

Annual Report 2021 - 2022



Annual Report April 2021 - March 2022

Charity Contact Information

Charity's name: Abbie's Sparkle Foundation

Scottish Charity Number: SC048189

Address: 5 Westerfolds Cottages. Duffus

Elgin IV305RH

Telephone number: 01343209143

Email address: <u>abbiessparklefoundation@gmail.com</u>

Website: www.abbiessparklefoundation.org

Social Media

Twitter: @AbbiesSparkle25

Facebook: abbiessparklefoundation

Instagram: abbiessparklefoundation

Donate

Link: https://justgiving.com/abbiessparklefoundation

Who are we

This organisation is a registered charity, No: SC048189 its constitution was given Charity status in March 2018. It was established by Tammy, Russell and Cameron Main after their daughter and Sister Abbie sadly passed away from Sarcoma cancer. Abbie left it in her wishes that they should set up her Charity to raise "Money towards Hospitals and stuff" She called it Abbie's Sparkle Foundation and created the logo you see today.

The following people volunteered their time to Abbie's Sparkle Foundation:

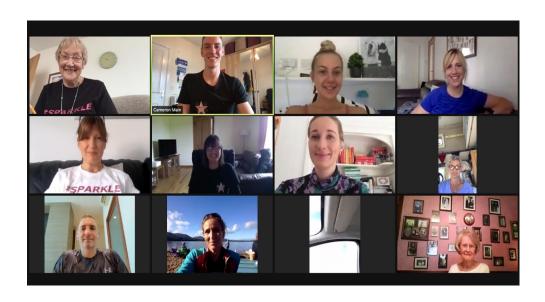
Charity Trustees

Updates AGM 2022

Cameron Main	Chairman	Re elected
Tammy Main	Trustee & Charity Manager	Re elected
Russell Main	Trustee & Events Coordinator	Re elected
Angela Jess	Trustee & Merchandise Coordinator	Left post
Emma Whitton	Treasurer	Re elected
David Allen	Trustee	Re elected
Lauren Donald	Secretary	Re elected

Charity Ambassadors

Jennie Cameron Christine Whitton
Helen Main David McKenzie
Kate McGarrey Vicky Stewart
Chloe Cameron
Jenny Stewart



Our Aims:

- To put a smile on the face of a child undergoing challenges due to cancer.
- To give them even a small moment to feel happier.
- For them to know that someone is thinking of them and understanding that times are hard.
- To allow a child to have a treat that perhaps the family, due to circumstances, can no longer afford.
- Help support Children who are away from home having treatment
- To help families share fun times and make special memories.
- To spread awareness of Children's Cancer and Sarcoma.

What we do:

- We give gifts, grants, and holidays (or as we call them Sparkles) to Children who are affected by cancer. This could mean they are in treatment, in remission or bereaved.
- Application for a Sparkle is via the form on our website. This application can come directly from families or via their Oncology Social Worker or Specialist Nurse, who we are in close communication with.
- Applications are considered on an individual basis dependent on need and recipients may be supported on more than one occasion, depending on circumstances.
- We liaise with the Nurses in Scotland during Christmas and Easter to deliver Sparkle Gift Bags to all the children who are in active treatment, in Highland and Grampian and Dundee. We also visit the Oncology Wards in The Royal Children's Hospital in Glasgow and The Children's Hospital Edinburgh to deliver the Sparkle Gift Bags to all the Children in the unit that day.
- We spread awareness of Children's Cancer and Sarcoma by having information on our website, by signposting Websites for followers to visit for information and support. We share information and tag relevant Children's Cancer organisations on our Social Media platforms. We spread awareness when we are speaking publicly about Abbie's Sparkle Foundation, and we take part in the specific awareness months - July for Sarcoma and September for Childhood Cancer.

Who do we help

Children aged 18 or under living in the UK. Funds raised in Scotland stays in Scotland, Funds raised in other parts of the UK will be allocated to Children with cancer in the Hospitals nearest to the fundraiser.

Our work throughout this year

Output:

Abbie spread 336 Sparkles. Taking the total Children supported to 839

Sparkles are Gifts and Grants:

- Help children smile and have fun toys and shopping trips
- Help them get outside and get exercise garden toys, climbing frames and playhouses, special buggies and harnesses, gym equipment, bikes and a scooter
- Help families spend time together days out, funds to support time off work and to make memories, funding travel for siblings to visit and flights home to visit family
- Help with schooling laptops, tablets, furniture, and clothes
- Help with costs of living STV Grant gave us funds to distribute for winter costs
- Helps with make overs bedrooms and adapting rooms after treatment and disability, even a new boiler
- Holidays spending money and insurance
- Sadly, after a bereavement funeral costs, memorial charms and even a headstone
- Support mental health spa to relax in, new bedroom furniture to create a cool den
- Helps to entertain and distract lots and lots of gaming equipment
- Treats when a parent can't afford it help with birthday and Christmas presents
- Reduce family stress help with costs, driving lessons for a mum to be able to safely take her child to hospital
- Helps post treatment air purifier, wigs, help with a sensory garden, specialist equipment
- And in hospitals –toys for the Children's Oncology Ward in Edinburgh

Abbie's Sparkle bags continue to contain treats and £100 amazon voucher.

Easter Sparkle Gift Bags

to every child in treatment in the Highland area (10) and Grampian (28), the 7 local Moray Children and 10 to Dundee, 15 to Edinburgh and 25 to Glasgow Children's hospitals for the Children in hospital on that day.

Christmas Sparkle Gift Bags

we increased the gifting to every child in treatment in the Highland area (11), Grampian area (33) and also Dundee (21). With 20 going to Edinburgh and 30 to Glasgow Children's Hospitals.



Abbie's Sparkle Lodge Holidays

We continue to provide no cost holidays for families to stay at Dalraddy Holiday Park near Aviemore in the beautiful Cairngorms. We give additional support with funds to help the families fully enjoy the activities and hospitality that the area has to offer.

Bookings started again in April 2021 once restrictions were lifted, unfortunately 5 families missed out on their holiday. Fully booked through all the holidays with 25 stays in total and 10 families actually canceled themselves, which then means trying to find families to fill the gaps.

We have been continuing work on the grounds with new Sparkly lights, finishing off the lodge surrounds and building a storage shed that can hold some outdoor toys. We bought some artificial plants that add to the décor but also provide some extra privacy.

We had a group come for a paid stay last year and they immediately rebooked for this year, they commented, "They were overwhelmed with how homely it was and said everything had been thought about, attention to detail was fantastic". While a family commented "Thank you to everyone in the Abbie's sparkle Team for an amazing long weekend, the lodge is beautiful and clearly a lot of love and Sparkle went into creating such a lovely home, the boys loved the unicorn and all of the Sparkly touches everywhere"



Spreading Awareness of Childhood Cancer and Sarcoma

- We signpost to other websites providing information and support with regards to Childhood Cancer <u>www.childrenscancerandleukaemaiagroup</u> and Sarcoma www.sarcomaUK
- We send information letters to GP Practices every July reminding them of the signs and symptoms of Sarcoma. A GP may never see a case of Sarcoma in their whole career. This year we highlighted a simple course run by Sarcoma UK that was aimed at Early Diagnosis.
- We raise awareness on our Social Media pages in July for Sarcoma Awareness month and September Childhood Cancer awareness month
- We share information with public groups and Business through Public Speaking
- We share information with the younger generation through our work with pupils in schools through the Youth Philanthropy Initiative
- We participate in the "Glow Gold" September campaign with Abbie's Gold bike in Aberdeen, Fochabers and a scooter in Duffus.

Our Impact

- Is far reaching and long lasting
- Brings happiness to children which in turn supports families
- Keeps families together
- Support children continue schoolwork
- Support recovery building strength post treatment
- Provides distraction and fun during isolation
- Helps Children to keep in touch with their peers
- Can give a child some normality
- Brings Abbie's Sparkle into people's lives, inspiring and motivating them
- Could help with Early Diagnosis and save lives

Our Impact - Parent Quotes

We're really blown away that you'd buy this buggy for us. It will make a massive difference, as it's getting really difficult to push her about. We're so excited, I can't tell you. We are so honoured to be sprinkled with Abbie's Sparkle, thank you all so much! This gift will make a massive difference to enjoying our days out as a family.

All I can say is wow and thank you so much. We have loads planned and that will help make her surprise even more special. After a difficult few years this will sure put a smile on her face.

We cannot thank you enough for this very generous gift. We promise to look after it well and have lots of brilliant family adventures with it. We'll take a bit of Abbie's sparkle with us wherever we go

Her face lit up so thank you very much for helping her smile.

I read Abbie's story so very heartbreaking for you all, what a wonderful thing that you do for families in Abbie's name truly magnificent. the chance of a caravan break, would be a lovely family staycation to celebrate the end of treatment and remission.

We would like to thank your charity so very much for enabling us as a family to spend time together making memories. We had an amazing time

I just seen the funds but that is amazing I honestly cannot thank you's enough for what you's are doing to help us get away for a break from such a stressful year! Actually, had me tear up a bit.

Thank you so much for doing such incredible work. I'm so sorry you lost your incredible Abbie. You never think these will happen to you do you.

Thank you so much for your Kindness as this is not the first time your charity has been kind to her she received vouchers at Christmas which she purchased her numerous books that she regularly reads.

Her swing and gazebo, it has been the most amazing present ever, she has hardly been out of it since getting it, she loves it. She had barley left her room except for hospital visits for over a year now and this has been amazing to see her outside getting fresh air again. I even feel her overall health and mental health has improved in such a short time of having the swing.

Thank you so much. This really has taken the pressure off, I can't thank you enough for your kindness, it's quite unbelievable, she will be absolutely over the moon!

Thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts. We are looking forward to including the gift-laptop in her learning. It will be a hard job to teach her to use the keyboard, but she will gain a lot of knowledge this way.

You have no idea how happy you have made her. Just what she needed right now as she's struggling after being at home for over a year now.

Thank you for the weekend. It was absolutely brilliant, we had so many adventures, quad biking, canoeing, swimming, great food, and a fantastic BBQ. Lodge is beautiful and very cosy park is so relaxing with a hippy feel absolutely beautiful feeling here.

I cannot explain how overwhelmed I am with your kindness. Being an oncology child has taken a lot from her and it makes me so happy to know this is going to give her the best chance at mastering cycling, it's already boosted her confidence so much. So, I truly am grateful for your Sparkle to give her this opportunity.

Thank you so much for our wonderful time away, it really helped take our minds off everything.

We can't thank you enough for the very generous and kind gift you made us last year. It has helped us at Christmas and beyond! Thank you again to you and Abbie for all you do for people like us.

We have not had a holiday in 2 years and having had to spend last summer in the house and garden the boys deserve a lovely trip away and so happy you have made it possible for them!

Thank you so so much for letting us use the lodge. It's absolutely beautiful and the kids have definitely made some happy memories!

The Sparkle grant you have sent for him is just wonderful; going through this for a 2nd time has a huge effect on your finances so just being able to give wee treats without the worry of cost is just great.

We have had the most wonderful holiday at Sparkle Lodge - we cannot thank you enough. Abbie certainly sent her sparkle.

The funds will make a huge difference to us making precious memories. But thanks to you and thanks to beautiful Abbie, we will have carpet! IShe has well and truly spread her Sparkle once more. The work you do is just fantastic.

Abbie is definitely sparkling over her dream bedroom.

It is priceless seeing her smiling & looking forward to going, honestly your kindness is lovely and because of your kindness you're making a hard situation must better which we will be forever grateful for.

Thank you to Abbie's Sparkle Foundation for the generous gift that helped me, and my son go on an amazing holiday. This holiday will be remembered forever.

I can get the real sense of fun and wonder from Abbie; how bright and vibrant her Sparkle still shines. Abbeys sparkling star that lights up our journey.

You are making so many families make the loveliest memories, and we can never thank you enough. Thanks for everything we would have been lost this how many years without u.

Her Dad and I have just read Abbie's story and watched the clip of her blowing the Sparkles. Such a beautiful and kind girl

I hope knowing that Abbie's Sparkle continues to lighten up all our hearts every day; making dreams come true is a comfort to you all.

I really can't thank you enough as we were starting to panic.

Lots of quality time and lovely memories. We love you Abbie's Sparkle so much

Without your help we would never have been able to go to anything like this with the full family, so we are extremely grateful.

It's come at a good time as her hair has started to fall out again and she's taking it badly so this will really cheer her up.

We made some wonderful memories with the girls. They were very excited and amazed about how wonderful and sparkling everything was. Thank you so much.

She is going to be a bridesmaid twice next year and it's her dream to have her long hair back for that day and you special people have made that happen with your lovely gift. She's so excited to look sensational on the day. Your charity is amazing and makes kids feel so special when it matters.

I would like to thank you and all the team at Abbie's Sparkle Foundation for the fantastic and extremely helpful sparkle grant you've given him. This will go a long way towards making our stay here less stressful and with Christmas fast approaching we will be able to ensure that we can give him some extra special surprises and memories this year.

He was smiling from ear to ear, and we can't thank you all enough. It's amazing what you do. Thank you for making our Boy very happy.

He is so delighted and excited and feels very special! We feel so lucky that Abbie has left such an amazing legacy for children like our son who face their battle every day. She must have been such an inspiration to you.

I really hope you and your family are doing well. You really do such an incredible thing in Abbie's memory.

I did go a bit over the top for her funeral, but it was the last thing I could do for my girl, I cannot thank you enough for your love and support and what you do is incredible.

I cannot begin to explain how thankful I am. Abbie's Sparkle has made such a difference to her hospital stay. She has gone from not wanting to leave the bed/room to wanting to go exploring all day long. Thank you so much.

Thank you so very much for helping make this trip happen for my daughter I really don't know what to say because I hate that the charity exists. I follow you on Facebook and love all of the photos of Abbie and #hospitalsandstuff. Thank you for sharing her sparkle with us.





Our Impact - Referring Professionals Quotes

That's amazing, thank you so much, I know this will mean a lot to them.

This will make such a difference and provide so much fun.

Wow, this is absolutely amazing. I have just spoken to dad, and he is so appreciative of your support and stated that it will make the biggest difference to them all at this time. I appreciate all of your support too and thank you for this huge sparkly gift!

Thank you again for these kind donations. I know the children/families will be delighted with them. Thank you for everything you continue to do for our families.

Thank again. I hope you guys know how crucial these gifts are to families and how incredible Abbie's Sparkle is!! This will be a life changer for this family.

Thank you so much for all the ways you support these families.

Your charity is amazing, and I can't imagine how many emails you deal with as I know I alone have sent you a lot recently!!

I was actually quite emotional seeing the visit to the Sparkle Lodge too, you guys are genuinely amazing. It was such a pleasure to watch you all spreading Abbie's Sparkle.

I spoke with mum today she was totally overwhelmed with your generosity this will be amazing for this family. Again, thank you so much for all the kindness and support to our families

It really is such a privilege to be an on-going link between your amazing charities and the wonderful families that we continue to support.

- Young Lives Versus Cancer Specialist Social Workers
- Young lives Versus Cancer Specialist Nurses

How have we connected with the families who need support?

- We promote Abbie's Sparkle Foundation on Social media sites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and through our website www.abbiessparklefoundation.org
- We have liaised with Children's Oncology Services throughout Scotland (and other parts of the UK when funding available) and receive referrals from the Social Workers and Specialist Nurses.
- We network with other Children's Cancer charities to ensure we reach as many children as possible. Sometimes referrals come through word of mouth.
- We encourage families to apply for funding or a gift by using the application form on our website.
- We have included Abbie's Sparkle Foundation leaflet in the Sparkle Gift bags given to Children at Easter to highlight that support is available for them.

Where in the UK have we supported Children?

- Throughout the whole of Scotland, Children from all the Childhood Cancer treatment Centres, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- In specific areas of the UK (outside Scotland) where funds were raised, e.g. Birmingham and Peterborough we have endeavoured to return these funds to families in these areas, by working with the Specialist Oncology services involved.





How do we raise our funds?

Fundraisers - There were 44 fundraisers

- Virtual Kiltwalk
- Team Twenty19 Lairig Ghru back to back Ultra Marathons
- Run the Peaks running the UK 3 peak challenge
- Gregors Ben Nevis with 10kg Challenge
- Lossie Owls 34hrs of Touch Rugby Record breaking event
- RAF Vipers Rugby Tour Donation
- Friends of Gary Banford Gazman Raffles, Ruby Shirt sales, The London Marathon and a Head Shave Gary's total is now £45,764
- Abbie's Gazebo was back on show with merchandise and Sparkle stalls
- Abbie's 19th Birthday Sponsored Walk
- Abbie's badges given as Wedding favors
- Christmas Fayre, Hampers and raffles
- 21 Sparkle Challenge events
- AS100 Small Society Lottery
- Donations from Celebrations of life
- Banchory Beast £1345
- Glasgow Kiltwalk miles
- 400 miles in a month Cycle
- · Charity partners with Bejou, Aberdeen Cheerleaders, Homefit,
- ANM Group from Thainstone Mart
- Regular Fundraisers -No Profit Moray and Fencing Solutions Tarves
- Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising donations

Grants/Donations

- STV Children's Appeal, Alwyn North Platform, Brown Forman distillery, Elmwood Business Glasgow, Clair Oil Platform and Diageo.
- We continue to have collection tins in many local businesses
- We also appreciate our regular monthly donators.

Biggest Achievements of the year

<u>Being on STV</u> in Oct on the STV Children's Appeal Show with Lorraine Kelly, where our Manager Tammy was able to share Abbie's inspirational story and highlight what Abbie's Sparkle Foundation has achieved over the years including a visit to Abbie's Sparkle Lodge to meet a grateful family. We were so proud to be one of only 3 Scottish Charities chosen.

<u>Performance</u>: more Sparkles than ever expected. All Children's Cancer Centre hospitals in Scotland are now included in Abbie's Sparkle Bag gifting.

<u>Unofficially breaking a world record</u> for the longest ever game of Touch Rugby ever by the RAF Lossiemouth Owls, where a team of ?? raising £8400



Highlights:

- "Getting back to Face to face events"
- "knitting all the different patterns and putting the chocolate oranges in was a lovely pre Christmas task"
- "all the wrapping and getting them delivered to all the children in their Sparkle bags for Christmas"
- "Abbie's Sparkly Birthday Walk and delivering the Christmas sparkles to Edinburgh hospital"
- "becoming a Trustee and helping spread awareness and sparkles, the planning and starting the 21 Sparkle Challenge to raise as much funds as possible, the work that went into the Oranges was amazing"
- "Abbie's 19th Birthday Walk, I loved starting at the front, then falling back and speaking to everyone on the way, then seeing the beautiful stones decorated for her on the Beach, Being able to share Abbie's amazing story on STV and highlight what her inspiration has been able to do, was a fantastic and special experience"
- "Abbie's Sparkle 100 Club draw at Natures window in Kalabarri National Park in Western Australia"
- "too many to name, but watching Abbie's story on STV was incredible, becoming treasurer for ASF and having so much fun at Abbie's Birthday walk"
- "picking out the number for the 100 club in the howling gale then seeing thee most amazing sunset sky"
- "pretty much every day of ASF is a highlight, being able to tell people I am an ambassador for Abbie's charity is a daily source of pride for me"





Financial Review

Access to full Annual Return is seen at OSCR.org.uk

Income April 2021/March 2022

Donations	£10,524.72
Virgin Money Giving/Just Giving	£42,688.90
Trading	£1,833.62
Abbie's Sparkle 100 Club	£7,732.00
Fundraising Activity	£34,830.86
Bank Transactions	£1,934.54
Grants	£9275.50
Total Income	£108,820.14

Outgoings April 2021/March 2022

Sparkles - Gifts and Grants	£74,154.70
Fundraising Activity Expenses	£1,212.49
Trading	£303.68
Payments for Abbie's Sparkle Lodge	£6,918.02
Payments for Charity Activity	£1,474.32
Bank Transactions	£4,877.80
Total Expenditure	£88,941.01

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We held funds in reserve for the following reasons:

- Covid 19 causing restricted fundraising and increased need for Sparkles
- Abbie's Sparkle Lodge running costs
- Completion of shed and additional work within the holiday home
- Dalraddy Annual Fees and Rates
- Abbie's Sparkle Foundation Liability and Holiday Home Insurance
- Funds for families who stay at Abbie's sparkle Lodge

The desired level of deficit each year would fluctuate depending on the charity funding activity at the time. This would be based on income and outgoings. Abbie's Sparkle Foundation aims to help every child and family who applies to us for support.

Details of any deficit

No Deficit was incurred

Donated services and support

We thank everyone for being motivated and committed to help Abbie and her legacy to help others. We appreciate the good teamwork and combination of skills that enables Abbie's Sparkle Foundation to grow and develop as successfully as it has.

We also appreciate all the support from our community and thank all our donators and sponsors and anyone who has ever provided a raffle or auction prize. We would particularly like to thank the businesses that have taken on Abbie's Charity throughout the year, those who have Abbie's collection tins and our regular donators and fundraisers.

We appreciate Digital Routes for donating their services to creating and maintaining our website, LM project management for their support with Pat Testing ASL, Moray Fire for looking after Fire Safety at ASL, Dirty Laundry Aviemore for providing free Laundry services for ASL, Third Sector Interface moray for their advice and support and Laura McFadden Chartered Accountant for giving her time to carry out the Independent Examination of our accounts.



Structure, Governance and Management

Abbie's Sparkle Foundation complies with its governing document, that is its Constitution, which can be seen on our website. This set's out our purpose, structure and describes how we operate. It is run by our Board of trustees; Trustees have operational roles as well as governance responsibilities. Abbie's Sparkle Foundation is regulated by OSCR.

Governance work started in January 2020 and progressed through that year and into 2021 which included more advice and guidance from TSI Moray, developing Role Descriptions, Contracts, and our Code of Conduct. We had quarterly Trustees meetings where we reviewed our Strategy and Financial plans.

We are mindful of trying to be diverse on the board to bring creativity, energy, and transparency. We are all aware of our roles and responsibilities and regularly review these at Trustee meetings.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustee recruitment happens as seen to be necessary and after discussion by and agreement of all the trustees presently in position. No external organization would be involved in the appointments. Trustee recruitment is open for discussion at any point as we are aware that diversity and a variety of skills and experience can boost our charities performance. **Trustees** are given roles specific to their interests, experience, and skills. As a small charity Trustees are given one to one discussions as an Induction to how Abbie's Sparkle Foundation is run and its functions.

Ambassadors

Our Volunteers are encouraged to use their skills to help us support Children affected by cancer, they help raise awareness of Abbie's Charity, of Childhood Cancer and Sarcoma. They are the backbone of organising and carrying out our public events. They vary from young to older and bring a variety of skills and experience. One Ambassador Coordinates Team Sparkle meetings is a go to for any Ambassador. We have regular Team Sparkle meetings to discuss operations and Fundraising/Event planning. We have an active WhatsApp group and all Social Media platforms that keep everyone up to date with all our Sparkle activity. We welcome members of the public who are inspired by Abbie and her legacy to come and join us and help make a difference to Children with cancer.

Challenges

- Not being able to help Children that fall out with our Criteria when there may not be a charity that does support them
- Covid restrictions continuing into a second year, affecting fundraising and events
- Time, as all working voluntarily
- Managing constant changes within a team of volunteers

Plan Moving Forward for 2021 and Beyond

The plan moving forward for 2021 and beyond is to continue with Abbie's vision to raise "Money towards Hospitals and Stuff", to support as many Children as we can and to spread awareness of Childhood cancer and Sarcoma.

Abbie's Sparkle Foundation Strategy

Short-terms goals

- 1. Continue fundraising and supporting our fundraisers. At least 4 Abbie's Sparkle Foundation events, Develop AS100 memberships by reform and relaunch. Use support from AVA Aberdeen to help apply for available Grants.
- 2. Good communication with our supporters, continue our quarterly newsletter and thank you certificates
- 3. Fulfill all Sparkle requests
- 4. Continue to deliver Christmas and Easter Sparkles to all the Children's' Cancer Centre Hospitals in Scotland.
- 5. Complete "Sparkle Lodge" business plan, including support from local businesses.
- 6. Continue to have at least 25 families stay at ASL and develop the potential to fundraise with rental stays
- 7. Continue to Spread awareness of Children's cancer and Sarcoma. Support the awareness months of July for Sarcoma and September for Children's Cancer. Continue links with Glow Gold Campaigners. Look to develop a signs & symptoms awareness leaflet to distribute to schools.

Long-term goals

- 1. Attract and keep committed sponsors and supporters. Consider a plan to secure corporate giving.
- 2. Continue to revisit and evaluate our Governance Strategies, Financial Strategies, and Policy's
- 3. Keep using creativity and imagination to keep providing Sparkles where they are needed the most, particularly in any areas that are not yet covered

Esmmey

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name: Elizabeth Main K/A Tammy Main

Designation: Trustee/Charity Manager

Date: 30.09.22