

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES
AND
THE POLICE CHILDREN'S CHARITY**

**HELD AT THE ST ANDREWS, HARROGATE
ON TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2024**

PRESENT

President	Baroness Angela Harris of Richmond DL
Chairman of the Board of Trustees	Mr Liam Kelly
Treasurer	Mr Craig Grandison
Chief Executive	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:

British Transport	(PTC and TPCC)
Civil Nuclear	(PTC & TPCC)
Greater Manchester	(PTC & TPCC)
Humberside	(PTC & TPCC)
Isle of Man	(PTC & TPCC)
Northamptonshire	(PTC)
North Wales	(PTC & TPCC)
Staffordshire	(PTC & TPCC)
West Midlands	(PTC)

Apologies for non-attendance had been received from the following Trustees

Warren Franklin	Rob Hay	Brian Jones
Mark Marshallsay	Richie Murray	Lauren Poultney
John Robins	Allen Shaw	

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

Steve Hartshorn, PFEW
Peter Sweeney, Blue Lamp Foundation
Sophia Majaya, Flint House Police Rehabilitation
Sherral Keywood, Police Children's Fund
Jim Gray, National Police Care Scheme
Bryn Hughes, Fundraiser

and 23 representatives from constituent forces.

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THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES AND THE POLICE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

JOINT MEETING

Mr Liam Kelly, Chair of the Board of Trustees addressed those present, explaining that he was delighted to be at the AGM and welcomed all attendees to the Annual General Meeting. In particular he welcomed the Charities President, Baroness Angela Harris of Richmond, DL who gave a short welcome to all attendees and thanked the Trustees and staff for their work.

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.

3. **THE POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES**

3.1 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2023**

The minutes had been circulated to all members, displayed on the Charity's website and were taken as read. The minutes were proposed by J Skelton, Nottinghamshire and seconded by T Purcell, Police Service of Northern Ireland 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 **OPENING REMARKS**

by Liam Kelly, Chair, Board of Trustees

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Police Treatment Centres, L Kelly welcomed all attendees to the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

3.4 **AUDITORS REPORT**

Presented by Peter Hart, TC Group

P Hart, TC Group reported on income and expenditure which showed that income in 2023 was £6,809,000 and expenditure of (£6,64,000).

P Hart concluded his report by confirming that the accounts showed a true and fair view of the Charity, having used the following tests to come to this conclusion:

- Asset inspections
- Testing of transactions
- Review of control environment

Overall, an unqualified positive audit report..

There were no questions.

3.5 TREASURER'S REPORT **Presented by Craig Grandison, Treasurer**

Craig Grandison, Treasurer, prior to delivering his report, commented that this was his first AGM as Treasurer and he looked forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure the Charity remained in a healthy position and, where possible, moves forward in the support of its beneficiaries. He asked that any questions be saved until the end of his presentation.

We believe that over the last few years the Charity has put in place plans and policies which have produced strong financial results, which you will hear more about today. Therefore, the focus of today's message is outcomes together with future plans.

Earlier the auditors gave a breakdown of the 2023 out turn. I would now like to provide a little more detail of what happened in 2023.

2023 was another challenging year financially for every organisation in the UK. Like everyone else the Charity had to deal with the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East together with the cost-of-living crisis. All of these have put additional pressures on the 2023 budget with inflation remaining high for the majority of the financial year. This has put extreme pressure on our utilities, food and employee costs amongst others. While inflation decreased towards the end of 2023 and into 2024, we are not seeing the cost of goods reduce although hopefully they have stabilised and I think that is reflected in our everyday bills. While high interest rates have generally had a negative impact on the Charity it has provided some positive news with the charity being able to generate additional funds through treasury management.

Despite this the Charity has been able to post a surplus of £145,315 in 2023. This performance was possible due to some restricted grants we received during the year which have now been spent together with an unused contingency budget. Once these are removed the Charity has an underlying deficit of £149,433.

The Charity, over the last ten years, has worked hard to ensure its financial position is strong and that it can continue to deliver the same level of excellent treatment and in some areas increase the support available, and I want to confirm to you that this is the case. However, going forward we have got some challenging times ahead and difficult decisions to make.

2023 was a turbulent year with the wars in Europe and the Middle East and the level of inflation. Despite this our investments increased in value by more than £200,000. We anticipate further volatility in the coming months and possibly longer as both wars continue.

Support from retired officers continued to grow and yet again has contributed to the operation of the Charity. I wanted to provide an update on the breakdown of these donations.

In 2023 the Charity generated just over £600,000 from the donations of retired officers which is an increase on the previous year. The income generated from retired officers continues to offset the current reduction in serving officers.

Included in this amount was a generous donation of £50,000 by the RUCGC PSNI Benevolent Fund in support of all of its retired officers.

To give you an update of the success, we have profiled the donations made by the 9,812 donating retired officers at the end of 2023.

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This number continues to increase on a daily basis and we are grateful for their support to the Charity (this excludes retired officers from Northern Ireland who benefit from the donation made by the RUCGC PSNI Benevolent Fund).

In January 2023 the Charity increased the minimum donation rate for retired officers to £4.50 per month. We are grateful to the retired officers who donate and even with the increase you can see that 25% still pay more than the requested minimum.

PTC 1898 Limited

A major part of the Charity's success in generating income is through its trading activities. 2023 was a positive year despite the financial pressures with the trading arm generating a profit of £146,000. This was an increase of £13,000 on the previous year which is positive.

Income comes from two key areas:

Firstly, Bed and Breakfast. 2023 continued to be extremely popular with our annual targets being surpassed. During 2023 we moved our B&B to an automated process by which a booking and payment can be completed online. Please don't forget that B&B is available to all of the police family and you can have a weekend here cheaper than Harrogate Travelodge!

Secondly facility hire. This has two strands, the first being our pools.

We have been able to renegotiate our contracts with local swim schools which has resulted in increased hours together with an increased higher rate which has generated additional income.

The second strand of facility hire is the conferencing facilities, we have seen a significant increase in bookings in the last 18 months including repeat bookings from Federations, Force recreation groups, NHS and the National Childbirth Trust. I think you can see that we have excellent conference facilities here in Harrogate and also in Scotland. In 2023 we began to see the benefits of our marketing campaign through new and return bookings. We are careful to ensure income generation through trading does not impact on our core business of providing care for patients.

All profits generated by the trading arm are gift aided back to the Charity in a tax efficient manner and used for patient care.

As a method of financial prudence, the Charity presents to the Trustees a medium-term financial forecast as part of the budget process.

There is no hiding from the fact that inflation has had a significant impact on the Charity which will be felt for years to come. We have seen items such as wages, fuel, utilities and catering increase significantly. Hopefully we have seen the peak in terms of inflation but, we don't see the cost of these items dropping back to previous prices.

In 2016 when we increased the donation rate for the 1st time in 5 years, we said that this provided us with financial security through to 2020, subject to any unforeseen events affecting the Charity. As you know we have retained the rate during 2024 and will again review it as part of the 2025 budget. Although we currently don't anticipate the rate increasing next year, it may be necessary to increase it in 2026.

Since 2016 the Charity has used the 50p per week that we increased the donation rate by and invested back into the Charity in the following areas to ensure we can provide improved and more targeted support. Examples of this include.

1. Structured wellbeing programme for mild to moderate stress and anxiety.
2. A new £5 million wing to double the capacity for wellbeing at Harrogate.
3. A Wellbeing course for Retired Officers.

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4. Women's Health programme.
5. On line physio for those patients who are unable to attend the PTC.
6. Meeting the financial demands of inflation.
7. Maintaining both buildings to the highest of standards.
8. Additional benefits such as a job related fitness test and an expanded Women's Health Programme which will be delivered in 2024.

I think you will agree it is truly remarkable that the 50p increase eight years ago has allowed us to incorporate all the above benefits. I think we are one of the few organisations that have delivered so much and has not increased the donation rate.

If nothing was to change you can see the scale of the deficit facing the Charity.

As you can see from our medium-term financial strategy we are now moving to a period where we are operating with a deficit budget. The previous financial decisions have allowed us to build up a reserve equal to one year's running costs and we will use some of this over the next year while we look at a range of measures to bridge the gap. While we can't operate with a negative budget forever, we are mindful of the financial situation our donors find themselves in and the continued support they have provided during what has been very difficult times for them as well.

The PTC Lottery continues to generate a steady income for the Charity and provides members with the chance of winning a £1,000 top prize each month and £2,000 during the two superdraw months.

Hospitality, including the sale of bed and breakfast weekends and cottage hire, increased by 6% in 2023. We continue to welcome guests from the police and all blue light families. In 2023, we also increased our income from the hire of our conference facilities.

Our Fundraising Heroes, including those who took on our Big Step Challenge, raised an amazing amount which was a huge increase of 228% on 2022.

Social Committees at both our Centres not only provide a source of fundraising income but also allow patients to get together socially during the evening. In 2023, the income generated increased by 34% on the previous year.

As mentioned earlier the Trustees have made a number of decisions to protect the long-term financial stability of the Charity. At the Board Meeting in October 2023 the Trustees decided to set a deficit budget of £508,450 for 2024. Over the years, we have spoken about our financial prudence which, has allowed us to set aside reserves of over one year's running costs. The Trustees agreed that any deficit in 2024 will be met by the reserves of the Charity. This should avoid any increase in the donation rate at a time when the majority of families are struggling financially. However, using the reserves to prop up a deficit budget is not a long term solution.

The majority of 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 the depreciation.

81% of our employee costs relate to the provision of front-line services. Only 19% relate to the management, finance, and Charity engagement functions.

The last 12 months have been challenging with the two wars and high inflation, however the decisions we have taken in previous years have left us in a stronger position and

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thanks to the hard work of trustees and staff. In conclusion, this slide demonstrates the initiatives, strategies and policies, which over the last five years, we have developed and incorporated, into our Business Plan which have been necessary to ensure the most effective and efficient running of both treatment centres in this financial environment.

We have introduced policies to enable the Charity to achieve efficiencies, which have been invested back into front line services, while at the same time maintaining the level of expenditure in the Charity.

The increase in the donation rate in 2016, the first one since 2011 has provided us with a strong financial platform and a Medium-Term Financial Strategy, which has enabled us to invest more in the health and wellbeing of our patients and your members and colleagues, which is at the forefront of what this Charity is about.

We have executed our plans to develop our facilities, to best support our patient's treatment.

We have an asset management plan for the next ten years, which has been costed; together with a means for financing it.

We have an Estates Strategy which includes the depreciation of our buildings to ensure that funds are in place for the future.

Our income generation is continually being developed, looking at all potential opportunities to support the Charity. This is now supported by the addition of our trading arm which provides greater opportunities to generate additional income which will be invested back into the Charity.

We believe the hard work over the last five years, by the staff and Trustees, together with the continued support of officers, puts the Charity in a strong and positive position going forward. However, the time will come when we will have to increase the donation rate.

This is as always, 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.

Following the Treasurer's presentation, D Blundell, Police Care UK, asked where the increases in costs had occurred. C Grandison responded that it was mainly in building materials, catering and utilities, particularly heating for the swimming pools at both Centres.

3.6 Update on New Treatment Plans at the Police Treatment Centres Presented by Sarah Ward, Head of Clinical Services

Sarah Ward, Head of Clinical Services, opened her report by introducing herself and Clare Gascoyne, Joint Head Physiotherapist at Harrogate.

S Ward then highlighted the key aspects of the Clinical Services in 2023:

Successes

- Improved accessibility for treatment (reviewed and updated application form, GP Summary accepted as clinical referral for Physiotherapy and split weeks to improve flexibility of stay for Physiotherapy patients).
- Increased Occupancy (compared with recent years, nearly at pre – Covid levels).
- Women's Health Online Service (to be presented by Clare Gascoyne).

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- Wellbeing Breaks (significant increase in interest from Forces which provides essential light touch support for all officers (including non donors) and a substantial revenue stream for the Charity).
- Collaboration with Flint House (and other intensive residential rehabilitation providers to share and improve knowledge).
- Collaboration with Police Care UK to host the ITS (Complex Trauma PTSD).
- Occupational Health Networking Day being held in October 2023 (to improve working relationships with essential external stakeholders to ensure smooth referral processes and awareness of when our rehabilitation is best placed for our donating officers. We are intending to host at least two more this year, the first in June 2024 is fully booked)
- Conference Presentations at BAWP West Yorkshire and OK9 (to name a couple, highlighting the great work of the Charity).

Reflections

- Increasing demand for all services, and increasingly unwell patients applying for the Psychological Wellbeing Programme (PWP). This has been noticed nationwide and with external stakeholders too. It appears the landscape is changing due to a significant number of years being under resourced at both staffing levels and at occupational health levels, amidst a pandemic and an overburdened NHS.
- Lower attendance on the Retired Officer Wellbeing Programme than expected
- Increasing demand for Wellbeing Breaks (as forces recognise the importance of an early intervention and light touch for their officers and staff's wellbeing).
- Thrive (the app is the only NHS backed wellbeing app available and has excellent quality resources and inbuilt safeguarding. It is perhaps an undervalued and utilized police specific resource, especially as it can provide talking therapies and essential help for conditions like PTSD). In 2023 over 300 PTC patients accessed help via Thrive, 49.1% of those screened positively for moderate/severe levels of anxiety and depression. Of that cohort over three quarters of them engaged fully with talking therapies and made significant improvements in recovery. A limitation to this intervention is cost, as in an ideal world all officers would have access routinely to the app in addition to people preferring face to face therapy instead of via a screen/app.

C Gascoyne then gave a presentation on the Women's Health Service which had been launched at the end of last summer and which had proved to be very successful so far.

Since launch eight months ago we have been able to support over 60 women online. These women have all been officers who either did not require an in-patient stay or for many of them they were not able to attend the Police Treatment Centres for a one or two week stay, often due to home and family commitments, and therefore this provision has allowed them to easily access a health professional to get some support and advice.

The programme is run by myself, a physiotherapist and Juliet who is our fitness supervisor and nutrition coach based here in Harrogate. We are both specifically trained in this field and have a special interest in women's health and are able to support women with difficulties related to menopause, pelvic floor, pre and post-natal or post gynaecological surgery, and other women's health related conditions.

When we first launched, 90% of applicants required menopause related support, over the last few months we have received an increase in applications for support with other women's health related problems, balancing the figures out to around 70% menopause and 30% other women's health conditions.

From the many 1-1 menopause related consultations we carried out within the first few months we gained a good insight into what support was required and in response to the huge demand for menopause support we developed and launched our group online

menopause support programme which has enabled us to support more women, whilst avoiding a lengthy waiting list.

Menopause Online Support Programme

This online group programme is delivered by myself and Juliet and runs over eight weeks and includes four evidence based interactive webinars.

We aim to increase women's understanding of the menopause and the effects that fluctuating and ultimately declining hormones have on the body and mind, As well as educating and supporting them to manage this change and associated symptoms through a healthy lifestyle to maintain good health into later life.

Over the four sessions we cover the hormones involved and why so many different symptoms can occur as these decline, the long term effects of declining hormones on our health and how this can be managed. We give an overview of hormone replacement therapy, discuss urogenital symptoms and focus on the four pillars of health, which are: nutrition, movement and exercise, sleep and mental & emotional wellbeing.

We include a couple of practical sessions including pelvic floor muscle training and relaxation breathwork techniques. Women can openly chat within the sessions and interact with us and each other.

We set small tasks in between sessions and give them access to many resources to support them, as well as signposting to further support.

Auditing Feedback and Reviewing the Service

Feedback from patients who have accessed our online service has been incredibly positive.

All clinicians across both centres aim to ensure that they give adequate time to patients, as we are aware of the importance of listening and fully understanding how a condition or symptoms may be impacting a person. We are pleased to hear that 100% of our online patients that have accessed this new service in the last eight months, whether that be a 1-1 consultation or through the menopause group programme have felt listened to and gained new knowledge, with clear explanations and advice given.

We have run two menopause programmes and the third has just begun. From the first two programmes, every person said that the menopause group had met their expectations and they would recommend to colleagues.

Feedback

A snapshot of some of the feedback received is shown below. It is incredibly important that we gain feedback in order to continually ensure we are providing the right level of support. A lot of the women accessing this service are disclosing sensitive and personal information, so ensuring we provide a safe confidential environment with the time available to listen and support is incredibly important.

Absolutely brilliant. Would most definitely recommend to EVERYONE (male and female!!) for information, support and platform for discussion THANK YOU

Thank you - very useful and I am grateful to have had a chance to learn from this course.

Seems less overwhelming now. Feel I have more knowledge about what's happening to me and why than before. Still mad but at least know why! Have decided to book a private consultation today after the last session so that I can get the medical assistance I need and start being me again. Clare and Jules have been brilliant. Very approachable, knowledgeable and on our side, they want to help. Thank you.

Women's Health Pathway Future Focus

We will continue to collate data and feedback from all patients who access this new service which will allow us to audit and review the effectiveness of this service and the menopause groups over the first 12 months.

Alongside the Nursing team, we will also review the menopause talk which runs at both of our centres for our residential patients, ensuring we are always providing current evidence based information sessions.

We then plan to work towards the development and implementation of a women's health residential service for women which may require an assessment and hands on treatment with a pelvic health physiotherapist, with the aim to launch this in 2025.

As this is still a relatively new service we will be ensuring we continue to promote the online support available to women, making Forces, including Occupational Health and Wellbeing Departments aware of the service. Whilst also promoting the ease of accessibility via self referral using our application form for online support.

Since we launched, we have received enquiries from Forces asking about the provision of menopause education and support to Force groups, for males as well as females, and Line Managers.

Our initial aim is to consolidate our online service first and develop the service for residential patients, however this is something that we may be able to consider within our future strategy,... BUT of course this would need resourcing financially.

S Ward then updated the meeting on further activities within Clinical Services:

From December 2023 Police staff could donate to the Charity and are eligible for treatment from 1 July 2024. This is an important step towards being full inclusive for the whole Police Family. A bespoke Psychological Wellbeing Programme has been created for 'back office roles' like HR or Admin. This bespoke programme is being run at both centres on specific dates similar to the Retired Officers Wellbeing Programme. The PTC will be monitoring all applications and feedback to respond accordingly due to the recent inclusion of this group and future themes which may become apparent.

Future Focus for PTC Clinical Services

- Launch of Job Related Fitness Test (JRFT). Online Support (June 2024). Expert guidance for those officers that have failed their JRFT within the last six months.
- Continued development and hopeful expansion of the Women's Health Service.
- Digital Transformation – including online applications, digital medical records and a new website. This is a significant project at significant costs and with significant time needed to make this a success but will ultimately enable a smoother and more efficient service with live data insights of our donors and their needs.
- More Occupational Health Networking Days and other ways to collaborate with external stakeholders.
- Continued collaboration with Flint House and others within the policing rehabilitation landscape (hopefully including the potential of some shared research of our interventions in 2025/26 – to represent policing on a national level, as well as sharing expertise, experience and knowledge).

3.7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT Presented by Patrick Cairns, Chief Executive

Well good morning, everyone. Those of you who have been to previous AGMs know the format I have typically used in the past is a resume of the last year, a comment on where we are at the moment and then a look to the future and what next. I intend to follow the same structure again this year, which has at least a sense of some familiarity for you and me and will help the flow.

Let us start with the more important matter of residential patient numbers we treated at both centres in 2023 which were:

- 3,310 patients
- 488 of which were retired officers
- 320 were treated through Wellbeing events

To give you some sense of perspective in 2019 which was our last full year pre Covid, we treated:

- 3,777 patients in total:
- which included 359 retirees.

Although the 2023 number are down from 2019, they are up significantly from 2022 when we treated 2,868 patients overall, so without blinding you with too many statistics, patient numbers have grown 15 % in 2023 in comparison with 2022.

So, what conclusions can we draw from this, I think first and foremost we are operating at a strong but manageable occupancy level considering there is much change going on at the PTC at the moment. We are creeping back up to that 2019 level, but the jury is still out as to whether we will reach those numbers again, and if we do, I anticipate another two years of growth will be required. Secondly retired officers are a growing percentage of our overall numbers who attend the PTC.

When I first arrived in 2014 retired officers were about 8-9% of our overall total of patients treated and we are now almost at 15% and I will return to that a little bit later. It is also worthy of note that we will open up next month to treat Police Staff members who donate and although we are preparing for that and indeed, we are ready, we still do not know the scale of what that will mean in terms of donors, applications and admissions, and that again is something that I return to later on in my report.

Finally, we are pushing and expanding the number of wellbeing event patients being treated each year at the PTC at both Centres, and this is to be applauded. It is a fantastic way to deliver short but high impact treatment services to groups and specialist teams and others over weekends or short periods, which can make a real difference to their treatment and wellbeing, and this is something we continue to look at expanding and developing in the future.

We do have lots of enquiries for wellbeing stays and many of those are now translating into activity and it is looking like this will become an increasingly part of our core treatment programmes.

The absolute key to financial success at the PTC as I mention every year is donor numbers, and it does not matter how innovative and class leading we think we are in terms of our treatment programmes, or how we might think that we can rise above any discussion points for wider eligibility or inclusivity for the PTC within policing, to do any of the things we do superbly well, we must be able to make the funding lines and income

generation work for the Charity and maintain high sign up rates of individual donors which typically provides 90 plus % of the PTC income in any year.

At the end of 2023 we had 45,923 serving officer donors to the PTC and 9,598 retired officers which is the highest overall number of donors that we have had in the last ten years. In truth I do pride myself on living in the real world and I worried that overall donor numbers would slide for the PTC in 2023, but we have bucked the trend and our Charity Engagement team and others have worked hard to keep donors numbers high, and we are grateful to various partners including Jim Gray, the new CEO of the National Police Health Care Scheme, which directly supports the PTC and all our beneficiaries and who we work with closely in a mutually supportive partnership in helping us in this respect, and of course for our retired officers who have signed up in significant numbers. Jim is not with us today, using the rather weak excuse of having to go on holiday or something, but I know some of his colleagues involved in the National Police Health Care scheme are here, in the audience, so do please pass on our thanks to him and of course yourself for your work in that respect.

The donor numbers of serving officers are down quite significantly from where they were in 2011 when they reached 52,244 donors and there is no question that younger officers who may not plan on serving a full career or even second career officers are less likely to sign up than previous generations for a variety of reasons, and it is also much more difficult for us at the PTC to reach out to these new joiners directly and encourage them to sign up to the PTC.

I think one of the most compelling lines that we have in our sign up literature is that the first year is free, but you can still come for treatment in that period, and we always hope at the end of that period, individuals will have spoken to their more experienced colleagues and been persuaded to keep on donating.

Only 6% of our donors do attend for treatment in any one year, and I am confident that all of those will be lifelong donors, but by way of another plea from me, is that I would ask all Association and Federation colleagues who are here today, to remind all Line Managers to facilitate and support the attendance of their colleagues at the PTC when they apply for treatment. We know it is tough to lose people even for short periods of time from small teams, but it really does help those individuals when they need it, and helps to support the overall team structure and performance when they get better, fitter more motivated members of the team back into the group after a stay at the PTC.

It probably will not be a surprise to anyone to hear that if a Line Manager has attended the PTC for treatment then he or she will be much more likely to encourage and support the attendance of members of their team at the Centres, but I also do not want anyone to be under any illusions that the PTC is most definitely a place of work, serving officers attend on duty time, and individuals do work very hard whilst they are here to get fit and back to work, so coming to either of our centres is work.

Finances are the life blood of every charity, you neglect them at your peril and there is literally never a day I do not think about the financial health of the PTC, where the money is coming from and without having at least one conversation each day about money with Peter Moore my CFO. We are fortunate in some respects in comparison with some other charities about how our funding model works with the vast majority of money about 90% coming from serving and retired officer donations, but less fortunate in other ways in that it is challenging for us to source external donors beyond policing in the way that military charities or other charities are able to do so for example, and it is extremely difficult for us to close this 10% income gap from donors beyond the policing landscape, but as you have already heard, we do work hard in a number of other ways including hospitality, swimming

pool rental and pretty much every other way that we can think of to use the PTC real estate and facilities as long as it does not compromise patient treatment and care.

Notwithstanding the daily challenges of regular negotiations with utility companies, food suppliers, maintenance schedules, refurbishment and routine repair and improvement schedules, I can assure the meeting today and all our donors, that we are currently in a positive financial position, but this is the time to build on this financial security, and continue to monitor and consolidate our finances to ensure that we, as a Charity, can continue to provide that vital treatment and support to all of our police patients for many years hence and that is very much the approach and philosophy that we have.

As an aside I attended a charity investment seminar in Leeds in April with a number of other charity CEOs where they were discussing the donations that they had refused from various organisations for ethical reasons. When we went round the room asking individual CEOs whether they would take grants and donations from various organisations I was the only one who said “Yes I would take that grant” for every single example that was used by the facilitators. To give some sense of perspective for those of you in the audience judging me and perhaps thinking that I would take money from literally anyone, I can formally confirm that I was not suggesting taking grants from Russian Oligarchs or Arms Manufacturer’s but one of the examples from that seminar was “Pukka Pies” who had tried to make a £20,000 donation to one of the charities turned down which sounded a bit bizarre to me, and I did ask for the Pukka Pies Grants and Gifts Manager’s email so I could send them a message to take that grant.

I continue to be hugely grateful to many of our Forces who make large and enduring grants to the PTC to support our work which does not just benefit their Officers but benefits all our police patients who attend, but equally I get incredibly frustrated that there are also some Forces out there who give very little and for some nothing at all each year, and without being too rude, I simply do not understand the mindset of a Chief Constable whereby he or she refuses to support our work with a financial donation, and by extension is saying that they do not value their people. You will see from our Impact reports on your Chairs that we spend 90% of our income generated on patient care and we take that very seriously, so any grants we do get from Forces, genuinely do get spent at the cutting edge of what we do for our police family patients.

These grants and donations form part of a vital income stream for the PTC. There are other sources of income that come in including from the lottery, B&B, Patient Social Committee which you have already heard about, but we are also very grateful to individual Federations who might have chosen us as their charity beneficiary for a dinner, conference or awards ceremony for example which also really helps us. I would encourage those of you who are looking for suitable beneficiary organisations, to think of the PTC as your worthy cause, and helping us each year, really helps us to then help you as you can see from the example in the slide of with Richie Murray from Cleveland making a donation from Cleveland Federation Bravery Awards to Craig Grandison our Treasurer from some fundraising on the dinner night.

You have already heard from the Treasurer’s Report that we did end 2023 with a modest budget deficit, but it did not settle at that level by accident, but it was through a tremendous amount of hard work to get it down from the originally quite large predicted deficit in year to a much smaller level by our team at the Centres, the Trustees, our CFO Peter Moore, our outgoing Treasurer Pete Henson who deserves much recognition for his hard work over many years, and our new Treasurer Craig Grandison who you have already heard from. We had many financial pressures last year including rising utility prices and actually rising everything prices, but we managed to run both Centres to a very high standard for the whole of the year and kept tight control on expenditure without compromising patient care.

Approved by: _____ Chairman BoT Mr Liam Kelly Date _____

I am, as you will all know, a strong advocate of when an individual comes to the centre they should expect and get superb treatment in our outstanding facilities rather than making excuses and promising that we have a plan for how we will have improved our facilities for their next stay with us.

I think we have struck the correct balance between this spend on things that we need to spend it on now, having reserves for the future in case a wheel falls off the PTC waggon, but ensuring we do not accumulate excessive reserves for no real reason, and by in large, I think we have achieved this balance effectively.

Whilst keeping an eye on income and expenditure, we must also look after our employees as well. The single most important and repeated item in our weekly patient feedback is the kindness, professionalism and good humour of our PTC staff at both centres, and it is important we recognise this, by paying them correctly, and as long as it is affordable, giving them strong pay awards each year to ensure they feel both valued and recognised and are able to keep up with their own household bills, and that we recruit and retain the best people to work in this marvellous charity.

So, moving on to some other activity, what else happened during the year. Donor Recruitment and Charity Engagement (DRCE) continued to be very active in 2023 and conducted 306 visits out and presentations last year. About 11% of these were virtual but the majority of them were still face to face and in person, and our DRCE Team really do deliver significant bang for the buck on our behalf. It was a slight rise from the number achieved in 2022 which numbered 300 engagements but a significant rise in the number of visits up from 233 in 2021. With some of these presentations, conferences and meetings we do have to fight our way in the door and overcome some reluctance by Federations or Forces to allow us to be there, so do please help us to facilitate these visits and indeed invite us if you have stuff going on, as it really does help us to help you.

These visits out have included quite an eclectic mix of activity ranging from the normal activity of presenting to new student officers and pre-retirement briefs which is and will continue to be the bulk of our activity, but it does also include attendance at a variety of other important events such as the OK9 Conference and briefs to the BAWP, all of which are critical for us to raise the profile of the PTC, and of course to get our message out.

We do also spend a lot of our time hosting internal visits to both centres and although some can be more time consuming and demanding than others, we do explain to all visitors that they are seeing us as we are on that day as we are very much focussed on patient treatment, and to be fair pretty much all of them understand that, but these again are crucial visits whether it be introducing a new Federation Chair to the PTC and explaining what we as a charity can do for your members, or a new Chief Constable focussed on the wellbeing and support to their workforce.

There were of course two visits to both our Centres since the last AGM of particular significance and they were of our Patron HRH The Princess Royal. This time last year I was briefing you that our Patron's first scheduled visit to the PTC in March 2023 had been cancelled due to snow. We were very pleased to get HRH in quickly for a re-arranged visit to Harrogate in September 2023 and to Auchterarder four months later in January 2024. Both were low key visits without massive external PR as we wanted HRH to focus on our PTC team and the patients in residence which she did, and I think it fair to say that everyone who wanted to talk to her and meet her had the chance to do so, and she gave two first class speeches at both Centres highlighting the dangers and pressures that police officers face every day, recognising the importance of the Charity, and also thanking both sets of PTC staff for the superb work that they do day in day out.

I think at the end of the visits we really felt that we got a very intimate and personal visit from HRH where she got to know us really well and left everyone both staff and patients who met her feeling really appreciated.

One of the amusing parts of the visits to both centres is that it was noticeable that HRH only took her gloves off when stroking the therapy dogs at both centres, and indeed one of them, Havoc the Leonberger, got a special mention in her thank you letter after the Harrogate visit.

I won't say that the centres resemble a Kennels on occasion, but therapy dogs are in every week and encompass a really important part of our work, consistently getting amongst the highest number of likes on social media and more importantly, likes in real life, and really spreading some joy amongst the patients in residence. Other animals are available, though for those who want something a bit different, and we are nothing if not diverse at the PTC, and over the last couple of months, we have trialled visits of Daisy the Falabella a miniature horse at Castlebrae and Nigel the Wellbeing Donkey. We really do have something for everyone at the PTC and it adds a bit of fun, banter and chat to the conversation within the Centres, and you will be pleased to hear that there were not any accidents that required the deployment of the housekeeping staff in full NBC or CBRN suits for a clear up operation in any of the lounges.

We are always looking to increase our income at the PTC and where we can fit them in around patient treatment which is the key part of what we do, we have worked hard at both centres to run a series of wellbeing events and weekends for various groups which have been successful, and we hope to build and expand on this where we can, so if you have a group that you think might benefit from this and are prepared to pay (it is not free!), do please send them our way. We have also done the same with conferencing at both centres, and now have regular groups from within and outside policing making repeat bookings at our centres all of which helps to contribute to those vital running costs, without impacting on our raison d'etre.

I mentioned Retired Officers in my opening remarks, and I do just want to return to this subject as it is an increasingly important part of what we do at the PTC. We had 9,598 retired officers signed up to the PTC at the end of 2023 which was an increase of 15% over the previous year, and it will of course be even more now and this we forecast will generate over £610,000 for the PTC in 2024, which we are confident we will exceed. I also mentioned that we treated 488 retirees in 2023 which has been our highest number ever and over 15% of our overall total. Some of these would have been treated on the Retired Officers Wellbeing Programme which we rolled out last year, and which we feel we may not have quite right yet so continue to test and adjust, but which we are now confident is starting to grow.

Retirees have always been a really important part of what the PTC do and provide a sense of grounding for those retirees when in residence to talk to younger still serving colleagues and provide some sense of perspective of where things are now, but this growth in numbers provides even more of a reason for us to look at the PTC offer we provide to retirees and get it right, morally and financially, and ensure we are able to help to support this growing pool of retired officers, and ensure that we take them with us on the next steps of the PTC journey.

In order to do this effectively, it is important that we obviously engage with and listen to the retired officer cohort, and I think that we do, we are always invited to the RPOAS Conference and NARPO Conferences each year and both myself and Graeme Addison, one of our Donor Engagement Officers, took the opportunity to present to the audiences at both those conferences last year about both charities, and equally importantly we have Alan Lees as CEO of NARPO and now Matt Hamilton the General Secretary of RPOAS

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on the Trustee Board for both charities so I can assure you that we are very much attuned to the views of the retired officer community, and we work very hard to ensure that they feel a valued part of the PTC and always will do.

I should also at this moment give a public word of thanks and recognition to the RUC GC PSNI Benevolent Fund who make a substantial grant to the PTC each year which funds the attendance of their retired officers, so thank you to that fantastic benevolent fund for this.

I do want to just touch on the Police Care UK ITS courses which we have historically hosted at PTC Harrogate as Professor Renata Gomes the new ish CEO of Police Care UK is in the audience today and we are delighted to see you here Renata on your first visit to the PTC. These courses were an initiative by Police Care UK designed to treat more high-end mental health issues such as PTSD. I know that these courses are currently being reviewed by Renata and her team, which is their call, but whatever the outcome of the review and the future direction of travel for PCUK, we remain keen to continue to work closely with Police Care UK as two of the largest police charities out there in the sector in a mutually supportive and collaborative way.

I would also like to highlight Dave Blundell from Police Care UK in the audience today who many of you will know, and as well as his full time job with them, Dave is also Chair of the Police Charities group and does a superb job in that additional role. Clearly I am speaking to you in my capacity as CEO PTC and would always ask for your support for our Charity, but other police charities are available, and if for some reason you do not want to support the PTC, I would encourage all of you in the audience to think of other Police Charities when looking for who and what organisation or cause you might support, and to help them, help you. It is vital that all police charities do collaborate and work and learn with each other, and I am also pleased to welcome Jon Carter-Lang the Chair of Flint House to our AGM today, and also Jerry Graham the CEO of the Ben Fund both of whom we work closely with in a mutually collaborative manner.

I would also like to highlight the grants from both Border Force and IE to pay for their members who need our help to come to the PTC. They are doing it to support their teams, but there is of course a wider law enforcement benefit treating personnel from these agencies, but it massively supports the PTC, and I would like to publicly thank Steve Noonan and Graeme Marrs from IE for their public and personal work on this and who are in the audience today for your support of the PTC and, of course, your people. Your efforts really do make a difference to us so thank you, and I am also very pleased to welcome Shaheda Choudhury from Border Force on her first visit to the PTC.

Individual fundraisers for the PTC are always very welcome, and every now and then, we do get some who chose to fundraise for the PTC, and those donations no matter how big or small really do make a difference so again I would encourage you to think about doing something of that nature for the PTC if you are looking for a worthy charity to support.

While on this point I would like to give a public shout out to Bryn Hughes who most of you know and who has done an incredible amount of fundraising for the PC Nicola Hughes Memorial Fund in recent years and lots of other police charities. Bryn can't be with us today as he does have another engagement, but Bryn is running the New York Marathon in November with a team, and has kindly decided to make the PTC a joint beneficiary of that fundraising challenge, so thank you in absentia to Bryn, and if you are looking for someone or something to sponsor this year, jump on his website and funding page, and stick a few pounds in. We are also proud to have Paul Bone in the audience today who is Fiona's Father and Paul has always been a huge supporter of the PTC in many ways, and always gets very embarrassed when I mention what he does for us, but Paul we are

always very gratified and humbled to have you in our Centre in any capacity, and thank you for attending our AGM again this year.

By way of my last plug before returning to more mundane matters, we also have a team from PTC Harrogate running the Knaresborough Bed race for the PTC next week to raise funds for an Ice therapy machine (and that is ice for treating injuries rather than ice for Gin and Tonic which I know that Alan Lees CEO NARPO will be very disappointed to hear). There are various posters round the Centre so if you are inclined please scan the QR code there, and make a donation, and again, it is something that helps us to help you.

So, what next then? Reading through my report from last year, I think it might have come across as a bit gloomy in part but actually this year I think we are in a strong position. We are in a good place clinically and financially with some big projects in the pipeline and some big changes that we need to bed in over the next 12-24 months.

We do need to look over the horizon and prepare for what next because you think you are in a good position and ready for the future, and then suddenly, something has changed, and you are not. However, we also need to ensure we are not constantly living in a state of flux and change which might adversely affect all those police family patients coming for treatment now, so that does not mean sitting on our laurels patting ourselves on the back and doing nothing, but it might mean a period of consolidation and reinforcement whilst we bed in our digital transformation project, the PTC App, some of our new courses, the solar panels and everything else that we have planned over the next two years and which I hope that I will be briefing you in greater detail next year.

One of those major changes is widening of eligibility for the PTC to all Police Staff. Last year I talked a little bit about this proposal, and I am pleased to say that this was subsequently approved by Trustees meaning that all police staff groups can now sign up to the PTC. Many have already done so, and we currently have almost 600 signed up and we go live for treatment at the beginning of next month. You have already heard some of our plans in this regard from Sarah Ward, and this is another project that we will look forward to giving you a more detailed update next year. At the moment it is definitely a case of small acorns from which we hope mighty oaks will grow.

There is never a good time to raise the donation rate but this must remain under review as it is the main financial lever that we have, but equally we must be aware that there is a dotted line from increasing the rate which might lead to a reduction in donor numbers and a net loss of income if we get it wrong, it is assessing what the market can bear at a time when police officer and staff salaries are under pressure, but at eight years since the last increase, we are closing in on the moment where we will have to inevitably put the rate up and this may be necessary in 2026.

So, in conclusion there are some challenges ahead, but I remain 100% confident that we are up to tackling them and the PTC remains in a very strong place. We are thinking about the future and about what next, and I am positive that we can and will rise to the challenge whatever that might be, but I also feel that it is appropriate to have a period of consolidation at the moment, where we bed in the changes, we are currently introducing, look at any unforeseen repercussions of those changes, analyse the impact of our new courses and do some analysis on the results of the opening up to wider eligibility to Police Staff, conduct our digital transformation and then assess what is next.

There is quite a lot of information there that I have covered and lots of planning for where we go next, but I also hope I have provided you with some reassurance, that we are on the move, and that we do have a plan for how we are going to deliver on some of these challenges that all the speakers have talked about today in their reports.

So, thank you all for your support this year, we really have accomplished a tremendous amount and are in a better position clinically and financially than we were this time last year, and with much more to come.

That concludes my presentation subject to any questions which you might have.

Following the CEO's presentation John Carter Lang, Police Rehabilitation Centre asked if a reduction in donors had been seen following the expansion of the National Police Care Scheme. P Cairns responded that donations from South Yorkshire and Northumbria had dropped off but it was difficult to map the number of donations within the National Police Care Scheme. He did, however, think there had been a gradual rise in donations overall and the relationship with the National Police Care Scheme had been mutually beneficial.

3.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

4. THE POLICE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

4.1 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2023

The minutes had been circulated to all members, displayed on the Charity's website and were taken as read. The minutes were proposed by J Skelton, Nottinghamshire and seconded by T Purcell, Police Service of Northern Ireland that they be accepted as a true record. All present agreed.

4.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4.3 AUDITORS REPORT Presented by Peter Hart, TC Group

P Hart, TC Group reported on income and expenditure which showed that income in 2023 was £1,254,000 and expenditure of (£1,372,000) which related to beneficiaries' grants.

The balance sheet of the Charity is £14,403,000 in total showing the reliance on the investment portfolio.

The audit approach taken is similar to that taken for the PTC and resulted in an overall unqualified positive audit report.

There were no questions.

4.4 TREASURER'S REPORT Presented by Craig Grandison, Treasurer

C Grandison opened his presentation by reporting on the Charity's financial position, detailing the work that the Trustees and Staff of the Police Children's Charity have undertaken, to ensure its long term future

The out turn for 2023 suggests that the Charity made a deficit of £128,170. While the accounts represent a deficit there are a couple of items which I will go through.

So, let's examine the breakdown;

The Charity is obliged to make a year end provision to cover all of the beneficiaries, contained within our records at the end of the year. The provision is based on providing

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support throughout full time education for each child up to the age of 25. The current provision is approximately £3.8 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 and changes in the household income.
- In 2022 with inflation running at a 40 year high it was agreed with the auditors the current method of discounting the value of money was no longer appropriate. The calculation going forward will be based on the discount rate for UK government bonds which is appropriate and consistent with other organisations.

In the year 2023, the provision required increased by £203,405 generally as a result of the change in the way the provision has been calculated and the age profile of the children together with making a provision for the new beneficiaries, and the payments made to beneficiaries during the year to support them. This provision will change on an annual basis dependent on the number of beneficiaries claiming, and the age of those beneficiaries. I must stress this is an accounting provision and not cash held or paid out within the Charity.

Also, in 2023, the Charity did not need to draw down on its contingency making a saving of £133,090. A contingency is required as the Charity does not know how many new beneficiaries it will take on in the year and the amount it will have to pay out.

This meant that if you adjusted the accounts for these items the Charity made a deficit of £57,855. This was in line with our predictions and ensures money is being spent supporting our beneficiaries.

2023 was a turbulent year with both the wars in the Ukraine and the Middle East together with the cost of living crisis. Despite this we saw the value of our investments increase during the year. We monitor the investments on a regular basis and the movement through the year is in line with worldwide investments. The level of dividend also increased during 2023 with all the money being invested back to our beneficiaries.

The majority of income received by the Charity is derived from dividends. As you can see from the graphics 61% of the income generated in 2023 was from dividends and only 39% from officer donations.

In terms of income this means £718,000 comes from dividends and £491,000 from officer donations a difference of £227,000 and this is a gap that is widening year on year. This demonstrates the key reason for maintaining our investments at the current level, as without them we would either have to reduce the amount of support we provide or increase the donation rate, it does highlight the need to encourage more officers to donate.

The Trustees are constantly reviewing the benefits provided and where possible will look to provide additional benefits. During the year the two biggest changes were:

The addition of the birthday gift. The Trustees approved a new grant to celebrate the birthday of all children up to the age of 18. The value of the grant is £150 and will be paid at the end of the month of their birthday.

Perhaps the most significant change is to allow Police Staff to donate to the Charity and to be eligible for all the benefits that accompany the Charity. You will hear more about this later from the CEO.

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When the budget is set there is an element of flexibility built in as we can't be certain of the number of beneficiaries we will support during the year. The Trustees agreed a mechanism where in October each year they would look at any potential surpluses and redistribute some of them to the beneficiaries. In 2023 this meant that at Christmas every child received an additional £100. Year on year the amounts will differ and it is possible some years there will be nothing to distribute but it demonstrates the Trustees' desire to best support all of its beneficiaries.

From the feedback received we know that the new grants provided have made a big difference and we would ask you to encourage your colleagues to sign up and support the Charity, as sadly you never know what is around the corner.

While the financial results from 2023 are a good news story we continue to remain cautious and realise there is potential for further cuts in public spending which would put additional pressures on the budget of the Police Children's Charity, and the wider police family. We are also aware it is difficult to persuade new recruits who don't have children to sign up, which adds a further pressure to the Charity.

As a method of financial prudence, the Charity presents the Trustees with a medium-term financial forecast as part of the budget process. Things that could have a significant impact are if the government decides to reduce public spending together with the cost of living for beneficiaries.

During 2018 the Trustees increased the donation rate to 35p per week and at the same time extended the benefits to include;

- Supporting children where the partner of a police officer dies.
- Providing driving lessons to the value of £1,000 per child.
- Providing counselling for child beneficiaries to the value of £1,000 per child.
- The Charity decided to increase the new beneficiary grant from £100 per child to £1,000 per child.
- Provide a birthday gift.

Increasing the donation rate in 2018 together with the information we have today gives us some confidence that we will be financially secure until at least 2028 where we will potentially be operating with a small deficit. One of the key reasons for the MTFs is to look at how we can increase income or reduce expenditure in order to allocate more funds to our beneficiaries and the increased donation rate gives us time to put plans into operation.

The Donor Recruitment and Charity Engagement team worked hard during 2023 to promote the newly re-branded Police Children's Charity. They also made sure that more Officers and staff were aware of the Grants for All especially the ones that allow them to access Child Counselling Grants or Ex-Gratia Wellbeing Grants as eligible donors. The team also ensured that Police Staff were aware of the extension of eligibility.

We rely on contacts with Forces and Federations to make us aware of families we could support together with disseminating information about the Charity to the officers and staff. Many people are unaware of the Grants and the support their family could be receiving. We would like to thank you but if there is some way you can provide support, the DRCE team are here today.

The Charity acquired St George's House in Harrogate in 2013, which is used to support primarily the beneficiaries of the Charity as a holiday let but, where spare capacity allows, other members of the police family to hire it. Additionally, we are offering access to the newly refurbished cottage at Auchterarder to increase availability.

The projection of the medium-term financial strategy has enabled the Charity to approve a zero-balanced budget for 2024 of approximately £1.2 million.

So, to conclude, over the last few years the Charity has reacted to changes in society and has adapted the way benefits are allocated to its beneficiaries. The Charity ensures that all benefits are discharged with probity. Through this the Charity has been able 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 together with seasonal gifts.

The Trustees are continuously reviewing the benefits and, where possible, approving additional new benefits, making the Charity more modern, providing a better range of benefits, but more importantly it makes the Charity fit for purpose going forward.

I hope that today I, as your Treasurer, together with the Trustees and the administrative staff, have demonstrated to you, how the Charity is supporting the children of a deceased parent or those that have been medically retired from the service, to the very best effect.

There were no questions.

4.5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT **Presented by P Cairns, Chief Executive**

As ever TPCC report will be significantly shorter than the PTC one. I will start with the donor numbers and the beneficiaries for the Charity and then go on to map out some of the successes in year, but also some of the challenges that we currently face at TPCC. Before launching I made a couple of welcomes during the PTC report, and before I go any further I would like to welcome for this part of the report, Tim Packham from the Police Children's Fund, which some of you will recall as the Gurney Fund, and like us have changed their name to be ensure that their donors and beneficiaries know who they are.

As a reminder in 2011 we had almost 44,000 donors, by 2022 that had slipped to almost 28,000 and as at the end of 2023, we now have 26,630 which is a 4% drop on the previous 2022 and now represents a very low, in fact the lowest ever percentage sign up to TPCC of 29% of our overall constituent Force numbers. Unlike the PTC, we have not been inundated with retired officer donors for obvious reasons, who have signed up to the TPCC in any significant numbers and increased the overall figure.

Trying to persuade serving officers to sign up to the TPCC remains very hard work, in fact is a battle to just hold the line in terms of donor numbers, many younger officers without children starting on lower salaries simply do not see the benefit of being in TPCC, and if they were worried about missing out, anticipate that if they did ever have children in the future, that they could sign up then on a "just in time basis". Needless to say, when that moment comes, many of them have forgotten that TPCC even exists and are not likely to sign up.

We do try to surge into the new groups when we can, always briefing about TPCC when we brief about PTC, and if and when we discover gatherings of slightly longer in service officers for mid-year or mid-term career CPD, and we are now going to try and engage with Force HRs so every officer as they return from maternity and paternity get a leaflet highlighting the benefits of donating to TPCC, attend as many family specific events as we can such as "Blue Light Babies", emphasise the very modest costs, and the importance of then physically signing up for the Charity, and that is where the challenge arises, as we can lead that horse, or, that potential donor to the water, but ultimately, they have to

decide to take the drink themselves or decide whether to donate, and with this particular analogy, the individual officer but not the horse or pony if you are still confused from my earlier photos of Daisy and Nigel the horse and donkey, get the form and then sign up to it themselves and that appears to be the single point of failure at the moment. It is worth highlighting that the very modest monthly donation rate of £1.50 per month or £18 per year, remains fantastic value, and a source of amazement to me that every individual serving officer does not simply sign up if only to support the families of colleagues if the unimaginable happens to them.

We have used the analogy before, but it is worth repeating. A whole year's donations to TPCC, is about the equivalent of four white chocolate mochas, and donating to TPCC is significantly more healthy for you physically and mentally as I think a large one of those mochas is well over 500 calories each.

The loss of 17,000 donors since 2011 translates into a loss in income of over £270,000 per annum for TPCC, and we are at the stage now for the last few years where the income that we generate from investments for TPCC significantly outweighs the income from donations but on a positive note we are confident we have enough in reserves and investments to financially support all our current beneficiaries through their educational lifetimes and beyond.

Over the last five years we have added a number of new benefits to the Charity including partner cover, and grants that serving officers could access for child counselling and Ex Gratia Wellbeing Grants, and this year we are now adding a further benefit of a £150 birthday award from January this year up to the age of 18 and a slide showing the full list of benefits was then shown.

Despite the challenges for the year with donor numbers, we actually remain in a financially strong position, mainly as a result of very strong income from our investments and there is therefore still much to celebrate this year at the TPCC in what we have achieved:

In terms of beneficiary numbers, we currently have 299 current beneficiaries and in 2023, spent over £650,000 on supporting those beneficiaries. If we break that down a little bit further, we can see that the Charity has paid out over £194,300 in Summer and Christmas Grants in 2023, and £93,000 in university grants.

Child counselling and Wellbeing Grants which are also a relatively new grant have also increased significantly and in 2023 we helped support 29 serving officer families and spent £3,095 on child counselling grants for the children of serving officers and £25,284 on child wellbeing grants. As these grants become better and more widely known, we anticipate that these will continue to grow further.

The Charity has also awarded £4,774 in Ex Gratia grants for a variety of items.

In further good news, the Charity has paid out almost £20,663 in driving lessons last year for 28 beneficiaries.

I am confident this is an unparalleled range of benefits which we do not want anyone to ever have to claim, but if they ever do, we know that they and their families are going to be superbly supported by TPCC.

It has also been gratifying this year to see St George's House get some good use by 32 families, and we have now added in the fantastically refurbished cottage at PTC Auchterarder to the mix which will also be well used by the beneficiaries.

I am also pleased to highlight the fact that TPCC will also be open to all members of police staff to sign up to, showing that TPCC like PTC really is an inclusive charity. It has been a slow burn to be honest with only 219 members of police staff signed up so far, but I am confident this will grow, and if they do ever need the Charity those 219 new donors will be pleased and delighted that they did sign up at this time.

It really is a case of not whether you can afford to pay in to TPCC, it is a case of can you not afford to so do please help us to reinforce that message.

To summarise, I always feel as if running TPCC is hard work. It is a fantastic charity with a brilliant range of benefits that really do provide tremendous financial support to families who are often at their lowest ebb, so it is frustrating to see those donor numbers go down as they have done consistently over the years.

We do work very hard to get the message out about TPCC and will continue to do so, we are also adding benefits all the time such as the birthday gift award which is new this year. Over the last few years, I feel as if we have done literally everything we can do to modernise and indeed re-invent TPCC.

We have strengthened the benefit package, we have added new benefits, we have added spouse and partner cover, we have become more inclusive, widened eligibility and finally even changed the name of the Charity but still donor numbers have fallen, but ultimately individuals have to make their own choices in life, so as long as we are ensuring that the Charity is in strong financial health which it is, and that we are ensuring that the benefits are as strong as they can be and we are communicating about the Charity and its benefits as widely as we can, which we are, although I do feel sad when I see another early death or medical retirement where the family might have benefitted from TPCC, I know that we are doing our bit, and it is then up to individuals to make their own decision as to whether they want to join.

Thank you will be pleased to know that I have now finished, and I am ready for any questions that you might have.

Following the presentation a number of questions were raised from the floor as follows:

Tim Packham, The Police Children's Fund, asked for further details of the School Leavers' Grant. P Cairns confirmed that the Higher Education grant was a fixed £500 per term for those who chose to attend University but Trustees were conscious that not every child wanted to go to university, so for those that did not and were interested in starting an apprenticeship for example, they had the opportunity to apply for a grant that they might use for tools or uniform for an apprenticeship for example.

Dave Blundell, Police Care UK asked everyone to follow police charities on social media by liking and sending on messages. P Cairns made reference to the petition for a debate in Parliament on the Proceeds of Crime Act which was canvassing for a small percentage of money recovered from criminal activities to be allocated to police charities to support their work, which had not received as many signatures as had been hoped. The petition had now been cancelled due to the General Election but he asked that everyone add their name to it if it was relaunched.

Bob Mabbutt, NARPO commented that Chief Officers needed to take responsibility to encourage people to sign up to the Charities when they join their Force and also on retirement as pre-retirement seminars are no longer taking place face to face.

4.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

4.7 CLOSE

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting by thanking all the staff for their continued hard work, he also thanked the Trustees, old and new, for their support to the Charity.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m. and the Chair invited those present to attend a buffet lunch and tour of the facilities at St Andrews.

ENDS