

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date                      Period end date  
 From 23 03 2016                      To 07 11 2016

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address   
  
  
 Postcode

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rowena Baines	Chair		
2	Lydia Garland	Secretary		
3	Tracey Ann Wright	Treasurer		
4	Vaughn Medhurst		June 2016 to present	The trustees
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

## Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

## Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>What type of governing document does the charity have?</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>How is the charity constituted?</small>	Foundation
Trustee selection methods <small>How are trustees selected?</small>	Appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the relief of need for the homeless or vulnerably housed by providing advice, advocacy and support.

Vulnerably housed is taken to include those who struggle to afford their accommodation and so are at risk of falling into rent arrears, those who struggle to manage their tenancy without support, those who live in properties where the physical condition significantly effects the wellbeing of the occupants, those who experience, or are at risk of experiencing abuse or harassment in their home and those where the landlord has not followed due procedures whilst renting out the property. These factors in

turn place the occupants at risk of homelessness or living in unacceptable conditions.

JustUs provides support and advocacy to the adult population of Bedford Borough who are socially excluded. This includes adults with dependent children who will indirectly benefit.

We include within our understanding of socially excluded those people who are living with mental health issues, people with substance misuse problems, people who are homeless or face the threat of homelessness, people who do not enjoy a basic standard of housing, people with learning difficulties, people fleeing violence (domestic or otherwise) and people facing prejudice or discrimination.

Support and advocacy includes anything that helps socially excluded people receive fair and ethical treatment from those that are duty-bound to provide it.

Because of the nature and enormity of social exclusion, we have initially focussed our efforts on homeless people, or those facing the threat of homelessness, and our priorities lie with securing accommodation and getting the wrap-around support that should go with that accommodation for such people. We recognise that homeless people are one of the most marginalised people groups in society and also recognise that the issues that go alongside homelessness often include the other issues mentioned in our objects. Many homeless people are failing to get the legal duty of assistance that is owed to them from Local Authority and other housing providers and are being overlooked when it comes to housing them in independent living accommodation. These individuals are poorly represented and may lack the knowledge around housing law to effectively argue their own case. JustUs challenges the Local Authority and other housing providers to ensure that these individuals are treated according to the law.

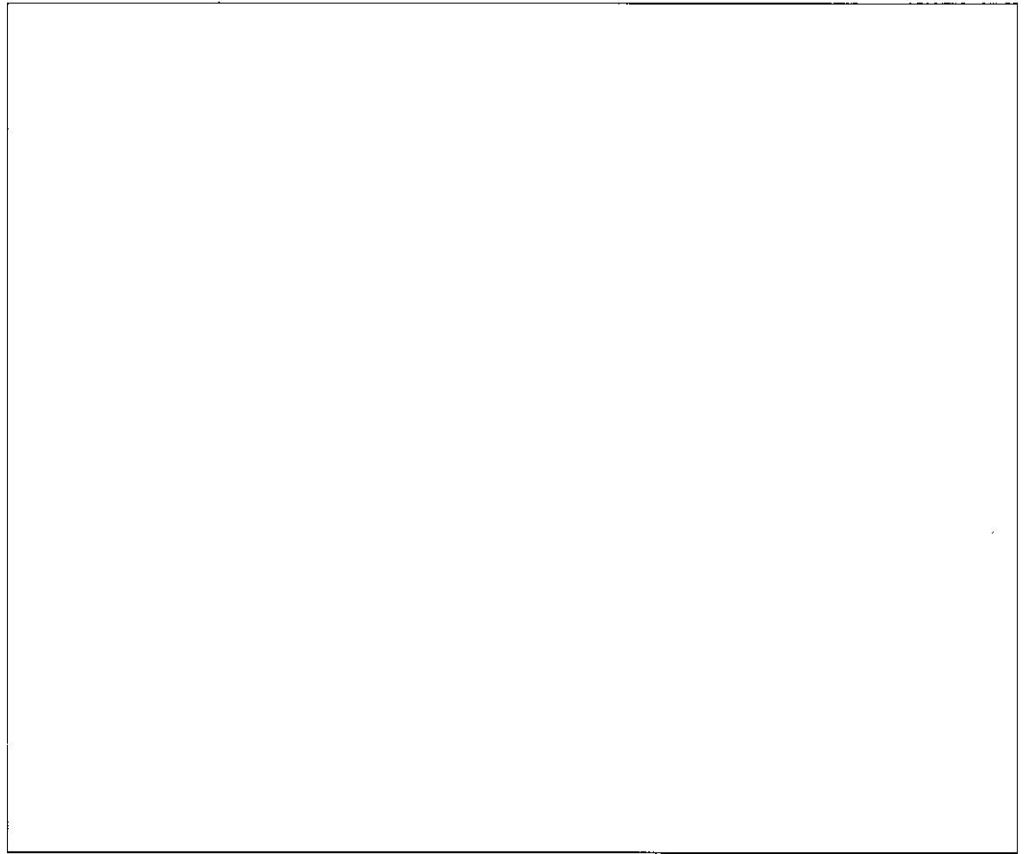
The trustees are aware of, and have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

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**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

JustUs supported 15 homeless individuals between 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016. 8 of the individuals were single people and 7 were from 2 families (a family of 4 and a family of 3).

14 were supported into new accommodation and 1 was supported to successfully challenge eviction proceedings. All but 2 of the 14 people were supported into accommodation from the first day of contact with Justus. The remaining 2 were accommodated within 2 weeks. 12 were discharged from JustUs into independent accommodation, with 2 into hostel accommodation.

In several cases JustUs worked with clients to obtain vital furniture items for their accommodation and provided equipment to clean the accommodation when they first moved in.

During this time JustUs refined its referral and assessment processes and created a Facebook page to use to communicate its work to the public.

JustUs also liaised with the local MP, Mr Richard Fuller to communicate concerns about the way in which homeless people fleeing domestic abuse were failed by Councils.

JustUs also hosted a successful fundraising quiz night with raffle that was attended by around 80 people. Prizes were donated from members of the public and the event raised a significant amount of money.

## Section E

## Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At present JustUs does not have a policy on reserves

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F


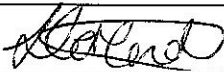
## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	ROWENA BAINES	LYDIA GARLAND
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	SECRETARY
Date	12.4.17.	