

GRANDPARENTS PLUS

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31st March 2009

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 Geoff Dench (trustee only)	Chair Treasurer until April 2008
Company Secretary	Stephen Burke Sam Smethers	until November 2008 from November 2008
Principal Officer	Sam Smethers	from November 2008

Grandparents Plus

Trustees Report for the year to 31st March 2009

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 Commissions general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and priorities for the coming year.

The charity carries out these objects by:

- campaigning for change so that the contribution of grandparents and other kinship carers to children's well-being and care is valued and understood.
- Providing evidence, policy solutions and training so that they get the services and support they need to help children thrive.
- Building alliances and networks so that they can have a voice and support each other, especially when they become children's full time carers.

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

The membership of the board has remained largely unchanged during 2008/09 which has given the charity much needed stability as it has also been a year of significant positive change. One notable exception was the departure of Jan Pahl from the board in April 2008.

Building on the funding secured from the Big Lottery Fund in January 2008, which took effect from May 2008, the charity recruited a co-ordinator for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Network who took up her post in September 2008.

The funding also enabled the charity to secure the support of the Waterside Trust (now Porticus UK) to fund the recruitment and salary costs for a chief executive post. As a result the Board completed the recruitment process during the summer of 2008 and our new chief executive took up her post in October 2008. She in turn has recruited a part-time administrator funded by the Big Lottery Fund, and two part-time voluntary posts, so the charity has a core team of staff who have been busy delivering a packed programme of activity throughout the year.

Activities for the Public Benefit

The chief executive has spent the year working closely with the Board to implement the comprehensive 2008-11 business plan which was approved by the Board in July 2008. Shortly after arrival, the chief executive also carried out her own assessment of the organisation's priorities and strategic focus. With the Board's approval she has taken steps to strengthen the charity's profile, consolidate its financial position and enhance its impact in a number of important ways.

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Trustees Report for the year to 31st March 2009

profile

Pro-bono assistance from a leading branding agency has assisted the charity's development of its core vision and mission and has delivered a new brand identity which will be rolled out in July 2009 across all materials including a new website which is in development.

In March 2009 the chief executive also secured a further piece of pro-bono work supporting the charity's communications activity around the launch of an influential report 'Rethinking Family Life' - exploring the role of grandparents and the wider family. This report and related YouGov public opinion survey was funded by Lloyds TSB and the Equality and Human Rights Commission and had a huge impact, securing widespread national media coverage with over 100 individual reports including appearances for the chief executive on the Today Programme, Jeremy Vine Show, Daily Politics Show and national and local print coverage together with numerous local radio appearances. Additional pro-bono support from Cision media monitoring agency enabled the charity to capture its media coverage effectively.

This in turn has led to the charity being invited to participate in a number of roundtable discussions with government and opposition front bench representatives as well as to private meetings with officials from a number of government departments. Both the Department for Children Schools and Families and the opposition front bench spokespersons issued statements in response to the report.

Stakeholders

Between October 2008 - January 2009 the chief executive worked closely with the chair to hold a wide range of introductory one-to-one meetings with stakeholders. In January 2009 the charity held a roundtable discussion to consult stakeholders ahead of the publication of 'Rethinking Family Life', including two presentations from leading authorities on grandparenting and kinship care who are researchers working in the field. This helped inform the charity's strategy going forward and also to consolidate relationships with some key stakeholders.

Hosted in the House of Commons by Anne Begg MP, a stakeholder seminar was held to coincide with the launch of 'Rethinking Family Life'. Baroness Hollis and Maria Miller MP, were among the speakers. Further partnership working was progressed through Grandparents Plus' membership of the Women's Pensions Network during 2009 to lobby government on the Grandparents National Insurance Credit. During the year the charity also became a member of the Women's National Commission, Equality and Diversity Forum and the End Child Poverty Campaign.

Work with the Charity's partners in the Kinship Care Alliance has continued and a number of organisations (Family Rights Group, Adfam, Grandparents Association and Mentor UK) have met regularly through the year to form the steering group to shape the work of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Network.

As part of our work to progress the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Network, Grandparents Plus has also worked increasingly closely with organisations around the country to support grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. A very successful Network event was held in February 2009 in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire which was organised in partnership with local charity, Hetty's. We have also established strong working relationships with other organisations such as PADA, SPODA and the Harbour Project. The Network has grown steadily in membership to approximately 500 people by end of March 2009.

Throughout the year the chair and chief executive have continued to represent the charity at a number of All Party Group meetings and at a wide range of stakeholder events. In particular the Associate Parliamentary Groups for Children, Children in Care and Care Leavers, Intergenerational Practice and Ageing and Older People.

The chair has also spoken at a number of grandparent groups and also some high profile conferences on kinship care, notably the East End Consortium on fostering and a conference on kinship care organised by Leeds City Council. The chair remains registered with the General Social Care Council and is an IRM Panel Member (BAAF).

Led by the chair, the charity has continued to grow the South East Kinship Care Group of Professionals. There are now over 80 members of the Group drawn from over 40 local authorities. The Group has continued to meet through the year. In March 2009 the Group had a presentation and discussion with a leading expert on kinship care, Heidi Argent. It remains a valuable resource for professional working in kinship care and for the charity as a way of keeping in touch with issues that affect the profession.

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Trustees Report for the year to 31st March 2009

Financial Sustainability

A very welcome donation to support the charity's core activity was received from the Mulberry Trust in the summer of 2008. This gave Grandparents Plus much needed support to fund essential items and give the chief executive time to develop her role and secure further funding.

The small amount of remaining funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has paid for valuable consultancy advice and support for the chief executive and support for the board in developing the 2008-11 business plan ahead of the chief executive's arrival.

A priority for the charity throughout 2008/09 has been to consolidate and build on existing relationships with funders as well as to diversify the organisation's income sources. After agreeing the fundraising strategy with the board, the chief executive spent the first few months after her appointment carefully monitoring expenditure before recruiting administrative support. She also quickly secured some sponsorship from both the Equality and Human Rights Commission and from Lloyds TSB for the 'Rethinking Family Life' project in addition to the pro-bono communications support.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission also funded Grandparents Plus' Poverty Project which has begun in 2008 and will continue into 2009. The first tranche of funding was received in this financial year. It has paid for British Social Attitudes Survey analysis and a literature review so that the charity will now be able to produce original pieces of research, contributing to the evidence base.

The chief executive has begun to develop the charity's income generation activity via its training and consultancy services and will be stepping up this work in the next financial year.

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 resources.

The board's policies are to ensure that the charity undertakes commitments within the charity's known and secured financial resources and to aim to maintain a minimum general reserve of £25,000. At 31st March 2009 the reserves totalled just under £13,500.

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. Details of trustee expenses are disclosed in the accounts. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register

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Trustees Report for the year to 31st March 2009

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, continued

them with the chief executive and in accordance with the charity's policy to withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

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 2009, which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

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(3)(a) of the 1993 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7) (b) of the 1993 Act, as amended; and
- 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 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 221 of the Companies Act 1985; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 226a of the Companies Act 1985 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave 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
England & Wales
Beckenham
Kent BR3 6PT

Grandparents Plus

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2009

	Note	2009 £	2008 £
Net fixed assets	3	1	217
Current assets			
Grants receivable	4	30,000	192
Cash at bank	5	54,766	20,041
		84,766	20,233
Less: current liabilities	6		
Grants in advance		7,415	-
Creditors & accruals		6,856	6,688
		14,271	6,688
Net current assets		70,495	13,545
Total Net Assets		70,496	13,762
Funds	9		
Unrestricted funds		13,495	5,133
Restricted funds		57,001	8,629
Total Funds		70,496	13,762

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 2009 and of its surplus 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 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Grandparents Plus

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2009 £	Total 2008 £
Incoming resources	8				
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		10,275	137,201	147,476	33,539
Investment income		579		579	1,732
Incoming resources from charitable activities				-	2,353
Other incoming resources		586		586	-
Total incoming resources		11,440	137,201	148,641	37,624
Resources expended	11				
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income		558	2,828	3,386	3,249
Charitable activities		6,068	78,568	84,636	64,226
Governance costs		973	2,912	3,885	3,834
Total resources expended		7,599	84,308	91,907	71,309
Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers		3,841	52,893	56,734	(33,685)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds		4,521	(4,521)	-	-
Net movement in funds		8,362	48,372	56,734	(33,685)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		5,133	8,629	13,762	47,447
Total funds carried forward		13,495	57,001	70,496	13,762

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 2009

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 2009

3 Tangible Fixed Assets		2009	2008
		£	£
Furniture and Equipment			
Cost 1st April 2008		2,771	2,771
Additions		-	-
Cost 31st March 2009		2,771	2,771
Depreciation			
Balance 1st April 2008		2,554	2,338
Charge for the year		216	216
Balance 31st March 2009		2,770	2,554
Net Book Value		1	217
4 Debtors		2009	2008
		£	£
Grants receivable		30,000	-
Bank interest		-	192
		30,000	192
5 Cash		2009	2008
		£	£
Current account		39,068	(677)
Deposit account		15,698	20,718
		54,766	20,041
6 Current Liabilities (falling due within 1 year)		2009	2008
		£	£
Grants in advance		7,415	-
Creditors and accruals		6,856	6,688
		14,271	6,688
7 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds	Tangible net fixed assets	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	1	13,494	13,495
Restricted funds	-	57,001	57,001
Total	1	70,495	70,496

Grandparents Plus

Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

8 Incoming Resources	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	£	£	£	£
Grants				
Big Lottery Fund		35,201	35,201	
Waterside Trust		43,000	43,000	
Mulberry Trust	10,000	-	10,000	
Lloyds TSB plc		10,000	10,000	
John Lyons Charity		-	-	10,112
Dulverton Trust		-	-	18,500
Equality & Human Rights Commission		30,000	30,000	-
	10,000	118,201	128,201	28,612
Other Income				
Donated services	-	19,000	19,000	-
Training fees	-	-	-	2,353
Donations & appeals	275	-	275	4,927
Sundry income	586	-	586	-
Interest earned	579	-	579	1,732
	1,440	19,000	20,440	9,012
Total Incoming Resources	11,440	137,201	148,641	37,624

A note on the donated services of £19,000 is provided in Note 11 on page 12.

9 Reconciliation of Funds

		Movement in Funds				
		Balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance
		01-04-08				31-03-09
		£	£	£	£	£
	Restricted Funds					
notes	Dulverton Trust	1,930	-	-	(1,930)	-
(a)	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	6,482	-	5,850		632
(b)	Big Lottery Fund	-	35,201	25,965	(2,590)	6,646
(a)	Waterside Trust	-	43,000	24,759		18,241
(c)	Lloyds TSB plc	-	10,000	6,518		3,482
(d)	Equality & Human Rights Commission	-	30,000	2,000		28,000
	Donated services	-	19,000	19,000		-
	Fixed assets depreciation fund	217	-	216	(1)	-
		8,629	137,201	84,308	(4,521)	57,001
	Unrestricted Funds					
	General Fund	5,133	11,440	7,599	4,521	13,495
	Total Funds	13,762	148,641	91,907	-	70,496

Notes:

- (a) Grants from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Waterside Trust are provided to cover the costs of senior management of the charity.
- (b) Big Lottery Fund is assisting in the creation of a network of grandparents raising their grandchildren across England.

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Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

9 Restricted Funds, Notes continued

- (c) Lloyds TSB has agreed to fund the production costs of 'Rethinking Family Life' and survey
- (d) Equality & Human Rights Commission funds are towards 'Rethinking Family Life' and a Poverty Project which includes funding for some new research.

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

	2009	2008
	£	£
10 Resources Expended		
Salaries, NIC	40,282	46,568
Consultancies (Note below)	26,850	9,352
Recruitment	3,772	-
Staff & volunteers travel	366	969
Trustees travel & training	55	39
Rent & services	3,660	3,958
Maintenance, renewals	35	122
Website development & maintenance	414	-
IT software & consumables	2,100	-
Stationery, postage, photocopying	1,209	1,148
Telephones	1,046	514
Office refreshments	48	3
Publications & subscriptions	499	45
Accountancy services	1,918	1,387
Insurance	245	167
Legal costs	15	15
Depreciation	216	216
Newsletter	1,513	4,540
Project activities, event attendances	7,664	2,266
Total	91,907	71,309

Consultancies include £19,000 donated professional services in respect of an exercise in re-branding the charity (£8,000) and towards the launch costs of the charity's report ' Rethinking Family Life', (£11,000)

Summaries of Resources Expended

Restricted costs	84,308	46,597
Unrestricted costs	7,599	24,712
	91,907	71,309
Charitable activities	84,636	64,226
Fundraising	3,386	3,249
Governance	3,885	3,834
	91,907	71,309
Average staff numbers	2.00	2.00
Charitable project works	1.50	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

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Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

11 Trustee Remuneration & Expenses

Trustees were reimbursed £55 (2008:£24) for expenses incurred. The professional services of one Trustee were engaged during the year, with the full approval of the Board of Trustees for a contract for £9,000 of which fees amounting to £2,000 have been accrued as at 31st March 2009.