



People First Highland

# SPiRiT Advocacy

Strengthening People In Raising Issues Together

Incorporating HUG Action for Mental Health (HUG), People First Highland (PFH)  
and SPEAK (Stigma Prevention through Education, Advocacy and Knowledge)

## SPiRiT Advocacy AGM – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31 March 2021

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021 show that SPiRiT Advocacy continues to manage its finances responsibly and is a going concern due to the successful measures taken to reduce our costs and enable the organisation to operate, despite reduced funding for our activities.

The principal income for our collective advocacy and awareness raising work is funded by NHS Highland which has a service level agreement in place for the next two years to 31 March 2023. SPiRiT also receives income from the Robertson Trust for the SPEAK project with the third and final instalment received during the year. Additional funding was received from the Highland Council's Coronavirus Business Support Fund grant to reduce the financial impact of the pandemic across the service.

Despite our core NHS funding decreasing in real terms from £153,477 in 2020 to £120,000 in 2021, we have managed to maintain our activity and staffing levels to enable us to pursue the aims and objectives of SPiRiT, even in the face of a lockdown. We were supported throughout this period by an increase in other grants and donations amounting to £31,958 in 2021, up from £16,615 in 2020.

In previous years, our NHS funding was split between HUG and People First. At the end of 2019-20 HUG had restricted funds of £23,822 and People First had restricted funds of £39,311 (see page 20). The total of HUG's restricted funds were absorbed on HUG costs during 2020-21 to leave a NIL balance. Part of the People First restricted funds were absorbed on People First costs in 2021 leaving a balance of £16,427, which will be fully absorbed by the end of March 2021-22. The remaining small pots of restricted funding at March 2021 will be absorbed in 2021-22 as follows: See Me £872 will be spent on the Hear Me project, Caring & Sharing £502 will be put towards People First involvement costs, RHS £200 has been spent on the clearance of the garden at Cromwell Villa and the STV Appeal £1,385 will be put towards SPEAK costs.

Our unrestricted funds of £51,574 as of March 2021 will be partially used to shore up our 2021-22 budget, enabling us to retain 3 months' operational costs. We are actively seeking further funding to shore up our budget and develop our work.

The accounts show that SPiRiT Advocacy is in a healthy position and this is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our wonderful staff and the certainty we have through the NHS Highland funding for another two years enabling us to apply for additional funding to improve the service on behalf of our members.

Helena Macleod  
Treasurer  
October 2021

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Member of the Scottish  
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