




2022-23
Annual Report



Welcome to our 2022-23 Annual Report

This year was all about steadying the boat. Reach members appointed a brand-new Board of Trustees to make sure this could happen. The new Board includes young professionals with upper limb difference, Branch coordinators, Parents & Carers, and Board Veterans whose Reach children are now all grown up! Across the UK, Branch Coordinators gave their time to help members stay connected, organising branch meet-ups and regional family weekends. 2022 saw 'The last camp at Tyncae', an amazing annual 'on the farm' family camping experience gifted to Reach by the Davies every year for 25 years!



"A time of friendship being renewed,
and new ones being forged."
Cheryl Catesby-Potts, Tyncae Volunteer



2022 Highlights

- 17 Branch events delivered across the UK
- 2 regional and one National Family Weekends delivered
- 33 Young people attend RAW 22
- Parental Experience Survey results published
- Within Reach Spring-Summer-Winter editions published and circulated across membership
- Facebook engagement grows by 73% and Instagram by 49% under the watchful eye of new Trustee, Emily Tisshaw
- National staff recruitment campaign undertaken by Trustees.

Chairpersons Statement

It gives me the greatest pleasure to welcome Reach members back into the world after covid.

To witness the renewed initiative of our volunteer Branch Coordinators getting people organised to celebrate with our children at Christmas parties and Summer activities;

To meet with and listen to the ideas of "Reach kids" - young Adults now giving back in abundance to make Reach activities such as RAW work for all our children;

To be involved in the commitment and support of our Reach adults making sure that our little organisation will succeed and endure in our objectives of providing support services for our children living with a limb difference;

It is the dream "job" of a lifetime. It's also the most challenging.

Chris Creamer
Chairperson



Staff (March-July):

Debs Bond - Interim National Coordinator

Kate Hoare - Interim Administrator

July –Feb:

Ashley Blackburn - Interim Administrator

The Structure of Reach
2022-23

Ambassadors:
Alex Brooker
Claire Cashmore MBE
Ella Dickenson
Melissa Johns
Frank Letch MBE
Briony May Williams

Trustees

Chris Creamer – Chair

Ruth Lester - Vice Chair

Gary Phillips - Vice Chair

Phil Robertson – Treasurer

Julie Detheridge - Safeguarding Lead

Lee Harvey

Esther Pounder

Amber Thacker

Emily Tisshaw



Local Branches

Reach works through a network of local branches run by volunteers who are drawn from our membership. Each branch coordinator organises informal get-togethers each year to enable parents and children to meet, offer mutual support and have fun with other Reach children and siblings.

During 2022 the branch network of 17 branches were run by 27 volunteers covering the UK, they sustained activity on the ground whilst the new board of Trustees worked to stabilise the charity. Reach is enabled by their commitment, and we would like to say 'thank you' - you are incredible.



AFW 2022 BACK IN PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE COVID!

"Difference is what makes us stronger"

Melissa Johns

The Reach Annual Family Weekend (AFW), saw some Reach families reunited, in person, for the first time since 2019. 300 families were able to simultaneously live stream from home thanks to the incredible orchestration of James Jones, JJT Services. Co-hosted by the wonderful Alastair Greener and Reach Ambassador, Ella Dickenson. Guest Speakers included: Ritchi Edwards, Frank Letch and Melissa Johns. Research team: Ruth Lester (Reach Trustee and retired Plastic Surgeon), Emma Gilpin (Paediatric Nurse and Reach Mum), and Orla Duncan (Psychosocial Nurse Practitioner) presented findings from the Early Parental Experience Study (see P5). Reach member and trombonist, Steven Haynes spoke about life, music and mental health, and Paralympian Pathway Manager, Alisdair Donaldson and Reach parent, Hannah Palin talked about advancements being made in cycling and cycling prosthetics and the determination needed to make those advancements. All this plus Football, food and fun!

AFW 2022 Bookings			Attending Conference		Evening Buffet Places		
Families	Adults	Children & YP	Adults	Young adults (18-25)	YP & Adults	Children 5-12	Children ≤ 5
68	111	81	94	11	106	46	18

AFW 2022 Costs

Conference Costs	£27129.59
Childrens Activities	£5040.25
Event contributors expenses	£2356.20
Total	£34526.04

AFW 2022 Income

Family Weekend / AGM Contributions	£4,199.31
Family Weekend Fundraising	£132.58
Family Weekend Family Dinner	£1,367.60
Family Weekend - Childcare Contributions	£420.00
Total	£6,119.49

Reach Subsidy

Total	£28406.56
Per family	£417.43


The Early Parental Experience Study

"We must improve the early experience"

A parental experience survey was conceived by our Health Care Sub Committee who were very appreciative of the participation of Reach families. The findings of the survey will be published in an academic journal for healthcare professionals, the aim being to improve the experience of new parents.

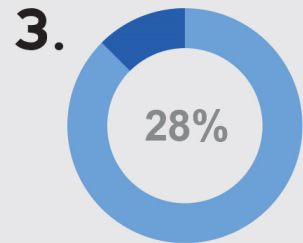
Headline results from the survey in figures:

1. Most parents received verbal information as opposed to written

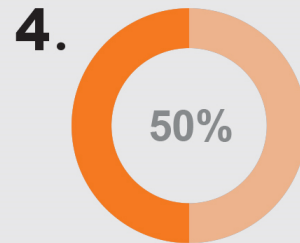
2.  75% of parents felt 'unsupported' following the news about their child. We do have more written details around how parents would like to be supported.

This includes:

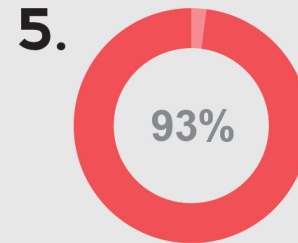
- a) Understanding the cause of the limb difference
- b) Being directed to a support organisation such as Reach
- c) Understanding about what the future may hold for their child both functionally and surgically and the wider life implications.



of responders thought they were given useful information at the time of the 'surprising' news.



had an appointment with a specialist by 3 months after birth.



of parents searched for information themselves.

Editors Highlights 2022



'It's ok to struggle' - Parent corner: A reminder that we're all human and sharing struggles although raw and tough to do, can be a great release, and helps others too not to feel alone. A part of what I love about the magazine, it's not just a celebration of wins and successes but a reflection of reality for a community that wants positive messages but also the truth, that life will be tough at times, but there's a community behind you.

The growth and development of the 'Representation' section, which now also looks at inclusion. Seeing representation in action and how important it is to the Reach community, so it's wonderful to share these people and brands who are putting limb difference out there! Lego, TV, clothing brands... etc.

'Difference is what makes us stronger': Your children are tougher than you know! That message was so powerful and so evident at the AFW 2022.

Para Mountain Biking by Elmarie O'Brien 'Ellie': Following a passion and inspiring Reach children with the message that if you really want to do something, you'll find a way!

RAW 2022

"I've found that although tough times in life might have seemed insurmountable in the moment, they have always been the source of huge personal growth and can be a blessing when shared with others on the same path as you. Both as a way of knowing that they are not alone and that there is always light at the end of the tunnel.

If any parent is considering whether to send their child to RAW next year, I promise you won't regret it."

Tony Addison, RAW Mentor



RAW 24

Sun 06 – Sun 13 August



Jo Neal

Just before Christmas, 2022, Jo Neal, RAW Veteran Mentor and newly appointed Trustee, died – she is very missed:



"Small but mighty. You loved and laughed with such passion and our hearts are full for knowing you. You always thought of others, shared all your possessions and made us giggle with your impressions.

I taught you to tie your shoes, but you taught me kindness, compassion and fearlessness. I once heard you say "I'm just a teacher" but you were so much more to those who knew and loved you. Whilst there is much that could be said, I just want to say thank you Jo-Jo."

Fundraising 2022-23

Reach is supported by its members and community; by organising an array of events across the UK – this year these included cake, garage and book sales, a black-tie dinner, a wreath making class, a big sleep out and a Car Club BBQ; by running campaigns celebrating – this year Limb Difference Awareness Month and Christmas. By putting us before you - donating birthday present money, a hairdresser donating 'one cut a day', a couple encouraging their friends to donate to Reach instead of buying wedding presents; by challenging yourselves to run, cook, camp, craft - it's you who make the difference – Thank you.

Here is a celebration of just a few of our amazing fundraisers 22-23

Campaigns: The 'Walk in My Shoes' Challenge for limb Loss Awareness Month raised £23,500.

Noah & Ryan: "The boys shared tasks, opening crisps, doing buttons up etc. "I am doing the walk in my shoes challenge for Reach because my best friend never lets anything get in his way!" – Ryan

Events:

- Alberta & Sam: Black Tie Charity Event In honour of Reach and their son Albert, who was born with an upper limb difference

- Emma & Stevie's Wedding: "A small donation in honour of the beautiful India's Mummy & Daddy on their wedding day. Congratulations you pair of beauties! Such an amazing charity...best of luck with all your future fundraising! With lots of love"

Epic: Many members undertake personal and team challenges throughout the year. We love hearing the stories and sharing the photos - here's a couple from 22-23:

- David London: 2 Brighton Ultra "I should have learnt my lesson from the first time, but pain and toenails are easily forgotten." David raised money for Reach and for his son Alex. "The most fearless little Heaven was born with dual upper limb differences affecting arms and hands."
- Kirsty Hillaby: A 'crafty' challenge! "A friend suggested setting myself a challenge to achieve before I turned 50. I decided to see if I could make (crochet) 50 things before my 50th and raise some money for charity at the same time, so #50for50 was born!"

WE THANK YOU ALL!

Reach Finances 2022-23

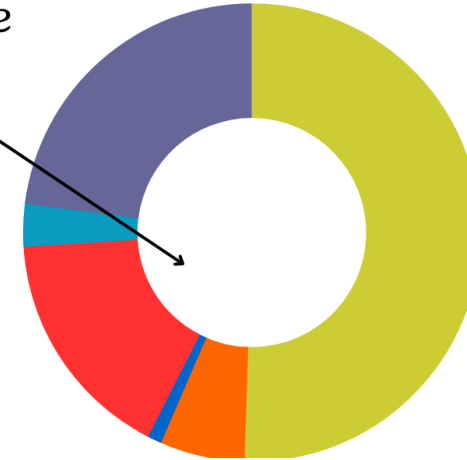
Expenditure

Direct Service Provision	£89283	50.5%
(of which RAW & AFW)	£54273	31%
Fundraising	£9953	6%
Limb Insurance	£1637	1%
Governance & Finance	£29218	16.5%
Marketing & Promotion	£5095	3%
Administration	£40897	23%
Total	£176083	

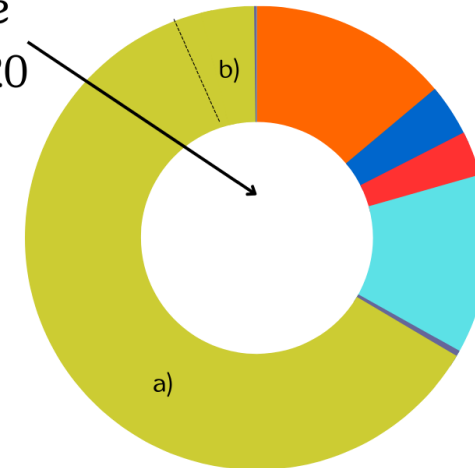
Income

Memberships	£27820	13.9%
Challenge Events	£7251	3.6%
Sales & Promotions	£6116	3.1%
AFW & RAW	£25008	12.5%
Branches	£919.50	0.4%
Fundraising (a)	£125246.50	62.6%
Gift Aid (b)	£7333	3.7%
Investment	£326	0.2%
Total:	£200020	

Expenditure
£176083



Income
£200020



Our vision and values:

Reach is a friendly, caring place for incredible children and their incredible families.

We give support and information to inspire and build

We offer fun activities to encourage Reach children to aim higher, whatever their age or ability.

Reach is... positive

Even in the darkest moments, we want Reach to be a ray of hope in our members' lives. We see the potential in all Reach children and celebrate their ability, never focusing on disability.

Reach is... supportive

We recognise that different families want different levels of support, and we tailor our approach to suit them.

We're there to provide resources, support and practical advice; whatever our families tell us they need.

Reach is... inspiring

Our members are amazing, and we shout about their achievements whenever we can. We share success stories and hero those 'wow' moments, big and small, to show families just what our incredible children are capable of doing.

Reach is... community

Connecting families is a vital part of Reach's work and this creates priceless bonds. Whether it's at our family weekend, branch meetings or on our Facebook forum, we help members to build relationships that last a lifetime



Helping children with upper limb differences live life without limits

www.reach.org.uk | T: 0300 3650 078

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