

A black and white photograph of a young boy with short hair, smiling broadly while sitting on a swing. He is holding onto the wooden bars of the swing. The background is a blurred park setting with trees and other swing sets.

# Annual Report & Accounts 2017/18



**GRANDPARENTS PLUS**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**Registered charity no 1093975**

**Company no 4454103**

**Annual Report and financial statements**

**31 MARCH 2018**

# GRANDPARENTS PLUS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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**GRANDPARENTS PLUS  
OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

**Members of the board**

Natalie Baldry (elected 5 June 2018)  
Trevor Bush, Chair (resigned 22 March 2018)  
Prof Ann Buchanan  
Susha Chandrasekhar (resigned 6 November 2017)  
Brian Edwards  
Prof Elaine Farmer  
Jayne Harrill, Chair (elected Chair 22 March 2018)  
Rosaline Jenkins (resigned 29 January 2018)  
Sally Rowe  
Stephen Sowden  
Hans Stocker (elected 2 May 2018)  
Julie Wilkes (term ended 6 November 2017)  
Abby Wright-Parkes (resigned 6 February 2018)  
Julian Young, Honorary Treasurer (elected 2 May 2018)

**Chief Executive and Company Secretary**

Lucy Peake

**Principal address and Registered Office**

1 Addington Square  
London  
SE5 0HF

**Auditor**

Field Sullivan & Co  
Neptune House  
70 Royal Hill  
London  
SE10 8RF

**Bankers**

Triodos Bank  
Deanery Road  
Bristol  
BS1 5AS

Barclays Bank  
Leicester  
LE87 2BB

**GRANDPARENTS PLUS  
TRUSTEES' REPORT  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with current statutory requirements, the charity's governing instrument, and the Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2015), Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

**Vision statement**

*A Britain where all grandparents are celebrated and supported in the role they play in the lives of their families, in their grandchildren's wellbeing and in wider society.*

**Mission statement**

*To recognise, support and celebrate the role of grandparents in the family and wider society, to support the relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren and to help ensure that children in difficult family circumstances receive the care they need from a family member.*

**Objectives**

The objectives of Grandparents Plus are to promote the better care of children, in particular by:

- Promoting the role of care by grandparents at all levels, particularly in circumstances of family breakdown and other difficult circumstances.
- Supporting and advising grandparents and other kin who are acting, or intend to act, as carers, particularly in the circumstances mentioned above.

**Principal activities**

Grandparents Plus is the national charity for England and Wales which champions the role of grandparents and the wider family in children's lives – especially when they take on the caring role (as kinship carers) in difficult family circumstances - because we want to make children's lives better. We do this by:

- Campaigning with them 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 receive the services and support they need to help children to thrive.
- Advising and supporting them by ensuring that they have access to professional advice, information and peer support, particularly when they are raising children who are not living with their parents or they are providing in-depth family support.
- Advising, informing and supporting professionals to develop good kinship care practice.

**Our objectives for the year under review are:**

- We will connect people, building and supporting a powerful and engaged **network of grandparents and kinship carers.**
- We will further develop a high quality and accessible multi-platform **information and advice offer** for grandparents as well as other family members who are raising a relative's child.
- We will further develop **practical help and support** for grandparents, including peer-to-peer support, an online community and high quality resources, training and learning events.

- We will continue to work with our beneficiaries as powerful agents of change, **influencing policy and practice**, including through new research and the roll-out of high quality, research informed and evidence-based programmes such as Relative Experience.
- We will build a sustainable future for the charity, diversifying our income, investing in our infrastructure and developing our work with volunteers.

The trustees are aware of their requirements to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### Future plans

Following an extensive period of review, supported by Pilotlight, trustees agreed that the charity will increase its focus on kinship care as this is the area of our work where there is most need and where we have most impact. Trustees confirmed that the charity will support all kinship carers, including grandparents and all other relatives, and those with all legal orders or none,

Grandparents Plus has a Business Plan for 2018-19 with the following strategic objectives:

1. **Awareness** - Raising awareness, understanding and recognition of the role of grandparents and kinship carers in children's lives and in supporting families.
2. **Change** - Campaigning for change so the role of grandparents within families is promoted and supported by legislation, policy and practice, especially when they are raising children as kinship carers.
3. **Support** - Ensuring that kinship carers are supported in their caring roles so they are able to access high quality information, advice and support when they need it.
4. **Sustainability** - Building a sustainable future for the charity, diversifying income, building a strong team of staff and volunteers and investing in our infrastructure.

### Financial Review

The financial statements reflect the operations of Grandparents Plus for the twelve months ended 31 March 2018.

The total income for the year was £864,471 (2017: £1,067,949). This included an unrestricted grant of £200,000, some of which is intended to cover expenditure for the rest of 2018. In accordance with the Charities SORP this has been included in income in full, for the year ended 31 March 2018. Total expenditure was £778,481 (2017: £882,329) and the resulting net income for the year was £85,990 (2017: £185,620).

The surplus on unrestricted funds amounted to £78,453 and there was a surplus on restricted funds of £7,537. The total funds carried forward at 31 March 2018 were £390,101 (2017: £304,111), being unrestricted £274,217 (2017: £195,764) and restricted £115,884 (2017: £108,347).

At 31 March 2018 the charity had cash resources of £438,467 (2017: £403,673). The trustees continue to make every effort to maintain unrestricted cash reserves to help to ensure that Grandparents Plus continues to operate and to serve its beneficiaries.

### Fundraising

2017/18 saw us begin to diversify our income and we are extremely grateful to all our funders and supporters for their generous support.

Our funders include:

Big Lottery Fund

Players of the People's Postcode Lottery

Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC)  
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation  
Family Holiday Association  
The Henry Smith Charity  
Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity

We greatly appreciate the generosity of individuals who support our vital work through donations, legacies and fundraising activities. During 2017/18 we held our first fundraising event and auction, took part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge and six runners trained hard to complete the Brighton marathon and Royal Parks half marathon, generating significant unrestricted funds to support our advice service.

Following extensive project development and a competitive application process during 2017/18, Grandparents Plus was delighted to be chosen as one of 16 organisations selected to take part in the Connected Communities Innovation Fund, a partnership between Nesta and the Office for Civil Society at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's reserves policy is to build up its unrestricted reserves to cover approximately six months' operating expenditure.

### **Governance and management**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) serve for three years after which period they may put themselves forward for re-appointment. The board of trustees keeps the skill requirements of its members under review and may appoint a person as a trustee either to fill a vacancy or as an additional trustee. New trustees may be sought by open advertisement or through a dialogue with existing supporters of the charity. The Articles of Association provide for a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of ten trustees. Newly appointed trustees receive an induction pack, including the charity's governing document and a briefing document describing the legal status, role and responsibilities of trustees. They are invited to visit the offices of the charity for further informal briefings by the Chief Executive.

The board is responsible for setting the strategy and policies of Grandparents Plus. The members of the board elect the Chair and appoint the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is responsible to the board of trustees, through the Chair, for the execution of those policies.

### **Members of the board of trustees**

The trustees who held office during the year are shown on page 1. There were four board meetings during the year and a staff and Trustee away day, to which all board members were invited. The trustees wish to thank Trevor Bush who was Chair until March 2018 and who played a key role in supporting the merger of Grandparents Plus and The Grandparents' Association in 2015 and the charity's growth thereafter. The board also thank the trustees who resigned during the year, as well as Frank Harding who acted as financial adviser to the board after the merger and through a period of significant change. The board is especially grateful to kinship carer, Julie Wilkes who continues to support the charity as a Champion and to Chair our Kinship Care Professionals Group in the north of England. The board is delighted to welcome three new trustees in 2018, who bring significant skills and experience to support the charity's development.

### **Staff and volunteers**

The trustees wish to thank the skilled and committed staff and volunteers who are dedicated to ensuring that grandparents and kinship carers are recognised, valued and supported in the role that they play in the lives of their families.

## Remuneration of key personnel

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings to reflect a cost of living adjustment.

## Risk management and internal controls

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems of control, both financial and operational.

The Finance Committee meets regularly and reviews the major financial and operational risks facing the charity. It monitors the implementation of any changes necessary to ensure that, as far as is reasonable, controls are in place to protect the charity, its members, its staff, the general public and other stakeholders. Frank Harding continued to chair that committee during 2017/18.

Grandparents Plus has a formal risk management process through which the Chief Executive identifies the major risks to which the charity may be exposed and has ranked these by likelihood and impact, culminating in a risk control document which is updated on a regular basis. All significant risks, together with current mitigation actions, are reviewed annually by the trustees. The trustees are satisfied that systems have been developed and are in place to mitigate identified risks to an acceptable level.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- An annual budget approved by the board.
- Regular consideration by the board of financial results, variance from budgets and non-financial performance indicators.
- Delegation of authority and operating procedures.

The principal risks and uncertainties identified by the trustees are as follows:

<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Action taken to mitigate the risk</b>
Over reliance on project funding	Fundraising strategy to diversify income
Reduction in funding from major donors	Fundraising strategy to diversify income
Data loss	Data Protection Policy and IT systems and processes reviewed regularly

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities in respect of the trustees' report and financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity



of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware; and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

### **Small companies' provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the board

Jayne Harrill  
Chair



Dated: 29.09.18

### **Chief Executive's report**

It has been a transformational year for Grandparents Plus.

We are proud to have supported more kinship carers than ever before through our advice service and our programmes. Our advice service has been a lifeline, supporting 1,789 families and leaving them over £500,000 better off. Our programmes reached a milestone of 800 families supported, as Relative Experience continued across the North East and was established in north London. We are delighted that the programme – relaunched as Kinship Connected and now commissioned by local authorities - continues to expand, offering life-changing support to more kinship carers and their families.

We have continued to grow our influence, contributing a distinctive voice on the role of grandparents and kinship carers in supporting families and the experiences of kinship carers and young people who've grown up in kinship care through ground-breaking research, impactful media coverage and engagement with policy-makers and practitioners at local and national level.

We have restructured the charity, developed a new business plan with invaluable support from Pilotlight, and launched a new brand and website. We have a new senior leadership team who are driving forward our development in key areas including our programmes and services, our work with volunteers, and our influencing activities.

Our transformation was underpinned by support from our Trustees, staff, funders and, especially, by the hundreds of kinship carers who contribute so much – to our surveys and research, as Champions raising awareness and campaigning for change, as volunteers running support groups and providing emotional support to others through our Someone Like Me telephone support service.

By March 2019, we plan to be supporting more kinship families. We will introduce new digital technologies to enable us to support more people through our advice service and website. Our new social action project, funded by the Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport and innovation foundation Nesta, will mean more kinship carers will be able to access peer-led support groups locally. And we will continue to push hard to raise awareness and understanding about kinship care and to influence policy and practice change.

We are committed to transforming support for kinship families and we look forward to working with all our partners and supporters to achieve our ambitious plans.



Lucy Peake

Chief Executive

## Summary of our work 2017/18

### Advice service

Our specialist kinship care advice service is a key source of free information and expert advice for grandparents and kinship carers throughout England and Wales. Having celebrated the significant milestone of supporting its 7500<sup>th</sup> family this year, the enormous impact of speaking to one of our advisors on kinship care families is clearer than it's ever been. During 2016/17 we adopted our 'digital first' approach, and the launch of our new website in September 2017 allowed us to streamline and review all of the information we provide, significantly improving the accessibility of our online advice pages and making it easier for people to find the information they need. We will continue to develop our digital strategy for the advice service in the coming year, as well as continuing to provide the telephone service which is so valuable to so many.

Over 2017/18 the advice service:

- Directly supported 1,789 families over the phone, on Facebook or via email.
- Supported 720 families with questions around legal options, and over 600 with queries around local authority support.
- Identified additional benefits entitlements for families worth £474,000.
- Secured grants worth nearly £30,000 from partners including Buttle UK, the Family Holiday Association and the Al Mizan Trust.

Feedback from kinship carers continues to show the huge emotional impact the service has. Comments included:

*"I have felt fully supported and understood every time I rang and was overwhelmed by being able to have a voice and someone to talk to when in crisis."*

*"My adviser was amazing and encouraging. She went above and beyond to assist me and I am so grateful to her."*

2017/18 also saw the launch of our Someone Like Me peer support service, with trained volunteer kinship carers providing emotional support to other kinship carers over the phone. Our first two active volunteers have already helped 21 carers.

### Support Network

Our support network continues to go from strength to strength as the largest network of kinship carers in the country, with over 4,000 individual members and almost 600 professionals involved.

Thanks to the support of the Big Lottery Fund, 215 network members attended specialist kinship care masterclasses. Feedback from kinship carers included:

*"So interesting, engaging and informative. Thank you so much. I also made some new connections with other kinship carers."*

Over 500 kinship carers and children joined us for our Annual Celebration Day, this year again supported by the Family Holiday Association, which for the first time was held over three locations across the country. One family said:

*"From the very beginning staff members gave us info and we had a lovely day, the t-shirts we were given were a great idea as it helped us to identify who was with the Grandparents Plus group."*

Our network also celebrated the success of our Kinship Care Champions programme, also supported by the Big Lottery Fund. 2017/18 saw our 26 active Champions raise awareness about kinship care in a number of ways, telling their stories through both national and local media and spreading the word in their local areas.

## **Kinship Care Support Programmes**

### Relative Experience

2017/18 marked a new phase of our Big Lottery funded programme Relative Experience, run in partnership with Family Lives. We were awarded a significant grant by Big Lottery's Accelerating Ideas fund, aimed at transforming kinship care support. This enabled us to replicate the amazing success of our North East programme by expanding the programme to six north London boroughs.

Featuring one-to-one support from expert project workers, support group development, volunteer befriending, local signposting and access to grants, the project was able to provide one to one support to 274 carers throughout the year, bringing the total number of kinship carers supported by Relative Experience since 2014 to 833. As part of the project, Grandparents Plus worked with kinship carers to establish and develop 26 support groups, many now running independently. In addition, 41 kinship carers were acting as support group leaders, and 12 had been trained as Kinship Care Champions.

Following on from the independent evaluation at the end of 2016/17, the Relative Experience project in London was externally evaluated with data indicating positive changes for kinship carers, particularly in areas relating to kinship carers' confidence, the care of children, children's behaviour and kinship carers' concerns with their financial situation. Kinship carers reported feeling a greater sense of support and feeling more optimistic about the future. It was noted that the model of advice and support helps kinship carers to gain knowledge and resilience to continue in their role despite many challenges, and that this ultimately benefits the children in their care.

The London report noted:

*'This is a challenging environment for the Relative Experience workers to operate in, but the model works. Not only does it provide the much-needed one-to-one advice and support to kinship carers, it improves kinship carers' social networking opportunities and peer-to-peer support. This is a vital form of support for a very vulnerable group of people who often receive very little practical or financial support from social services.'*

Beneficiaries have also reflected on the quality of support from the project in London:

*"My satisfaction with the support I have received from Grandparents Plus is very, very high – it is the best thing that has happened to me in my life and I would recommend it to anyone. I have regular contact by email and telephone with my project worker ...she provides advice and support – I didn't expect this, it's very, very good."*

We're hugely proud of the impact Relative Experience has achieved, and our thanks go to the staff who've made the project a success and to Big Lottery Fund for their continued support. A full evaluation of both areas is due later in 2018.

### Middlesbrough and Teesside Kinship Carer Support Programme

Thanks to the generous support of the Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation, we continue to work with kinship carers to deliver transformational support across the Tees Valley area, featuring:

- One-to-one support from an experienced project worker
- Support group development
- Training events for kinship carers
- A localised Kinship Care Champions programme.

### Kinship Connected

We are proud to say 2017/18 saw the announcement of Kinship Connected, our new support programme for kinship care families, created as a result of the many years we've been helping kinship carers through practical support. We are grateful to both the Big Lottery Fund and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for supporting the development of our programmes.

Building on the success of our Relative Experience programme, Kinship Connected is a new bespoke kinship care support programme available for local authority commission. We are pleased to be already commissioned to deliver in a quarter of London boroughs in 2018/19, building on our work in North London.

The programme includes the elements of kinship care support that have been shown to have most impact, including one to one support through project workers and support group development.

As part of Kinship Connected, we are also extremely pleased to be starting a new project with Nesta and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to scale our support group development into new areas, including trialling virtual support groups. We are confident that as a result we are closer to our vision of every kinship care family, in every area, being able to get the support they need.

### **Influencing**

Grandparents Plus made huge strides this year in raising awareness of kinship care, through elevating kinship carer voices in the media, policy and academic spheres.

This year we launched our first integrated campaign, and produced a video featuring kinship carer Rochelle in London's Trafalgar Square. The video, supported by the Big Lottery Fund, reached over 250,000 people on Facebook, and called for greater awareness of kinship care families throughout the country.

We echoed this call at our national conference in November, in partnership with Family Lives, the University of Bristol and the Economic and Social Research Council, which shone a spotlight on kinship care, and was attended by carers, social workers, academics, voluntary sector representatives and policymakers, including a contribution from then Children and Families Minister Robert Goodwill MP. The conference featured a design-led session on reimagining kinship care, with outputs guiding our work going forward.

The conference also featured the launch of our research on Growing Up in Kinship Care – led by trustee Professor Elaine Farmer and supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. The research, the first of its kind looking at outcomes of children and young people who have grown up in kinship care into adulthood, was featured in The Observer and on the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire programme, and was widely disseminated among policy and practice audiences. The study found:

- for the majority of young people, kinship carers had provided a stable home, with good levels of parenting, family support and close relationships with their carers. **Outcomes were significantly better than those of young people who had been in local authority care**, despite the similar adversities faced in their early lives.
- However, **outcomes for young people in kinship care were not as good as for their peers in the general population**, and the study highlighted a number of challenges uniquely faced by young people in kinship care.
- There was a **small minority of young people who had predominantly negative outcomes, and clearly need far more support**. They tended to have entered kinship care later (often with a number of moves beforehand), left the kinship home earlier, be not in education, employment or training, with low educational attainment and probable mental health disorders.

Grandparents Plus called for greater support for kinship care families in both national and regional media throughout the year. We were featured in coverage around kinship care in The Guardian, BBC online, BBC Five Live, The Telegraph and numerous other national and regional broadcast, print and online outlets in a record year for kinship care coverage. In addition, Grandparents Plus is still the first port of call for comment around grandparenting and the role of grandparents in family life, and was featured in various national and regional titles including the Financial Times, the BBC News Channel and in the Mirror.

Grandparents Plus continues to be an active participant in the Kinship Care Alliance, and collaborated with sector colleagues on a number of campaigns, including extending the two child tax credit limit exemption for kinship carers to children born after April 2017. We have also met individually with the Department for Education, front bench and constituency MPs to raise awareness of the challenges facing kinship care families. We will continue to build on this element of our work into 2018/19.

## **Building our organisation**

2017/18 was a transformational year for Grandparents Plus, and we've reached a number of milestones.

- We launched our new brand in September 2017. Working with design agency Narrative and in the context of our merger with The Grandparents' Association late in 2015, we launched a new logo and visual identity that puts children at the heart of what we do and better represents who we are as a charity. We are grateful to the players of People's Postcode Lottery for making this possible.
- At the same time, we launched a completely redesigned website, with a focus on making it as easy as possible for people to find advice and information online and on enabling online donations. We have seen a year-on-year increase in visitor numbers of 12.5% on the new site, and received in excess of £1,500 in individual donations, often in response to our media work. Our thanks go to the Transform Foundation for their support.
- This year we completed a year-long project with capacity building charity Pilotlight, working with business leaders to increase the charity's sustainability. Involving both trustees and senior managers, the project was transformational for the charity, and directly led to a renewed strategic focus within the organisation. As a result, we were able to start 2018/19 with a new business plan, a completed governance review and begin the recruitment of new trustees to build on the charity's vision.
- Our focus on diversifying income was rewarded as our kinship care support programme became fully funded through local authority commissions in a quarter of London boroughs. Over the past two years, we have significantly reduced our reliance on project funding, and we are grateful to the many partners and funders who make our work possible.
- After over 15 years, Grandparents Plus moved from our home at The Young Foundation in Bethnal Green to new offices in Camberwell, South London. Our charity was co-founded by the late social entrepreneur Lord Michael Young in 2001, and we have been incredibly fortunate to have had the support of The Young Foundation as we've evolved over the years.
- This year we appointed a new Volunteer Development Manager, who has led on formalising and embedding good volunteering practise throughout the organisation. We now have around 70 active volunteers in a number of roles, including as Kinship Care Champions, support group leaders and Someone Like Me volunteers. The majority of our volunteers are kinship carers themselves, and volunteer as an opportunity to give back and transform support for kinship carers in the future. One said:  
"My personal journey from receiving support and advice in the beginning to now volunteering and supporting others as a volunteer - I am proud that I have done a lot, done new things, met and connected with others, and continued to learn and grow."

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GRANDPARENTS PLUS

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Grandparents Plus (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise Statement of financial activities, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for company law purposes, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the and the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit [; or
- the trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 5, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Timothy Sullivan (Senior Statutory Auditor)<sup>4</sup>



For and on behalf of Field Sullivan Limited, Statutory Auditor<sup>4</sup>

27/9/18

70 Royal Hill

Greenwich

SE10 8RF



**Statement of Financial Activities  
Income and expenditure account  
For the year to 31 March 2018**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £	2017 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
See note 18 for detail					
<b>Income from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income	2	254,142	31,520	285,662	429,723
Investment income		581	-	581	215
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Advice Service	3	-	57,680	57,680	57,095
Service Development		-	31,745	31,745	81,438
Policy and Research		-	7,300	7,300	9,795
Relative Experience		41,052	342,590	383,642	410,678
Support Network		-	97,861	97,861	79,005
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>295,775</b>	<b>568,696</b>	<b>864,471</b>	<b>1,067,949</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Costs of charitable activities</b>					
Cost of generating voluntary income	4	31,415	-	31,415	30,749
Charitable activities	5	185,907	561,159	747,066	822,836
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>217,322</b>	<b>561,159</b>	<b>778,481</b>	<b>853,585</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	9	<b>78,453</b>	<b>7,537</b>	<b>85,990</b>	<b>214,364</b>
<b>Exceptional costs of merger and re-organisation</b>	8	-	-	-	(28,744)
<b>Net Income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>78,453</b>	<b>7,537</b>	<b>85,990</b>	<b>185,620</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2017		195,764	108,347	304,111	118,491
<b>Fund balances as at 31 March 2018</b>		<b>274,217</b>	<b>115,884</b>	<b>390,101</b>	<b>304,111</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**As at 31 March 2018**  
**Company number: 04454103**

		£	<u>2018</u> £	£	<u>2017</u> £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	12		4,836		740
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Grants receivable	13	84,609		61,406	
Prepayments and sundry debtors	13	3,047		4,256	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>438,467</u>		<u>403,673</u>	
		<b>526,123</b>		<b>469,335</b>	
<b>CREDITORS: due within one year</b>					
	14	<u>(140,858)</u>		<u>(165,964)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>385,265</b>		<b>303,371</b>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><b>390,101</b></u>		<u><b>304,111</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted funds			115,884		108,347
Unrestricted funds			274,217		195,764
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u><b>390,101</b></u>		<u><b>304,111</b></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The board of Directors approved the financial statements on... 29.09.18 ..... and duly authorised the Chair to sign on its behalf:

  
 Jayne Harrill  
 Chair

The notes on pages 17 to 25 form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2018**  
**Company number: 04454103**

	2018 £	2017 £
<b>Net cash generated/(used) in operating activities</b>	<b>40,483</b>	<b>277,644</b>
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(5,688)	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	<u>34,795</u>	<u>277,644</u>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	403,672	126,028
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	<u><u>438,467</u></u>	<u><u>403,672</u></u>
<b>Reconciliation of net movement of funds to net cash used in operating activities</b>		
Net movement in funds	85,990	185,621
Depreciation	1,593	247
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(21,994)	30,267
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(25,106)	61,509
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<u><u>40,483</u></u>	<u><u>277,644</u></u>

The notes on pages 17 to 25 form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

**1. Accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective 1 January 2015) -(Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Companies Act 2006. This standard was first implemented in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016.

**Statutory information**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee with no share capital, domiciled in England and Wales, registration number 4454103.

In the event of the charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is restricted to £1 per member of the company.

The address of the registered office is 1 Addington Square, London SE5 0HF.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the board on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The charity meets the definition of a public entity under FRS 103.

The presentation currency is sterling.

**The following principal accounting policies have been applied:**

**Income**

Voluntary income and income from charitable activities comprise amounts received and receivable by way of donations and grants where the amounts are certain and there are no outstanding conditions to be met to confirm that they are payable.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

**Fund accounting**

Restricted and unrestricted funds are separately disclosed, as set out in note 16.

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Restricted funds are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Statutory grants which are given as contributions towards the charity's core services are treated as unrestricted.

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Support costs, which cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, have been apportioned proportionately based on the staff numbers.

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

**Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Computer and office equipment and furniture costing less than £500 is written off in the year of purchase. Assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	25% straight line
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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

**Taxation**

No taxation has been provided for in the financial statements because, as a registered charity, the income is exempt from taxation.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

**Trade debtors**

Trade debtors are amounts due in respect of charitable services performed in the normal course of operations. They are recognised initially at the transaction price and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less a provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is evidence the charity will not be able to collect all the amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

**Trade creditors**

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods and services that have been provided in the normal course of operations. They are classified as current liabilities in the absence of an unconditional right to defer settlement into a period more than 12 months after the accounting date.

They are recognised initially at the transaction price and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

<b>2. Voluntary income</b>	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds <b>2018</b> £	Total Funds <b>2017</b> £
Grants and donations (see below)	231,503	31,520	263,023	394,559
Publications	-	-	-	475
Individual fundraising	13,635	-	13,635	12,037
Membership fees	3,892	-	3,892	14,034
Sundry income	5,112	-	5,112	8,618
	<u>254,142</u>	<u>31,520</u>	<u>285,662</u>	<u>429,723</u>

**Analysis of voluntary grants, trust fundraising and donations**

Peoples Postcode Lottery	200,000	-	200,000	250,000
Headley Trust	-	-	-	25,000
John Ellerman Foundation	-	-	-	25,000
Other trust grants	-	11,000	11,000	-
Other grants, donations	31,503	20,520	52,023	94,559
	<u>231,503</u>	<u>31,520</u>	<u>263,023</u>	<u>394,559</u>

Grants raised that are not for one specific activity have been included within voluntary income. Grants related to specific activities have been reflected in charitable activities in note 3.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

**3. Incoming resources from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted <u>funds</u> £	Restricted <u>funds</u> £	Total funds <u>2018</u> £	Total Funds <u>2017</u> £
<b>Advice Service</b>				
Big Lottery Fund - Accelerating Ideas Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation	-	23,473	23,473	-
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities	-	1,930	1,930	-
The Henry Smith Charity	-	6,070	6,070	-
		26,207	26,207	57,095
		57,680	57,680	57,095
<b>Support</b>				
Department for Education Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation	-	-	-	1,130
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities	-	31,405	31,405	13,727
Big Lottery Fund - People's Project	-	61,456	61,456	66,408
	-	5,000	5,000	-
	-	97,861	97,861	79,005
<b>Service Development</b>				
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	31,745	31,745	61,406
	-	31,745	31,745	61,406
<b>Policy &amp; Research</b>				
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	7,300	7,300	-
Big Lottery Awards for All	-	-	-	9,795
	-	7,300	7,300	9,795
<b>Relative Experience</b>				
Big Lottery Fund - Accelerating Ideas	41,052	342,590	383,642	20,032
Big Lottery Fund - Silver Dreams Fund	-	-	-	410,678
	41,052	342,590	383,642	430,710
	41,052	537,176	578,228	638,011

Grants related to specific activities have been included in charitable activities. Grants raised that are not for one specific activity have been reflected within voluntary income in note 2.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

**4. Costs of generating voluntary income**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2017 £
Staff costs	26,321	-	26,321	28,831
Other costs	5,094	-	5,094	1,918
	<b>31,415</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,415</b>	<b>30,749</b>

**5. Resources expended**

	Staff costs £	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2018 £	2017 £
Advice Service	68,383	145	16,027	84,555	81,577
Support Network	35,282	19,209	10,148	64,639	93,948
Relative Experience	252,250	16,985	66,008	335,243	414,346
Service Development	62,795	-	-	62,795	59,000
Policy and Research	-	13,852	75	13,927	25,632
Core	82,069	15,113	88,725	185,907	148,333
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>	<b>500,779</b>	<b>65,304</b>	<b>180,983</b>	<b>747,066</b>	<b>822,836</b>
<b>Costs of generating charitable income (note 4)</b>	<b>26,321</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,094</b>	<b>31,415</b>	<b>30,750</b>
<b>Exceptional costs (note 9)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,743</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>527,100</b>	<b>65,304</b>	<b>186,077</b>	<b>778,481</b>	<b>882,329</b>

Details of staff costs are given in note 7.

**6. Support costs**

	Total 2018 £	Other charitable activities 2018 £	Core 2018 £	Core 2017 £
Other staff costs	33,277	30,785	2,492	33,137
Premises costs	28,847	3,534	25,313	8,091
Postage	1,412	248	1,164	2,828
Telecommunications	8,876	5,245	3,631	10,007
Office equipment maintenance	8,528	445	8,083	10,249
General administration costs	68,999	37,064	31,935	22,189
Professional costs	28,106	15,307	12,799	23,367
Other costs	2,938	84	2,854	-
	<b>180,983</b>	<b>92,712</b>	<b>88,271</b>	<b>109,868</b>



**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

**7. Staff numbers and costs**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries	483,564	424,875
Social security costs	43,536	33,509
	<b>527,100</b>	<b>458,384</b>
Staff costs split:		
Charitable activities (note 6)	418,710	388,565
Core (note 6)	82,069	59,403
Costs of generating funds (note 4)	26,321	10,416
	<b>527,100</b>	<b>458,384</b>

The average number of employees during the year was:

	Number	Number
Direct activities	18	21
Governance	-	-
Cost of raising funds	-	-
	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>

1 employee received remuneration of more than £60,000.

A majority of staff are employed on a part-time basis

**8. Merger and subsequent re-organisation costs**

Redundancy costs	-	28,744
	-	28,744

**9. Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation	1,593	2,967
Audit fees	4,500	4,500

**10. Executive committee**

During the year no members of the executive committee received any remuneration (2017: £nil).

4 trustees (2017: 4) received reimbursements of expenses amounting £1,176 for travel (2017: £1,811).

**11. Indemnity insurance**

During the year £954 (2017:£895) indemnity insurance was paid to protect the charity from loss arising from the neglect or defaults of its trustees, employees or agents, and to indemnify the trustees and other officers against the consequences of neglect or default on their part.

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the year to 31 March 2018**

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

**Fixtures, fittings and office equipment**

**Cost**

At 1 April 2017	8,824	
Additions	5,689	
<b>At 31 March 2018</b>	<b>14,513</b>	

**Depreciation**

At 1 April 2017	8,084	
Charge for year	1,593	
<b>At 31 March 2018</b>	<b>9,677</b>	

**Net book values**

<b>At 31st March 2018</b>	<b>4,836</b>	
At 31st March 2017	740	

**13. Debtors**

	2018	2017
	£	£
Due within one year:		
Grant debtors	84,609	61,406
Other debtors and prepayments	3,047	4,256
	<b>87,656</b>	<b>65,662</b>

**14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,470	4,482
Accruals	26,982	49,164
Deferred grant income	110,406	112,318
	<b>140,858</b>	<b>165,964</b>

Deferred grant income represents income relating to the next year received in the current year. Income of £110,406 which related to 2017/18 has been deferred and deferred income of £112,318 from last year has been released as it related to the current year.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

**15. Statement of funds**

	Brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources Expended £	Carried forward £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>195,764</b>	<b>295,775</b>	<b>217,322</b>	<b>274,217</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Support	84,575	129,381	64,639	149,317
Relative Experience	4,893	342,590	335,243	12,240
Advice Service	(20,610)	57,680	84,555	(47,485)
Policy and Research	(5,729)	7,300	13,927	(12,356)
Service Development	45,218	31,745	62,795	14,168
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>108,347</b>	<b>568,696</b>	<b>561,159</b>	<b>115,884</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>304,111</b>	<b>864,471</b>	<b>778,481</b>	<b>390,101</b>

**Notes on the restricted grant funding**

a.) The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities funded the Support Network activities and also made a contribution towards the advice service and to core.

The Big Lottery Fund Accelerating Ideas Fund supported the roll-out of Relative Experience to London and a campaign and a conference.

b.) The Advice Service was funded by The Henry Smith Charity along with contributions from other grants.

c.) The Paul Hamlyn Foundation supported the research into Growing up in Kinship Care.

d.) The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation grant supported Service Development.

**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2017 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	4,836	-	4,836	740
Cash	296,786	141,681	438,467	403,673
Other net current liabilities	(27,405)	(25,797)	(53,202)	(100,302)
	<b>274,217</b>	<b>115,884</b>	<b>390,101</b>	<b>304,111</b>

**17. Other official commitments**

Commitments of operating leases expire as follows:

Office equipment: 2-5 years

2018 £	2017 £
1,441.12	1,441.12

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year to 31 March 2018**

**18. Comparative numbers for the Statement of Financial Activities**

	2018			2017		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>Income from generated funds</b>						
Voluntary income	254,142	31,520	285,662	384,611	45,112	429,723
Investment income	581		581	215	-	215
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
Advice Service	-	57,680	57,680	-	57,095	57,095
Service Development	-	31,745	31,745	-	81,438	81,438
Policy and Research	-	7,300	7,300	-	9,795	9,795
Relative Experience	41,052	342,590	383,642	-	410,678	410,678
Support Network	-	97,861	97,861	-	79,005	79,005
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>295,775</b>	<b>568,696</b>	<b>864,471</b>	<b>384,826</b>	<b>683,123</b>	<b>1,067,949</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
<b>Costs of charitable activities</b>						
Cost of generating voluntary income	31,415	-	31,415	-	30,750	30,750
Charitable activities	185,907	561,159	747,066	166,489	656,347	822,836
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>217,322</b>	<b>561,159</b>	<b>778,481</b>	<b>166,489</b>	<b>687,097</b>	<b>853,586</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>78,453</b>	<b>7,537</b>	<b>85,990</b>	<b>218,337</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>214,364</b>
<b>Exceptional costs of merger and re-organisation</b>						
		-	-	(28,743)	-	(28,743)
<b>Net Income/(expenditure) for the year</b>	<b>78,453</b>	<b>7,537</b>	<b>85,990</b>	<b>189,594</b>	<b>(3,974)</b>	<b>185,620</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources after transfers, being net movement in funds</b>	<b>78,453</b>	<b>7,537</b>	<b>85,990</b>	<b>189,594</b>	<b>(3,974)</b>	<b>185,620</b>
<b>Fund balances at 1 April 2017</b>	<b>195,764</b>	<b>108,347</b>	<b>304,111</b>	<b>6,170</b>	<b>112,321</b>	<b>118,491</b>
<b>Fund balances as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>274,217</b>	<b>115,884</b>	<b>390,101</b>	<b>195,764</b>	<b>108,347</b>	<b>304,111</b>

