

Annual Report and Accounts 2010

Grandparents
plus

We champion the wider
family who care for children



Report
2010

Grandparents Plus: Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2010

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About us



Grandparents Plus is the national charity (England and Wales) which champions the vital role of grandparents and the wider family in children's lives - especially when they take on the caring role in difficult family circumstances.



We work to support grandparents and the wider family by:

- **campaigning for change** so that their contribution to children's wellbeing and care is valued and understood
- **providing evidence, policy solutions and training** so that they get the help and support they need to help children to thrive
- **building alliances and networks** so that they have a voice and support each other, especially when they become children's full-time carers.



We run a network for grandparents and other carers who are raising children in the absence of parents, putting them in touch with each other and providing a way for them to access much needed practical support.

We also run a Kinship Care Group for professionals which supports social workers who work in family and friends care, helping them to develop their own practice and understanding.

We are grateful for the current support of:

**Big Lottery Fund
The Dulverton Trust
The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Mulberry Trust
Porticus UK**

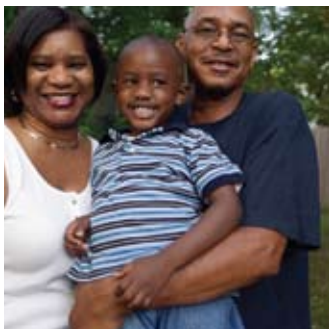
Status

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

Who we are



Directors and Trustees

Jean Stogdon, Chair

Dean Casswell, Treasurer

Elaine Arnold (resigned as a trustee and director July 2009)

Stephen Burke

Jill Curtis (resigned as a trustee January 2010)

Geoff Dench (became a director October 2009)

Patrick Grattan MBE (joined the board July 2009)

Maria Hamilton

Judith Trowell

Chief Executive

Sam Smethers

Staff

Alison Blaxland, Network Co-ordinator

Oonagh Murphy-Jack, Project Manager

Sacha Shabbir, Administrator

Sarah Wellard, Policy and Research Manager

Report of the Trustees for the year to 31st March 2010



Objects for the public benefit

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 which 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.

The board confirms that it has referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and priorities for the coming year.

Charity organisation

The charity is governed by a board of trustees which meets at regular intervals throughout the year. The board recruits and appoints a chief executive who is then accountable to the board. The board agrees the annual programme and a budget in advance of the financial year. Management reports are then prepared for board meetings and discussed between board and chief executive. The chief executive recruits a small support team with executive and administrative skills and engages consultants as required.

New trustees are appointed by identifying persons who are considered to have skills and experience relevant to the charity's objectives and duly approached to enquire whether they would be willing to serve as a trustee.

Activities for year and developments

Board membership has remained mostly stable with the welcome addition of Patrick Grattan who joined the board this year. But this year we were sorry to lose both Jill Curtis and Elaine Arnold from the board. The chief executive has continued to grow the staff team with a policy and research manager appointed in February 2010 and a new project manager in March 2010. The charity has also successfully recruited a number of interns this year to support the work of paid staff and to increase the capacity of the organisation. We are grateful to them for their contribution.

Funding

With significantly increased funding this year, Grandparents Plus was able to pursue its charitable objectives through increased policy and research activity. This is reflected in the accounts by the much larger spend on staff and project consultancies & activities.

Highlights include the charity's work on poverty which was funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The publication of *The Poor Relation* in June 2009 and *Protect Support Provide* in March 2010 demonstrated the significant contribution grandparents make in families at risk of poverty. In October a survey of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Network was published to coincide with the lobby of parliament. *Recognition Respect Reward* provides much needed data on kinship care and demonstrates the hardship experienced by families in this situation.

Report of the Trustees for the year to 31st March 2010 continued...

Funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families was secured in December 2009 to pay for the development and publication of a grandparents' guide to supporting families through difficult times. The charity worked in partnership with a number of Kids in the Middle partner organisations and consulted parents and grandparents in the production of the guide. This project had to be completed in just 3 months but the charity ensured it was a high quality product. The publication has been very well received.

Esmée Fairbairn funding was secured in November 2009 for the next 3 years for the policy and research manager post. This vital support has enabled the charity to pursue its research programme, in particular a new scoping study of grandparenting in Europe which has been funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Further core funding was secured from the Dulverton Trust, the Mulberry Trust and from Porticus UK. Porticus also continued to fund the chief executive's post for a further year. This funding has enabled the charity to progress, freeing the chief executive to focus on other funding priorities. The John Ellerman Foundation has part-funded an advice worker post. The charity is now seeking match funding and hopes to recruit in the near future. The Rayne Foundation has also provided some funds for advice literature which will be produced once the advice worker is in post.

Activities for the public benefit

The charity has had an extremely busy and successful year, transforming the debate about the family, reaching more grandparents and professionals who are working with families. The chief executive has worked closely with the chair and the board to implement the 2008-11 business plan, progressing the three priorities that have been identified:

- a) campaign for change and redefine the family for policy makers and service providers
- b) grow the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Network
- c) provide information and training for professionals to improve practice

Campaigning for change, redefining the family

Building on the success of the Rethinking Family Life report, the charity has continued to lead the way, shaping the debate about grandparents and the wider family by publishing a series of research reports and making a considerable impact in the media nationally, locally and across the children's and social care sectors; also amongst policy makers and wider stakeholders. As a result this year has seen a marked shift towards a greater focus on the role of grandparents and the wider family in children's lives.

Specific policy wins have been the budget announcement in April 2009 of the introduction of the grandparent National Insurance credit, something the charity had been actively campaigning for. Alongside our partners in the Kinship Care Alliance Grandparents Plus also played a major role in securing an amendment to the Child Poverty Bill, an extension to disregards in the benefits system and early input into the government's draft statutory guidance on family and friends care. The charity was also consulted at regular stages as the Government prepared the families and relationships green paper and influenced the government's decision to host a Grandparents' Summit in November 2009.

The charity has also made a strategic decision to develop and extend its networks, joining the End Child Poverty and Kids in the Middle coalitions as well as the Care and Support Alliance, recognising the need increasingly to work in partnership in order to maximise its impact and reach and to build capacity.

Growing the network

The charity has successfully grown its network of grandparents and other carers who are raising children in the absence of their parents, from 300 to over 1,000. It has continued to deliver network events where members can meet and support each other and also receive practical advice and support. The charity also produces a regular newsletter for members. Survey feedback on the value members place on being in the network has been extremely positive. In October the charity organised a lobby of parliament. Over 250 grandparents and grandchildren came to Westminster to lobby MPs about the need for better recognition and support for kinship carers. Funding from the Mulberry Trust and Lloyds Banking Group made this possible, while sponsorship from Yours Magazine funded a trip on the London Eye for all families.

The charity continues to be an active member of the Kinship Care Alliance and the lobby was organised by Grandparents Plus on behalf of the Alliance, supported by a number of partner organisations.

Report of the Trustees for the year to 31st March 2010 continued...

Providing information and training to improve professionals' practice

The charity continues to run the Kinship Care Group for Professionals which has grown in membership from 80 to 156. This group provides a valuable opportunity for social workers to share information about kinship care practice and to hear from speakers and kinship care experts. In November Grandparents Plus worked with the Care Matters Partnership to organise a kinship care conference which brought experts, academics and leading representatives from local and national government together to discuss key issues in kinship care practice, set in the legal and policy context. The conference was extremely well attended and the charity plans to build on this success with further activity to support professionals during the coming year. In particular the charity has begun to develop a targeted consultancy service which will support professionals working in kinship care with the practice issues and challenges they and their teams face.

Risk assessment

The charity trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that procedures are in place in order to manage those risks.

Review of financial position and reserves policy

Grandparents Plus is funded mainly by external grants. Its solvency remains dependent on its success in continuing to raise further funds from similar sources. During the year, the charity secured a number of new grants and as a result income increased by 40%. The year also saw a two and half fold increase in expenditure. Although this resulted in a deficit of £28,251 this was through the planned use of restricted funds and our general reserves increased from £13,495 to £30,853.

The board's policy is to ensure that the charity undertakes commitments within its known and secured financial resources and initially aimed to maintain a minimum general reserve of £40,000. Greater levels of charitable activities will involve the charity in the employment of more staff, as well as the provision of further support facilities and in the longer term trustees consider that a larger level of free reserves will be required to enable longer term planning and to offer improved security of employment to permanent staff members.

A free reserves balance for this purpose would be an amount in excess of £80,000, beyond the resources of the charity at present, but trustees plan to continue to increase general reserves, as charitable operations rise, and so continue to strengthen its finances and encourage retention of key staff.

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.

All trustees give their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid during the year except to one trustee as declared in note 11 for specific consultancy services. Details of trustee expenses are disclosed in the accounts. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the chief executive and in accordance with the charity's policy to withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st July 2010 and signed on its behalf by:

Jean Stogdon, Chair

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grandparents Plus



I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010, which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

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 year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) 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 examiner's 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Ron Hoyle, Chartered Accountant,
Institute of Chartered Accountants, England & Wales,
51, Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent BR3 6PT.*

Financial statements

Balance sheet at 31st March 2010

Registered no. 4454103.

	Note		2010 £		2009 £
Net fixed assets	3		1		1
Current assets					
Grants receivable	4	17,049		30,000	
Prepayments		5,000		-	
Cash at bank	5	103,117		54,766	
		125,166		84,766	
Less: current liabilities	6				
Grants in advance		60,874		7,415	
Creditors & accruals		22,048		6,856	
		82,922		14,271	
Net current assets			42,244		70,495
Total net assets			42,245		70,496
Funds	10				
Unrestricted funds		30,853		13,495	
Restricted funds		11,392		57,001	
Total funds			42,245		70,496

For the year ending 31st March 2010 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 21st July 2010 and signed by:

Jean Stogdon, Chair and Trustee

The notes numbered 1 to 11 on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2010

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £
Incoming resources	8				
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		51,922	155,398	207,320	147,476
Investment income		73		73	579
Incoming resources from charitable activities				-	-
Other incoming resources		535		535	586
Total incoming resources		52,530	155,398	207,928	148,641
Resources expended	9				
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income		885	5,734	6,619	3,386
Charitable activities		39,329	183,028	222,357	84,636
Governance costs		1,385	5,818	7,203	3,885
Total resources expended		41,599	194,580	236,179	91,907
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers		10,931	(39,182)	(28,251)	56,734
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds	10	6,427	(6,427)	-	-
Net movement in funds		17,358	(45,609)	(28,251)	56,734
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		13,495	57,001	70,496	13,762
Total funds carried forward		30,853	11,392	42,245	70,496

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.

Notes forming part of the financial statements

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010

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.

3.	Tangible fixed assets	2010	2009
	Furniture and equipment	£	£
	Cost 1st April 2009	2,771	2,771
	Additions	-	-
	Cost 31st March 2010	2,771	2,771
	Depreciation		
	Balance 1st April 2009	2,770	2,554
	Charge for the year	-	216
	Balance 31st March 2010	2,770	2,770
	Net book value	1	1

4.	Debtors	2010	2009
		£	£
	Grants receivable	17,049	30,000
	Prepayments	5,000	-
		22,049	30,000

5.	Cash	2010	2009
		£	£
	Current account	87,393	39,068
	Deposit account	15,724	15,698
		103,117	54,766

6.	Current liabilities (falling due within 1 year)	2010	2009
		£	£
	Grants in advance	60,874	7,415
	Creditors and accruals	22,048	6,856
		82,922	14,271

7.	Analysis of net assets between funds	Tangible net fixed assets	Net current assets	Total
		£	£	£
	Unrestricted funds	1	30,852	30,853
	Restricted funds	-	11,392	11,392
	Total	1	42,244	42,245

8. Incoming resources	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2010	Total 2009
	£	£	£	£
Grants and donations				
Big Lottery Fund		52,558	52,558	42,616
Porticus UK	10,000	46,000	56,000	43,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation		40,000	40,000	-
Dept for Children, Schools and Families		28,250	28,250	-
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation		17,000	17,000	-
Mulberry Trust	15,000		15,000	10,000
Dulverton Trust	15,000		15,000	-
Equality & Human Rights Commission		14,760	14,760	30,000
Lloyds Banking Group		5,000	5,000	10,000
National Endowment for Science Technology & the Arts (NESTA)		2,289	2,289	
Care Matters Partnership	4,000		4,000	-
Bauer Media Group	3,474		3,474	-
Rayne Foundation		3,000	3,000	-
Charities Aid Foundation	1,826		1,826	-
Sundry donations	1,562		1,562	275
Donated services and gifts	1,060		1,060	19,000
	51,922	208,857	260,779	154,891
Grants received in advance b/fwd 01-04-09		7,415	7,415	-
Grants received in advance c/fwd 31-03-10		(60,874)	(60,874)	(7,415)
	51,922	155,398	207,320	147,476
Other income				
Sundry income	535		535	586
Interest earned	73		73	579
	608	-	608	1,165
Total incoming resources	52,530	155,398	207,928	148,641

Donated services and gifts for the financial year ended 31st March 2010 of £1,060 are for IT services and minor IT equipment donated by suppliers free of charge.

9.	Resources expended	2010 £	2009 £
	Staff salaries, training, travel	88,346	40,282
	Recruitment	2,439	3,772
	Volunteers	798	366
	Trustees travel & training	755	55
	Rent & services	4,169	3,660
	Office supplies	3,573	1,292
	Communications, website	11,195	1,460
	IT software & consumables	2,357	2,100
	Publications & subscriptions	882	499
	Accountancy, legal & insurance services	3,080	2,178
	Newsletter	3,858	1,513
	Project research, consultancies and partnerships	44,024	26,850
	Project activities, event attendances	69,178	7,664
	Training consultant	1,525	-
	Depreciation	-	216
	Total	236,179	91,907
	Summaries of resources expended		
	Restricted costs	194,580	84,308
	Unrestricted costs	41,599	7,599
		236,179	91,907
	Charitable activities	222,357	84,636
	Fundraising	6,619	3,386
	Governance	7,203	3,885
		236,179	91,907
	Average staff numbers	3.00	2.00
	Charitable project works	2.50	1.50
	Fundraising	0.25	0.25
	Governance	0.25	0.25

No employee is remunerated at a rate in excess of £60,000 per annum

Staff costs	2010 £	2009 £
Salaries	79,931	37,553
Social security costs	5,727	2,729
	85,658	40,282

10. Reconciliation of funds		Movement in funds				
ref	Restricted funds	Balance 01-04-09 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance 31-03-10 £
a)	Porticus UK <i>Executive support</i>	18,241	27,667	45,908		-
b)	Big Lottery Fund <i>Newsletter & networking support</i>	6,646	50,765	50,725	(4,495)	2,191
c)	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation <i>Policy & research support</i>	632	6,667	6,248		1,051
d)	Dept for Children, Schools and Families <i>'Kids in the Middle' project</i>	-	23,250	23,100		150
e)	Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation <i>Gerontology study, support</i>	-	17,000	15,368	(1,632)	-
(f)	Equality & Human Rights Commission <i>Poverty Project</i>	18,000	14,760	32,760		-
f)	Equality & Human Rights Commission <i>Rethinking Family Life' project</i>	10,000		10,000		-
g)	Lloyds Banking Group plc <i>Rethinking Family Life' project</i>	3,482	5,000	8,182	(300)	-
h)	National Endowment for Science Technology & the Arts (NESTA)	-	2,289	2,289		-
i)	Rayne Foundation		3,000			3,000
j)	Kids in the Middle prepayments fund		5,000			5,000
		57,001	155,398	194,580	(6,427)	11,392
	Unrestricted funds					
	General fund	13,495	52,530	41,599	6,427	30,853
	Total funds	70,496	207,928	236,179	-	42,245

Transfers between restricted funds and the general reserve totalling £6,427 are contributions agreed by granters towards the charity's otherwise unfunded support and governance costs. Item (j) for £5,000 represents the creation of a fund for costs prepaid at the year end.

Notes on restricted grant funding:

- Porticus UK has agreed a grant to support the employment costs on the chief executive.
- Big Lottery Fund is assisting in the creation of a network of grandparents raising their grandchildren across England, and in the newsletter production and distribution costs.
- The grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is towards the executive post of Policy and Research manager.
- The Dept for Children, Schools and Families has funded Grandparents Plus through Kids in the Middle to produce a guide for grandparents to supporting families through difficult times.
- The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's grant is to fund a scoping study of grandparenting across the European Union. The study is being carried out by the Institute of Gerontology at King's College London.
- The Equality & Human Rights Commission funds are towards the 'Rethinking Family Life' report and the Poverty Project.
- Lloyds Banking Group has co-funded the printing costs of 'Rethinking Family Life' and has also provided a grant towards the cost of the Lobby Day event held during the year at Portcullis House and the Recognition, Respect, Reward publication.
- NESTA is funding a project manager to develop a rewards scheme for grandparents who spend time caring for their grandchildren. It is intended to be a commercial scheme. The NESTA funding is to support the innovation and prototyping stage of the project.
- The Rayne Foundation has provided funds towards the publication of advice literature.

11.

Trustee remuneration & expenses

Two trustees were reimbursed £81 (2009: 2: £55) for travel expenses incurred. The professional services of one trustee continued during the year, with the full approval of the board of trustees, in an overall contract for £9,000. The contract work commenced during the year ending 31st March 2009, during which year work to the value of £2,000 was undertaken, with the balance of the contract being satisfactorily completed during the year ending 31st March 2010.



We champion the wider
family who care for children

Grandparents Plus
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Bethnal Green
London E2 9PF
Telephone: 020 8981 8001
Email: info@grandparentsplus.org.uk
www.grandparentsplus.org.uk

Charity number 1093975