



Brightly

# ANNUAL REVIEW

2021 - 2022

## What we do

Brightly (formerly known as Brig-y-Don Children's Charity) is a long-established, small, independent Jersey charity that awards grants to children and young people from new-born to 25 years who are being supported by the Children's Service. Most of these children and young people will also be supported by a Social/Support Worker – some will be:-

- living in residential care, foster care, or with extended family
- have been in care
- acknowledged as being on the edge of care, being on the Child Protection Register, or being identified as a Child in Need.

Our aim is to help these youngsters to make an independent and fruitful life for themselves by providing financial support, material help, and services.

All money raised by the Charity either stays in Jersey for the benefit of these young Island residents or, in cases where local children and young people have to be cared for off-island, financial support will be made available to them.

## Our mission

To enrich the lives of vulnerable children and young people by supporting them through difficult times, identifying and addressing their unmet needs and thereby restoring their self-confidence and trust in those around them as they mature, and grow.

## Our vision

For all looked after children and other young people being supported by Children's Services in Jersey to realise their full potential regardless of ability or background.

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**Your Charity has kindly supported me for the last five years since I was 16. You have helped me through to my independence and assisted me to get transport as well. All I can say is you are 'True Legends' - Care Leaver**

# Chairman's review

## Susie Pinel, Honorary Chairman

I am delighted to present our Annual Review for the financial year ending 31st August 2022, the 97th year of the Charity.

2021 was a difficult year for Brightly, mainly with problems arising with Brig-y-Don House over tenants and the lease. Our previous tenants, Families in Recovery Trust (FiRT), who we supported with a 50% rent reduction on Brig-y-Don, requested an early termination from their lease agreement and vacated the premises at the end of 2021. The Bosdet Foundation signed a five-year lease in March 2022. With the Bosdet Foundation now installed as lessees, we look forward to greater stability and to the enjoyment of young people attending Camp Bosdet in such a fantastic venue by the sea.

The Board of Management also agreed to work with Home-Start UK for a trial period in Jersey. This initiative took longer to become operational than hoped, however, we now have ten trained volunteers and are receiving referrals for Home-Start Jersey.

The Board of Management approved an extension to those who may apply for support. This now means that any child being supported by Children's Services is eligible to apply for Brightly's support. The value of the funding awards we made increased by 73% on the previous year (2020/2021 = £99,000, 2021/2022 = £172,807).

Advocate Christopher Scholefield retired from the Board in May 2022. The Charity was very fortunate to have benefitted from Christopher's advice both professionally and personally. He will be much missed and huge thanks are extended to him.

David Pierce has retired as Honorary Treasurer but remains on the Board to assist with the annual financial statements 2021-2022. We were delighted to welcome Ewa Powierska to the Board in August, and she commenced the role of Honorary Treasurer on 1st September 2022.

The Board also welcomed Elliot Perry, appointed as Honorary Secretary in October 2021. We are fortunate to have a young, professional gentleman willing to give time to an honorary position. The Board also invited Stewart Rowney to join the Board of Management in February 2022, his expertise in property matters will be most helpful.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of the Friends of Brightly for their loyal and regular contributions. Finally, I would like to express sincere thanks to the Board of Management who freely give of their time and expertise to help Brightly improve the lives of children and young people in Jersey.

# Chief Executive's review

## Steve Harvey, Chief Executive

Evidence and research show that vulnerable children and looked after children face additional challenges. Accordingly, we seek to provide vulnerable children and young people in Jersey with the kind of opportunities and support their peers, living in a stable family environment, may well take for granted, things like a place at a nursery school, a holiday, some new clothes, help with setting up their first home, etc. The transition to adulthood for young people who have lived in care can be difficult. The support we offer to those leaving care is to help them to move towards independence. Our support is intended to create positive experiences and opportunities for these children and young people.

During the last year the Charity extended its reach in two important ways, in so doing recognising the importance of early support and intervention. Firstly, it widened the Charity's remit to enable support to be made available to all those being supported by Children's Services meaning that, as well as those who are in care or leaving care, support was also available to children and young people who were deemed to be on the edge of care, on the Child Protection Register or recognised as a Child in Need.

We also introduced, on a trial basis initially, Home-Start Jersey, which offers regular support, friendship, and practical help to individuals or families who need some support in their own homes, helping to prevent a crisis or breakdown and helping people when they need it most.

We are providing home-visiting support to three specific target groups:

- Care leavers aged 16-25;
- Families with pre-school children, where a parent is care experienced; and
- Families with pre-school children, where a child or a parent is experiencing poor health.

We recruited and trained ten volunteers who are matched to an individual or family who they will visit once a week (usually for two-three hours). We started in a manageable way and hope to grow this important initiative appropriately. Home-Start UK, which was founded in 1973, has been a joy to work with. It has more than 180 Home-Starts across the UK, which now includes us. There are more than 10,000 trained home-visiting volunteers who each year support more than 27,000 families and 56,000 children across the four nations of the UK to transform their lives. For more on Home-Start UK please see: [www.home-start.org.uk](http://www.home-start.org.uk)

Support from Brightly makes a real difference to the life experiences of vulnerable Jersey children. As well as the financial support we provide there are also less obvious but equally important benefits that result from our work, such as greater social inclusion, a greater sense of independence, personal growth/development and less reliance on the public benefit systems.

I would like to record a huge 'thank you' to my colleagues Allison Le Blancq and Wendy Nerac for their dedication, commitment, hard work and unstinting support, also to the Board of Management for their voluntary support and guidance and to all those who have supported or donated to our Charity throughout the past year.

## Treasurer's review

### **Ewa Powierska, Honorary Treasurer**

Our full Financial Statements for the financial year ending 31st August 2022 are available on our website: [www.Brightly.je](http://www.Brightly.je)

Brightly's expenditure increased from the previous year by £82,673. The majority of this relates to an increase of £72,899 (73%) in funding awards made to children and young people.

The Independent Moving on Grants applications increased by over 204%, the financial support provided to Children in Need increased by 86%, and to Care Leavers and Looked After Children by 54%. The overall increase in applications confirms how important it is to continue our mission.

Providing support to young people in care and those leaving care helps them to overcome their personal challenges and improve their lives. Brightly always seeks to respond to those needs regardless of its own challenges and reductions in income.

In the financial year ending in 2022 Brightly's expenditure exceeded income by £15,434, compared to recorded income over expenditure of £65,616 in the year before.

Despite some challenges, the overall income was in line with the previous financial year. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and various organisations in Jersey, Brightly's fund-raising income increased by £54,235 (74%) from 2021; offsetting at the same time a reduction of £35,763 (34%) in grants received during the year, and a reduction in rental income of £17,799 (17%), which resulted from breaks in Brig-y-Don House lease arrangements.

The overall financial position of Brightly is stable. The net current assets as at 31st of August 2022 were £406,062, with cash at bank of £400,620, including the rental deposit of £65,000 held on behalf of the Bosdet Foundation and restricted and unrestricted funds. Total net assets are £1,554,105, including Brig-y-Don House and the Sable d'Or building at a total value of £1,214,493.

## Our support

Our support is mainly given in three areas, Care Leavers, Child in Need and Looked After Children. The largest amount of our funding is provided to Care Leavers. However, we expect this to change in the next year for two reasons.

Firstly, the Care Leavers Offer (which was introduced in 2020 by the Government of Jersey) should increase the level of funding made available from the Government, although as yet we have not seen as much evidence of this as we had anticipated. Secondly, we expect the funding awards provided to Children in Need (CiN) to increase since our support was extended from May 2022. Compared to the previous year, funding awards to CiN have doubled.

During the financial year, we made 518 funding awards to 339 children and young people which totalled £172,807. Included in these figures we have supported 27 young people with an independent moving on grant (each being up to £2,500). This grant is specifically awarded to enable young people to furnish and kit-out their first independent accommodation and they can spend this over time up to the age of 25. We have also helped in non-financial ways too by representing the needs of young care leavers or referring them to other agencies who are better placed to assist with particular matters.

We have also directly supported 13 children from nine families, within which at least one of the parents is a care leaver, through funding to support nursery education for pre-school children, and half-term and holiday club opportunities for children accessing the Nursery Education Fund. This has amounted to £69,106.

We also supported two Children in Need and two Looked After Children with childcare costs totalling £16,054. Not only has this helped the children but their parents too, for example this funding allowed one young mum to finish her education.

We pride ourselves on being agile and responding swiftly to all requests for our support. Just before the summer holiday break we received an enquiry for a family in crisis. We were able to help and received the following from the Social Worker. "I emailed Brightly to query about getting a zoo membership for a family. The response was so quick with a very helpful email informing me how to complete the application."

"After I had applied the charity confirmed that day that it had been approved and the family received their passes shortly after. I have found this process with Brightly to be very helpful and so quick! I could not believe how swiftly this was sorted for the family and it means they can have many adventures out this summer holiday. Thank you Brightly!"

We recently had an enquiry from a Family Support Worker and though Brightly was not able to help financially in this case, we did give the contacts of other charities and organisations that may. We received the following "It's great to know how approachable you are and how helpful this service can be if a client meets the criteria so I will make sure I keep this in mind".

# Our tenants the Bosdet Foundation

Alan Le Pavoux from The Bosdet Foundation: “We are delighted to be working with Brightly to support our island’s children; leasing Brig-y-Don has had a two-fold outcome.

The funding available for children through Brightly is supported by the rent paid by the Bosdet Foundation, a win, win for us. Bosdet has a secure location for the delivery of our residential holiday camps and a location which we can enhance to create a venue where children can access experiences and opportunities.

At other times we will be offering the space for use by other organisations for residential and day usage which will enhance their support for children in their care.”

**For more on Camp Bosdet please see here: [www.bosdet.je/camp-bosdet/](http://www.bosdet.je/camp-bosdet/)**

## Board of management

**Chair:** Mrs Susie Pinel

**Vice-Chair:** Mrs Jacqueline Richomme

**Treasurer:** Mrs Ewa Powierska  
*(appointed August 2022)*

**Secretary:** Mr Elliot Perry  
*(appointed Oct 2021)*

Mr David Pierce

Mrs Rachel Maguire

Mr Stewart Rowney  
*(appointed February 2022)*

Advocate Christopher Scholefield  
*(retired May 2022)*

### Executive team

#### Part time Chief Executive:

Mr Steve Harvey

#### Part time Coordinator:

Mrs Allison Le Blancq

#### Fundraising Officer:

Miss Wendy Nerac



# Thank you

As ever we extend our grateful thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who have sold raffle tickets, collected or given Christmas gifts, and offered their time over the year; we could not have raised the funds without your considerable support. Thank you one and all.

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated clothing, furniture, nursery equipment etc. You have really helped us make a difference to the children and young people that we support.

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Special thanks to all our partner charities who have delivered support, which is tailored to the individual and diverse needs of children and young people.

**Acorn**  
**Brighter Futures**  
**Caring Cooks**  
**CRY Jersey (Care and Relief for the Young)**  
**Family Nursing and Home Care (FNHC)**  
**Jersey Association of Youth and Friendship**  
**Jersey Cares**  
**Jersey Child Care Trust**  
**Jersey Football Association**  
**The Salvation Army**

The charity does not support applications for goods or services that are included in grants or benefits readily available from the Government of Jersey.

To find out more and to keep up-to-date with current news and events please visit our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/BrightlyJersey](https://www.facebook.com/BrightlyJersey) or website: [www.Brightly.je](http://www.Brightly.je)

We are also proud of our contribution towards influencing and supporting changes in Jersey which are intended to improve the lives of children, young people and their families. This includes our attendance at the Government's Corporate Parenting Board and Care Leavers Board. We also contribute to relevant consultation events. We also seek opportunities to work collaboratively with others and are members of a charity partnership known as the 'Children's Cluster' which unites many third-sector organisations that exist for the benefit of children and young people.

