

GRANDPARENTS PLUS

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31st March 2008

Grandparents Plus

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Status | A registered and incorporated charity | |
| | Charity Registration Number: | 1093975 |
| | Date of Registration 30th September 2002 | |
| | Company Registration Number: | 4454103 |
| | Date of Incorporation 5th June 2002 | |
| Address | 18A, Victoria Park Square Bethnal Green London E2 9PF | |
| Directors and Trustees | Jean Stogdon Dean Casswell Stephen Burke Jan Pahl Judith A Trowell Elaine Arnold Jill Curtis Maria Hamilton David Walker | Chair Treasurer until April 2008 until January 2008 |
| Company Secretary | Stephen Burke | |
| Principal Officers | Diana Whitworth and Lynn Bean, until December 2007 | |
| Consultant Adviser | Susanna Cheal from February 2008 | |

Grandparents Plus

Trustees Report for the year to 31st March 2008

Objects and operations

Grandparents Plus is a Registered Charity and is also incorporated as a Limited Company with dispensation granted to drop the word Limited. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association where the objectives are the same as those set out in its charity registration. These are:

to promote the better care, upbringing and establishment in life of children in particular;
by promoting the role of kinship care by grandparents at all levels, particularly in circumstances of family breakdown, single parenthood and other difficult circumstances;
supporting and advising grandparents and other kin who are acting as, or intend to act as, carers, particularly in the circumstances mentioned above.

New trustees are appointed by choosing individuals whose identified skills and experience add value to the board. The charity benefited from the appointment of three new trustees in the previous year whose additional contribution was felt during the year 07/08. This was important because it was a year of major change which needed to be overseen by a strong board. During the year Diana Whitworth and Lynn Bean, co-directors, made personal career plans to leave Grandparents Plus. Most of the funding from major donors (a three year award from The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for the co-directors salaries and an initial award from the Dulverton Trust to pilot The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Network) came to an end. The board felt it was essential that the work should continue with renewed funding but there was a lull in fundraising success for core costs despite concerted efforts made by staff and board members.

We were delighted to be awarded a major grant from the Big Lottery Fund in January 08 to appoint a co-ordinator to continue building on the success of the early stages of the network. From remaining funding from the original award made by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the board was permitted to dedicate modest resources towards short-term external consultancy to re-think future direction and sustainability and gain funding for a new chief executive (awarded in June 08 during the current financial year from the Waterside Trust).

Activities

Despite the changes described above, during their period in post our co-directors continued to deliver some significant achievements by adopting a theme of partnership working on a number of projects with a range of partners and grandparents themselves, in order to maximise the effectiveness of their work.

As members of the Mind the Gap partnership led by Mentor UK, we were short listed for the partnership of the year awards by Third Sector. Following the launch in March 2007 we joined Mentor UK and Adfam at regional launch events. One of the clear recommendations from grandparents raising their grandchildren was the need for a network.

With the support of Mentor UK, Adfam, Family Rights Group and Grandparents Association, we set up a pilot newsletter Grandparents First. With the results of a positive readership survey we were able to raise one year's funding from The Dulverton Trust to develop the network with a website, regular issues of the newsletter and a national conference to launch the network in March 2008. The newsletter includes grandparents' own stories as well as news, help and advice and fun things to do and read. Membership is now over 300. We are delighted that the Big Lottery Fund three year award for a part-time co-ordinator will allow us to develop the network.

'Time of Your Life' our intergenerational partnership with Magic Me and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, worked with elders, including grandparents, and young people on White City Estate supporting them to develop a project where they could work together to improve the estate - they chose gardening. The launch in July attracted some media interest. Magic Me, an intergenerational charity is now completing this work. We are grateful for the funding from John Lyons for the project.

Supporting Activities

With colleagues in the Kinship Care Alliance we contributed to the recent White Paper (firstly through DfES then DCSF) 'Care Matters: Time for Change 2007', leading to the current 'Children and Young Persons Bill 2008' which has responded to campaigning for action to strengthen the role of grandparents and extended family in the care of vulnerable children. This involved parliamentary campaigning and meetings with MP's.

With Link Age in Tower Hamlets we ran a workshop and distributed information about learning with grandparents

Grandparents Plus

Trustees Report for the year to 31st March 2008

Supporting Activities, continued

during a special event - Older People's Day in October 07.

We undertook joint training activity with the Family Rights Group.

Representation

During the year the co-directors and chair represented Grandparents Plus in many partnership activities and in the media in particular by:

- Attending Associate Party Groups for Children, Children in Care and Care Leavers, Grandparents and Extended Kin, Social Care Workforce, intergenerational network meetings and the Family Justice Council.
- Being members of the Family Rights Strengthening Families Steering Group.
- Liaison with Grandparents Association, 4Children, Counsel and Care, Family and Parent Institute, Family Welfare Association, The Separation and Reunion Forum.
- Presenting our work in 'Children Now' and on BBC Radio 4 on grandparents raising grandchildren.

Review of financial position and reserves policy

Grandparents Plus is funded mainly from by external grants and fees. Its solvency remains dependent on its success in continuing to raise further funds from similar sources.

The trustees' policies are to ensure that the charity undertakes commitments within the charity's known and secured finance resources and to aim to maintain a minimum general reserve of £13,000. At 31st March 2008, despite management and trustees' best efforts, these reserves totalled £5,133 and were again short of the target figure, which would currently represent around 6 months of the charity's running costs.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the results for that period. In preparing those financial statements trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Jean Stogdon
Chair

Date

Grandparents Plus

Accountants report to the members on the unaudited accounts of Grandparents plus

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees (who are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7) (b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking 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 Examiners Statement

In my opinion:

- a) the accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the charitable company under Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985.
- b) having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in the accounting records:
 - (i) the accounts have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements specified in Section 249C(6) of the Act; and
 - (ii) the charitable company satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the period specified in Section 249A of the Act and did not, at any time in that period, fall within any of the categories of companies not entitled to the exemption specified in Section 249B(1).

Ron Hoyle
Chartered Accountant
Institute of Chartered Accountants,
England & Wales
Beckenham
Kent BR3 6PT

Grandparents Plus

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2008

| | Note | 2008 £ | 2007 £ |
|---------------------------|------|---------------|---------------|
| Net fixed assets | 3 | 217 | 433 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 4 | 192 | 415 |
| Cash at bank | 5 | 20,041 | 76,881 |
| | | 20,233 | 77,296 |
| Less: current liabilities | 6 | | |
| Grants in advance | | - | 30,082 |
| Creditors & accruals | | 6,688 | 200 |
| | | 6,688 | 30,282 |
| Net current assets | | 13,545 | 47,014 |
| Total Net Assets | | 13,762 | 47,447 |
| Funds | 9 | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 5,133 | 8,510 |
| Restricted funds | | 8,629 | 38,937 |
| Total Funds | | 13,762 | 47,447 |

The Directors have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by Section 249A(1) not to have these accounts audited and confirm that no notice has been deposited under section 249B(2) of the Companies Act 1985.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that:

- (i) the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985; and
- (ii) The accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at 31st March 2008 and of its deficit for the period under review in accordance with the requirements of Section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part VII of the Companies Act 1985 applicable to small companies, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007), were approved by the Trustees on:

date.....

Jean Stogdon
Chair & Trustee
Date

The notes numbered 1 to 11 on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Grandparents Plus

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2008

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2008 £ | Total 2007 £ |
|---|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Incoming resources | 8 | | | | |
| Incoming resources from generated funds | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | | 4,404 | 29,135 | 33,539 | 106,456 |
| Investment income | | 1,732 | | 1,732 | 847 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | | 2,353 | | 2,353 | 4,282 |
| Other incoming resources | | - | | - | 811 |
| Total incoming resources | | 8,489 | 29,135 | 37,624 | 112,396 |
| Resources expended | 11 | | | | |
| Costs of generating funds | | | | | |
| Costs of generating voluntary income | | 1,914 | 1,335 | 3,249 | 4,067 |
| Charitable activities | | 20,077 | 44,149 | 64,226 | 108,503 |
| Governance costs | | 2,721 | 1,113 | 3,834 | 4,502 |
| Total resources expended | | 24,712 | 46,597 | 71,309 | 117,072 |
| Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers | | (16,223) | (17,462) | (33,685) | (4,676) |
| Transfers | | | | | |
| Gross transfers between funds | | 12,846 | (12,846) | - | - |
| Net movement in funds | | (3,377) | (30,308) | (33,685) | (4,676) |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 8,510 | 38,937 | 47,447 | 52,123 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 5,133 | 8,629 | 13,762 | 47,447 |

Notes:

1. All the above results are derived from continuing activities.
2. There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Grandparents Plus

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2008

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice (SORP) - Accounting by Charities published by the Charities Commission.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

a) Income

Income represents amounts receivable during the year. Grants and donations for specific purposes are treated as income in the year in which received. Amounts received during the year relating to specific periods are spread over the periods to which they relate. Income received during the year for future periods is treated as deferred income.

b) Fund accounting

Restricted and unrestricted funds are separately disclosed, as set out in note 8. The different funds held are defined as follows:

- restricted funds are subject to specific restrictions imposed by the funder
- unrestricted funds are available to spend at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity

c) Expenditure

Charitable expenditure and governance costs comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to a grant. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking grants and in publicising the charity.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the management of the charity's assets, routine administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

d) Depreciation of fixed assets

Computer and office equipment and furniture costing less than £500 is written off in the year of purchase. Capital items costing £500 and over are depreciated over an estimated four year life at a depreciation rate of 25% per annum. A full year's depreciation is charged in the first year of use of the asset.

2 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 as all its income is from external grant and donated sources and is applied to charitable purposes.

Grandparents Plus

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2008

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 3 Tangible Fixed Assets | 2008 | 2007 | |
| | £ | £ | |
| Furniture and Equipment | | | |
| Cost 1st April 2007 | 2,771 | 2,771 | |
| Additions | - | - | |
| Cost 31st March 2008 | 2,771 | 2,771 | |
| Depreciation | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2007 | 2,338 | 2,122 | |
| Charge for the year | 216 | 216 | |
| Balance 31st March 2008 | 2,554 | 2,338 | |
| Net Book Value | 217 | 433 | |
| 4 Debtors | 2008 | 2007 | |
| | £ | £ | |
| Bank interest | 192 | 151 | |
| Sundry items | - | 264 | |
| | 192 | 415 | |
| 5 Cash | 2008 | 2007 | |
| | £ | £ | |
| Current account | (677) | 30,220 | |
| Deposit account | 20,718 | 46,661 | |
| | 20,041 | 76,881 | |
| 6 Current Liabilities | 2008 | 2007 | |
| (falling due within 1 year) | £ | £ | |
| Grants in advance | - | 20,000 | |
| Creditors and accruals | 6,688 | 10,282 | |
| | 6,688 | 30,282 | |
| 7 Analysis of Net Assets | Tangible | Net current | Total |
| between Funds | net fixed | assets | |
| | assets | | |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted funds | - | 5,133 | 5,133 |
| Restricted funds | 217 | 8,412 | 8,629 |
| Total | 217 | 13,545 | 13,762 |

Grandparents Plus

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2008

| 8 Incoming Resources | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2008 | Total 2007 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Grants | | | | |
| Esmée Fairbairn Foundation | | - | - | 41,292 |
| John Lyons Charity | | 10,112 | 10,112 | - |
| Dulverton Trust | | 18,500 | 18,500 | - |
| Nuffield Foundation | | - | - | 2,271 |
| Basic Skills Agency | | - | - | 62,793 |
| | - | 28,612 | 28,612 | 106,356 |
| Other Income | | | | |
| Training fees | 2,353 | | 2,353 | - |
| Management fees | - | | - | 4,282 |
| Donations & appeals | 4,404 | 523 | 4,927 | 100 |
| Sundry income | - | | - | 811 |
| Interest earned | 1,732 | | 1,732 | 847 |
| | 8,489 | 523 | 9,012 | 6,040 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 8,489 | 29,135 | 37,624 | 112,396 |

| 9 Reconciliation of Funds | Movement in Funds | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| | Balance 01-04-07 | Incoming | Outgoing | Transfers | Balance 31-03-08 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Restricted Funds | | | | | |
| Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation | 2,719 | - | 2,719 | | - |
| Esmée Fairbairn Foundation | 33,883 | - | 27,401 | | 6,482 |
| Basic Skills Agency | 1,902 | - | 436 | (1,466) | - |
| John Lyons Charity | - | 10,112 | 8,312 | (1,800) | - |
| Dulverton Trust | - | 19,023 | 7,513 | (9,580) | 1,930 |
| Fixed assets depreciation fund | 433 | - | 216 | | 217 |
| | 38,937 | 29,135 | 46,597 | (12,846) | 8,629 |
| Unrestricted Funds | | | | | |
| General Fund | 8,510 | 8,489 | 24,712 | 12,846 | 5,133 |
| Total Funds | 47,447 | 37,624 | 71,309 | - | 13,762 |

Notes:

Transfers represent the amount of its grant income applied to the charity's support and governance costs.

10 Trustee Remuneration & Expenses

No Trustee received any remuneration during the period under review. Trustees were reimbursed £24 (2007: £37) for expenses incurred.

Grandparents Plus

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2008

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 11 Resources Expended | | |
| Salaries, NIC | 46,568 | 79,730 |
| Training consultancies | 9,352 | 22,124 |
| Recruitment | - | 10 |
| Staff travel | 969 | 2,861 |
| Trustees travel & training | 39 | 157 |
| Rent & services | 3,958 | 3,813 |
| Maintenance, repairs - office & equipment | 122 | 249 |
| IT software & consumables | - | 447 |
| Stationery | 541 | 841 |
| Postage & courier | 339 | 294 |
| Photocopying | 268 | 179 |
| Telephones | 514 | 825 |
| Office refreshments | 3 | - |
| Printing & publicity | 4,540 | 3,019 |
| Publications & subscriptions | 45 | 662 |
| Accountancy services | 1,387 | 1,328 |
| Insurance | 167 | 157 |
| Legal costs | 15 | 15 |
| Depreciation | 216 | 216 |
| Event attendances | 2,266 | 145 |
| Total | 71,309 | 117,072 |

Summaries of Resources Expended

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Restricted costs | 46,597 | 93,238 |
| Unrestricted costs | 24,712 | 23,834 |
| | 71,309 | 117,072 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Charitable activities | 64,226 | 108,503 |
| Fundraising | 3,249 | 4,067 |
| Governance | 3,834 | 4,502 |
| | 71,309 | 117,072 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| Average staff numbers | 2.50 | 3 |
| Charitable project works | 1.50 | 2 |
| Fundraising | 0.25 | 0.50 |
| Governance | 0.25 | 0.50 |

No employee is remunerated at a rate in excess of £50,000 per annum
1 person was in employment at 31st March 2008, part time.