Celebrating good practice at the Police Treatment Centres.
- An exciting cross roads in promoting more holistic ways of working.
- Head of clinical Services – a significant investment by the Charity driving services forward safely and effectively in a more integrated way.
- The need and rationale for the role; clinical risk, driving forward clinical governance, coherence and safety of services, promoting safe psychological care.
- Psychology in the PTC; promoting safe conversations across the organisation, developing more streamlined non-physical services; in the long term potentially offering a brief counselling or full counselling service leading to individual holistic packages of care.
- Promoting the excellent of service at the PTC; a cutting edge service, use of outcome measures to demonstrate clinical effectiveness in publicity; feedback to forces; conferences and relevant publications.
- A long term vision? Developing an out reach psychological service.

In response to a couple of questions from the floor, Clare Lennie confirmed that the Police Treatment Centres were currently carrying out informal counselling but that this needed to be made safe in terms of clinical governance.

It was noted that Clare Lennie would be available following the meeting for any further questions.

### **3.9 UPDATE ON CASTLEBRAE MAIN SCHEME Presented by Paul Grant, Deputy Chief Executive**

P Grant, Deputy CEO outlined the current facilities at Castlebrae and the need to enlarge the facilities following patient feedback. He showed plans of the original refurbishment programme and the revised refurbishment programme. He confirmed that JG Associates had been appointed as Project Managers for the project, Wake Architects had been appointed and, following receipt of tenders, Marshall Construction had been appointed as contractor. Work had now commenced on site and the final handover would take place on 25 March 2016.

There were no questions.

### **3.10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT Presented by Patrick Cairns, Chief Executive**

P Cairns, CEO opened his report by explaining that he would provide a summary of where the Charity is now together with a brief look ahead into the future.

The PTC remains on a firm financial footing but it is a daily challenge to scrutinise income and expenditure to ensure it remains financially sound and ensure value for money.

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Financial diligence was put in place prior to the approval of the Castlebrae project which will ensure that the facilities at Castlebrae as practicable mirror those at St Andrews.

During 2014 a significant sum was awarded from the Libor fine money, some of which will be allocated to the Castlebrae project but also at St Andrews in the development of the summer house, the outdoor gym, the sensory garden, the indoor cycling studio, the new reception and new fitness equipment including the anti-gravity running machines and a variety of other kit and equipment.

Clinical services, both physical and non-physical must be to the highest standards and the responsibilities for this are taken very seriously in delivering high quality treatment to serving and retired officers, particularly to get serving officers back on front line duties as swiftly as possible.

During 2014, 4,043 serving and retired officers were treated at both centres (584 or 14.4% retired officers) and 90% of the comments received on patient feedback forms was incredibly positive. As well as comments about clinicians at both centres who deliver incredible results and are at the forefront of the Charity's work, there are as many positive remarks about housekeeping, kitchen/dining room staff, the Reception teams and night security.

The Charity has recently wrestled with the challenge of the growing issue of psychological or non-physical injuries, particularly for Police Officers, hence the presentation by Dr Clare Lennie today. The Police Treatment Centres want to do more to treat this type of illness and therefore sought a professional opinion of what was possible in two weeks and also if patients could be supported after they left the centre. It is such an important issue for the long term health of the police service that time, resources and money must be spent on developing a more coherent plan for the treatment of these conditions in future. The risk of doing nothing is unacceptable so Trustees have agreed to appoint an overarching Head of Clinical Services who will have the responsibility of delivering in this area amongst other things.

During 2014 the profile of the PTC was raised both within and without the Police services, inviting them to visit the centres or meeting them elsewhere if a visit was not possible. In 2014/15 I have welcomed a number of Chief Constables and Crime Commissioners to the PTC and a number of important Federation representatives. Also Association leaders including Irene Curtis who is the Chair of the England and Wales Superintendents Association and Steve White the Chair of the England and Wales Federation, Lord Lieutenants, High Sheriffs, Clint Elliot and Ian Potter from NARPO, Baroness Angela Harris and Mike Penning the Policing Minister, who described our facilities as the very best he had seen anywhere including those for the Firefighters and Armed Forces. During these visits both Centres continue to operate as normal as indeed the Centre is operating as normal today, despite the AGM being held here.

P Cairns continued reporting that he had called on the Charity's Patron, the Duke of York, attended the National Police Memorial Day in Belfast, attended the COPS memorial day, attended the Annual Joint Meeting of the Superintendent's Association in Northern Ireland, travelled to the Isle of Man to brief their officers and attended the RUC GC Remembrance Day in Newtownards.

Forces have rallied around the PTC with various fundraising activities and nominating the Charity at various events. Relationships have continued to be built with other organisations e.g. Police Dependants' Trust, Police Mutual, MIND, the Firefighters Charity, Combat Street, Defence Medical Services and Hedley Court. The Charity has also supported and worked with Flint House sharing stands at the England and Wales Police

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Federation Conference, twitter feeds or just sharing best practise in a spirit of learning collaboration and mutual support. The PTC believes that it and all police charities should be complementary and mutually supporting, highlighting the benefits of each other and not competing against each other.

Looking to the future, the PTC will continue to scrutinise every penny that it spends and work hard to get every penny in but must also keep one eye on the development of the PTC as it evolves in line with modern policing. This will bring some changes to how we do business in the future and cost money. The PTC has held its donation rate at its current level since 2011 and the Trustees will review this level during 2015 and assess whether an increase may be necessary to reflect current costs.

Officer numbers continue to fall inevitably resulting in a drop in donors to the PTC. The PTC is having to work harder to reach new officers and persuade them of the merits of joining. In an attempt to reverse this trend of falling donors an amnesty was started on 1 April and continues to run. Realistically the downward trajectory in officer numbers is likely to continue as officers continue to retire and this does illustrate the need for change in how the PTC does business in the future.

By this time next year, we hope that the Castlebrae project will have been brought in on time. A strategic workshop is planned for November when some big issues will be on the table, because it is not simply enough to respond to changes in the policing landscape, the PTC must look to get ahead of the change matrix to ensure it is in line with the developments, if not ahead of them. It is certain that the pressure on budgets and numbers will continue, along with challenges for both Chief Constables and frontline beat officers which will result in added stress and pressure on serving officers. This highlights that the PTC must evolve to ensure it is there for those officers who need support and treatment.

P Cairns stressed the need for police officers to fundraise to support their own charities without any embarrassment as there are few enough sources of wider support out there and there is a need to look after yourselves.

To conclude P Cairns felt that the PTC had moved forward this year, everyone who works at the PTC enjoys their work and feels it to be important, but recognises that the PTC cannot stand still and needs to evolve over the next five to ten years whilst ensuring that the PTC is attractive and supportive for modern policing and the time to do it is now whilst the PTC is in a position of strength.

There were no questions.

### **3.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further issues, the President declared this section of the meeting closed.

## **4. THE ST. GEORGE'S POLICE CHILDREN TRUST**

### **4.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 May 2014**

These had been circulated to all members and displayed on the website and were taken as read. M Banks, Durham, proposed that these be accepted as a true record, seconded by S Wouldhave, Northumbria. All present agreed.

### **4.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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There were no matters arising.

#### **4.3 ANNUAL REPORT**

##### **Presented by Craig Grandison, Chair, Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee**

C Grandison, Chair, FPSC presented the Annual Report 2014 commenting that further detail would be provided by the CEO and Treasurer. He then thanked all the employees who had been involved in the running of the Charity during 2014.

There were no questions.

#### **4.4 INVESTMENT MANAGER REPORT**

##### **Presented by Nick Bence-Trower, Cazenove**

N Bence-Trower explained that the presentation and slides that he had delivered to The Police Treatment Centres section of the AGCM in respect of the nature of Charity Multi-Asset Fund were equally relevant to St George's Police Children Trust.

He reported that the investment portfolio ended 2013 with a value of just under £13.1 million which compares to £12.7 million twelve months earlier. The initial inception value was £10.2 million and this has risen to £13.8 million by the end of April 2015 which is very encouraging. Since inception the portfolio is up 38.4%.

There were no questions.

#### **4.5 AUDITORS REPORT**

##### **Presented by Neil Sevitt, Baker Tilly**

N Sevitt, Baker Tilly started his presentation by saying that incoming resources were £443,000 of officer donations and £465,000 of investment income. Expenditure for the year was £449,000, resulting in a surplus of £458,000 before any investment gains.

The balance sheet of the Charity is £12.0 million in total which is made up of fixed assets, St George's House, the investment portfolio (£13.1 million) and other assets, debtors, cash and investments. The largest liability of this Charity is the provision for future payments. This represents a fair value calculation for future payments to existing grant recipients of the Charity (£2.9 million).

The funds are split between unrestricted fixed assets and permanent endowment funds. The total funds are £12.05 million at 31 December 2014 compared to £11.5 million at 31 December 2014.

N Sevitt again explained as in his report for the Police Treatment Centres that the objective of an auditor is to provide a true and fair opinion on the financial statements of an organisation and he confirmed that they had provided an unqualified audit opinion for the Charity for the year to 31 December 2014.

There were no questions.

#### **4.6 TREASURER'S REPORT**

##### **Presented by Peter Henson, Treasurer**

P Henson began his report by saying that his presentation would provide details of the financial position of St George's Police Children Trust and the work that the Trustees and Staff have undertaken to ensure the long term future of the Trust.

He reported that the out turn for 2014 suggests that the Trust made a surplus £458,488, however, key to the trust is that payments to beneficiaries throughout 2014 remained in

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line with the payments made in 2013. The trust is obliged to make a year end provision to cover all the beneficiaries contained within the Charity's records at the end of the year. The provision is based on providing support throughout full time education for each child up to the age of 25. The current provision is approximately £3.5 million. Between years the provision can fluctuate for a number of reasons. For example:

- New beneficiaries being added to the list, this together with their age and the financial circumstances of the family.
- The number of children that leave education in the year.
- Variances in the household income, some people in the current climate may lose their jobs meaning their allowance will increase requiring a greater provision.

In 2014 the provision required fell by £186,417 generally as a result of children leaving education and the age of the beneficiaries being supported now being a year older. This provision will change on an annual basis dependent on the number of beneficiaries claiming and the age of those beneficiaries. He stressed this is an accounting provision and not cash held within the Trust and finally in 2014, the Trust did not need to draw down on its contingency making a saving of £168,000. A contingency is required as the Trust does not know how many new beneficiaries it will take on in the year and the amount it will have to pay out. Therefore, the true underspend to the Trust was in the region of £104,000 in 2014. This was largely as a result of having fewer beneficiaries to support. Fewer children claiming for further education grants and a strong performance in the dividends generated on the Charity's shares.

The Trustees remain cautious as there are likely to be further cuts in public spending which will put additional pressures on the budget of the St Georges Police Children Trust and the wider police family. As a method of financial prudence the Trust presents the Trustees with a medium term financial forecast as part of the budget process. Matters which are likely to have a significant impact on the Trust are the governments predicted officer number reduction and the cost of living for beneficiaries. If the Trust does nothing by 2017 the budget deficit would be around £14,000. While this may be manageable it is important to inform you that the Trustees will not become complacent and will continue working on fundraising initiatives to ensure that there is not a financial problem in a few years' time.

The Charity continuously reviews its processes and systems to ensure that it is providing value for money to its beneficiaries. In 2014 as part of a rolling program it reviewed the category classed as special needs which covers a small number of beneficiaries and the overall banding structure to beneficiaries.

The special needs review looked predominantly at the criteria for awarding grants to this particular group of people. Following the review it was recommended that to be eligible you must be in receipt of the children's award as defined in the Police Pension regulations. This was agreed by trustees and implemented in 2014.

Banding review - the number of beneficiaries the Charity supports has reduced significantly in the last few years and this gave the trustees the opportunity to review the level of grants offered and to whom. Previously households where income is over a certain level only received a Christmas gift. From January 2015 every child will receive at least £10 per week together with the Christmas gift. The Trustees also took the opportunity to increase the top band to £60 per week per child to assist those in most financial need.

Awareness Campaign - the number of children the Trust is supporting has dropped by nearly a third and the Trust is concerned that there may be children, who should be supported but of whom it is not aware.

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Fundraising - The trust has put in place a strategy to increase its income over the next few years and one of the key pieces of work is the creation of a legacy strategy to target previous beneficiaries, who have achieved careers, which they might not have been able to attain without the financial support of the Trust. The Trust will seek the support of the older group of previous beneficiaries, supported by the Trust, who call themselves "St George's Old Boys and Girls".

St George's House - The trust acquired this property in Harrogate in 2013, which it wants to use to support the beneficiaries of the Trust, as a holiday let, but where spare capacity allows, other members of the police family. There are still some spare weeks available in 2015 and you can find more information on the website.

Website - During 2014 the Charity updated and went live with its new website which is more interactive and informative together with being more user friendly.

The Trustees have approved a zero balanced budget for 2015. The income generated from the Trust's investments now exceeds the amount received from officer donations. Over the last few years the Trust has worked to improve the benefits provided, for the children of police officers, while retaining the same level of service. This achievement together with the support from police officers has resulted in the Trustees being able to make a decision not to increase the weekly donation rate this year.

The Treasurer continued by reporting that, over the last few years the Trust has reacted to changes in society and has adapted the way benefits are allocated to its beneficiaries allowing the Trust to target those most in need with additional money, while not losing sight or support for others. The timeliness of grant making has been increased so that beneficiaries receive a registration grant upon receipt of their application and will then receive a minimum of £10 per week per child.

The Treasurer concluded by hoping that he, together with the trustees and the administrative staff, had demonstrated, how the Trust is supporting the children of deceased or incapacitated officers, to the very best effect.

There were no questions.

#### **4.7 ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS** **Presented by Hon Simon Howard, Charity President**

The President asked for a proposer and seconder for the 2014 Annual Report. Michael Banks, Durham proposed acceptance of the 2014 Annual Report for St George's Police Children Trust, seconded by Jackie Muller, Police Scotland. This was unanimously carried.

The President asked for a proposer and seconder for the 2014 Annual Accounts. Alan Lees, West Yorkshire proposed acceptance of the 2014 Annual Accounts for St George's Police Children Trust, seconded by Jackie Muller, Police Scotland. This was unanimously carried.

#### **4.8 SECRETARY'S REPORT** **Presented by P Cairns, Secretary**

P Cairns opened his report explaining that despite the SGPCT being an extremely important Charity in its own right, it exists under the umbrella of the PTC for admin and management support and may appear to be lower in the scale of importance and priorities than the PTC. To counter this SGPCT is always included in all of the PTC briefs, publications and booklets and every opportunity is taken to promote

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman FPSC, Mr Craig Grandison Date \_\_\_\_\_

SGPCT. SGPCT does have a very slightly different constituency which can result in low sign up so clearly there is more work to be done.

During 2014 the SGPCT supported almost 200 young people from 134 families whose police parent has died or been incapacitated and indeed in 120 of these families it did involve a death. 69 of these young people are in further education and are eligible for a grant of £1,500 each year. SGPCT spent approximately £500,000 in providing support in 2014. Beneficiaries qualify for support by their parent paying their donation and this then covers death and incapacitation both on and off duty, unlike other charities which only include on duty death and injuries.

The SGPCT banding structure, which is income assessed, has been revised and every beneficiary now receives more than the previous year through their weekly maintenance grant and also every beneficiary now gets something weekly rather than being excluded because the household income was too high in addition to the seasonal grants. The Ex Gratia application form has also been updated and simplified.

Closer working relationships have been developed with other charities supporting children of police officers e.g. the Gurney Fund and COPS.

St George's House at St Andrews is now being used by beneficiaries free of charge and the occupancy rate is picking up.

P Cairns reported that he had attended the annual St George's Old Boys and Girls Reunion which was once again held in Harrogate in April.

In conclusion, he reminded everyone that the donation rate for SGPCT is 20p per week, £10 per year, which will be reviewed in 2015, and that as a Police Officer, even if you do not have children, it is a no brainer to donate that money to support the children of a friend or colleague who may have been deprived of their parent. It had been a successful year for SGPCT, the Trust is now looking ahead to next year and what more can be done.

#### **4.9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No items being raised, the President declared this section of the meeting closed.

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***There being no further business, The President declared the meeting closed at 12.40 p.m. and invited those present to attend a buffet lunch, and tour of the facilities, at St Andrews.***

***ENDS***