

ThePromise
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
for the year to 31 March 2016

Charity number 1098771
Company number 4751873

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Registered Office and Operating Address

ThePromise
52 Sherland Road
Twickenham
Middlesex TW1 4HD

Tel 020 8123 3290

Registered Charity Number

1098771

Registered Company Number

4751873

Trustees

Mrs Vicki Brown
Mrs Clare Nash
Mrs Sarah Settelen (Chair)
Mrs Anne Warner (Treasurer)

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank plc
P.O. Box 250
Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

T J Smith FCA
Queens Acre
Boyton
Launceston
PL15 9RJ

Secretary

Mrs Clare Nash

Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2016.

ThePromise was established in January 2003, as a direct result of the experiences of Sarah Settelen and Iona Sutherland who volunteered for two months at the Ryazan baby home in Russia. Sarah and Iona saw a huge need on the part of the disabled children in the baby home to receive some one-to-one interaction and stimulation in order for them to achieve their potential. Thirteen years on the services for disabled children in Russia are still limited. However, due to the work of organisations such as ThePromise there is a slow and steady positive change in the attitude towards disability in Russia, and the provision of care. Children living both in state-run homes and with their families are starting to have more opportunities to learn, socialise and enjoy a more active life through a variety of methods of support. However, there is a long way to go to educate care staff, medical professionals and the general public to ensure that all children with disabilities in Russia can expect to reach their potential.

ThePromise was incorporated on 2nd May 2003 and received charitable status on 28th July 2003. The charity's charitable object is to promote the education and protect the health of children (0-19 years) with special needs within both institutional and family settings, primarily, but not exclusively, in Russia.

In 2010 ThePromise supported the founding of a new Russian NGO 'Obeshenye' to undertake Portage work in Russia and apply for grants and donations from within Russia. Obeshenye was founded on 17th June 2010 and started work on 1st October 2010.

ThePromise and Obeshenye are separately registered organisations with different management teams and boards of trustees. Obeshenye, which is based in Ryazan, Russia has developed out of the Portage work supported by ThePromise. The two organisations work in very close partnership but are legally distinct entities. Obeshenye continues to work to become financially and managerially independent from ThePromise. This is being achieved through the development of funding streams from within Russia, training and capacity building – all supported by ThePromise. Obeshenye is funded by a grant from ThePromise and a growing number of grants from Russian individuals, organisations, NGOs and the State.

ThePromise and Obeshenye continue to work closely and have a shared vision and purpose:

Our Vision is a world where children with disabilities can achieve the best possible quality of life.

Our Purpose – ThePromise meets a public benefit need by working towards improving the lives of disabled children in Russia and neighbouring countries. We do this by promoting a system of support (Portage) for disabled children in partnership with families and carers and by encouraging a more positive attitude to disability.

How we meet a public benefit need – we have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our purpose and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that they have set.

Our activity and who we try to help are described below. Our charitable activity focuses on improving the lives of disabled children in Russia and are undertaken to further our charitable purpose for the public benefit.

Our Values –

- ***We value the right of all children to lead a fulfilling life***
- ***We value the right of people to determine and develop their own future***
- ***We believe in working in partnership***
- ***We believe that all children should be valued for their unique qualities***

STRATEGIC PLAN

In April 2008 the Trustees developed a new strategic plan to guide the charity's future work. A full copy of the strategic plan is available on our website www.thepromise.org.uk

A) REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE PRIORITIES AND FOCUS OUTLINED IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN

SERVICES

1. Portage Service provision:

Community Programme

During the year, the Community Programme consisted of 10 Portage workers visiting 18 families (19 children) in their homes each week. For many families, this weekly visit continues to be their only form of external assistance for their disabled child and is a concrete way of supporting parents to keep their disabled children at home rather than handing them over to the state to be cared for in an institution. Children receiving Portage continue to progress and succeed in accessing local kindergartens. Prior to the Portage programme, this would only have been a dream for their parents. The community Portage service in Ryazan continues to build its reputation as a vital resource for parents with disabled children and has strong links with Government departments (Social Protection and Education) and local NGOs who provide support for families such as drop in groups. Our service however is favoured by parents as it remains truly focused on the child and their family and includes elements of other services which are now being set up for disabled children. Unlike these services, Portage's starting point is what a child **can** do (not what they can't do) and skills are acquired through play in the home environment.

We continue to support the recruitment, training and development of the volunteer Portage Workers who are students studying Psychology at Ryazan State University. The university remains extremely supportive of the programme by introducing Portage into the curriculum for all Psychology students as well as supporting those students who volunteer for ThePromise as Portage Workers. Elvira Samarina, who heads up the Psychology Department at Ryazan State University continues to take a great interest in our work and to provide support for our Community team.

Yelatma Orphanage

Yelatma orphanage cares for disabled children who are deemed “ineducable”, once they leave the baby home. There are approximately 60 children there, aged from 4 up to 18.

The Portage team continues to work in the ‘Mercy Department’ which houses 50 children with complex disabilities. If it weren’t for the Portage team, set up by ThePromise in 2006, these children would receive no therapy or education of any sort. They are simply “housed” by the state for the duration of their life, which, for many, is limited.

During the year, 10 Portage workers worked with 38 children in the ‘Mercy Department’. These children received one to one Portage sessions with ‘their’ Portage Worker and many were able to join in group activities as well.

Working closely with Obeshenye, we have continued to seek out and coordinate support for the orphanage from other organisations such as Diema’s Dream (an international NGO) who funds the salaries of some of the Portage workers.

The Portage team at Yelatma is now fully funded by donations and grants secured in Russia (a combination of grants from the Department for Social Protection and Russian based charities and foundations). The Executive Director of Obeshenye supports Yelatma with grant management and works closely with Maria (the Senior Portage worker) on reporting and the team at Yelatma continue to collaborate with ThePromise and Obeshenye, disseminating best practice and training new Portage workers.

Training development, supervision and support

ThePromise manage and assist with the running of Basic Portage Workshops both in the Ryazan region and in other regions as required. The Workshops provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to deliver Portage within a team and are used to both expand existing teams and establish new ones.

ThePromise continue to offer training to experienced Portage workers who wish to join the team of Portage trainers as well as ongoing supervision and support to Portage workers in established teams. Supporting professional volunteers is a vital part of this supervision and development of Portage Workers enabling them to work with the children in a rounded and holistic way.

Yasenevo Children's Centre, Moscow

Our links with the Yasenevo Centre in Moscow have continued and they maintain their own Portage service. Their Senior Portage Worker, Katya, is a valued member of our Portage training team and has participated in two Basic Portage Workshops this year.

2. Dissemination:

New service provision

The Promise and Obeshenye are working to spread the Russian Portage Model throughout regions of Russia and neighbouring countries and have successfully supported new teams both in Russia and Bulgaria this year. There is now a successful Portage Team supporting families who access a state run children's centre in Voronezh, providing Portage to 12 children on a weekly basis and a similar sized team in Sofia, Bulgaria.

3. Information:

The Promise continues to take advantage of any opportunities to share our research, experience and the Portage model with interested parties including NGOs within Russia, state run organisations and educational establishments.

B). CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Governance Structure

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of the charity and includes many founding Trustees who remain very close to the cause of the organisation.

Mrs Vicki Brown

Mrs Clare Nash (Secretary)

Mrs Sarah Settelen (Chair)

Mrs Anne Warner (Treasurer)

The full board meets four times a year and there is regular contact between meetings with all Trustees.

Trustee Induction

Any new trustee attends a meeting with the existing trustees to undergo an orientation session to familiarise them with the operations and activities of the charity and their legal obligations under charity and company law. Each new trustee is appraised of the financial status of the charity at the time of their appointment.

Strategic Partnerships

During the year we worked very closely with Obeshenye our Russian Partner NGO. Obeshenye has signed strategic partnership agreements with: Ryazan State University, Yelatma Orphanage, the Yasenovo Centre, Moscow. The Promise is also working closely with an international NGO Diema's Dream.

Staff and Volunteers

We have two part time staff employed in the UK (the Director and the Programme Assistant) and one freelance worker (the bookkeeper). We have continued to keep our costs down by maintaining a very small UK team. From 17 June 2010, all staff in Russia were contracted to and employed by Obeshenye. All staff are part time, which allows both organisations to keep salary costs down whilst at the same time work in a flexible way.

Since being founded in 2003, ThePromise has benefited from a small but committed team of trustees, staff, freelance workers and volunteers both in the UK and Russia and this stability is a key strength for the organisation.

We are particularly grateful to a small number of people who offer their services 'pro – bono' This includes Tim Smith who has very kindly agreed to verify our accounts. Special mention should also go to Mollie White (Portage) for her tireless and on-going support of our Portage work in Russia.

Finance

Our total income was £45,114 in 2015/16 (compared to £44,452 in 2014/15) with expenditure at £48,247 (compared with £40,550 in 2014/15). During the year, we were able to maintain our programme activities by keeping our UK costs low and working with Obeshenye to raise funds from within Russia.

Our income continues to be a healthy mixture of donations from individuals, events, corporate donors and trusts.

Fundraising, Marketing and Communications

For the first time, we took part in #Giving Tuesday in November 2015 and raised £3,722 from individuals who took part and matched funding from two generous donors who have been long term supporters of our work.

We continue to be extremely grateful to a small but very supportive group of trusts - The Ian Mactaggart Trust, the Souter Charitable Trust and the Bryan Guinness Trust for their on-going support.

Both the UK and Russian teams continue to devote time and energy to identifying sustainable sources of funding. A special mention should go to our 'Angels' (regular donors) who donated almost £18,000 in the year. Without this support from both individuals and Blackthorne International (our corporate Angel), we would not be able to plan our work.

Our fantastic supporters got involved in a variety of fundraising activities – many joined us once again for our sponsored walk in Richmond Park when again our wonderful supporter Hamish Fell raised enough to nearly double the fundraising total. Other events included a boat party on the river Thames, a classical concert and some wonderful donations from school events.

Reserves Policy

At the end of the financial year, our total funds carried forward was £63,038. As agreed by the Trustees last year a small overall deficit was achieved in 2015/16 enabling us to draw down some of our reserves whilst maintaining a prudent reserves level (of over 6 months' expenditure) in March 2016.

On behalf of ThePromise Board of Trustees, I want to thank the amazing team that continues to ensure the children in Russia are now receiving such invaluable help. This includes all our staff in the UK and Russia, as well as the countless volunteers and professional advisors that give their time so willingly and generously. ThePromise depends on the passion and vision of everyone who works with us to ensure we can continue to change lives and minds. This also includes all those who donate to us financially and those who work in partnership with us in Russia. On behalf of all the children, thank you for everything you do.

Investment Policy

We have the authority to invest the charity's resources as appropriate. There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest. The interest earned by the charity during the year from its cash balances amounted to £92 (2015 £106). The strategy of the charity is to invest in low risk cash balances.

Plans for the Future

The charity continues to operate within its charitable objectives and according to the new strategy developed during 2015/16, taking effect in April 2016. This strategy will outline how we can have the most impact in the lives of disabled children in Russia with the funds we have raised in the UK.

The Trustees and staff of ThePromise will continue to work with key partners in Russia such as Ryazan State University, Obeshenye, the Yassenovo Centre, Diemas Dream and other organisations interested in Portage. It will continue to support the setting up of new Portage services through training and technical support so that many more children and their families will benefit from Portage and there is a more positive attitude to disability in Russia.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS 102) issued in July 2014 and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Registered office:
ThePromise
52 Sherland Road
Twickenham
TW1 4HD

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Sarah Settelen – Chair of Trustees

THE PROMISE
CHARITY NUMBER 1098771

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
to the Trustees of The Promise

I report on the accounts of the Charitable Company for the period ended 31 March 2016.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



T J Smith FCA
Queens Acre
Boyton
Launceston
PL15 9RJ

Date: 12 November 2016

ThePromise
Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st March 2016 (and Income and expenditure account for the year to 31st March 2016)

Income from:		2016	2015
		£	£
Donations and legacies		31,995	31,932
Charitable activities		13,027	12,414
Investments	2	92	106
Total		45,114	44,452
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	3	3,190	1,699
Charitable Activities	3	44,915	38,713
Other		142	138
Total		48,247	40,550
Net Expenditure/Income and Net Movement in Funds		-3,133	3,902
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward		66,171	62,269
Total funds carried forward		63,038	66,171

ThePromise
Company number: 04751873
Balance sheet as at 31st March 2016

		2016 £	2015 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible Assets	6	231	332
Current assets			
Debtors	7	2,897	3,230
Cash at bank and in hand		60,431	63,130
Total assets		63,559	66,692
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	521	521
Net assets		63,038	66,171
		£	£
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds:			
General fund		63,038	66,171
Total charity funds	10	63,038	66,171

The Trustees consider that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2016.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

ThePromise
Company number: 04751873
Balance sheet as at 31st March 2016 (continued)

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Sarah Settelen – Trustee

Dated: 8/12/216

ThePromise
Notes to the financial statements

1. **Accounting Policies**

(a) **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS102) issued in July 2014, applicable Accounting Standards and the Companies Act 2006.

(b) **Income**

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to it.

(c) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

(d) **Fund Accounting**

The general fund can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds designated for specific future expenditure at the discretion of the trustees.

(e) **Foreign Exchange**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

(f) **Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

(g) **Gifts in Kind**

Donated gifts are recognised as income when the charity is legally entitled to the income.

The gifts are valued at a reasonable estimate of their value or at market values when available.

ThePromise
Notes to the accounts (continued)

2. **Income**

Investment income comprises bank interest of £92 (2015: £106) receivable during the year.

3. **Expenditure**

a. Charitable Activities

	Support costs £	Grant Funding of activities £	Total £
Implementation of Portage programme	37,859	7,056	44,915

Support costs are general administrative expenditure relating directly to the portage programme which solely represents the one activity of the charity.

Grants relate to payments to the Russian NGO 'Obeshenye' founded on 17 June 2010 whose charitable purposes mirror that of ThePromise.

b. Raising Funds

	Incoming resources £	Associated expenses £	Total £
Donations	25,289	(491)	24,798
Trusts	6,705	(246)	6,459
Events	13,027	(2,453)	10,574
Total	45,021	(3,190)	41,831

ThePromise
Notes to the accounts (continued)

4. **Staff Costs**

	2016 £	2015
Wages and Salaries	21,037	24,929
Social Security costs	4,509	-
	25,546	24,929
Average number of staff employed in the year		
Portage programme (f/t)	-	-
Portage programme (p/t)	-	-
UK based staff (p/t)	2	2

No employees earned £60,000 per annum or more during the year or the preceding year.

5. **Trustees**

No Trustees received remuneration in respect of their services to the charity during the year (2015 - nil).

No Expenses were incurred by trustees in the year.

ThePromise
Notes to the accounts (continued)

6. **Tangible Assets**

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
COST		
At 1 April 2015	2,571	2,571
Additions	41	41
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2016	2,612	2,612
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 April 2015	2,239	2,239
Charge for year	142	142
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2016	2,381	2,381
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2016	231	231
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2015	332	332
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7. **Debtors**

	2016 £	2015 £
Accrued Income	2,897	3,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,897	3,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>

8. **Creditors**

	2016 £	2015 £
Trade Creditors	521	284
Accruals		237
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	521	521
	<hr/>	<hr/>

ThePromise
Notes to the accounts (continued)

9. Capital Structure

The Promise is a company limited by guarantee. The amount of the guarantee is £5 there being 5 guarantors of £1 each.

10. Funds

a) Fund movements	At 1 April 2015	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	At 31 March 2016
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	66,171	45,114	(48,247)	63,038
Total Funds	<u>66,171</u>	<u>45,114</u>	<u>(48,247)</u>	<u>63,038</u>

b) Analysis of funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £
Net assets	63,038	63,038
	<u>63,038</u>	<u>63,038</u>

11. Gifts in kind

The charity receives free independent examiner's review, website development and maintenance support and design services for brochures which are not valued in the accounts on the grounds that it is not considered material to the charity.