



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date: 08 11 2018
 Period end date: 07 11 2019
From **To**

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name JustUs

Other names charity is known by None

Registered charity number (if any) 1166198

Charity's principal address 66 Lincroft

Oakley

Bedford

Postcode

MK43 7SS

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	Lydia Garland			
2	Tracey Ann Wright			
3	Araba Taylor			
4	Jayne Macpherson			
5	Adam Clark			
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Foundation
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</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.

--

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.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing additional details or statements as mentioned in the text to the left. The box is currently blank.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

JustUs secured an offer of safe, secure accommodation for 49 individuals from 25 households between 8th November 2018 and 7th November 2019. 1 more individual was supported into a hostel and 10 more obtained accommodation following an intervention from JustUs. JustUs received referrals from more than 15 different statutory and voluntary agencies, as well as self-referrals through our website and Facebook page.

JustUs expanded its fundraising activities and delivered 6 Homelessness Law training days to delegates working with homeless people in some capacity. The funding generated from the training covers all our administrative costs and means that every penny of our other funding goes directly to the work of getting people housed.

JustUs also developed more video training clips on YouTube as a resource for other professionals and members of the public to learn more about homelessness law and to raise awareness of the assistance that is available to people when they're homeless. At present, they are the first search result for 'homelessness law' on YouTube. JustUs continues to run the 'Better Homelessness Practice' group on Facebook for disseminating information and responding to hypothetical questions raised by group members from dozens of other organisations.

JustUs continued its work with local politicians to raise concerns about the service people receive from the Council when they become homeless. In this year 4 local councillors have attended the training along with other influential figures in the sector including the manager of the Local Adult Safeguarding Board. JustUs also inputted into the series of stories on homelessness that the Bureau of Investigative Journalism published in the Autumn of 2019.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At a meeting of the Trustees held on 31st January 2018 Trustees considered what level of funding the charity should hold in reserve. It was agreed that JustUs would hold 1 month's core costs and 6 month's operational costs in reserve up until the review date of January 2019. Based upon current levels of expenditure (1 month's core costs of £120 and 6 month's operational costs of £2,180) £2,300 would be held in reserve. The Trustees acknowledge the seemingly large difference between core costs and operational costs held in reserve. The reason for this is that JustUs is best able to fulfil its Charitable Objectives by placing an emphasis on its operational costs rather than its core costs i.e. JustUs would still be able to maintain its level of support to its beneficiaries with a limited amount of core cost capital but would struggle to do so with depleted operational capital. The Trustees will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds in reserve and how this funding will be used to benefit its beneficiaries. This policy will be reviewed, and reserve capital adjusted annually. As of 7th November 2019 this policy has yet to be reviewed and the reserve capital adjusted.

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)	TRACEY WRIGHT	JAYNE MACPHERSON
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TRUSTEE
Date	15/01/2020	