



GRANDPARENTS PLUS

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Registered charity no 1093975

Company no 4454103

Annual Report and financial statements

31 MARCH 2020

GRANDPARENTS PLUS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

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**GRANDPARENTS PLUS
OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

Members of the board

Jayne Harrill, Chair
Julian Young, Honorary Treasurer
James Baker (appointed 26 September 2019)
Natalie Baldry
David Eaton (appointed 26 September 2019)
Prof Elaine Farmer
Dawn Jenkins (resigned 26 September 2019)
Sally Rowe (resigned 26 September 2019)
Stephen Sowden
Yvette Stanley (appointed 17 February 2020)
Hans Stocker (resigned 17 February 2020)

Chief Executive and Company Secretary

Lucy Peake

Principal address and Registered Office

The Foundry
17 Oval Way
London
SE11 5RR

Auditor

Field Sullivan Limited
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 2020**

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. 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 society in which kinship carers and the children they care for are recognised, valued and supported.

Mission statement

To ensure that kinship carers and the children they care for get the support and recognition they need.

Charitable objects

During the year, the Trustees revised and agreed the charitable objects which are:

- Object 1 to support kinship carers who are grandparents, family members or friends who care for children when a parent calls for help or when there has been family breakdown or in other difficult circumstances promoting the best interests of the children they care for.
- Object 2 to work with local authorities, children's services, voluntary agencies, social workers and other professionals, and kinship carers to promote better support for all children in kinship care.
- Object 3 to ensure the role of kinship carers and the wider family in caring for children is fully incorporated within legislation, and national and local government policy and practice.
- Object 4 to raise awareness of the contribution kinship carers make to society so that kinship carers are recognised, valued and supported.

Principal activities

Grandparents Plus is the only national charity dedicated solely to supporting kinship carers and their families, whatever their situation. Uniquely, we support all kinship carers, including grandparents and all other relatives and friends, and those with all legal orders or none. We want support for every kinship family when they need it, in the way they need it.

We:

- campaign with kinship carers for change so that their contribution to children's wellbeing and care is valued and understood.
- provide evidence, policy solutions, programmes and training so that kinship families receive the services and support they need to help children to thrive.
- advise and support kinship carers by ensuring that they have access to professional advice, information and peer support.

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- advise, inform and support professionals to develop good kinship care practice.

Strategic objectives 2019-22

The Trustees agreed the following strategic objectives for 2019-22 and the charity worked towards these for the year under review.

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

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

In 2020-21, we will continue to work towards our 2019-22 strategic objectives. Everything we do is focused on achieving our goal that every kinship family will be able to access the support they need and we will be ambitious in our plans which include:

- Understanding and responding to the specific needs of kinship families during the Covid-19 pandemic, including extending and developing advice and support services to meet their needs.
- Delivering high quality, evidence-based and impactful support programmes in new regions in England and into Wales.
- Developing a sustainable network of kinship carer-led peer support groups, including virtual peer support and piloting new regional fora for support group leaders.
- Developing a new digital information hub to enable potential and current kinship carers to find sources of advice, information and support.
- Growing our vibrant kinship care community, connecting kinship carers with each other and with us for support and to influence change.
- Raising awareness about kinship care, including through high profile media coverage and leading the national awareness campaign Kinship Care Week.
- Investing in our policy, practice and research capacity and collaborating with kinship carers, local authorities, charity partners, academics and others to improve kinship care policy and practice.
- Undertaking a whole organisation review of our approach to diversity and tackling racism, including addressing the lack of ethnic diversity on our Board and senior team.
- Reviewing our charity name to ensure that our name and brand help us reach our beneficiaries and achieve our objectives.

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Financial Review

The financial statements reflect the operations of Grandparents Plus for the twelve months ended 31 March 2020.

The total income for the year was £1,171,686 (2019: £965,139). This included an unrestricted grant of £300,000, some of which is intended to cover expenditure for the rest of 2020. In accordance with the Charities SORP, this has been included in income in full for the year ended 31 March 2020. Total expenditure was £1,033,751 (2019: £762,361) and the resulting net income for the year was £137,935 (2018: £202,778).

The deficit on unrestricted funds amounted to £17,422 and there was a surplus on restricted funds of £155,357. The total funds carried forward at 31 March 2020 were £730,814 (2019: £592,879), being unrestricted £483,980 (2019: £501,402) and restricted £246,834 (2019: £91,477).

At 31 March 2020 the charity had cash resources of £671,613 (2019: £675,983). 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

In 2019/20 we continued to diversify our income. We are extremely grateful to all our funders and supporters for their generous support.

Our funders include:

- Ballinger Charitable Trust
- Cripplegate Foundation
- The Dulverton Trust
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Headley Trust
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Nesta and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- The Mercers' Company
- Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation
- Players of the People's Postcode Lottery
- Sport England

We would like to extend a special thanks to the players of the People's Postcode Lottery for their generous support since 2017. This support has helped us to grow and reach more kinship carers year-on-year, tackling loneliness and isolation, connecting kinship carers to Grandparents Plus and each other through our growing community, and to fund our vital advice service.

We are also grateful to the generous individuals who support our work through donations and fundraising activities, including our team of runners in the Royal Parks Half Marathon.

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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. Trustees are invited to staff planning days and encouraged to meet beneficiaries.

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 and during the year, an induction day for new trustees, and a staff away day, to which all board members were invited. In addition, the finance sub committee meets quarterly, chaired by the Treasurer.

Two trustees left the board: Hans Stocker and Dawn Jenkins. Trustees thank them for their contribution, especially to our plans to scale up kinship care support programmes. Their insight provided a strong foundation as we rapidly developed new services to support kinship carers during Covid-19. The board was delighted to welcome new trustees Yvette Stanley, James Baker and Dave Eaton, during the year under review, who bring significant children's services, digital and public affairs 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 kinship carers are recognised, valued and supported. We are proud to work with kinship carers who are members of staff, trustees and advisory group members, and who also make up a growing group of volunteers who help deliver our advice service and programmes, influencing and awareness raising activities. They are transforming support for kinship families and we could not do what we do without them.

Our Kinship Care Advisory Group is made up of nine kinship carers from across the country. Co-chaired by kinship carer and trustee Natalie Baldry and our chief executive, the group is a key part of our commitment to ensuring that kinship carer voices are heard and shape our work at every level.

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Remuneration of key personnel

The pay of the chief executive is reviewed annually and may be 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. Julian Young, the Treasurer, chaired the committee during 2019/2020.

Grandparents Plus has a formal risk management process through which the chief executive along with the senior leadership team, 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:

Risk identified	Action taken to mitigate the risk
Over reliance on project funding	Fundraising and business development strategies to diversify income
Reduction in funding from major donors	Fundraising and business development strategies to diversify income
Data loss	Data Protection Policy and IT systems and processes reviewed regularly; new CRM system implemented with training for staff

Trustees discuss regularly any emerging risks and consider their potential impact on the charity.

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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 judgments 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. 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.

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Chief Executive's report

In March 2020 the country went into lockdown. Our advice service had seen a 63 per cent increase in enquiries, with almost one-quarter being specifically about coronavirus. Even before the pandemic, kinship carers were living in precarious situations. When compared to others raising children, they are more likely to be older, have a chronic health condition or disability, be single, live in poverty, unemployed, poorly housed and socially isolated. There is also a higher prevalence of kinship care in areas with higher levels of deprivation and among BAME communities. As news of the pandemic developed, we were concerned that kinship carers were vulnerable and would be disproportionately affected.

Our response was decisive: we would do as much as we could to understand and support kinship families. We acted quickly, moving resources to extend our advice service opening hours. Our project workers redesigned services, delivering face-to-face work online, offering one-to-one support by telephone and email. Peer support groups were supported to move online, using WhatsApp and Zoom, with project workers building digital skills and confidence among kinship carers. We collaborated with our charity grants partners to ensure that essentials like beds, white goods and laptops to support home schooling could be arranged quickly, as well as financial support to cover costs of food and energy bills.

Tailored information and advice was essential. There was no specific guidance offered for kinship carers and they felt invisible. Even worse, government guidance that grandparents should not see their grandchildren stoked fear among kinship carers, especially when they were older and in 'clinically vulnerable' groups. They had to look after their children and they were worried about dying. We sifted and translated government guidance, adding it to a new Covid-19 section on our website. We also increased the frequency of our e-newsletters to our community of carers, writing to them monthly with information and stories about other kinship families. Carers who said they'd felt invisible at the start of the pandemic, told us how important it was to be 'held in mind'. They joined our community in record numbers as a way to connect with each other and us.

We surveyed kinship carers monthly during the lockdown, so we could spot emerging issues and respond to their changing needs. We shared findings widely: with local and national government and in the media, including high profile news pieces featuring kinship families on ITV News and in the Guardian. We helped achieve three things: first, the government recognised the unique needs and vulnerabilities of kinship carers; second, they made funding available to local authorities and the voluntary sector to meet those needs; third, we were able to adapt our programmes rapidly to develop a new Kinship Response service to support carers through the pandemic. This year we will provide more support to more kinship families than ever before.

The pandemic is not over. It has brought significant challenges to our families, for charities and for government and its legacy is likely to be felt for some time. But Grandparents Plus stands stronger and more determined to fight for support for kinship families than ever before. As we went into lockdown, our mission was simple: we would do as much as we could to support our families. The whole team responded with energy, determination and passion. We are the kinship care charity, we are here for our families and we are proud to be supporting more of them than ever before.

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I am immensely grateful to everyone who has supported our work this year, including the funders who make our work possible, our charity and local authority partners, and most of all, the incredible kinship carers, volunteers and staff who are at the heart of our success.



Dr Lucy Peake, Chief Executive

Welcoming our new patron

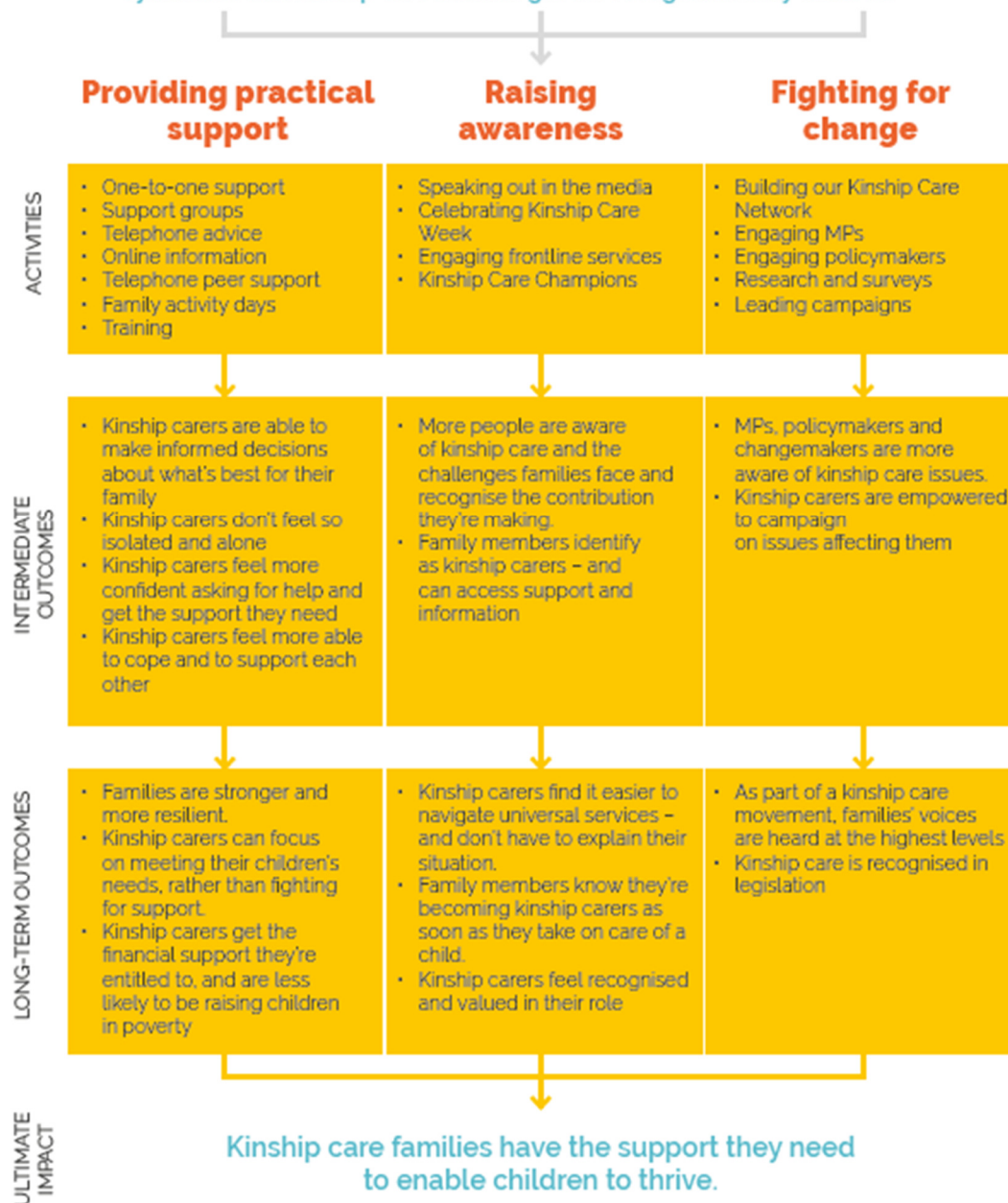
In 2019 we were delighted to welcome Sir James Munby as our Patron. Sir James was appointed a judge of the Family Division in 2000 and of the Court of Appeal in 2009. From 2009 to 2012 he was Chairman of the Law Commission and, from 2013 until his retirement in 2018, President of the Family Division. He is currently Chair of the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. Sir James is a powerful advocate in calling for an end to the unfair treatment of kinship carers, including in a recent BBC Radio 4 World at One report with Grandparents Plus when he called the financial, professional and emotional support available to kinship carers “seriously inadequate...in stark comparison to the support available to foster carers and adoptive parents”. We look forward to working with Sir James to get kinship carers the support they need and deserve.

Our work in 2019/20

All of our programmes and services have been co-designed with kinship carers to make sure they are providing the support they need. We are committed to extending our support for every kinship family and also influencing policy so that kinship families are recognised with entitlements to support.

Our theory of change model

All of our programmes and services have been co-designed with kinship carers to make sure they're providing the support they need. We're also committed to changing the system: so that kinship care families get the recognition they deserve.



Objective: Ensuring that kinship carers are supported so they are able to access high quality information, advice and support when they need it.

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Advice Service

Our specialist kinship care advice service continued to be a crucial resource for carers at all stages of their kinship journeys.

Highlights included:

- 2,656 families supported with expert advice – an increase of 24% from 2018/19.
- We completed 2,932 pieces of casework for families who needed in-depth casework or ongoing support.
- As a result of the advice given, the families we advised were able to access a total of £310,318 in unclaimed benefits.
- We supported kinship carers to secure an additional £87,123 in special guardianship allowance and fostering allowance.
- We secured 79 grants for kinship families, enabling them to purchase essential items to the value of £38,030.

Feedback from kinship carers was extremely positive, with 91% of carers surveyed saying they would recommend the service to friends or family.

We continued to innovate to meet the significant information and advice needs of kinship carers. In order to enable us to support more kinship carers, we introduced a 'digital first' approach including a new web enquiry form. 71 per cent of all enquiries were online, an increase of 46% since 2018/19.

Building a digital information hub for kinship carers

Our annual surveys have consistently found that kinship carers struggle to find the information they need. In 2017 we hosted a Reimagining Kinship Care event where kinship carers, social workers, academics and charity leaders came together to redesign support for kinship carers. An information hub – or one-stop-shop – for kinship carers was a key recommendation and so we were delighted to secure a significant grant from the National Lottery Digital Fund for the development of a ground-breaking digital information hub. It will be designed with kinship carers to help them navigate the complex world they find themselves in when they agree to raise a child, and crucially to find the information they need. Kinship carers will be involved in the project throughout and it will begin with an in-depth discovery phase to understand the information needs of kinship families, and then we will work with them on the co-creation, testing and development of the hub.

Improving how kinship carers find support online

We migrated our website to a more flexible website platform in March, which will not only support the development of our digital information hub, but has allowed us to improve the navigation of the site so that kinship carers can more quickly and easily find the information and support they need. Over the year, we had 150,000 visitors to the site and half a million page views.

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Support programmes for kinship carers

Our support programmes for kinship carers continued to develop and grow throughout the year. We delivered more support services for special guardians, commissioned by local authorities, while our services and programmes for kinship carers and their families were also funded by a range of funders. The emphasis on social action – people helping people – is threaded throughout our programmes and services to encourage empowerment of kinship carers, reduce dependency on statutory services and build community resilience. Our approach is supported by independent evaluations of our programmes.

It was a challenging year for many local authorities with structural and personnel changes taking place in children's services teams due to the regionalisation of adoption services. These changes had a direct impact on the provision of local authority support for special guardians. We are therefore pleased that we maintained key partnerships to enable us to support more kinship carers nationally. We continue to strive towards our goal of all kinship carers being able to access support wherever they live in England and Wales, whatever their legal order.

Kinship Connected

2019-20 was the second year of delivering our Kinship Connected support service for special guardians, which is commissioned by local authorities. The programme was adapted from our previous Big Lottery-funded Relative Experience programme, which ran from 2013-2018, and provided one-to-one support for kinship carers, alongside local, sustainable peer support group development. In 2019/20 we were commissioned by 14 local authorities to deliver Kinship Connected, and 267 kinship carers registered for support from our local project workers. This brings the total number of kinship carers supported on a one-to-one basis through our programmes to 457. As part of our focus on social action, we have set up 61 peer support groups across England.

In addition to our commissioned services, support from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport through innovation foundation Nesta's Connected Communities Fund, consolidated our social action approach. We are proud of our leading role in the development of kinship carer-led support groups nationally, and by the end of the year, we had trained and supported 373 volunteers who are helping to run local support groups.

We are grateful to Nesta for their insight and support, which has been particularly valuable in enabling us to invest in systems, an external evaluation, and an economic case for investment in kinship care which will underpin further growth and scale-up of Kinship Connected.

We are also grateful to the following funders for supporting Kinship Connected:

- Cripplegate Foundation, for funding a wraparound support service for kinship carers in Islington. This has enabled us to provide one-to-one support to 35 kinship carers. We are delighted to have secured further funding for this project until 2022.
- Middlesbrough & Teesside Philanthropic Foundation, for funding support for kinship families of all legal orders and none. Over three years, our support service across Teesside has

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provided one-to-one support to 123 kinship carers, and supported the growth of support groups across the area.

- Headley Trust, who supported the expansion of Kinship Connected to more local authority areas.

Improving the lives of kinship families is at the heart of Kinship Connected, and we are pleased that the programme has been externally evaluated by Starks Consulting and Ecorys and shown to have a positive impact on kinship carers. The main findings included:

- Kinship Connected resulted in a reduction in kinship carers' concerns regarding their children's behaviour, health and wellbeing, educational transitions, diet and friendships.
- Nearly two-fifths of kinship carers reported an increase in their confidence in their parenting role.
- There was a marker increase in the proportion of kinship carers feeling less isolated.
- Kinship carers experienced an increase in their mental wellbeing to above the point at which people would be considered to be at high risk from mental ill-health and depression.
- Total cost benefits of the programme were estimated to be £531,183, or £1,325 per kinship carer. The cost-benefit ratio was 1.20 - for every £1 invested in the programme, £1.20 of benefits is estimated to be generated. This equates to a 20% rate of return on investment.

One 32-year-old kinship carer who looks after her brother told the external evaluator:

"I only found out about Grandparents Plus last year after reaching out to [council] that I was starting to struggle financially to meet the needs of my ever-growing brother. I can say that [project worker] has truly been amazing. I was very unsure about talking to strangers about my feelings and the obstacles and emotions that I've had to deal with but [she] made me feel so comfortable and is so easy to talk to. She has empathy, she is understanding and goes above and beyond to support myself and my family. I would just like to say that I wish I found out about Grandparents Plus sooner."

Kinship Active

In 2018, we launched our new three-year Kinship Active project, supporting kinship families in Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough to get active together. Funded through Sport England's Families Fund, the project aims to tackle the barriers preventing kinship families doing more physical activity, working with support groups and individual families to reach activity goals. Delivered in partnership with Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and Teesside University, by the end of March 2020 the project has supported 85 kinship carer adults and 151 children.

Kinship Ready

Kinship Ready, our preparatory workshop series for new and prospective special guardians, gave potential kinship carers opportunities to access training and peer support networks. Working in partnership with local authorities in east London, our project workers collaborated with social workers to co-deliver a series of workshops which aim to equip carers with the information they need when taking on the care of a relative or friend's child, including sessions on legal information, managing contact and trauma and attachment. Feedback on the sessions was extremely positive, with 100% of attendees saying they would recommend the training to someone else in their

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situation. Particularly valuable was the opportunity to meet other local kinship carers, with 98% of participants saying this was a positive part of the experience:

“Very informative and helpful. Seeing other people in the same position you don’t feel alone. Most helpful and it was also an enjoyable experience too. Highly recommend it, 5 stars.”

“Excellent course, lots of information put across in a clear and familiar manner. This has been an absolute lifesaver. I will be joining a group locally.”

The local authorities in east London have committed to a further two years of the service and other local authorities have commissioned Kinship Ready for 2020/21. Our aim for the coming year is to offer the workshops online.

Peer support group development

Our peer support groups bring kinship carers together to share stories, exchange advice and support each other. They are a great way to meet other kinship carers and help to reduce loneliness and isolation. Some are run by Grandparents Plus, while we have supported others to become independent and self-sustaining.

We have recognised the need for long-term support for support group leaders who facilitate independent support groups. In April we developed the first pilot forum of support group leaders from across the north east of England. The forum meets quarterly with additional regular support provided through a designated Facebook group. Feedback suggested that the forum is an invaluable source of peer support for leaders to share experiences of best practice and discuss ways to overcome potential challenges.

We are delighted to have received funding from the Ballinger Trust to further expand this approach across the north east over the next three years. This will include a new forum for support group leaders in the Teesside area.

Objective: Raising awareness, understanding and recognition of the role of kinship carers in children’s lives and in supporting families.

Leading Kinship Care Week

We led the second annual national Kinship Care Week in October, collaborating with kinship carers, charities, local authorities and others with an interest in kinship care, to create a focal point for kinship care across the sector and wider public. This included leading a working group of participating members of the Kinship Care Alliance and providing briefings and resources for participating local authorities. With multiple objectives of raising awareness of kinship care at local and national level, thanking carers and making them feel recognised and valued, as well as highlighting issues that affect kinship families and calling for legislative change from government, highlights for 2019 included:

Our annual Kinship Care State of the Nation survey was completed by 1,114 kinship carers. Key findings were discussed in the media, including interviews with our chief executive and kinship carers on BBC Radio 4 World at One, Sky News, Channel 5 News and BBC News, and featured in the

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Daily Mail, the Yorkshire Post and on regional BBC Radio. Fourteen kinship carers shared their stories and over 10 million people had an opportunity to see a story about kinship care.

During the week we reached 70,300 people on Twitter and 19,534 people on Facebook. 122 people signed up to our Kinship Community and 1,989 kinship carers read our 'thank you' email.

470 kinship family members joined us at five celebration days across the country.

11 MPs – including the Children's Minister - tweeted support and four MPs visited our support groups.

12 local authorities showed support and ran kinship care events.

Our young kinship carers roundtable event brought together a group of younger kinship carers, and international expert Dr Meredith Kiraly from the University of Melbourne, to talk about their unique experiences.

Feedback from kinship carers was positive, with comments such as:

"Thank you Grandparents Plus. Fabulous publicity highlighting the challenges faced by kinship carers." Caroline.

"I've been reading a lot about our situations but haven't had the feeling it would make any difference. Now I feel it could." Susan.

Securing national and regional media stories

Grandparents Plus continued to be active in the media and this year placed 55 stories in broadcast, print and online media – 21 nationals, 30 regionals and four in the sector press. Outside of Kinship Care Week, our national coverage included stories in the Daily Express, the Guardian, ITV news and the Daily Mirror. We also achieved a range of coverage across regional press and broadcast, including BBC Kent, BBC North East Sunday Politics Show, BBC Look North, BBC Tees and BBC Birmingham, and several print articles including the Cambridge Evening News, Nottingham Post and the Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

87% of these stories were focussed entirely on kinship care with headlines like the following which helped to secure our position as the experts in kinship care, as well as supporting our influencing work.

- *"End unfair treatment of kinship carers,"* says Sir James Munby, Children and Young People Now
- *"Kinship Carers the unsung heroes who look after vulnerable children of relatives."* Daily Express
- *"So why are we abandoning Britain's secret army of saints...kinship carers left to struggle."* Mail Online.
- *"Kinship Carers feel invisible in the debate about looked after children."* The Guardian.

We are grateful to the 16 kinship carers who shared their stories so powerfully in the media this year.

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Engaging with our communities digitally

Our social media presence continues to grow and we use different channels to support our influencing work (Twitter and LinkedIn) as well as provide much needed support and connections for kinship carers (Facebook).

We gained 700 new Facebook followers, with a total of 3,785 by the year end. The platform continues to provide a place for lively and supportive discussion on relevant topics for kinship carers. Our engagement rate is high, on average 10%, because people see it as a way to connect, share stories and support each other.

We gained 371 Twitter followers, making a total of 6,202 by the year end. Throughout the year, professionals, MPs, local authorities, academics and other organisations in the social care sector showed support of our work through Twitter. It has also become a platform for a committed group of kinship carers to share lived experience and campaign for change.

In the coming year we will be launching an Instagram page and will be increasing our LinkedIn communications.

Growth of our Kinship Community

Grandparents Plus continues to support the largest network of kinship carers in the country. Throughout the year our community grew by 2,875 people and is now over 7,000 strong. Our monthly e-newsletter has been developed to include more personal stories, latest information, advice and news updates. They are read by around 2,000 people per edition, which has doubled from last year.

Keeping our communities updated during COVID-19

In March, as the COVID-19 pandemic hit kinship carers hard, we focussed our communications on providing timely and tailored information about issues affecting their families. We quickly created a COVID-19 information area on our website where we published resources and up-to-date information about issues and guidance affecting kinship carers with links to sources of support. We increased the frequency of our Kinship Community e-newsletter from monthly to weekly to offer opportunities for kinship carers to feel connected, access tailored information, and read our Kinship Voices stories and Lockdown Stories, which were kinship carers' very personal experiences of lockdown. We invited our Kinship Community to participate in monthly surveys so we could understand and respond to their experiences and concerns during the pandemic. At the end of March we also increased our Professionals' Network newsletter to bi-weekly to ensure social workers were informed about kinship carers' concerns.

Objective: Campaigning for change so the role of kinship carers is promoted and supported by legislation, policy and practice.

**GRANDPARENTS PLUS
TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

Parliamentary engagement

We have continued to campaign for kinship care support and promoted kinship care aware policy making. This included:

- Successfully lobbying for the inclusion of kinship care in child bereavement legislation. As a result, working kinship carers of children aged under 18 are entitled to two weeks paid bereavement leave if their child dies
- Written and oral evidence to the Parliamentary Taskforce on Kinship Care
- Written evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Adoption and Permanence inquiry into the Adoption Support Fund. As the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020, the remit of the fund was extended to include more support that meets the needs of kinship carers. This has helped drive a step change in support provision during the pandemic and we are delighted to be delivering our new Kinship Response services in 69 local authorities.
- A submission to the Joint Committee for Human Rights inquiry: Right to family life for children whose mothers are in prison, which went on to make recommendations about identifying and supporting kinship carers who frequently step in to raise children in these circumstances

We collaborated with the Kinship Care Alliance and other organisations to ensure kinship care concerns were represented in the following:

- Investing in Families: The Adoption Support Fund 2020 and beyond (Adoption UK and Home for Good)
- Kinship Care Alliance: Agenda for Action
- Briefing note to the Ministry of Justice – proposed changes to Family Legal Aid

Throughout the year we worked with our Advisory Group to develop campaigning priorities and a campaign strategy which enabled us to react quickly and proactively to parliamentary events. When the General Election was called, we launched our Manifesto for Kinship Care which we encouraged kinship carers to share with their parliamentary candidates. Through this we gained the support of over 300 candidates, 16 of whom are now MPs from across the main parties. We continue to engage with individual MPs throughout the year. In addition to those conducted in Kinship Care Week, we facilitated two other MP meetings with support groups.

We provided written and oral evidence to the Kinship Care Parliamentary Taskforce, met MPs individually and arranged meetings for MPs to hear directly from kinship carers in our support groups and social worker members of our Professional Network as part of their evidence gathering. We look forward to the publication of their report later this year.

Research and policy

Our annual 'State of the Nation' survey

The results of our 2019 annual survey of 1,114 kinship carers highlighted the chaos and confusion that are often experienced by new kinship carers at the time they take on the responsibility for children. This is compounded by a lack of clear information and independent advice which means

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TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

many kinship carers are doing the right thing, but have to make decisions quickly without enough time and information to consider their options. As a consequence, they risk being penalised for stepping in to keep their families together. As in previous years, the survey found kinship carers are not getting the support they need to look after the children they stepped in to raise.

We found that many kinship carers step in quickly in a climate of crisis and fear, with little time or access to much needed independent information, advice or support. Kinship carers told us that:

- 53% were given no notice and took on the children in a crisis situation
- 95% said they had not had any form of training to help prepare them for their kinship care role
- 84% said they had not got the advice and information they needed when the child moved in and 72% still do not get the advice and information they need
- 90% said they had not been told by their local authority where to access peer support and only 16% receive the emotional support they need now

Knowledge exchange event

In January 2020 our knowledge exchange event brought together 100 social workers and other practitioners supporting kinship carers. Hosted by innovation foundation Nesta and chaired by our chief executive, influential speakers included: Michael King, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, Alasdair Smith, Director of Children's Services in Southwark, Vas Patel from the Department for Education, Sally Kelly, the virtual school head for Kensington and Chelsea, Dr John Simmonds from CoramBAAF and Professor Judith Harwin from Lancaster University.

Our thanks to Nesta for hosting the event, which meant it was free for attendees. The event was the second in a series of events developed with the Centre for Child and Family Justice Research at the University of Lancaster and CoramBAAF, with our chief executive speaking at the first event at Coram in December, which focused on special guardianship.

During the year we saw more children leave care on a Special Guardianship Order than an Adoption Order, and we have been at the forefront of the development of more support for special guardians. In England, our chief executive was a member of the national Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board, as well as the regional boards in London and the south east. We facilitated a number of focus groups for the ASGLB as they developed a blueprint for a special guardianship service. In Wales, we also contributed to the code of practice.

We were delighted to partner with Lancaster University and CoramBAAF to make 'The First Day of Forever', a new training film for potential special guardians, social workers, legal professionals and others with an interest in kinship care. We are especially grateful to all the special guardians who bravely shared their experiences with the ASGLB and in the making of the film.

Covid19 – understanding carer concerns and communicating them to decision makers

When the coronavirus pandemic struck in March, we invited kinship carers to participate in monthly surveys so we could track their experiences and concerns during the pandemic. The findings from our first survey demonstrated the anxiety, confusion and health fears felt by kinship families. We

**GRANDPARENTS PLUS
TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

communicated findings directly to national and local government and in the media, and used feedback to help inform our service provision and to develop tailored information for kinship carers.

Growth of our Kinship Care Professionals Network

We continued to work in partnership with social workers and other practitioners who work with kinship carers.

Ninety-five people joined our Kinship Care Professionals Network this year. We now have 570 social workers, other practitioners and academics who are invited to regular meetings in London and the north of England to share best practice and to be updated on issues around kinship care including presentations and discussion on policy and practice issues, academic research, findings from our kinship carer surveys and programme delivery.

We held roundtable discussions with social workers to support MPs working on the Kinship Care Parliamentary Taskforce. We arranged a consultation meeting with our North Professionals Group in Wakefield in July 2019. This followed an earlier consultation with social worker members of our Professionals Network arranged by us and MPs at the House of Commons in March 2019.

Sharing knowledge with Australia

During the summer 2019, our chief executive was honoured to be invited to visit six Australian states on a knowledge exchange which was full-funded by an Australian trust. Lucy spoke at the Australian Social Policy Conference at the University of Sydney, and the national Foster and Kinship Care Conference in Perth. She was also invited to talk about kinship care and Grandparents Plus' work at events in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth where she met kinship carer groups, voluntary and statutory service providers, politicians and researchers. We continue to build on the connections made during the visit.

Objective: Building a sustainable future for the charity, diversifying income, building a strong team of staff and volunteers and investing in our infrastructure

Income diversification

We continued to grow and diversify our income. Our income from fundraising increased by 12.3% to £885,631 and we achieved a 30.7% increase in income from commissioned services to £228,936. We were especially pleased to secure multi-year grants as well as recommissions for our services, providing a stronger base for financial planning.

We continue to invest in fundraising, with a dedicated fundraising manager joining the charity in December 2019, and plans to undertake a fundraising review in 2020 to support our future growth.

Staff and volunteers

In 2019-20, our staff group continued to expand, outgrowing our office in Camberwell and moving to new offices in The Foundry in Vauxhall in February.

We continued to provide a broad range of opportunities for volunteers to positively impact the lives of kinship carers in need. Our Someone Like Me volunteers provided telephone support to fellow

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

kinship carers, our grants volunteers completed funding applications and helped secure furniture, white goods and much more for kinship carers in need. Our Kinship Care Champion volunteers helped raise awareness and campaigned for greater support for vulnerable carers, and our support group leader volunteers ran groups for carers, providing connection and guidance in their local communities. In 2019/20 164 new volunteers registered with us, bringing the total number of volunteers by 31 March 2020 to 401.

Systems to support service delivery, growth and impact

This year, we invested in a new website, finance system and Salesforce database.

Following stakeholder consultation, we concluded that our name Grandparents Plus no longer reflects what we do, and that it is a barrier to some kinship carers seeking our support. With the support of Trustees, we began to explore a name change. This included consultation with kinship carers, partner organisations, sector stakeholders and funders, alongside brand messaging and visuals work. We plan to change our name in Autumn 2020.

Covid-19 has brought significant challenges to our families, for charities, for funders and for government, and its legacy is likely to be felt for some time. While we have been able to expand our services during 2020-21, funding is time limited and we face an uncertain future. Over the coming year, we will focus on reaching kinship carers who need support, and seeking to influence the policy and funding environment so we can sustain our services and drive long-term policy and practice change. Covid-19 has highlighted the vulnerability of kinship carers and Grandparents Plus stands stronger and more determined to fight for support for kinship families than ever before.

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 (Nov 20, 2020 11:06 GMT)

Jayne Harrill
Chair

Dated: 5.11.2020

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 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, statement of cash flows 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 2020 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 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.6) 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.

Tim Sullivan

[Tim Sullivan \(Nov 22, 2020 13:43 GMT\)](#)

Tim Sullivan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Field Sullivan Limited, Statutory Auditor

70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
London
SE10 8RF

Dated: 5.11.2020

GRANDPARENTS PLUS
Charity No: 1093975 Company No: 04454103
Statement of Financial Activities
Income and expenditure account
For the year to 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
INCOME					See note 17 for detail
Donations, grants and legacies:	2				
General		477,879	-	477,879	544,623
Advice Service		-	182,919	182,919	69,052
Kinship Care Support Services		-	278,581	278,581	174,773
Service Development		-	-	-	-
Policy and Research		-	-	-	-
Relative Experience		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3				
Kinship Care Support Services		-	228,936	228,936	175,148
Investment income		3,370	-	3,370	1,543
TOTAL INCOME		481,249	690,436	1,171,686	965,139
EXPENDITURE					
Raising funds	4	36,659	-	36,659	13,282
Charitable activities	5	462,012	535,080	997,092	749,079
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		498,671	535,080	1,033,751	762,361
Net Income/(expenditure) for the year	8	(17,422)	155,357	137,935	202,778
Transfer between funds	14	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(expenditure) for the year		(17,422)	155,357	137,935	202,778
Fund balances at 1 April 2019		501,402	91,477	592,879	390,101
Fund balances as at 31 March 2020	14	483,980	246,834	730,814	592,879

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

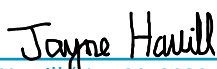
**Grandparents Plus
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2020
Company number: 04454103**

		2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	11		15,270		10,074
CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade debtors and grants receivable	12	233,336		13,630	
Prepayments and sundry debtors	12	11,209		3,047	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>671,613</u>		<u>675,983</u>	
		916,158		692,660	
CREDITORS: due within one year	13	<u>(200,614)</u>		<u>(109,855)</u>	
Net current assets			715,544		582,805
Net assets	15		<u><u>730,814</u></u>		<u><u>592,879</u></u>
FUNDS					
Restricted funds			246,834		91,477
Unrestricted funds			483,980		501,402
TOTAL FUNDS	14		<u><u>730,814</u></u>		<u><u>592,879</u></u>

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

The Board of Directors approved the financial statements on 5 November 2020 and duly authorised the Chairman to sign on its behalf:



Jayne Harrill (Nov 20, 2020 11:06 GMT)

Jayne Harrill, Chair

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form part of these financial statements

Grandparents Plus
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 31 March 2020
Company number: 04454103

	2020 £	2019 £
Net cash generated/(used) in operating activities	5,826	244,904
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(10,196)	(7,388)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	<u>(4,370)</u>	<u>237,516</u>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	675,983	438,467
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>671,613</u>	<u>675,983</u>
Reconciliation of net movement of funds to net cash used in operating activities		
Net movement in funds	137,935	202,778
Depreciation	5,000	2,150
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(227,868)	70,979
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	90,759	(31,003)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>5,826</u>	<u>244,904</u>

The notes on pages 27 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Grandparents Plus
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year to 31 March 2020

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.

Statutory information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee with no share capital, domiciled in England and Wales, registration number 04454103.

In the event of the charity being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is restricted to £10 per member of the company.

The address of the registered office is The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the board on 5th November 2020.

The charity meets the definition of a public entity under FRS 102.

The presentation currency is £ sterling.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Grandparents Plus
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year to 31 March 2020

1. Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment 25% straight line

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.

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 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.

Grandparents Plus
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year to 31 March 2020

1. Accounting policies (Cont'd)

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.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Grandparents Plus
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year to 31 March 2020

2. Donations, grants and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted - Other funds	Restricted - Kinship Care support service	2020 Total Funds	2019 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants and donations (see below)	458,908	172,283	278,581	909,772	774,804
Publications	145	347	-	492	446
Individual fundraising	1,547	3,336	-	4,883	8,148
Membership fees	-	-	-	-	4,415
Sundry income	17,279	6,953	-	24,232	635
	477,879	182,919	278,581	939,379	788,448

Analysis of voluntary grants, trust fundraising and donations

Players of the People's Postcode Lottery					
(1)	300,000	-	-	300,000	350,000
The Mercers' Company	25,000	-	-	25,000	25,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	45,000	-	-	45,000	25,000
Nesta/DCMS	-	-	150,000	150,000	126,948
Sport England Families Fund	-	-	103,581	103,581	67,693
The Dulverton Trust Middlesborough & Teeside	-	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
Philanthropic Foundation	-	19,540	-	19,540	33,336
The Headley Trust	25,000	-	-	25,000	-
Cripplegate Foundation	-	-	25,000	25,000	-
tnlcf - Kinship Compass	-	97,387	-	97,387	-
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	60,000	-	-	60,000	-
Other trust grants	3,908	-	-	3,908	31,674
Other grants, donations	-	25,356	-	25,356	85,153
	458,908	172,283	278,581	909,772	774,804

(1) The grant was received for activities during the period January – December 2020 and the funds are designated to cover activities across the charity

Grandparents Plus
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year to 31 March 2020

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Support service				
Services	-	228,936	228,936	175,148
	<u>-</u>	<u>228,936</u>	<u>228,936</u>	<u>175,148</u>

4. Costs of raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Staff costs	26,362	-	26,362	10,142
Other costs	10,297	-	10,297	3,140
	<u>36,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,659</u>	<u>13,282</u>

5. Resources expended

	Staff costs £	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2020 £	2019 £
Other	69,990	22,556	6,523	99,069	87,694
Kinship Care Support Services	305,921	-	130,089	436,010	233,157
Relative Experience (BLF)	-	-	-	-	25,865
Core	310,037	-	151,976	462,013	402,364
Total charitable expenditure	685,948	22,556	288,588	997,092	749,079
Costs of generating charitable income	26,362	-	10,297	36,659	13,282
Total resources expended	<u>712,310</u>	<u>22,556</u>	<u>298,885</u>	<u>1,033,751</u>	<u>762,360</u>

Details of staff costs are given in note 7.

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6. Support costs

	Other charitable			2019
	Total	Activities	Core	
	2020	2020	2020	
	£	£	£	£
Other staff costs	49,722	19,337	30,385	37,921
Premises costs	33,954	767	33,187	32,327
Postage	1,297	70	1,227	971
Telecommunications	9,110	5,793	3,317	21,127
Office equipment maintenance	9,596	1,331	8,265	4,661
General administration costs	3,750	90	3,660	57,259
Professional costs	87,710	50,103	37,607	38,615
Marketing	29,272	17,557	11,715	-
Volunteers	1,281	1,207	74	-
Other costs	85,453	64,525	20,928	12,837
	311,145	160,780	150,365	205,719

7. Staff numbers and costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	645,198	476,291
Social security costs	55,918	40,673
Pension costs	11,194	8,398
	712,310	525,362
Staff costs split:		
Charitable activities (note 6)	375,911	254,079
Core (note 6)	310,037	261,142
Costs of generating funds (note 4)	26,362	10,142
	712,310	525,362
The average number of employees during the year was:	2020	2019
Direct activities	26	18
Governance	-	-
Cost of raising funds	-	-
	26	18

2 employees received remuneration of more than £60,000 (2019: 2).

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

Grandparents Plus
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8. Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Depreciation	5,000	2,150
Audit fees	4,500	4,500

9. Executive committee

During the year no members of the executive committee received any remuneration (2019: £nil).
3 Trustees (2019: 4) received reimbursements of expenses amounting £803 for travel (2019: £1,877).

10. Indemnity insurance

During the year £1,333 (2019:£1,050) 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.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and office equipment
Cost	
At 1 April 2019	21,901
Additions	10,196
At 31 March 2020	<u><u>32,097</u></u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2019	11,827
Charge for year	5,000
At 31 March 2020	<u><u>16,827</u></u>
Net book values	
At 31st March 2020	<u>15,270</u>
At 31st March 2019	<u>10,074</u>

Grandparents Plus
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12. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Due within one year:		
Grant debtors	98,968	13,630
Accrued income	134,368	-
Other debtors and prepayments	11,208	3,047
	244,544	16,677

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,691	7,255
Social Security and Other taxes	21,237	16,290
Accruals	19,107	14,872
Deferred grant income	152,579	71,438
	200,614	109,855

Deferred grant income represents income relating to the next year received in the current year. Income of £152,579 which related to 2020/21 has been deferred and deferred income of £71,438 from last year has been released as it related to the current year.

14. Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfer between reserves	At 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	501,402	481,249	(498,671)	-	483,980
Restricted funds					
Kinship care support services	90,934	507,517	(436,010)	-	162,441
Relative Experience	(13,625)	-	-	-	(13,625)
Advice Service	-	182,919	(99,069)	-	83,850
Policy and Research	-	-	-	-	-
Service Development	14,168	-	-	-	14,168
Total restricted funds	91,477	690,436	(535,079)	-	246,834
Total funds	592,879	1,171,686	(1,033,751)	-	730,814

Grandparents Plus
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14. Movement in funds - Prior year

	At 1 April 2018 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfer between reserves £	At 31 March 2019 £
Unrestricted funds	274,217	721,314	(415,646)	(78,483)	501,402
Restricted funds					
Kinship care support services	149,317	174,773	(233,156)	-	90,934
Relative Experience	12,240	-	(25,865)	-	(13,625)
Advice Service	(47,485)	69,052	(87,694)	66,127	-
Policy and Research	(12,356)	-	-	12,356	-
Service Development	14,168	-	-	-	14,168
Total restricted funds	115,884	243,825	(346,715)	78,483	91,477
Total funds	390,101	965,139	(762,361)	-	592,879

Notes on the restricted grant funding

- a.) BLF Reaching Communities funded the Support Network activities and also made a contribution towards the advice service and to core. Awards for All funding supported our activity with kinship care experienced young people. The Big Lottery Fund Silver Dreams Fund supported the scale up of the Relative Experience project in the North East. The Big Lottery Fund Accelerating Ideas Fund supported scoping the roll-out of Relative Experience to other parts of the UK.
- b.) The advice service was funded by The Henry Smith Charity and The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities and Accelerating Ideas.
- c.) The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation has financed the Service Development.

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds £
2020			
Tangible Fixed Assets	15,270	-	15,270
Cash	671,613	-	671,613
Other net current assets	43,931	-	43,931
	730,814	-	730,814
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds £
2019			
Tangible Fixed Assets	10,074	-	10,074
Cash	536,862	139,121	675,983
Other net current liabilities	(45,534)	(47,644)	(93,178)
	501,402	91,477	592,879

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16. Other official commitments	2020	2019
	£	£
Commitments of operating leases expire as follows:		
Office equipment: 2-5 years	-	1,334

17. Comparative numbers for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019 Total
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations, grants and legacies:			
General	544,623	-	544,623
Advice Service	-	69,052	69,052
Kinship Care Support Services	-	174,773	174,773
Service Development	-	-	-
Policy and Research	-	-	-
Relative Experience	-	-	-
Charitable activities			
Kinship Care Support Services	175,148	-	175,148
Investment income	1,543	-	1,543
TOTAL INCOME	721,314	243,825	965,139
EXPENDITURE			
Raising funds	13,282	-	13,282
Charitable activities	402,364	346,715	749,079
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	415,646	346,715	762,361
Net Income/(expenditure) for the year	305,668	(102,890)	202,778
Transfers between funds	(78,483)	78,483	-
	227,185	(24,407)	202,778
Fund balances at 1 April 2018	274,217	115,884	390,101
Fund balances as at 31 March 2019	501,402	91,477	592,879

18. Covid-19

The impact of the pandemic has been discussed throughout the Chief Executive's report and the Trustee's report.












Annual report and accounts 2020 Final

Final Audit Report

2020-11-22

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