



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date				Period end date			
From	01	09	2015	To	31	08	2016

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **FRIENDS OF STAFFORDSHIRE'S YOUNG MUSICIANS**

Other names charity is known by **FOSYM**

Registered charity number (if any) 1037650

Charity's principal address

c/o Church Cottage	
Aston by Stone	
Staffordshire	
Postcode	ST15 0BJ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Andrew Worrall	Chairman		
2	Marilyn Calvert	Secretary		
3	Michael Price	Treasurer		
4	Maureen Compton			
5	Killoran Wills			
6	Stuart Reynolds			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Music education	Jenny Mason	Entrust, Riverway, Stafford

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Association
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Appointed by Trustees and subject to re-election by members on a four year cycle

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity has adopted a risk register. A declaration of pecuniary interest is noted at every trustee meeting.

The charity has no paid officers. It is managed by the trustees, reporting annually to members. Members pay an annual, five year or lifetime membership subscription. In recognition of exceptional contributions to music education there is a category of honorary life members.

The Charity works closely with Entrust Music and Performing Arts Service. Entrust is a joint enterprise between Staffordshire County Council and Capita plc.

The Charity is a constituent part of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Music Education Hub (SSMEH). The Chair of the charity is currently the independent chair of the Hub Board.

The Charity has three Patrons: Yvonne Howard (opera singer), Tasmin Little OBE, (violinist) Douglas Boyd (Conductor)

The charity was very sorry to note the death of one of its patrons, Guy Wolfenden (composer, performer and music educator), during the course of the year.

At the last AGM Mr Steve Crosland stood down as a trustee. The trustees and members wish to record their thanks for all his work as a trustee and volunteer with the charity. Mr Mike Price was elected as a trustee for four years at the AGM.

On 1st January 2016 Cllr Maureen Compton stood down as Honorary Treasurer of the Charity. The trustees and members place on record their sincere thanks to Maureen for her thorough and efficient management of FOSYM's financial affairs, particularly during a period when the Charity

completed its administrative separation from the former County Council music service and also saw a significant increase in its available funds.

The trustees appointed Mr Mike Price as Honorary Treasurer with effect from 1st January 2016.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objective of the Charity is to advance the music education of children and young people resident in Staffordshire.

(Note: our definition of young people is those under the age of nineteen.)

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Involvement in music has been shown to benefit young people in many ways including:

- increased motivation
- improved self-confidence
- a more positive attitude to learning
- enhanced aspirations
- greater empowerment and responsibility.

We have focussed our activity on widening participation wherever we have seen an opportunity, as well as recognising excellence both in musical talent and commitment to music education.

The key aspects of Charity activity in this year have been:

- organisation of adult volunteers at music education events
- the award of prizes for talented and committed young musicians
- support for two organisations – Awards for Young Musicians and Make Some Noise – which work directly with youngsters who are disadvantaged and might otherwise have no direct access to high quality music education or be unable to pursue their musical interests.
- Work with Music Education Solutions to clarify the aims and scope of our ambitious new fundraising activity. Towards the end of the year this resulted in a draft Case for Support being produced and a pilot scheme for a new way of working located at a school in Tamworth.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in their grant making activities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the year the Charity has continued its volunteering activity, with volunteers (including trustees) assisting at many events. Volunteers sold tickets and programmes, acted as stewards for performers and audience, hosted VIPs and helped performing arts service staff as required. The secretary has continued to act as volunteer organiser.

During this year the Charity's operation has generally been in line with the policy adopted in 2013 that ensures that in any one trading year grants will in total not exceed 10% of non-committed reserves.

However the charity was successful in applying for a grant of £5000 from the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Music Education Hub in order to work with Music Education Solutions to scope and plan a new initiative aimed at supporting young musicians with identified potential in a secondary school where options for their musical development were limited by lack of provision and resources. Expenditure on the developmental work, which will come from this grant, will now take us over the self-imposed expenditure cap, and this will also be the case in 2016-17. The budget can support this, it will have no effect on our other commitments, and the trustees view this as a sign of the increasing success and reach of the charity.

This year the capital balance has continued to grow and the volunteering and award activities of last year have been maintained. The size of awards made has increased because of the increasing expense incurred by young musicians in pursuing a musical education.

The Charity has continued to support a range of prizes and awards including the Lavey awards for young musicians who make outstanding contributions to music education, Moran Awards for Distinction at Grade 8 music exams, Staffordshire Young Musician of the Year and Staffordshire Singer of the Year (The John W R Taylor award).

In addition the Charity has started to make grants of £65 to any Staffordshire student who incurs the expense of attending auditions at music college, conservatoire or university music degree course. This follows enquiries from families who alerted us to the increasing expense involved.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are retained in an interest-bearing account provided by Stafford Railway Building Society.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

In addition to membership subscriptions, and the proceeds from raffles and event tickets, significant individual contributions (£100 and above) have been made by

- Bebbington family in relation to the Lavey Award,
- Stafford and District Choral Society
- Stafford Rotary Club
- Staffordshire County Chorus

We are very grateful to the volunteers, members and trustees who continue to give generously of their time and resources.

Considerable benefit in kind is received through the support of Entrust Music and Performing Arts Service.

As indicated in the detailed accounts the society employs no staff and management expenses have been kept to a minimum.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Worrall	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	13 October 2016	