

Strode Park Foundation

Annual Report 2021-2022



Strode Park
Foundation

Caring since 1946



Caring for people with disabilities for over 75 years



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Chairman's Introduction

In my role as Chair, I am delighted to introduce the 2021/22 Annual Report for Strode Park Foundation.

From the date it was founded in 1946, through to 2022, the charity has established and maintained a reputation for providing high quality services for people with disabilities. It is indeed a record to be proud of.

However, and as Paul Montgomery elaborates in the Chief Executive's report, it is important to acknowledge that the year has not been easy for any social care providers. The covid pandemic continues to cast a shadow, and the national shortage of carers and nurses has become more acute with forecasts indicating that the crisis will continue to deepen in the short to medium term.

Despite these challenges, we look to the future with a determination and with confidence that we will continue to provide the best possible services to meet the needs of people with disabilities. It is a determination generated by the charities inspiring mission and a confidence strengthened by 76 years of learning and development.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to convey appreciation of the staff teams who do such incredible work in what can, on occasions, be very stressful and challenging circumstances. I know that for many working at Strode Park is often more than just a job.

Similarly, the Foundation is indebted to the tireless dedication of the volunteers who make such an important contribution to the daily lives of the service users and to the success of the charity shops and the Theatre in the Park.

As Chair of this remarkable charity, I am immensely grateful for the support I receive from my experienced and knowledgeable colleagues on the Council of Management. Each member of the Council gives their time and expertise freely and the Foundation is privileged to be able to call upon all of these resources.



Working together we will continue to provide care and support for the people who rely on the services we provide, and, in turn, there is no doubt that their fortitude and resilience will continue to be a source of inspiration for us all.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nick Wells'.

Nick Wells
Chairman



Chief Exec's Review



Strode Park Foundation is an extraordinary charity.

For more than 75 years it has successfully endeavoured to provide the very best to the people it supports. In doing so, our amazing staff and volunteers have not only enriched the lives of so many people with disabilities but have also provided support for their families and loved ones. It is a record to be proud of.

However, we are not complacent. The social care sector as a whole faces immense challenges, and, despite our very impressive track record, we recognise that Strode Park Foundation is not immune to these challenges.

The on-going implications of the covid pandemic, underfunding, and the increasing cost of living have combined to create an unprecedented recruitment and retention crisis in social and health care at both a local level and a national level. The latest Skills for Report shows that national care staff vacancy rates increased by 52% in 2021 alone and that the vacancy rate is now the highest since records began in 2012/13.

Strode Park Foundation has responded to the recruitment and retention challenge in a number of ways, including pay reviews, enhanced overtime rates, retention bonuses, 'refer a friend' recruitment incentives, the initiation of Nurse Associate training schemes, and the successful recruitment of nurses from overseas. These measures have met with some success, but the situation remains difficult and there is no sign yet of a coherent Government led response to this national crisis.

These challenges are real and should not be minimised. However, it is also important to reflect on the very real achievements that the Foundation has secured during the last year.

Procedures and protocols initiated by our clinical team continue to be regarded as first-rate examples of infection control practice and the Foundation has sustained a remarkable record of protecting the service users from Covid 19 infection or mitigating the impact on individuals when infection has been unavoidable.

Strode Park's effectiveness in infection control stands as a true testament to the skills, knowledge, determination and thoughtfulness of the staff teams and volunteers, and to the fortitude of the individuals who use the services.

At the same time as Strode Park Foundation was delivering a remarkable and exemplary response to the covid pandemic, SPF made substantial progress towards the corporate goals identified and agreed by the Council of Management.

It is exceedingly positive to note that the quality of the services is recognised by the service users, the commissioners and the relevant regulatory bodies. As of September 2022, all Strode Park Foundation's registered homes for adults are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission and that Footprints, Strode Park's registered home for children with disabilities is rated as 'Good' by Ofsted. Given the number, the range, and the complexity of these services this is a remarkable and very commendable achievement.

In addition, all Strode Park's services have 'Good' for the environmental health award.

Together with the statutory assessments noted above, the charity successfully retained several prestigious, externally validated quality assurance accreditations including:

- Disability Confident Committed
- Investors in People
- ISO 9001
- ISO 50001
- NHS approved Certificate of Health and Safety Compliance (CHAS)

In addition to the above, the Foundation has achieved or made significant progress with a number of identified strategic goals including:

- Developing plans and securing planning permission for the conversion of the annex at Lady Dane Farmhouse into supported living accommodation
- Securing a potential purchaser for the unused land at Redwalls
- Introducing a more robust and detailed Risk Register and associated contingency plans with strengthened Council of Management scrutiny
- Reviewing banking arrangements and beginning the process of transferring accounts to Metro Bank

The successes achieved in 2021/22 have been based on placing the interests of the clients at the heart of decision-making processes and taking a realistic approach to financial management. This involves on-going reviews of the quality, demand, and the financial viability of each service. A consequence of one such review was that the Foundation reluctantly decided to hand back the loss-making KCC homecare contract in January 2022. This contract had been in place for less than three years and, despite the financial losses previously sustained by this service, this was a difficult decision. In this context, we were reassured and grateful for the kind words and thanks from individuals who had used this service and by the fact that several of these clients continue to use other Strode Park services including the Day Opportunities Service and residential respite care.

As the summary accounts presented in this report indicate, the charity continues to return solid financial outcomes and thus offers and the best possible level of longer-term service security for the staff members and for the individuals who rely on the services provided by Strode Park Foundation. This is indeed a laudable achievement in these challenging times.

As always, the support of local people and businesses has been crucial and many of the achievements noted above would not have been possible with the enduring support of the local communities

I would like to conclude with a personal thank you to all the staff members, donors, and volunteers who continue to make a vital contribution to the mission of the charity and to the people with disabilities who use the services and display such impressive spirit and determination.

Once again, thank you.



Paul Montgomery
Chief Executive



Vikki's Story

Vikki has been a resident at Strode Park since March 2019, Vikki was diagnosed with MS around 15 years ago. Bernie, Vikki's husband, tells their story.

Vikki was still able to work, drive and be active. Around six years ago Vikki's condition started to deteriorate and during that time she required 24 hour care which I was able to manage at home, but Vikki's health deteriorated further and she started to have seizures. After being admitted to hospital where the MS specialist, Beth Tredwell, managed to get Vikki a place in Strode Park where she has been ever since and I am happy to say that her seizures have stopped and her health has improved dramatically due to the care and support provided by Strode Park.

I manage to visit Vikki twice a day and am greatly encouraged by the team at Strode Park as they know how important it is for me to be able to take her out in her wheelchair around the grounds and go to the amphitheatre and over to the park opposite where we have struck up some friendships. We've also met other residents and staff from Strode Park which makes for a very social environment.

During our walks we used to see Sarah and Louise from the Fundraising team when they were out prepping for the outside events. After a few chats about fundraising the explained that they needed more volunteers to help out at the events so I agreed to volunteer at a garden party, ran one of the stalls and then volunteered to help with the music shows held in the amphitheatre. I have enjoyed being a part of the volunteer team.

Vikki's sister Sharon has returned to UK after working in China for 10 years and is currently staying with me. I asked if she would like to volunteer and she agreed. Also enjoying being part of the volunteer team and has made a few new friends as well.

Although life has changed dramatically for me and Vikki, her health has now stabilised and we get to live a life together and this is due to the great work done by all the people at Strode Park Foundation



Chris's Story

Chris had a stroke ten years ago and he tell us his story of using Strode Park Services .

I had a major stroke whilst at home in Whitstable, this has left me paralysed down my left side and consequently spending my life wheelchair bound.

Before my stroke I was the sales and marketing director for a software company which developed specialist accounting solutions for the Insurance sector, a job which was very rewarding.

Following reconstructive brain surgery in Kings College hospital, London to remove a blood clot from my brain I was transferred back to Canterbury where I eventually became what is referred to as a bed blocker. Whilst the options for my next steps were being discussed the name Strode Park cropped up, I had not been aware of Strode Park but one of the other patients on the ward said if I was offered a transfer to Strode Park I would be very lucky and they spoke very highly of its reputation fortunately I was offered a place. I accepted and then spent some three months in room 50 of the rehabilitation wing.

Whilst I was there my home had to be adapted for wheelchair access and downstairs living -it was during this process that my wife Rosie and I were very fortunate to be assisted by Belle who is an Occupational Therapist at Strode Park. Belle was able to guide us through the many tortuous and complicated processes to enable me to return home successfully.

Once I had returned home I was able to call on the services of Comcare the Strode Park domiciliary company, I was also lucky to be offered a place at the Strode Park day services a facility which I still use to this date. Whilst I am at the Day Service this allows my wife, Rosie to catch up with friends and family and also arrange any health care appointments she may require. The day care service allows me to maintain my inter-personal skills and I have the use of a computer which I use for various word games.

I am shortly due to have a brief respite stay at Strode Park which will allow Rosie to spend some time with our daughters and grandchildren.

I am a supporter of Strode Park and its brilliant ethos, the care I receive is exemplary.



Belinda's Story

Belinda has worked at Strode Park for more than 15 years. She has seen many changes and many people retire, now it's her turn to take up that mantle and move on to pastures new. Here, she reminisces with us before she is off on her new adventure....

Belinda started her career here at the Strode Park Foundation in 2008, she remembers her interview fondly. What she didn't know that she had already come across the Montgomery clan, previously Belinda had worked for the CSCI, now the CQC and worked in the same team as Paul Montgomery's wife, Sarah.

Belinda is well known in Strode Park, not just because of her length of service, very often she will be knitting in reception with Kath, (Kath is one of our longest serving residents in SPF) picking up the stitches to get Kath back on track with her scarf. For many seasons Belinda volunteered at Theatre in the Park, supporting the fundraising team wherever and however she could, even if that was standing in the pouring rain checking tickets. 2022 season saw her getting stuck in again, bottling up every Thursday ready for the weekend entertainment.

When asked why Belinda joined Strode Park, initially it was because she was a single mum and about to be made redundant – “I needed a job”. “I soon realised I loved it here, I've made some beautiful friendships along the way, I stay connected with many that have retired or moved away from the area. And I've been privileged to see and be part of some huge changes at Strode Park, the growth in where we care and who we care for has seen enormous change, it's been an honour to be part of that transformation and to play a small part in the success of Strode Park Foundation”.

One of the biggest transformations in Belinda's personal life has been her marriage to Paul Clayson, Facilities Manager for Strode Park, after being introduced over 10 years ago. Between them they have five children and one grandchild, Archie who is the apple of her eye, they love nothing more than a trip to Wild Wood. The other addition to the family is Mr Porter – their beloved Dachshund.

Belinda, now 62 has much to look forward to. After 15 years of dedication to Strode Park Foundation she will be closing her laptop for the very last time on the 15th December. Will she be sad to say goodbye for the final time? “Most definitely” she says but she is excited for the future. Being able to spend more time with Archie and enjoying long lazy lunches with friends and staying active with Mr Porter.

I asked her if hubby Paul, will still have to cook dinner when he gets home from work – she thinks for a moment – “of course” – apparently, he loves cooking!

On this momentous occasion, we wanted to take the opportunity to say a big Goodbye and a very happy retirement to Belinda.

The final goodbye comes from Paul Montgomery, “Having built a lasting rapport over the years, she will be sorely missed, I cannot thank her enough for her hard work, dedication and enormous help over the years, I shall also miss the laughter and fun”.

Happy Retirement Busy Bee.



Our Services

Strode Park House

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.

The Coach House

The Coach House offers respite and residential care for young adults with disabilities in Herne, Kent. The team at the Coach House offer support, advice, and care to ensure the young person is in a safe and secure environment whether that be long- or short-term basis.

Footprints

Footprints specialises in the care of young people with disabilities. The residential home is based in Canterbury offers a mix of privacy and togetherness. The support and care are tailored to the individual and their specific needs, we make life at Footprints stimulating and fun. By offering high quality residential care which is accessible, homely, and safe we can also give families the support they need.

Redwalls

Redwalls specialises in care for young adults with physical and mild learning disabilities based in Canterbury. The residential home delivers opportunities for engagement, or privacy either way it's a fun place to live and develop independent skills.

Platters Farm Lodge

Platters Farm Lodge offers short breaks, respite, rehabilitation, and long-stay facility for adults in Rainham, Gillingham. Individuals can live at Platters Farm Lodge on a long-term basis. The service also, as appropriate, provides people with dementia related care and support.

Lady Dane Farmhouse

Lady Dane Farmhouse is home to adults with mixed disabilities who need long or short-term care in Faversham. The residential home is a fun and nurturing environment and allows people to live as independently as possible. The home is vibrant, warm and inviting for the whole family

Day Opportunities

Adults aged over 18 with physical disabilities can come along and enjoy our day care opportunities and Sensory Enrichment programme both based on our site at Herne. The RISE Centre, our facility specially designed for adults with physical disabilities.

Home Care

Our home care and support services, ComCare, promotes individuals' independence and well-being and choice through quality care. At this time, we are providing ComCare to individuals living in Strode Park's supported living accommodation on our site in Herne only.



Fundraising and Volunteering

Through the highs and lows of Covid 19 the fundraising team have worked tirelessly to ensure donations from the local community, trust funders, our two retail outlets were as buoyant as possible. In 2021/22 there was a short Theatre in the Park season, and the events quickly sold out as people were allowed to mingle and enjoy themselves once more.

During 2021 **The Crown Charitable Trust** donated £3,000 this was for the Footprints sensory Garden.

In March 2022 we received £2,000 from the **Hospital Saturday Fund** for a specialist bath for Lady Dane Farmhouse.

The Forest of Blean Rotary Club kindly donated £250 during 2021

Christmas 2021 at Platters Farm Lodge was a fun and enjoyable success supported by **Medway Better Connected Community** who donated £1000 towards the event.

Herne Bay Rotary Club supported the Advent Book Fundraiser to the tune of £250 - book lovers could buy a book for the whole of advent - beautifully wrapped so each book was a surprise to the reader.

Cllr Alan Marsh yet again supported Strode Park Foundation with a generous donation of £1500

The Screwfix Foundation donated a whopping **£5,100** to help with redecoration of the doors throughout the home.

Kent Sport through their **Every Day Active** grant scheme have provided Lady Dane Farmhouse with two grants for physical exercise, £850 and £500 respectively. The projects have been a wonderful addition to the service.

Back in February 2022, a Crowdfunder was underway to realise resident, Ash's dream of watching Man Utd, at Old Trafford. With the extra support of **Herne Bay Football Club Blend Coffee Lounge and ISG** who all rallied to help raise a magnificent amount of £655 for Ash's dream. Ash lives at our service, Lady Dane Farmhouse.



A huge thank you to the **Copper Pottle** for raising in excess of **£22,000** for Strode Park Foundation. Raised over a number of years with a vast array of events. Thank you to everyone who supports this fantastic micro pub in Beltinge!

Thank you to **The Edward Venson 1957 Charity Settlement** who donated £2,000 to help fund the Lady Dane Farmhouse garden project.

The Mermaid Inn raised a fabulous **£402.37** from fundraising within the pub for Footprints, our residential home for children living with disabilities.

The Hoodeners raised **£1713** which helped to pay for a new hoist at the Coach House, the hoist is a wonderful addition, and a boost for residents and staff, thank you

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who have supported us with our fundraising, these include:

- The Copper Pottle
- Phil Ling
- All the businesses who host collection pots
- Facebook fundraisers
- Our local primary schools
- Canterbury College
- Boys & Maughan
- Canterbury City Council
- East Kent Widow's Sons Bikers Association
- Customers of the Butchers Arms
- Whitstable and Herne Bay Lions
- The Rotary Club of Herne Bay

We have a dedicated team of volunteers across the Foundation. A huge thank you to every single volunteer who has played a vital role in supporting Strode Park Foundation deliver outstanding care and support to all residents across all our services. Special mention for those volunteers who support, manage, maintain and open our two charity shops, Herne Bay and Tankerton.

We held a series of small events across 2021/22 ranging from Easter egg hunts to party nights at Kings Hall, Herne Bay at Christmas. As the year moved on and our supporters started to enjoy events once again, the events became more successful, subsequently raising over £25,000



Financial Accounts

Financial Activities	2022	2021
Income from:		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and legacies	121,628	112,938
Grants Receivable	319,043	843,384
Charitable activities		
Care services	11,242,584	10,643,782
Other trading income	200,132	105,482
Investment income	602	835
Other	79,805	31,505
Total income	£11,963,794	£11,373,926
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds		
Costs of raising funds	346,186	189,743
Charitable activities		
Care services	10,949,089	10,736,855
Total expenditure	£11,295,275	£10,926,598
Net income before gains/(losses)	668,519	(811,328)
Recognised gains/(losses)		
Remeasurement gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	170,028	(16,438)
Net movement in funds	838,547	794,890
Fund balances brought forward	5,112,847	4,317,957
Fund balances	£5,951,394	£5,112,847
	2022	2021
Net assets as at 31 March		
Fixed assets	5,511,668	5,600,490
Current assets	3,214,562	2,634,976
Creditors: Due within one year	1,127,465	(1,191,634)
Creditors: Due after more than one year	935,040	(1,048,626)
Defined Benefit Pension Liability	(712,331)	(882,359)
Total	£5,951,394	£5,112,847

for year ending March 2022

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 29 September 2021. 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

Nick Wells
Chairman



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 2021 are consistent with the full annual accounts.

Azets Audit Services

Ashford Commercial Quarter
1 Dover Place
Ashford
Kent
TN23 1FB



Principal Officers

Council of Management

Chairman

Mr N Wells

Vice Chairman

Mr R Cordell (resigned 24/11/21)

Mrs P Unwin

Treasurer

Mrs D Allaway FCCA

Members

Mr R Clark

Mrs J Clifford

Mr S Gadhia

Dr P Garrod

Mrs V McCarthy (resigned 24/11/21)

Mr N Swift

Mrs P Unwin

Mr C Spooner

Patrons

Terry Waite CBE

Amanda Cottrell OBE

Vice Presidents

Mrs P Shephard MBE

Mr Brian Dale FCIPD

Advisors

Auditors

Azets 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



Mr P Montgomery
BSc MA MBA MSc (Psych)

Chief Executive and
Company Secretary



Mrs B Clayson
PA to Chief Executive



Mrs R Richards
MA

Level 5 Diploma
Director of Care
(Social and Homecare) &
Deputy Chief Executive



Mr J Cotterill
RGN DMS
Director of Care
(Therapy and Nursing)



Mrs K Bardsley
MCIPD BA Hons
PgDip

Director of
Human Resources



Mr D John
FCCA
Director of Finance



Mrs L Wright
MCIOF (Dip)

Interim Director of
Fundraising and
Communications



Miss K Jeal
Diploma in Fundraising
FdA Journalism

Director of Fundraising and
Communications

Strode Park Foundation for People with Disabilities is a Company Limited by Guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is licensed by the Department of Trade and Industry to dispense with the description "Limited". Registered in England Number 407697. Strode Park Foundation for People with Disabilities is a Registered Charity under the Charities Act 2011.

Registered Charity Number 227794.



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