



Strode Park  
Foundation

Caring since 1946

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STRODE PARK FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19





## Caring since 1946

Strode Park Foundation is a Kent charity providing vital care, support services, care at home, supported living opportunities and day and leisure services for children and adults with a range of disabilities

Strode Park Foundation  
Strode Park House  
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Registered Company Number 407697  
Registered Charity Number 227794  
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## CONTENTS

- + Chairman's Introduction
- + Chief Executive's Review
- + Park People
- + Volunteering and Fundraising
- + Financial Overview

# Chairman's Introduction



When I look back over the past six years that I have written this introduction, there are two common themes. Funding for Social Care has been cut in real terms almost year on year making the market an extremely difficult one to operate in. The second common theme is that in spite of this the Foundation has continued to grow and meet these challenges.

This year is no different. The Fynvola Foundation, which was struggling on its own, has been smoothly and speedily integrated into the Strode Park Foundation and is now contributing financially and also by expanding the care we can offer.

When a merger occurs as successfully as this it is easy to forget how much time and effort went into it. Staff working for Fynvola find themselves working for a new employer and their working environment will change. Some staff from Strode Park will move to the Lady Dane Farmhouse and take on new challenges, and at the centre of it all are the existing clients who will inevitably feel threatened to some degree by the change. Everyone involved in this change, management and staff deserve our thanks for the excellent way in which they dealt with this.

Also during the year we had the official opening of the Spa Garden. We were blessed with good weather and the day gave us an opportunity to thank the many people who donate and fundraise for us. I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of the local community. Aside from local donations we do also get grants from large charitable Trusts but it is necessary to meet quite strict criteria to qualify for these. So it is very gratifying that we have raised the large sum required to expand the building at Footprints under our 'Space to Play' project.

We anticipate that the coming year will be even more challenging. Local authority cutbacks continue and despite what might be said, on the ground there is no sign that austerity is over.

The cutbacks impact on us in two ways. The most obvious is the reduced funding in real terms, we do have instances where there is no increase in the payment for care despite inflationary increases and the increased minimum wage costs.

It also impacts in the reduction of staff at the local authority where there is a very high turnover of staff. This makes it difficult and frustrating to negotiate with them when there is a constant change in personnel. In spite of this we remain confident in our ability to continue the excellent work that the Foundation does, our clients deserve nothing less. This confidence is based on the knowledge that we have an excellent management team and staff that will rise to the challenge. The dedication and commitment of our staff never ceases to amaze me. We also have an amazing group of volunteers, and the goodwill and support of the local community. My fellow trustees and I are very grateful for this, thank you all.

Ray Cordell, Chairman







## Chief Executive's Review



During 2018/19 Strode Park Foundation supported and cared for more people than at any time during its 73-year history. The charity's commitment to people with disabilities shines as brightly as ever and I am honoured to be part of such a wonderful charity and delighted to be able to report on some remarkable achievements in the last 12 months.

However, before noting some of these achievements it is necessary to outline the context in which Strode Park Foundation, and other care providers, are working. Local and national austerity measures continue to impact on funding for care services whilst at the same time staff costs (approximately 75% of all Strode Park's expenditure) continue to rise in response to changes in the National Minimum Wage and an on-going requirement to increase staffing levels to respond to the increasingly complex needs of the individuals who use the services. These pressures have resulted in a number of well published care service failures both locally and throughout England and it is unlikely that these challenges will diminish in the near future. Consequently, the foundation will need to continue to devise and implement innovative responses to ensure that it can continue to thrive and build on the achievements of the past year.

Despite this extremely challenging commercial environment I am delighted to be able report on many noteworthy developments.

In April 2018 we carried out some valuable renovation work to the North Lodge, which made sure this supported living facility was fully accessible for those using the largest and most modern electric wheelchairs.

In June 2018 we were also proud to open our new spa garden for residents. Created next to our hydrotherapy pool this fantastic outdoor space has become a retreat for residents to enjoy the peaceful and private sensory garden experience among beautiful plants, landscaping and features which were all designed by the presenter of the BBC's Chelsea Flower Show Mark Lane.

Early in 2018, the Fynvola Foundation approached Strode Park Foundation for support and guidance in relation to a

registered care home, Lady Dane Farmhouse in Faversham.

The home was experiencing financial difficulties and, working with the Fynvola Trustees, the Strode Park management team implemented a rescue plan and in October 2018, Strode Park Foundation took over the ownership and management of the home. It is extremely gratifying to note that in such a short space of time this new member of Strode Park Foundation's expanding family tree is now financially stable, that the jobs of the staff employed there have been saved and, most importantly of all, that it continues to provide a much needed and appreciated service for people with disabilities.

Throughout 2018 and 2019 we continued to fundraise for our 'Space to Play' project for Footprints, Strode Park's home for children and young people with disabilities. This mammoth fundraising effort hit its target of £130,000 and in 2019 we officially opened this new facility. The impact that this new area has had on the children who use the services is certainly clear for all to see.

The new extension has been fitted with bi-fold doors which fully open up the exterior wall and residents are now able to feel the outside whilst remaining inside.

A new large living space, state of the art sensory room and two new reconfigured bedrooms have also significantly improved this impressive amenity. Strode Park is extremely grateful for the overwhelming financial support and donations which has made this development possible and I would personally like to thank each and every person and organisation that made a contribution to this fundraising success.

We have also had some impressive success stories at our other sites too. For example, Platters Farm Lodge was used by Medway CCG to pilot an innovative scheme for information sharing and practice partnership between care homes and GP Practices. It's pleasing to report that data from the first six months suggests that this new approach with an emphasis on improved communications has had a very positive impact and has facilitated a significant reduction in hospital re-admissions.



I'm really pleased to be able to report that on top of all these achievements, we can continue to report that all but one of our homes has been rated as 'Good' following CQC inspections. This external validation means these services are performing well and meeting expectations. There is still work to do at Platters Farm Lodge, with a 'requires improvement' rating, but we are putting in place positive measures to make sure this reaches the next level at the next inspection so that the true quality of the care can be evidenced. We have always and continue to remain committed to providing the highest possible standards of care and support in both our well-established services and our new ones too. We will continue to do this with the help of our incredible staff.

But we are not complacent and our drive to innovate continues as our Trustees, who are some of our most skilled and committed volunteers, have agreed Strode Park's new strategic plan for the next three years.

This plan builds on the work we have been doing over the previous three years and captures the things we have done well, improvements that we will strive to make and the strategic goals we will pursue as we move forward.

Each and every year Strode Park Foundation is fortunate to be able to call on the backing, encouragement and donations from a plethora of local supporters. The year was no exception and we are immensely indebted to the following businesses; Furley Page solicitors, The Copper Pottle, Herne Bay Rotary Club, Thanet Inner Wheel, Kent Police Male Voice Choir, Canterbury Lions Club, Parry Law solicitors, Lady Mayoress of Canterbury, Parker Steel, The Oysterman Triathlon, Superior Care, Herne Bay Football Club and Sainsbury's (Whitstable). Of course, our supporters extend beyond this list and without every penny we receive from donations and events it would not be possible to deliver the vital care and support services.

We have two charity shops and these continue to generate vital funds for the Foundation, with our Tankerton shop undergoing a complete refit earlier in the year it now sells clothes and has improved access for customers and volunteers with disabilities. Our shops support our work by bringing in an income, being points in the community where local people can interact with us and as locations where people with disabilities can gain valuable expertise and build skills.

A place that also does this is our Theatre in the Park amphitheatre which is one of our biggest fundraising triumphs each year. We have carried on offering a full and varied programme of music with highlights for 2018 being Uncle Funk and the Boogie Wonderband, Rubber Biscuit, Not the Rolling Stones and the Kent Tribute Festival which continues to be a grand-scale event that Strode Park hosts. We hope to carry on this great partnership working with the organisers in future years.

In 2019 we gave a fond farewell and goodbye to Tracy Lovatt, Head of Fundraising, Marketing and PR. Tracy Lovatt retired after 24 years' exemplary service to the charity. She played a pivotal part in many of our fundraising projects and her legacy will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of many people with disabilities for many years to come. On behalf of everyone involved with the charity I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Tracy and to send her the warmest wishes for her retirement to the West Country.

Following Tracy's retirement, Strode Park Foundation was very pleased to appoint and welcome Karen Jeal as our new Fundraising, Marketing and PR Manager. Karen is the newest member of my Senior Management Team and brings considerable experience in the PR and Marketing industry and has already had a positive impact on our work. I am confident that Karen will bring some creative new ideas to our fundraising strategy and look forward to reporting on how these ideas progress in the future.

As always I remain extremely grateful to all the staff members that do such a wonderful job and to all the supporters who by giving their time, expertise, and donations all contribute to making Strode Park Foundation the wonderful organisation it is. We couldn't do it without you.

Finally, and certainly not least, I would like to thank all the residents and service users with disabilities who offer daily reminders of what can be achieved despite adversity and provide a constant source of inspiration.

Thank you.

**Paul Montgomery, Chief Executive**



# Park People



## Josh - Care Team

Josh is a Lead Care and Support Worker and works in Strode Park House. He has been working for Strode Park Foundation for 5 and a half years. His job involves assisting with residents' care, leading on medication, allocating rotas, helping the nurses, speaking with doctors and everything else in between which means the care for our residents is smooth running. He said: "I love this job. I like helping the clients the most and caring for their day to day needs. It's like a second family for them. We're always here and more often than not they see us more than their own family. I've excelled so much and that's thanks to the opportunities here."



## Jon - Nursing

Jon has been a nurse at Strode Park House for five years. His job involves overseeing the workload of the unit, giving medicines and changing dressings.

He said: "It's a really friendly team here and we're always helping each other."

"The workload is heavy at times but we work as a team to get through it. I love working for Strode Park Foundation."



## Mandy - Kitchen

Mandy has worked at Strode Park for 4 years. She is a kitchen assistant and her job involves food preparation, pot washing and keeping the store, fridges and freezers tidy. She said: "The kitchen is a very friendly area and we all get on so well. I find it very rewarding because I get to talk to the clients."





## Sarah - Fundraising, Marketing and PR

Sarah has been in the fundraising team since 2018. Her job involves organising events, recruiting volunteers for our charity shops and Theatre in the Park, reaching out to community groups and helping people with their own fundraising efforts. She said: "The reason I work here is because it's a cause I believe in. I think we're a much-needed charity and I am very inspired to be a part of it. The fundraising is a fun job and there's nothing better than working with local communities who also support us and believe in the same things."



## Julie - Reception

Julie has been one of our lovely receptionists for 8 years. Her job involves dealing directly with clients, relatives, the public and many outside organisations such as social services, doctors and hospitals. She said: "Working on reception is always interesting, no two days are ever the same. I'm sure I speak on behalf of my colleagues Hayley and Sian that although it is sometimes very busy, the job is always rewarding and it is lovely being able to spend time with the clients."



## Sam - HR

Sam started at Strode Park 4 years ago and is our Training and Development Lead. Her job involves ensuring the learning and development of all Strode Park employees, largely in the form of training. She said: I love working in my role at Strode Park because I get to know all the staff and can build relationships with everyone from day one of induction. As I was a carer before I moved onto a Learning and Development role I appreciate the hard work that our staff undertake on a daily basis.



## Laura - Finance

Laura has worked for Strode Park for the last 8 years within the finance team. She said: "People always say my job must be boring because it's numbers but the truth is I thoroughly love my job. I love the fact that no two days are the same for me. My jobs can vary from dealing with suppliers to handling clients monies to taking payments for our current events. Also I not only enjoy interaction with my colleagues, who are also my friends, but also the clients, who I get to speak to on a daily basis."



## Kevin - Cleaning

Kevin has been a cleaner for 8 years. His job involves cleaning the bungalows, cleaning across all the sites and making sure everywhere is kept tidy and dust free. He said: "It's a very friendly place and I just really like my job. I live very close so it's within easy reach. I really like being busy and we're never short of work here."



## Pete - Gardener

Pete has been looking after the gardens at Strode Park House for almost 20 years. His job involves working in the grounds and maintaining them - grass cutting, planting flowers, hedge trimming and cutting back trees. He said: "I enjoy the company of the residents and staff and enjoy the satisfaction of the job."



# Current Services

Caring since 1946, Strode Park Foundation is a Kent charity, providing vital care, support services, care at home and supported living opportunities for children and adults with a range of disabilities.



## Lady Dane Farmhouse

Lady Dane Farmhouse is a beautiful 15 bedded home set in the Kent countryside on the outskirts of the historic town of Faversham. The home welcomes adults with mixed disabilities who need long or short term residential care.



## Day Services

We ensure everybody gets the maximum benefit from their day with us. All programmes are tailored specifically to meet individual needs

## Platters Farm Lodge

Platters Farm Lodge is a purpose-built residential care home offering high quality respite, rehabilitation, dementia care service and long stay beds. The centre is managed by Strode Park Foundation in partnership with Medway Council and Medway Community Healthcare.



## Holiday Bungalows

Our two holiday bungalows built within the grounds in Herne can be enjoyed for family holidays. They have been designed specifically for disabled people.



## Footprints

Footprints specialises in the care of children with disabilities from 5-19 year olds. This lovely, vibrant home offers a range of services to meet each individual child's needs and to support the whole family, including long-term, short breaks (respite), and day care.



## Redwalls

Redwalls is a small and friendly residential care home for up to six young adults with physical and mild learning disabilities. It is set out in a way that allows a mix of privacy and togetherness that makes a vibrant fun place for living in and developing independence skills.

## Strode Park House

Strode Park House is a 19th Century Victorian Manor House set in 14 acres of grounds in Herne, Kent. The home is registered for 55 beds, offering a relaxed homely environment for 40 permanent residents and up to 15 guests who come on a short-term basis for neuro-rehabilitation and respite care.



## Home Care

Our Home Care support service enables more than 80 people to remain in their own home when disabilities would make it otherwise impossible

## The Coach House

The Coach House is a lovely period building which was converted in 1988 to create a residential and respite centre for young adults with disabilities. Service users are welcomed by Zoe and her enthusiastic team who provide support and advice to ensure their stay is enjoyable and safe.







# Fundraising and Volunteering

We are very grateful for the continued support and generosity of the many donors, volunteers, businesses and community groups who have helped us throughout 2018/19

## Spa Garden

In June 2018 we celebrated a project to create a spa garden for the residents of Strode Park House. This outdoor retreat enables the residents to enjoy a peaceful and private sensory garden experience among the beautiful plants, landscaping and features which were all designed by the BBC's Mark Lane (presenter of the Chelsea Flower Show).

The garden was funded with a £10,000 grant from Tesco Groundworks and a generous donation of hard landscaping materials from Marshalls. We also received additional support from the community with both donations of funds, materials and work, in particular from Cathedral Landscapes, Julia Davison, The Copper Pottle, Mark and Heidi Hancock and Mr and Mrs P. Ling.

## Shower Trolley

In February 2019 we were able to present a much-needed new shower trolley to the residents of Strode Park House. The nearly £4,000 required to purchase this was raised by generous donations from Lynx Forecourt/Sainsbury's, Active Life, the Friends of Strode Park, Harpers Hall Lodge along with money raised by staff members at Strode Park House.

## Footprints Space to Play Project

We continued to fund raise for our £130,000 project to create a new extension with indoor play room, soft play and sensory room and incorporated respite care rooms for the children at Footprints in Canterbury.

Throughout the year, monies have been received and pledged from a number of sources, including both grants and individual donation, most notably from:

- + Broadoak Motor Group Ragnar Relay Race £3,351.98
- + Garfield Weston £20,000
- + Whitehead Monckton Foundation £1,500
- + Boshier Hinton Foundation £2,000
- + Bernard Sunley Foundation £10,000
- + Tesco Bags of Help Scheme £2,000
- + Edward Gostling Foundation £5,000
- + Kent Community Foundation £2,000
- + The Loveday Charitable Trust £4,500

Trusts companies and community groups have continued to be very supportive of our work and our thanks to all those who have contributed includes:

## Other benefactors and support during the year

- + Copper Pottle total raised £3,397
- + The Forest of Blean Rotary Club £5,000
- + Inner Wheel of Margate £850
- + Kent Police Male Voice Choir - £1,003



## Volunteers play an important part of our team

Strode Park is fortunate to have a large team of dedicated volunteers operating in all different aspects of the Foundation's work including Theatre in the Park, our two charity shops, fundraising events and throughout our care services. They are a valuable addition to the Strode Park team and we couldn't achieve all that we do without them.



## Tankerton Shop

After a move from its original location, our Tankerton Charity Shop officially opened in August 2018. The shop is now in a more prominent position, much larger and brighter and also more accessible to people with disabilities.

## Lady Mayoress of Canterbury Charity

Strode Park Foundation was nominated as one of the Lady Mayoress of Canterbury's charities for 2018. We are still awaiting the figures for the monies raised but anticipate an approximate figure of around £14,000 to be presented to us towards the end of 2019.



# Summarised financial statements

Financial Activities	2019	2018
<b>Income from:</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations and legacies	277,353	149,183
Gift from Fynvola Foundation	312,007	-
Grants Receivable	-	2,000
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Care services	8,831,166	8,103,567
Other trading income	208,059	192,959
Investment income	5,478	791
Other	74,597	36,059
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£9,708,660</b>	<b>£8,484,559</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
<b>Raising funds</b>		
Costs of raising funds	181,664	180,237
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Care services	9,161,691	8,285,058
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£9,343,355</b>	<b>£8,465,295</b>
<b>Net income before gains/(losses)</b>	<b>365,305</b>	<b>19,264</b>
<b>Recognised gains/(losses)</b>		
Remeasurement gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	102,000	49,000
Net movement in funds	467,305	68,264
Fund balances brought forward	3,307,341	3,239,077
<b>Fund balances</b>	<b>£3,774,646</b>	<b>£3,307,341</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Net assets as at 31 March</b>		
Fixed assets	5,841,125	4,879,966
Current assets	1,805,483	1,524,927
Creditors: Due within one year	(1,138,932)	(949,880)
Creditors: Due after more than one year	(1,275,030)	(587,672)
Defined Benefit Pension Liability	(1,458,000)	(1,560,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,774,646</b>	<b>£3,307,341</b>





## for year ended 31 March 2019

These financial statements have been extracted from the full annual financial statements prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 which were approved by the Council of Management on 15 October 2019. The full financial statements have been audited and the auditors' opinion was unqualified and they have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission.

These summary financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity.

Further information and a copy of the full financial statements and auditors report can be obtained from:

Chief Executive,  
Strode Park Foundation,  
Herne, Herne Bay, Kent,  
CT6 7NE

Signed on behalf of the Council of Management

### Auditors' statement to the members of Strode Park Foundation for People with Disabilities

In our opinion the summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 are consistent with the full annual accounts.

### Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services

Ashford Commercial Quarter  
1 Dover Place, Ashford, Kent  
TN23 1FB

**Ray Cordell, Chairman**





## Patrons

Terry Waite CBE  
Amanda Cottrell OBE

## Vice Presidents

Mrs P Shephard MBE  
Mr Brian Dale FCIPD

## Advisors

### Auditors

Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services  
Ashford Commercial Quarter  
1 Dover Place  
Ashford, Kent  
TN23 1FB

### Bankers

National Westminster Bank  
2nd Floor  
County Gate 2  
Stacey's Street  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME14 1ST

### Solicitors

Furley Page LLP  
39 St. Margarets Street  
Canterbury  
CT1 2TX

## Council of Management

### Chairman

Mr R Cordell

### Vice Chairman

Mr N Wells

### Treasurer

Mrs D Allaway FCCA

### Members

Ms N August  
Mr R Clark  
Mrs J Clifford  
Mr S Gadhia  
Dr P Garrod (appointed 28 November 2018)  
Mrs V McCarthy  
Mr N Swift (appointed 28 November 2018)  
Mrs P Unwin

## Senior Management Team



Mr P Montgomery  
BSc MA MBA MSc (Psych)  
Chief Executive and  
Secretary



Mr T A Cheshire BA Hons  
FCCA  
Director of Finance



Mrs K Bardsley  
MCIPD BA Hons  
Director of Human  
Resources



Miss K Jeal  
Fundraising, Marketing  
and PR Manager



Mr J Cotterill  
RGN DMS  
Director of Care



Mrs B Clayson  
PA to Chief Executive

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Registered Charity Number 227794.



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